

St. Mary, Mother of God Church



Roman Catholic Church
608 High Street ~ Freeport, PA 16229
A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg
A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust



Established 1826

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

"If you pull up the weeds you might
uproot the wheat along with them.
Let the weeds and the wheat
grow together until harvest."

Matthew 13:29-30



Reverend Father Gilbert Gente—*Pastor*
ggente@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Parish Information

Saturday (Vigil): 4:00 P.M. (with guidelines)

Sunday: 8:30 & 11:00 A.M. (with guidelines)

Weekday Masses: Monday through Friday—8:00 A.M. (with guidelines)

Holy Day of Obligation: 8:00 A.M. & 7:00 P.M. (with guidelines)

Reconciliation: Saturday - 2:30—3:30 P.M. (with guidelines)

Baptism: Sundays (by appointment and with guidelines)

Marriage: Contact the Administrative Office nine months in advance—724-295-2281

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults: RCIA helps you to learn more about the Catholic faith. Pre-registration is required. Contact Fr. Gilbert or William Girardi at 724-295-2281.

Hospital or Home Visit: If you would like to receive Holy Communion or if you know someone who would like to have the priest visit, please call Fr. Gilbert at 724-295-2281.

Anointing of the Sick: Contact Fr. Gilbert at 724-295-2281

Holy Communion: Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are available to bring the Eucharist to the sick and homebound (with guidelines). If you know of someone, please call the Administrative Office at 724-295-2281.

Baptism: To understand the importance of the Sacrament of Baptism and your obligation as parents, you are required to attend one baptismal class. To register for one of these classes, please call the Administrative Office at 724-295-2281.

Parish Staff

William Girardi,

Pastoral Associate—412-719-7085

Claudia Vertosick

Business Manager/Parish Secretary

Helen James, *Religious Education Director*

Thomas Koharchik, *Choir Director*

Cindi Harbison

Social Hall Coordinator—724-272-7744

Ed & Jeannie Lepkowski

Parish Custodians

Judy Bergstrom, *Cemetery Sales Coordinator*

724-316-5352

Jeff Jones, *Groundskeeper—724-448-9250*

Ministries

Kristen Marhefka/Julie Polana Gardone

Teen Ministry

Melissa Kristine/Beth Macurdy

Evangelization

John Nemcek—*Homebound Ministry*

Gina Jones—*Helping Hands*

724-448-9251; ginaj1904@gmail.com

Organizations

Diane Grant—*Christian Mothers*

Ray Smetana/Mary Ellen Gray

St. Vincent de Paul Society

Tim Fogarty—*Men's Group*

Office Information

Administrative Center Numbers & Hours :

724-295-2281 (Office) 724-295-3090 (Fax)

Monday through Thursday - 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

Friday - 9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.

Parish Website: www.stmaryfreeport.com

Parish Email Address:

thechurch@stmaryfreeport.com

Facebook: Saint Mary, Mother of God - Freeport

Send Information to share:

stmarysocialmedia@yahoo.com

MISSION STATEMENT—St. Mary's is a caring and welcoming family committed to building and strengthening a community of God, reaching out as disciples of Jesus Christ to Freeport and beyond.

Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK

†=(in memory of) ♥=(IHO/special intention/parishioners)

MASSES FOR THE 16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

- SATURDAY: July 18th**
4:00 P.M. †Ralph Westerman, III (Pat Westerman)
- SUNDAY: July 19th**
8:30 A.M. ♥St. Mary Parishioners
11:00 A.M. †Donna Crabill (Bordonaro Family)
- MONDAY: July 20th**
8:00 A.M. †Maurice Heinritz Family (Estate)
- TUESDAY: July 21st**
8:00 A.M. †Sharon Wheeler (Ron & Linda Gallagher)
- WEDNESDAY: July 22nd**
8:00 A.M. †Mark & James Shearer (Friend)
- THURSDAY: July 23rd**
8:00 A.M. †Georgina Mikolas (Larry & Judy Lutz)
- FRIDAY: July 24th**
8:00 A.M. †Geno Pernazza (Bob & Diane Grant)

MASSES FOR THE 17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

- SATURDAY: July 25th**
4:00 P.M. †Steve Bono (Dr. & Mrs. Calvin Miller)
- SUNDAY: July 26th**
8:30 A.M. †Walter Sliviak (Family)
11:00 A.M. ♥St. Mary Parishioners

*Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
July 19th, 2020*

Those who are just must be kind.

— *Wisdom 12:19*



Sunday's Readings



First Reading — You taught your people that those who are just must likewise be kind (Wisdom 12:13, 16 -19).

Psalm — Lord, you are good and forgiving (Psalm 86).

Second Reading — The Spirit comes to aid us in our weakness (Romans 8:26 -27).

