



# St. Mary, Mother of God

A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg  
A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust

**Roman Catholic Church**  
608 High Street ~ Freeport, PA 16229



**Established 1826**

*October 2nd, 2016*

*Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time*



**Father Ronald Maquiñana—Pastor**  
[rmaquinana@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:rmaquinana@dioceseofgreensburg.org)

## Parish Staff

**William Girardi, Pastoral Associate—412-719-7085**  
**Claudia Vertosick, Business Manager/Parish Secretary**  
**Helen James, Religious Education Director**  
**Thomas Koharchik, Choir Director**  
**Cynthia Harbison, Social Hall Coordinator**  
**David Valencic, Parish Custodian**  
**Richard Bertino, Cemetery Caretaker**

## Ministries

**Kristen Marhefka/Julie Polana Gardone—Teen Ministry**  
**Melissa Kristine/Beth Macurdy—Evangelization**  
**John Nemcek—Homebound Ministry**

## Organizations

**Jean Miller—Christian Mothers**  
**Ray Smetana/Mary Ellen Gray—St. Vincent de Paul Society**

## 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](http://www.stmaryfreeport.com)

**Parish Email Address:** [thechurch@stmaryfreeport.com](mailto:thechurch@stmaryfreeport.com)

## Parish Information

**Saturday (Vigil):** 4:00 P.M.

**Sunday:** 8:30 & 11:00 A.M.

**Weekday Masses:** Monday through Friday—8:00 A.M.

**Holy Day of Obligation:** 8:00 A.M. & 7:00 P.M.

**Reconciliation:** Saturday - 3:00—3:45 P.M.

**Baptism:** Sundays within the 11:00 A.M. Mass (by appointment)

**Marriage:** Contact the Parish nine months in advance.

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

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

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

### LET GO AND LET GOD

Many twelve-step programs use the phrase “Let go and let God”. In all their simplicity, these five words are the heart of today’s readings. For people who struggle with addictive behavior, these words plainly remind us that we can’t manage, control, or manipulate certain areas of our lives. How many times can we look back in our lives and find evidence of some plan at work other than our own? These are the moments when, for whatever reasons, we let someone greater than ourselves work the plan. We probably didn’t even recognize at the time that we were letting go of anything, but in retrospect, we see God’s hand and loving presence. It is our awareness of these moments that gives us the courage and initiative to let go again later on. It is this courage and initiative that are highlighted in today’s readings. We come to call it “faith”. —Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.



### TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

In the mid-1960s, many religious congregations that had maintained a custom of assigning new names to their members allowed a return to baptismal names. The practice stems from the origins of monastic life, when a desire to flee the world and its enchantments caused a severe break with family life and commitments. A new name signified that the old person had died and a new one was coming to life. Some orders even spread funeral palls over their entrants and tolled the funeral bell. On a practical level, in a crowded monastery of a few hundred monks or nuns, it made sense not to have six Brother Alfrics or nine Sister Clares. The one name, one person rule worked well.

In more recent times, a young woman entering the convent might be given her parents’ names as a way of honoring their generosity, so Hilda might become Sister Philip Margaret after her father and mother. A cherished name in the order might be bestowed on a newcomer so that there would always be a Brother Owen around, or a young person might adopt the name of a beloved saint. A handful of religious congregations, like Mother Barat’s Religious of the Sacred Heart, always used family names. Many monasteries still bestow a new name at the end of probation. Other religious institutes have revived the custom of changing their candidates’ names at the end of novitiate, although for the most part religious who were around at the time of the Council were happy to get their baptismal names back. A few, of course, cherished their acquired names and have held on to them, so convents still hold the creativity badge for naming. Where else today can you find great names today like Madeleva, Siena, and Celestina? —Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

### TODAY’S READINGS

**First Reading** — In spite of violence, destruction, and ruin, the just person, because of faith, will live (Habakkuk 1:2-3; 2:2-4).

**Psalm** — If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts (Psalm 95).

**Second Reading** — Bear hardship with the strength that comes from God (2 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14).

