



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

November 27th, 2016



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



I guess you have already begun accessing the online program *FORMED* after we gave you the parish code. And you probably found a lot of interesting presentations and movies to watch and books to read on your computer, kindle, or smartphone. Well and good!

The big news is....the parish is providing this program free as a gift to you and your family. You can also extend it to your neighbors and friends for they are good programs. Who knows, perhaps you can build more friends for Jesus with these online resources. And the other good news about *FORMED* is that you can access them 24/7 anywhere so long as you have the internet connection. There is no limit. For those who can't access the program from home, don't worry, we will offer it to you in our parish fellowship hall once a month.

Actually, what we intended to do after giving you the passcode and you registering is every month we will pick one topic/program to be viewed. Although you can view anything you want, but for the purpose of us journeying together as a parish, we will choose one program once a month. Then we will set a date to gather in our parish fellowship hall for discussion and interactions. And we intend this to be for everybody: children, teens and adults. All are welcome! It will be a kind of family night inter-generational faith formation for about an hour. A core team from the Evangelization

Ministry will help us facilitate our gathering every month.

I hope this online program and gathering will bring us into a strong bond as a family and community journeying together in deepening our faith and our relationship with God.

As we celebrated Thanksgiving Day last Thursday, maybe this can be one of the many ways we can express gratitude to God for giving us lots of opportunities to grow in faith and to make ourselves better everyday, whether it be in our family, in our work, or in dealing with our day to day activities.

I am sure that as you begin viewing the topics, you will always end up learning something that will enlighten you or inspire you to become a better person every day.

Treasure them and share them so that others can also benefit the same way as you do.



TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — All the peoples shall stream toward the Lord's house (Isaiah 2:1-5).

Psalm — Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord (Psalm 122).

Second Reading — It is the hour to cast off the dark and clothe ourselves in the light (Romans 13:11-14).

Gospel — Stay awake! Be prepared! The Son of Man will come when you least expect (Matthew 24:37-44).

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: First Sunday of Advent

Wednesday: St. Andrew

Thursday: World AIDS Awareness Day

Friday: First Friday

Saturday: St. Francis Xavier; First Saturday

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Is 4:2-6; Ps 122:1-9; Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday: Rom 10:9-18; Ps 19:8-11; Mt 4:18-22

Thursday: Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a; Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday: Is 29:17-24; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Mt 9:27-31

Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Ps 147:1-6; Mt 9:35 — 10:1, 5a, 6-8

Sunday: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Rom 15:4-9; Mt 3:1-12

TIME OF PREPARATION

This life is the time of our preparation for our future state. Our souls will continue forever what we make them in this world. —John Tillotson, Archbishop of Canterbury

R C I A - 2 0 1 6 — 2 0 1 7



PARISH NEWS



Religious Education

Please note that Religious Education classes will resume on Sunday, December 4th.



History of St. Mary's—Week 2

Rev. Patrick O'Neil arrived in 1826 and was the first resident pastor. The following year the Pennsylvania Canal, which followed the Kiskiminetas River to its mouth a mile above Freeport, was begun. The Catholic population was increasing, and Fr. O'Neil began planning the building of a church. He collected means from the farmers and laborers, and purchased a lot from Congressman Rogers for \$200.00. The contract for the church was let to a Protestant builder in 1827, who agreed to erect it for \$600.00. It was dedicated to St. Mary of the Nativity on September 8, 1831 by Bishop Kenrick, the first visit of a Bishop. The church was 34 feet in length and 28 feet in width, and had a gallery, with pews added a few years later. The congregation gradually increased with the growth of the town and in 1847, the Congregation then numbered four hundred souls.



Christmas Basket Raffle - Raffle Ticket stubs and money may be put in an envelope and placed in the collection basket, mailed in, dropped off at the Administrative Center, or given to any Christian Mother. Tickets are only \$1.00/each. This is the main fundraiser for the Christian Mothers and your support is greatly appreciated!



First Friday Adoration will be December 2nd, beginning at 8:30 A.M. Sign-up sheets are located at the church entrances. 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!

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



December 1st RCIA - 6:30 P.M. - Conference Room
1st Reconciliation - 7:00 P.M.