Gospel — Jesus proposes parables to the crowds, teaching them of the reign of God (Matthew 13:24-43 [24-30]).

GOOD SEEDS

Today Jesus continues to speak to his followers using parables. What a rich treasure we are given today in three parables about the kingdom of heaven! The kingdom is likened to a man sowing good seed in his field, a mustard seed, and yeast mixed with flour. As they did last week, today the disciples press Jesus for an interpretation of one of the parables—the parable of the man sowing good seed. Lest we think that these parables are simply amusing little anecdotes, Jesus' interpretation should be seen for what it is—a warning. Wailing and grinding of teeth in a fiery furnace await those who are children of the evil one. This parable points to the struggle for today's believer. Sometimes, through sin, we sow weeds and prevent the love of Christ from blossoming. Let today's Gospel help put us back on track. Let us recommit ourselves to preparing for the last days, the harvest, by blossoming as the good seeds we were created in love to be. †

WORDS AND WEEDS

A man of words and not of deeds
Is like a garden full of weeds.

Readings for the Week

- Monday:** Mi 6:1-4, 6-8; Ps 50:5-6, 8-9, 16bc-17, 21, 23; Mt 12:38-42
- Tuesday:** Mi 7:14-15, 18-20; Ps 85:2-8; Mt 12:46-50
- Wednesday:** Sg 3:1-4b or 2 Cor 5:14-17; Ps 63:2-6, 8-9; Jn 20:1-2, 11-18
- Thursday:** Jer 2:1-3, 7-8, 12-13; Ps 36:6-7ab, 8-11; Mt 13:10-17
- Friday:** Jer 3:14-17; Jer 31:10-12abcd, 13; Mt 13:18-23
- Saturday:** 2 Cor 4:7-15; Ps 126:1bc-6; Mt 20:20-28
- Sunday:** 1 Kgs 3:5, 7-12; Ps 119:57, 72, 76-77, 127-130; Rom 8:28-30; Mt 13:44-52 [44-46]



SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

- Sunday:** Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Monday:** St. Apollinaris
- Tuesday:** St. Lawrence of Brindisi
- Wednesday:** St. Mary Magdalene
- Thursday:** St. Bridget
- Friday:** St. Sharbel Makhlūf
- Saturday:** St. James

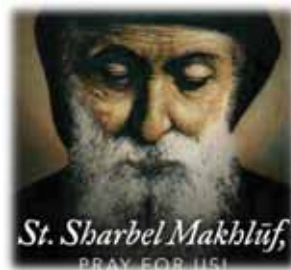
Ministry Schedule

July 25th & 26th, 2020



Saint Sharbel Makhlūf (1828-1898) - July 24th

The convenience store owner chatted animatedly in Arabic with coworkers, but hardly at all with his American clientele. So soon after September 11th, he probably figured, with my accent, the less said, the better. That changed when an American customer recognized Saint Sharbel's portrait on the wall: "So you're Lebanese Maronites!" The owner was happily incredulous: "You know our saint?" "Not at first", the customer admitted. "But we help the Catholic Near East Welfare Association, and their magazine published that picture and called Sharbel the 'Paradoxical Artisan of Peace.'" "Everyone thinks we're Muslims", said the owner, "and some of my workers are. Saint Sharbel helps us live together in peace!" A hermit for twenty-three years, little is known of Sharbel's life. He died after suffering a stroke while celebrating the liturgy. Miracles attributed to his intercession number in the thousands, and in war-torn Lebanon, Catholics, Orthodox, and Muslims pray together where his incorrupt body is entombed. How lovely if after our passing, we too could be remembered for having brought very different people to the one God, together in peace. †



ALTAR SERVERS:

Saturday, 4:00 P.M. TBA
Sunday, 8:30 A.M. Brianna Sutara
Sunday, 11:00 A.M. Marie Pelliccione;
Mason DeMeno

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION:

Saturday, 4:00 P.M. Dave Valencic
Sunday, 8:30 A.M. Judy Bergstrom;
Betty Lou Nemcek (A)
Sunday, 11:00 A.M. Melissa Schaeffer

LECTORS:

Saturday, 4:00 P.M. Dave Brestensky
Sunday, 8:30 A.M. John Nemcek
Sunday, 11:00 A.M. Pat Westerman

ORGANIST:

Saturday, 4:00 P.M. Diane Pleva
Sunday, 8:30 A.M. Diane Pleva
Sunday, 11:00 A.M. Dave Wesolosky

CANTOR:

Saturday, 4:00 P.M. Stephanie Bragiel
Sunday, 8:30 A.M. Diane Pleva
Sunday, 11:00 A.M. TBA



Please contact the parish office if you would like to volunteer for any of these liturgical ministries!

