



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

August 14th, 2016
Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Father Ronald Maquiñana—Pastor
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

Parish Email Address: 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.

From the Pastor's Desk



As we get nearer to the culmination of the celebration of the 190th Parish Anniversary, we continue to have activities in our parish that has significance to our faith journey. During the month of August, we are privileged to have Rennick and Marushka Steele share their talents with Ren writing and directing and Marushka taking charge as Assistant Director/Sound Design of the play entitled *“The Spirit of St. Mary’s”* that presents a historical drama of our beginning as a parish community, and details how we have grown over the years.

We are old as a parish, but we are still growing not only in numbers, but also in our spiritual journey. The parish evolved from structure, liturgies and facilities over the many years and you can attest to that, especially those who have been long members of the parish. Take for instance the number of priests who served in the parish; as I counted from the beginning to the present, we had 46 pastors (including myself) who shepherd the parish community. There were also fruits of vocations here for priesthood and consecrated life.

So we have a lot to treasure and be grateful for, especially with the priests and nuns, because they helped us in our faith journey. They molded us and instilled in us the importance of faith, sacraments, Church and many others. We are who we are now because of them and other individuals who inspire us to live out our faith.

In connection with *“The Spirit of St. Mary’s”* play, I encourage you to support it. This will be shown at *Freeport Theatre Festival* beginning the weekend of August 12th, 13th, 14th, and will continue August 19th, 20th, 21st, 26th, 27th, and 28th. Curtain time is 7:00 P.M.

Let us share them with our family and friends and discover our beginning.

Celebrating 190 Years!

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — They took Jeremiah and threw him into the cistern (Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10).

Psalm — Lord, come to my aid! (Psalm 40).

Second Reading — Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, the leader and perfecter of faith (Hebrews 12:1-4).

Gospel — I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing (Luke 12:49-53).

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday: The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Tuesday: St. Stephen of Hungary
Friday: St. John Eudes
Saturday: St. Bernard

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: **Vigil:** 1 Chr 15:3-4, 15-16; 16:1-2; Ps 132:6-7, 9-10, 13-14; 1 Cor 15:54b-57; Lk 11:27-28
Day: Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Ps 45:10-12, 16; 1 Cor 15:20-27; Lk 1:39-56

Tuesday: Ez 28:1-10; Dt 32:26-28, 30, 35cd-36ab; Mt 19:23-30

Wednesday: Ez 34:1-11; Ps 23:1-6; Mt 20:1-16

Thursday: Ez 36:23-28; Ps 51:12-15, 18-19; Mt 22:1-14

Friday: Ez 37:1-14; Ps 107:2-9; Mt 22:34-40

Saturday: Ez 43:1-7a; Ps 85:9ab, 10-14; Mt 23:1-12

Sunday: Is 66:18-21; Ps 117:1, 2; Heb 12:5-7, 11-13; Lk 13:22-30

SEEK NEW TREASURE

Not on one strand are all life's jewels strung. —William Morris



PARISH NEWS

There will be a follow-up meeting on Wednesday, August 17th, at 7:00 P.M. in our Fellowship Hall for anyone interested in going on the 2017 Parish Pilgrimage.

Learning about Divine Mercy—Week 11



Let's look at the symbolism in the Image of the Divine Mercy: The hands of Jesus: one directs us to the flow of graces, and the right hand is not raised high as in an aggressive motion, but kept near the heart, which communicates deep gentleness. It helps us to focus on the warmth and embrace of His most sacred heart. It encourages us to dwell there a while. The gaze of our Lord is not directly at the viewer. They look downward, deeply humble...non-threatening gesture. He doesn't want us to run and hide (as in the Garden of Eden). His gaze is one of great love and humility and gentleness. Jesus says, "My gaze from this image is like My gaze from the cross." (Diary326) Jesus is "stepping gently" toward the viewer, it is full of grace and mercy, and prevents us from running away from Jesus and announces His coming again. Jesus wants us to gaze on this image and contemplate His incredible love for each of us and how He desires for us to know Him personally, to come to Him in prayer and the sacraments, and trust Him.

CALENDAR of Events

August 17th	Biking for God - 6:30 P.M. 2017 Pilgrimage Meeting - 7:00 P.M.
August 19th-21st	"Spirit of St. Mary's" - FTF- 7:00 P.M.
August 24th	Special Choir Practice - 6:00 P.M. Biking for God - 6:30 P.M.
August 26-28th	"Spirit of St. Mary's" - FTF- 7:00 P.M.
August 31st	Biking for God - 6:30 P.M.

CANCELLED To properly prepare our Fellowship Hall for our upcoming 190th Anniversary dinner on Wednesday, September 7th, our Donut Social for the month of August has been cancelled.



