

St. Mary, Mother of God Church

December 25th, 2016



*Glory to God in the highest,
and on Earth peace,
goodwill towards men.*

LUKE 2:14

From the Pastor's Desk



The day has come to celebrate the birth of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Come let us adore Him and pay our homage for He is the reason of our Christmas celebration.

This Sunday being Christmas Day, I would like to share with you this beautiful letter. It was actually given to me and it is supposed to be a letter from Jesus for Christmas.

LETTER FROM JESUS

If you look for me at Christmas, You won't need a special star.

I'm no longer just in Bethlehem, I'm right there where you are.

You may not be aware of me amid the celebrations –
You'll have to look beyond the stores, and all the decorations.

But if you take a moment from your list of things to do and
listen to your heart, you'll find I'm waiting there for you.

You're the one I want to be with, You're the reason that I came.

And you'll find me in the stillness as I'm whispering your name.

**Love,
JESUS**

Let us spend time with Jesus, thanking Him for being a gift to us through His Incarnation to give light and hope in the world. Merry Christmas!



TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — All the ends of the earth will behold the salvation of our God (Isaiah 52:7-10).

Psalm — All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God (Psalm 98).

Second Reading — God has spoken to us through the Son, the very imprint of God's being (Hebrews 1:1-6).

Gospel — The Word became flesh; from his fullness we have all received grace (John 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]).

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

- Sunday:** The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)
Monday: St. Stephen; Kwanzaa begins
Tuesday: St. John
Wednesday: The Holy Innocents
Thursday: St. Thomas Becket; Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord
Friday: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
Saturday: St. Sylvester I; New Year's Eve—Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday:** Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22
Tuesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8
Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7b-8; Mt 2:13-18
Thursday: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:36-40
Friday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Col 3:12-21 [12-17]; s 128:1-5; Mt 2:13-15, 19-23
Saturday: 1 Jn 2:18-21; Ps 96:1-2, 11-13; Jn 1:1-18
Sunday: Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21

LOVE

*Let those who never loved before, love now:
Let those who always loved, love the more. —Anonymous*

Congratulations to Fr. Ronald L. Maquiñana
10th Sacerdotal Anniversary—December 12th, 2016



Christmas Concert—2016

The first family night inter-generational
faith formation



Mardi Gras Wine Tasting Festival - Saturday, February 25th, 2017, 6:00 -10:00 P.M., in our Fellowship Hall. Tickets are \$30.00 each and includes wine tasting and a lite fare. Call Bridget at 724-294-0089, Marianne at 724-295-9568 or Jeff at 724-596-0503 for tickets. Event sponsored by our Parish Council. Proceeds benefit our Fellowship Hall Sound System.

Religious Education Christmas Party—2016



Have you signed up for FORMED yet? It is as easy as clicking on the FORMED icon (found on the homepage or under "Studying Our Faith") on the parish website: stmaryfreeport.com. This will pre-fill our parish code. Or you can go to FORMED.org, click on the "Register" button and use our Parish Code VNX4G6. If you are using Internet Explorer and having problems, try a different browser.

Suggestions for this week:

Programs: Catholicism, Session 2: Happy Are We, Catholicism Session 6: A Body Both Suffering and Glorious

Audio: Searching the Scriptures: The Gospel of John, Marriage and Family, For Love and Marriage

Movie: Joseph of Nazareth, Love is a Choice: St. Gianna Molla

Ebook: Be a Man!, Boys to Men, You Can Understand the Bible, Sacraments in Scripture

History of St. Mary's Week 6

In 1961, Msgr. Francis Karabinos built an addition to the school which included four rooms, a furnace room and new rest rooms at a cost of about \$120,000, with a new kitchen being added at a later time. There were no other major changes until 1987 following the collapse of a portion of the ceiling and roof occurring on Sunday, June 29, 1986. Miraculously, no one was in the church at that time. Under the direction of the pastor, Rev. Denis R. Sweeney, \$320,000 was quickly raised to complete the necessary repairs. During the renovation, air conditioning and carpeting were installed, the pews were repaired and upholstered, and the entire church painted.