The Administrative Office continues to be open the normal hours of Monday through Thursday, 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M., and Friday, 9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. Our normal weekday and weekend mass schedule has resumed (with guidelines). In addition, St. Mary's will continue to be open for private prayer from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. daily and 12:00 Noon to 5:00 P.M. on Sundays. Below are the guidelines that are to be followed when visiting our church and what is being done for your safety.

- Wear a mask upon entrance to the church.
- Social distancing must be observed - six feet apart from the next person.
- Only designated pews are to be used for mass/private prayer. For morning and weekend masses, the main doors of the church will be the only way to enter. Greeters and seaters will be at the entrance to greet and seat you. The collection basket will be in the back of the church. When receiving communion, please abide by the markings. This is explained prior to the beginning of each mass. For private prayer, you are to enter at the side entrance.
- There are sanitizers and wipes that are to be used as you enter the church.
- The identified pews and other high contact areas like doorknobs, handles and tables will be sanitized and disinfected twice a day.
- Weekly, each church's high contact areas will be cleaned with soap and water and then sanitized.
- Hymnals and missalettes have been taken out from the pews for your safety.

Health and Safety Guidelines



If you are new to the area, we invite you to share fully in our parish life. Your presence brings vitality and new gifts to the community. Please take a moment to register. Forms are available at all of the church entrances or by calling the Administrative Office at 724-295-2281.

Calendar of Events/Meetings

Weekday Mass—8:00 A.M. (with guidelines)

Confessions—Saturday - 2:30 to 3:30 P.M. (with guidelines)

Weekend Masses—Saturday (Vigil): 4:00 P.M. (with guidelines)

Sunday: 8:30 & 11:00 A.M. (with guidelines)

July 19th
July 28th

Baptism—12:15 P.M. - “McKernan”

Finance Council Meeting—7:00 P.M. - Conference Center

***Until further notice, we will only be live streaming the Sunday Mass at 8:30 A.M.



Parish Information/Events

Diocesan Target - \$37,826.00

Parish Target - \$55,000.00

Pledges to Date - \$125,225.00

Paid to Date - \$107,930.50

Number of Donors - 274

Diocesan and Parish Targets have been Achieved!!! Thank you!

ALL future gifts and/or pledges will now stay directly here at St. Mary's in order that we may complete this year's major DLA projects!



St. Mary's CEMETERY

Approved Prices for St. Mary's Cemetery Lots

~~Prices are effective August 1st, 2020~~

Lots

Parishioners \$900.00/each

Non-Parishioners \$1,200.00/each

*Section E Lots are only available for purchase by parishioners at \$1,000.00/each

Perpetual Care Cost

\$500.00 will be added to the cost of all graves purchased

Opening/Closing Costs

\$950.00

*Section E Lots contain a rock clause. There may be an additional cost to the \$950.00 Opening/Closing Cost. This will be determined at the time of the Grave Opening

Cremations—Opening/Closing Cost

\$500.00

Chapel Fee

\$75.00

Please Note—If a purchaser wants to sell their lot(s), the lot(s) must be sold back to St. Mary Cemetery at the price that it/they were purchased.



In your charity, please remember the souls of those who passed away, especially **Rose F. Sikora-Evans and Harold A. Macurdy**. We ask God to welcome **Rose and Harold** and all who have gone before us into the joy of everlasting life and bring comfort and peace to their families. †

Confirmation



CONGRATULATIONS

We congratulate the following students who received the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation on Monday, July 6th:

Grace Beach
 Luke Boylan
 Jacob Craven
 Isabella Delia
 Abigail DeJidas
 Emma Dunn



Isabelle Emeloff
 Brian Kijowski
 Colton Otterman
 Anthony Roppola
 Garrett Rossey
 Josie Russo
 Maricel Whitlinger



Erin Schaeffer
 Hannah Shepherd
 Saige Smith
 Mack Wiest
 Raquel Carney
 Hilda Schrag

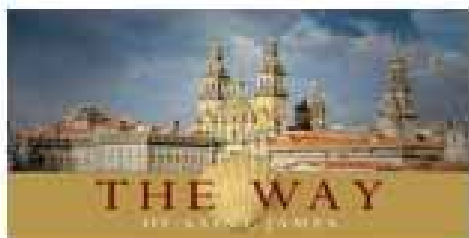
News/Activities from Our Ministries/Organizations



To understand the importance of the *Sacrament of Baptism* and your obligation as parents, you are required to attend one baptismal class. The remaining schedule for 2020 is as follows: Thursday, September 10th and Thursday, December 10th. If you would like to register, please call Mark or Melissa at 724-230-4450 or the Administrative Office at 724-295-2281. †

Evangelization

FORMED PICK OF THE WEEK



The Way of Saint James

This documentary follows the journey of several pilgrims who differ in culture and religious faith, united only by a mysterious attraction towards the same spiritual destination.