Are you thinking about joining the Catholic Church, and feeling a little lost? The RCIA inquiry stage is the starting place for adults who are thinking about entering the Catholic Church. The Church welcomes those who want to join themselves to Christ through the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. She also welcomes Christians from other Christian communions who, already baptized, wish to complete their sacraments of initiation in the Catholic Church. RCIA is also intended for Catholics returning after some absence from the Church to the practice of the Catholic faith. If you would like additional information, please call Fr. Ron or Bill Girardi at 724-295-2281.



Choir Practice In preparation of our 190th Anniversary Mass on Wednesday, September 7th, there will be a mandatory choir practice on Wednesday, August 24th, at 6:00 P.M. for all choir members, vocalists and instrumentalists. Please mark your calendar and plan on attending this important practice!



Although we have ended our Diocesan Lenten Appeal (DLA), we are still receiving some late pledges. Our new DLA total pledged is \$89,272.87. A great big thank you to everyone who has participated in our 2016 Diocesan Lenten Appeal!



REST IN PEACE—In your charity of prayers, please remember the soul of **Dorothy Mailki** who recently passed away. Welcome Dorothy and all who have gone before us into the joy of everlasting life and bring comfort and peace to their families.



St. Mary's Christian Mothers will hold their annual summer picnic on Sunday, August 28th, at 120 Ford City Road, (Harbison's). All members and their families are invited. Just bring your appetites and something yummy to share. *RSVP by August 22nd to Janis—724-295-4056.*

Year of Mercy—Holy Door Pilgrimage - A day trip sponsored by the Christian Mothers will be held on Saturday, September 10th. Carpooling from St. Mary Church parking lot at 7:00 A.M. and returning approximately at 2:00 P.M. All are welcome to participate. Please let Bridget know if you would like to attend by emailing her at: momfogarty@gmail.com or by calling her at 724-294-0089 no later than Tuesday, September 6th.

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

Moving

Change Address/Phone

Around the Diocese and Beyond.....



Today we are participating in the Greensburg Diocesan Mission Cooperative Plan and we welcome *Fr. Ben Cammayo*, representing the Diocese of Daet, from the Philippines. Please give Father Ben your full attention today and prayerfully consider a donation to support their mission work. If you forgot your envelope, additional ones are located at all of the church entrances. Please be generous!



Explore a vocation to the Priesthood by joining Bishop Malesic for an evening of fellowship, a meal and a chance to hear his journey to priesthood. The St. Andrew Dinner is open to all young, single, Catholic men, high school-aged or older. There is one remaining opportunity to attend and that will be on Saturday, September 3rd, St. Rita Church in Connellsville. For more information or to make a reservation, send your request to: vocations@dioceseofgreensburg.org.



Our Lady of Victory, 1319 Low Grade Road, Harwick, will be holding a "Junk in the Trunk Sales"/Pancake Breakfasts on Saturday, August 20th. Sale set-up begins at 7:00 A.M. Each space is \$10.00. Sale begins at 8:00 A.M. - 12:00 Noon. Breakfast begins at 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon. \$5.00 includes three pancakes, sausage/bacon, juice, coffee, water, and tea.



A one-day bus trip to the awe inspiring Sorrowful Mother Shrine, the oldest place of pilgrimage dedicated to the Blessed Mother in the Midwest. Departing from St. Joseph Church, Cabot, at 8:00 A.M., on Sunday, October 9th. Over 120 acres of wood and lawn make up the grounds. Paved walkways wind among the canopy of trees to the Stations of the Cross; replicas of Lourdes and Sepulcher Grottos along with over 25 other shrines and grottos as well as special memorials and quiet gardens (www.sorrowfulmothershrine.org). **Reservations and payment must be received no later than August 31st.** Contact person is Darlene Geibel at 724-352-3216.



In a troubled marriage? Retrouvaille has helped tens of thousands and it can help you. For confidential information about or to register for the program beginning with a weekend on September 16th, please contact Retrouvaille at 412-277-3434.



All are welcome! Saturday, August 27th: XLT-Adoration of Our Lord at 6:30 P.M. at St. James the Greater Parish—109 Owens View Road, Apollo. There will be music from their worship band, an inspiring talk by Rev. Tyler Bandura, Associate Director of the Office for Clergy Vocations and serves as Episcopal Master of Ceremonies and Chaplain at Greensburg Central Catholic High School. Fr. Bandura's topic will be "Vocations: God's Call to Holiness." There will be a time for silent adoration, Benediction and Confession followed by snacks and a time of fellowship in the church basement. Take a friend!



All adults are invited to St. Joseph, Cabot on Tuesday, August 23rd, at 7:00 P.M. to their *Christlife* Get Together and Evangelization Night. They will present information on the New Evangelization and their fall *Discovering Christ* session as well as socialize, share some appetizers and drinks and play a few games. Contact Marian 724-352-3443 with any questions.