Thank You to Dennis J. Daugherty Funeral Home for the beautiful Catholic Calendars. Once again, your generous gift is much appreciated! *When you see Dennis, please remember to thank him.*



The parish office will close at 12:00 Noon on Friday, December 23rd, and will reopen on Wednesday, December 28th in celebration of the holiday. The staff would like to wish everyone a "Blessed and Merry Christmas"!



Today's second collection will be for the "Children and Family Services Appeal". Your generous contribution will go toward changing the future of an individual, a family or a child through the good work of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Greensburg.



In order to balance our parish budget every year, we rely heavily on the generous gifts that come to us through the Christmas collection. We also rely heavily on the weekly Offertory gifts that are made 52 weeks out of the year. Both your Christmas gifts to our parish and your weekly Offertory gifts help us manage our operating budget through winter when heating bills are high and unexpected costs arise for snow and ice removal. For this reason, we ask you to please be as generous as possible with your Christmas gift to the parish. If possible, use both your weekly envelope and your Christmas envelope this Christmas. We need your support. Thank you for your generosity both throughout the year and at Christmas.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 31ST, 2016 & JANUARY 1ST, 2017

Altar Servers

*Extraordinary
Ministers
Of Holy Communion*

Lector

Organist

Cantor

Saturday - 4:00 P.M.

Brandon Bowser
Zachary Bowser
Kennedi Clark

Andrea Camerlo
Fred Walker
Dave Valencic

Karen Savage

Verne Bergstrom

Alex Smith

Sunday - 8:30 A.M.

Breanna & Olivia Sutara
Katie Huth
Eva DeMeno

Judy Bergstrom
Carol Carson
Rose Check

Lisa Boylan

Tom Koharchik

Tom Koharchik

Sunday - 11:00 A.M.

Celeste Beacom
Victor Svitek; Evan Giori
Jacob & Erin Schaeffer

Helen James
Andre Volek
Dan Lucovich

Marushka Steele

Dave Wesolosky

Choir

Mass Intentions

MASSES FOR CHRISTMAS EVE/CHRISTMAS DAY— THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

SATURDAY: December 24th
5:00 P.M. St. Mary Parishioners
10:00 P.M. St. Mary Parishioners

SUNDAY: December 25th
8:30 A.M. St. Mary Parishioners
11:00 A.M. St. Mary Parishioners

MONDAY: December 26th
8:00 A.M. †Rev. Dominick DeBlasio (Fran, Terri, Mary & Peter Calligan)

TUESDAY: December 27th
8:00 A.M. †Anita Rosato (Family)

WEDNESDAY: December 28th
8:00 A.M. †John Janicik (Norman and Carol Beavers)

THURSDAY: December 29th
8:00 A.M. †Charmaine & Don Macurdy (Shelly, Mike, Katie, Kraig & Klaudia King)

FRIDAY: December 30th
8:00 A.M. Special Intention (Mike Huth)

MASSES FOR THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

SATURDAY: December 31st
4:00 P.M. †William Aiello (Maryellyn & Bill Bale)

SUNDAY: January 1st
8:30 A.M. †Philip Fuhrman (Mr. & Mrs. Doug Bubash)
11:00 A.M. St. Mary Parishioners



The Altar Bread and Wine were donated for this week in loving memory of **JAMES McDERMOTT** By **Linda McDermott & Children**



In acknowledging the Real Presence of Christ, The Sanctuary Lamp (Candle) will burn this week in loving memory of **BERNARD & ANN KORT** By **Kort Kids**

Collections

Offertory Collection for December 18th, 2016

No. of Envelopes Mailed Out: 591

No. of Envelopes Received: 203

Collection: Offertory - \$4,590.00

Loose - \$195.00

Children - \$27.00

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