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Holy Sighs — As Catholics, we are very accustomed to vocal prayers, especially in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. “I confess to almighty God...” “Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of Hosts...” “Our Father who art in heaven...” At home we utter, “Bless us O Lord, and these thy gifts...” “Now I lay me down to sleep...” and let our fingers move over the beads “Hail Mary...” and “Glory be...” But how about when we are exhausted, overwhelmed and worn out? When that day occurs, and it happens with all of us, especially in this time of high-stress COVID-permeated anxiety, what do we say? What page in my prayer book is the one that will “connect” me with God and get me through this day or even this next moment? Luckily, Saint Paul has the answer for us in today’s second reading. “*Brothers and Sisters: The Spirit comes to the aid of our weakness: for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes with inexpressible groaning’s*” (Romans 8:26). God himself hears and supplies the prayer starter we need in our time of emptiness. The Holy Spirit becomes our “sigh translator” who searches our hearts and knows what we need to say placing it before the throne of our loving God who cares for our every need. We do not need fancy and numerous words in our prayer. Our good Father is pleased with our stammering and feeble attempts to prattle our way to his heart. Any parent knows that the babble of an infant is crying out to us: “I love you”, “pick me up”, and “I am hungry”. If we know what they need without them voicing the perfect phrase, then how much more will our gracious God “who searches the heart” (Jeremiah 17:10) know exactly what is best for us? This is the heart of mental prayer. Raising our minds and hearts to God in those times when we do not have the words: when we are in the office and surrounded by masked coworkers, after the tenth diaper change and it is not yet noon, and following the phone call that delivers heartbreaking news. Let the Holy Spirit into our “innermost rooms” and find the words for us. Let out a Holy Sigh to God and be assured that the Spirit will translate our gibberish into a fragrant plea to the one who will sustain, comfort, and strengthen us. †

News from Our Diocese



Bishop Malesic desires to recognize all couples celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary during the calendar year 2020. The Jubilarians, their children, relatives or friends **should contact the parish office at 724-295-2281 to register couples for this recognition.** Ideally, the Jubilarians will be invited to join the bishop for a special Golden Wedding Anniversary Mass to be celebrated in Blessed Sacrament Cathedral on Sunday, September 20th, 2020. Even though circumstances may not permit participation in this Mass, all couples will receive a scroll signed by the Bishop commemorating their anniversary. †

Community Information/Activities



Freeport United Methodist Church is hosting **Summer Youth Café** Monday – Friday. This is a grab and go lunch that is open to all youth age 18 and under. Two people are needed each Tuesday, from now until August 14th. Time commitment is approximately 2½ hours (10:00 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.). If you or your family (little hands can help, too) are willing to help or would like additional information, please contact Beth Macurdy at: bmacurdy@zoominternet.net; 724-295-9411.



Freeport Theatre Festival presents “The Grimsby Lads”. Remaining performance dates are July 18th, 19th, 24th, 25th & 26th. All performances begin at 7:00 P.M. Covid 19 health and safety guidelines are in place. Tickets are \$15.00/\$12.00/\$10.00—General Admission/Military/Seniors/Students. Reservations are strongly encouraged. For tickets/information, please call Marushka at 724-295-1934.

Altar Bread and Wine

The Altar Bread and Wine were donated for this week in



loving memory of the
*Deceased Members of the
Bender & Kristich Families*

By
George and Chris Bender

Sanctuary Lamp

In acknowledging the Real Presence of Christ,
The Sanctuary Lamp (Candle) will burn
this week



in loving memory of
Jovita Walker

By
Forrest, Grey and Kaleb

Although we are now able to attend Mass, we continue to urge those who do not feel comfortable in attending yet to please mail your weekly/monthly contribution or drop it off at the Administrative office or the mail box outside the office doors.



Something to think about—If you normally give in the offertory basket, please think about on-line giving.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF ST. MARY, MOTHER OF GOD CHURCH. OUR PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU AND YOUR FAMILY TO STAY HEALTHY AND SAFE!

Collections

Offertory Collection for July 12th, 2020

No. of Envelopes Mailed Out: 594

No. of Envelopes Received: 91

Collection: Offertory - \$2,965.50

Electronic Payments (17) - \$745.00

Loose - \$38.00; Children (3) - \$6.00; Candles - \$286.00

Total Collection - \$4,040.50

THANK YOU!



**Saturday
July 25th, 2020**

**NO CLEANING ASSIGNMENTS
THIS WEEKEND**

Please call the Administrative Office if you would like to volunteer to be one of the cleaning volunteers—724-295-2281.

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Name: _____

Address: _____

Contact Number: _____

____ Address/Phone Change

____ Please remove me from your census

Please drop this form in the collection basket

*****New Membership Registration Forms are located at all of the church entrances*****

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