**Gospel** — Lord, increase our faith! (Luke 17:5-10).

### SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

**Sunday:** Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time; Respect Life Sunday; Rosh Hashanah (Jewish New Year 5777) begins at sunset

**Tuesday:** St. Francis of Assisi

**Thursday:** St. Bruno; Blessed Marie-Rose Durocher

**Friday:** Our Lady of the Rosary; First Friday

**Saturday:** Blessed Virgin Mary

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

**Monday:** Gal 1:6-12; Ps 111:1b-2, 7-9, 10c; Lk 10:25-37

**Tuesday:** Gal 1:13-24; Ps 139:1b-3, 13-15; Lk 10:38-42

**Wednesday:** Gal 2:1-2, 7-14; Ps 117:1bc, 2; Lk 11:1-4

**Thursday:** Gal 3:1-5; Lk 1:69-75; Lk 11:5-13

**Friday:** Gal 3:7-14; Ps 111:1b-6; Lk 11:15-26

**Saturday:** Gal 3:22-29; Ps 105:2-7; Lk 11:27-28

**Sunday:** 2 Kgs 5:14-17; Ps 98:1-4; 2 Tm 2:8-13; Lk 17:11-19

### WELL-READ?

*When the day of judgment comes, we shall not be asked what we have read, but what we have done.* —Thomas à Kempis

# PARISH NEWS

## CALENDAR *of Events*

<b>October 3rd</b>	<b>Christian Mother's Meeting - 6:30 P.M.</b>
<b>October 6th</b>	<b>RCIA - 6:30 P.M. - Christian Mothers' Room</b>
<b>October 7th</b>	<b>First Friday Adoration</b>
<b>October 8th/9th</b>	<b>Donut Social - Immediately following Mass</b> <b>Bethlehem Christian Families Sale (after all masses)</b>
<b>October 9th</b>	<b>Religious Education Classes - 9:30—10:35 A.M.</b> <b>Security Guard - "Kera Cromer"</b> <b>Choir Practice - 9:45—10:45 A.M.; 11:00 A.M. Mass</b>
<b>October 13th</b>	<b>RCIA - 6:30 P.M. - Christian Mothers' Room</b>
<b>October 15th</b>	<b>Wedding - Thomas Swisher/Cynthia Neff - 10:00 A.M.</b>
<b>October 15th/16th</b>	<b>Baby Bottle Campaign</b>
<b>October 16th</b>	<b>Teen Ministry Meeting - 9:25 A.M.</b> <b>Religious Education Classes - 9:30—10:35 A.M.</b> <b>Security Guard - "Kera Cromer"</b> <b>Choir Practice - 9:45—10:45 A.M.; 11:00 A.M. Mass</b>
<b>October 20th</b>	<b>RCIA - 6:30 P.M. - Christian Mothers' Room</b>
<b>October 22nd</b>	<b>Baptism - "O'Donnell"</b>
<b>October 23rd</b>	<b>Religious Education Classes - 9:30—10:35 A.M.</b> <b>Security Guard - "James Zollinger"</b> <b>Choir Practice - 9:45—10:45 A.M.; 11:00 A.M. Mass</b>
<b>October 24th</b>	<b>Fall Card Party</b>
<b>October 27th</b>	<b>RCIA - 6:30 P.M. - Christian Mothers' Room</b>
<b>October 30th</b>	<b>Religious Education Classes - 9:30—10:35 A.M.</b> <b>Security Guard - "James Zollinger"</b> <b>Choir Practice - 9:45—10:45 A.M.; 11:00 A.M. Mass</b>



**REST IN PEACE**—In your charity of prayers, we ask you to please remember the souls of **Delores J. Gowetski and Agnes M. Fisher** who recently passed away. Welcome **Delores and Agnes** and all who have gone before us into the joy of everlasting life and bring comfort and peace to their families.



**The Christian Mother's** monthly meeting will be held on Monday, October 3rd, at 7:00 P.M., in the Christian Mother's Room. The rosary will be prayed at 6:30 P.M. All members are asked and encouraged to attend.



**First Friday Adoration** will be October 7th, beginning at 8:45 A.M. Sign-up sheets are located at the church entrances and two people should be represented for each half hour. Please remember that if we do not get enough parishioners to commit their time, we will have to discontinue this Catholic tradition at our parish. Please join us as we adore our Lord Jesus!



**October 8th & 9th—Fellowship Hall (immediately following mass)**  
**Beverage, Donut, Fellowship**



On October 8th & 9th, representatives from the Bethlehem Christian Families (a nonprofit organization through Land of Peace) will be with us speaking about the Christian situation in the Holy Land and selling Crucifixes, religious art work, and rosaries - all made of olive wood which is native to Israel and Bethlehem. Since tourism has greatly depleted, Christian families in the holy land, who depend on tourists, have been greatly affected. The goal of this mission is to build a Charitable Hospital in Bethlehem and help the poor and needy families in Bethlehem and Jerusalem. Sale of these goods will help them very much and also give you the opportunity to have "something" authentic from the holy land. Please browse and buy some articles. It is for a good cause and also a help to your personal devotion. For more information, please visit: [www.landofpeace.org](http://www.landofpeace.org) and <http://www.bcfmission.com/>



Once again, The Knights of Columbus will be having Life Choices present their Baby Bottle Campaign the weekend of October 15th/16th. Bottles will be available for everyone to take home and fill with loose change, bills or checks and return to our church. By participating in the Baby Bottle Campaign, you will be touching and SAVING LIVES!!! Please be generous!