Freeport Theatre Festival celebrates its 27th Season

A new historical drama about the life of a church and its people during the best and worst of times: 1800-1904

Spirit of St. Mary's

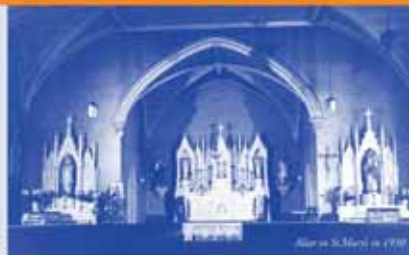
WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY
RENNICK STEELE



Performance Dates: Friday, Saturday, Sunday
August 12,13,14 19,20,21, 26,27,28 in 2016

Curtain: 7:00 p.m.

Freeport Theater Footlights Gallery:
Freeport Through the Looking Glass: Classic collectibles and the Lavender Tea Room



No person is an iceberg drifting on the ocean of history. Each one of us belongs to a great family in which we have our own place and our own role to play. In Rennick Steele's new historical drama, *Spirit of St. Mary's*, we follow the early family members of a church in a river town yet to be built.

Our story begins after the Revolutionary War, a period marked by the currents of liberty, conscience and self-determination; and, it continues through the Civil War and ends in 1904, a new century of possibilities and dangers unforeseen. A beloved saint wrote: "Life is a talent entrusted to us so that we can transform it and increase it, making it a gift to others." (St. John Paul II)

Spirit of St. Mary's is about that 190 year-old gift. Our story begins with a priest, in a canoe, and a lantern guiding him along the river—come and take that ride in the canoe with us and be touched by history.



General Information

Ticket Prices:
\$15/12/10
(General Admission/Military/Seniors/Student)

Location:
The Steele Farm in Allegheny Township
Nestled in the northern tip of the Laurel Highlands



Two miles southeast of Freeport
off Rte. 356 on White Cloud Road

Information:
Marushka Steele at 724-295-1934
or www.freeporttheatrefestival.org



Pre-Theatre Dinner:
River Forest Country Club
Seating at 4:30 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.
Reservations a must: 724-295-2298

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MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR AUGUST 20TH & 21ST, 2016

Altar Servers

*Extraordinary
Ministers
Of Holy Communion*

Lector

Organist

Cantor

Saturday - 4:00 P.M.

Brandon & Zachary Bowser
Kennedi Clark

Andrea Camerlo
Fred Walker
Dave Valencic

Janice Meola

Verne Bergstrom

Alex Smith

Sunday - 8:30 A.M.

Evan McCrea; Akina Boynton
Sarah & Hannah Shepherd
Hadley Hellgren

Judy Bergstrom
Betty Lou Nemcek
Carol Carson

Lisa Boylan

Tom Koharchik

Tom Koharchik

Sunday - 11:00 A.M.

Celeste Beacom
Victor Svitek; Evan Giori
Jacob & Erin Schaeffer

Debbie Baustert
Melissa Schaeffer
Helen James

Bill Cogley

Dave Wesolosky

Kathy Conley

Mass Intentions

FOR THE WEEK

MASSES FOR THE 20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SATURDAY:
4:00 P.M.

August 13th
✠ John Costantino (Bill & Pat Davis)

SUNDAY:
8:30 A.M.
11:00 A.M.

August 14th
✠ Mary Greenwood (Judy & Larry Lutz)
St. Mary Parishioners

MONDAY:
8:00 A.M.

August 15th
✠ Rosemary & JoAnne Girardi (Bill Girardi)

TUESDAY:
8:00 A.M.

August 16th
✠ Kathryn Krchnak (Posney & Rezak Families)

WEDNESDAY:
8:00 A.M.

August 17th
✠ Charles Lentz (Rich & Karen Brestensky)

THURSDAY:
8:00 A.M.

August 18th
✠ William R. Burk (Eileen Turiak)

FRIDAY:
8:00 A.M.

August 19th
✠ Mary Louise Ruk (Richard & Nora Merchant)

MASSES FOR THE 21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SATURDAY:
4:00 P.M.

August 20th
✠ Thomas Dowling (Wife—Betty)

SUNDAY:
8:30 A.M.
11:00 A.M.

August 21st
St. Mary Parishioners
✠ James F. Jordan (Ron & Nancy J. Snyder)



The Altar Bread and Wine
were donated for this week
in loving memory of
**JOVITA WALKER/
DAN HASTINGS, JR./
CINDY REQUIS**
By
Fred Walker/Kaleb Walker



In acknowledging the Real Presence of Christ,
The Sanctuary Lamp (Candle) will burn this week
in loving memory of
ROSEMARY & JOANNE GIRARDI
By
Bill Girardi

Collections

Offertory Collection for August 7th, 2016

No. of Envelopes Mailed Out: 589

No. of Envelopes Received: 223

Collection: Offertory - \$6,322.00

Loose - \$420.00

Children - \$28.10

Candle Money - \$188.00

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