### **Becoming a Member of St. Mary, Mother of God Church**

Welcome! It is a great joy to welcome new members to our parish community. Please register as soon as possible in order to participate in our various programs, ministries and activities. Just drop this form in the collection basket and we will send you a detailed registration form. If you are already a member and have changed any of your personal information (address, phone number, name, etc.), please return the changes on the form below. It is important to keep our records up to date.

#### **St. Mary, Mother of God Membership Request / Change**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **New Registration**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Change Address/Phone**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Moving**



## Around the Diocese and beyond.....

*Thank you*

**Thank You** to all who submitted names to the *Called By Name* appeal and made an offering to the *Seminarian and Clergy Formation Collection*. Your support helps to address the needs of seminarian and clergy formation in our diocese. Even though this year's appeal and collection is drawing to a close, your continued prayers for all religious vocations are important. Also, for those who still wish to participate in this appeal and collection, you may mail your envelope directly to the Diocese of Greensburg.

*Day of Mercy*

A diocesan organized **Day of Mercy** will be held in Westmoreland County October 8th. The day is designed to encourage participants to gather in prayer, engage in service or a corporal work of mercy, then celebrate Mass and have a light dinner with Bishop Edward C. Malesic. The Mass will be October 8th, at 5:00 P.M., at St. Vincent Basilica Parish, Latrobe, one of the designated **Year of Mercy Pilgrimage Churches** in the diocese. Dinner will follow in the Rogers Center. For details, visit: [www.dioceseofgreensburg.org](http://www.dioceseofgreensburg.org) or call 724-837-0901, Ext. 1244. *An additional Day of Mercy will be held in Armstrong County in October.*

*Spiritual Renewal*

Join in for an inspirational retreat on Saturday, October 8th, at St. Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Kittanning. The three topics covered will be: ***I'm not ok. You're not ok. But that's ok; Holly marriage, happy marriage and Relational pillars.*** The retreat will be led by Chris & Linda Padgett – Authors, Speakers, Musician. With their joy and faith filled stories, they invite listeners to see the beauty found in following Jesus Christ. The day will begin with Mass at 8:00 A.M. followed by the retreat from 9:00 A.M. until 2:00 P.M. in St. Mary Parish Hall, Kittanning. Free admission, complimentary breakfast and lunch will be provided. For more information or to register, please call 724-548-7649. All are welcome!



**The Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill invite the public to join them from 7:00-8:00 P.M. on the first Tuesday of each month for Taizé Prayer for Peace at the Queen of Peace Chapel in Doran Hall, 441 Mt. Thor Road, Greensburg.** The rich worship experience of the Taizé services will provide a wonderful opportunity for the community to unite hearts and hopes in prayer for peace. For driving directions, please visit: [www.scsch.org](http://www.scsch.org) or call the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill at 724-836-0406.

### ONE-DAY RETREAT

The Franciscan Sisters T.O.R. of Penance of the Sorrowful Mother from Toronto, Ohio will lead a one day retreat entitled, "Meeting God's Gaze in the Year of Mercy" on Saturday, October 15th, at St. Mary's Church in Yatesboro. The retreat will begin at 10:00 A.M. and will conclude with Mass at 6:00 P.M. Lunch and snacks will be provided. All are welcome. Please RSVP to 724-783-7191 no later than October 8th.

*Oktoberfest*

St. James, New Alexandria will celebrate *Oktoberfest* on Saturday, October 8th, 6:00 to 9:00 P.M. in the St. James Social Hall. Advanced tickets only will be sold - \$20.00/each. Please contact the parish office to purchase tickets at 724-668-2829 or visit: [www.stjamesnewalexandria.org](http://www.stjamesnewalexandria.org). Meal includes: Pork, Mashed Potatoes, Sauerkraut, Stuffed Cabbage, Applesauce, Dessert, Coffee & Punch. Door Prizes, 50/50 Raffle, Basket Raffle and Live Entertainment.



**St. Emma Monastery** will hold an advance book sale on Saturday, October 8th, from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M., at the monastery at 1001 Harvey Avenue, Greensburg. Items will include art collections, history, Civil War and classic fiction books and upscale framed prints. Visit: [www.stemma.org](http://www.stemma.org) for additional information.



**Be a Centurion for a day.** Students who will be in grades 7 or 8 next year are invited to a Junior High School Visit Day at Greensburg Central Catholic on Thursday, October 6th, from 9 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. Spend a day with GCC students and meet faculty and staff to learn more about the junior high school's program. For information or to schedule your visit, visit: [www.gcchs.org](http://www.gcchs.org) or call 724-834-0310, Ext. 214.

Attend a Get Acquainted Day Open House

High school juniors or seniors and their families are invited to a *Get Acquainted Day Open House* at Saint Vincent College, Latrobe, on Saturday, October 8th. Events will begin with registration from 8:30 to 9:00 A.M. in the Fred M. Rogers Center and will conclude at 12:00 Noon. The presentation will include an introduction to Saint Vincent College and a student panel. Find out more about this top-ranked Catholic, Benedictine, liberal arts college. Listen to financial aid and admission presentations, meet faculty, administrators and coaches and take a campus tour. For information or reservations, please call 1-800-782-5549; Email: [admission@stvincent.edu](mailto:admission@stvincent.edu), or register online at: [www.stvincent.edu](http://www.stvincent.edu).

**LIFE CHAIN**  
*Saving Lives from Condit to Condit*

**Life Chain**—Sunday, October 2nd - from 2:00 to 3:00 P.M. Life Chain is a peaceful and prayerful witness of pro-life individuals standing for 60 minutes praying for our nation and for the end of abortion. Water, lawn chairs, umbrellas, strollers are welcome. Assemble in Our Lady of Most Blessed Sacrament's church parking lot in Natrona Heights. *If we as Christians do not speak for the unborn, who will?*

*A FRIENDLY Reminder*

Just a reminder that the FRA meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 P.M. at the Borough Building, 414 Market Street. You are welcome to attend and invite others!!!

# MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR OCTOBER 8TH & 9TH, 2016

*Altar Servers*

*Extraordinary  
Ministers  
Of Holy Communion*

*Lector*

*Organist*

*Cantor*

**Saturday - 4:00 P.M.**

Brandon Bowser	Jackie DeFelice	Tim Fogarty	Verne Bergstrom	Jamie Phillips
Zachary Bowser	Bill Girardi			
Kennedi Clark	Deb Showers			

**Sunday - 8:30 A.M.**

Andrew Nigra; Luke Boylan Madison & Austin Bachar Alexandra Lasko	Judy Bergstrom John Nemcek Rose Check	CCD - 8th Grade	Tom Koharchik	Tom Koharchik
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**Sunday - 11:00 A.M.**

Celeste Beacom Victor Svitek; Evan Giori Jacob & Erin Schaeffer	Lisa Isenberg Doree Rossey Marushka Steele	TBA	Dave Wesolosky	Choir
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**Mass Intentions**  
FOR THE WEEK 

**MASSES FOR THE 27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**SATURDAY:** October 1st  
4:00 P.M. ✦ Don Macurdy (Chris & Ken Elliott & Family)

**SUNDAY:** October 2nd  
8:30 A.M. St. Mary Parishioners  
11:00 A.M. ✦ William R. Burk (Marthann Larkin)

**MONDAY:** October 3rd  
8:00 A.M. ✦ Barbara Sliviak (Mother)

**TUESDAY:** October 4th  
8:00 A.M. COMMUNION SERVICE

**WEDNESDAY:** October 5th  
8:00 A.M. ✦ Nadine Harding (Dennis & Cindy Beblo)


**THURSDAY:** October 6th  
8:00 A.M. COMMUNION SERVICE

**FRIDAY:** October 7th  
8:00 A.M. ✦ Rev. George Alderson (Friends)


**MASSES FOR THE 28TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**SATURDAY:** October 8th  
4:00 P.M. ✦ Salvatore "Sam" Chiusano (Judy & Larry Lutz)

**SUNDAY:** October 9th  
8:30 A.M. ✦ Bob Lepkowski (Wife & Children)  
11:00 A.M. St. Mary Parishioners



The Altar Bread and Wine were donated for this week in loving memory of **BILL & ANGIE REEVES**  
By **Ken & Beth Reeves**  
(Son & Daughter-in-law)




In acknowledging the Real Presence of Christ, The Sanctuary Lamp (Candle) will burn this week in loving memory of **DAVID SINGER**  
By **Bill & Doree Rossey & Family**

**Collections**  
Offertory Collection for September 25th, 2016  
No. of Envelopes Mailed Out: 591  
No. of Envelopes Received: 228  
Collection: Offertory - \$5,199.50  
Loose - \$427.00  
Children - \$22.25  
Seminarian & Clergy Formation - \$1,116.00  
**THANK YOU!**

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ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK

**"Freeport Monumental Works"**



Saturday, October 8th, 2016  
**Christine Kern and Connie Waltenbaugh**