December 2nd First Friday Adoration

December 4th Christian Mother's Mass - 8:30 A.M.
 Teen Ministry Meeting - 9:25 A.M.
 Religious Education Classes - 9:30—10:35 A.M.
 Security Guard - "Teresa & Mike Emeloff"
 Choir Practice - 9:45—10:45 A.M.; 11:00 A.M. Mass
 Baptism - Emerick - within the 11:00 A.M. Mass

December 5th Christian Mother's Meeting - 7:00 P.M.

December 8th RCIA - 6:30 P.M. - Conference Room

December 11th Religious Education Classes - 9:30—10:35 A.M.
 Security Guard - "Christina Kapinskis"
 Choir Practice - 9:45—10:45 A.M.; 11:00 A.M. Mass
 Advent Program - 6:30 to 8:30 P.M.

December 12th Fr. Ron - 10th Sacerdotal Anniversary - 3:00 P.M.
 Mass followed by a reception - Fellowship Hall



First Reconciliation

First Reconciliation - On Thursday, December 1st, at 7:00 P.M., our 2nd Grade Students will make their First Confession. Parents and all family members are encouraged to attend and receive this sacrament with them. Please keep these children in your prayers!



Christian Mother's - All members and their families are asked to gather together in front of the Blessed Mother (please arrive at 8:00 A.M.) to recite the rosary and to attend morning Mass on Sunday, December 3rd. The monthly meeting will be held on Monday, December 4th, at 7:00 P.M., in the Christian Mother's Room. The rosary will be prayed at 6:30 P.M.

Around the Diocese and Beyond.....



CM-BBT is a medically based, scientifically researched, highly effective NFP method that safely promotes personal health and wellness of body. CM-BBT invites better marriages, enhances couple communication and encourages mutual respect and responsibility. This NFP Method can be used to avoid, postpone, plan or achieve pregnancy. The next Natural Family Planning CM-BBT Method INSTRUCTION is scheduled for Monday, December 5th, beginning at 6:00 P.M., at the Catholic Charities office in Greensburg. Participants are required to attend only ONE session. The instruction, continued support and follow-up are provided by a medically certified CM-BBT Professional. Please call at least one week prior to instruction date to PRE-register. Contact Mary Ann Newhouse at Catholic Charities at 724-837-1840, Ext. 1658 for additional information or to register for this or an upcoming class. If you would like additional information about Natural Family Planning and the CM-BBT Method, please visit: www.ccharitiesgreensburg.org and link into Natural Family Planning under "Services".



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 Taize Prayer for Peace at the Queen of Peace Chapel in Doran Hall, 441 Mt. Thor Road, Greensburg, PA. The rich worship experience of the Taize 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 or call the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill at 724-836-0406.



ATTENTION ALL HUNTERS "Hunters Sharing the Harvest"

CONSOL Energy is calling on all hunters to donate extra deer to this organization committed to feeding hungry families in Pennsylvania. A donated deer can feed up to 200 hungry people. To find participating processors (CONSOL Energy pays the processing fee), go to: www.sharedeer.org, or call 1-866-HSH-2141.

Bag a Buck - or a Doe - to Fight Hunger!



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. Everyone is welcome to attend and invite others to go with you!!!



Allegheny Valley Hospital (AVH) is seeking volunteers to join the hospital's Information Desk, Surgical Reception, Patient Access and Lobby Escort teams. These positions offer significant opportunity to work directly with patients and their families. Interested volunteers are asked to make a weekly commitment for a three to four hour shift. Currently the Information Desk has openings Monday, Wednesday and Friday for the 6:00 to 8:30 P.M. shift. Lobby escorts are needed on Monday and Tuesday from 12:00 Noon to 4:00 P.M. and Thursday— 8:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon. Surgical Reception has two openings for every other Tuesday, 12:30 to 4:30 P.M. The Information Desk, Surgical Reception and Lobby Escort volunteers work in pairs, so if you and a friend are interested, start this adventure together. Patient Access volunteers serve as greeters and assist with ensuring swift registration and will gather information from patients regarding the desire for chaplain or clergy visitation. You can really make a difference at

AVH. Orientation is required and training provided. Interested individuals age 16 or older are encouraged to apply online at: www.ahn.org/volunteer or to contact Kimberly Giovannelli, email: avhvol@ahn.org or call 724-226-7370.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 3RD & 4TH, 2016

Altar Servers

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Lector

Organist

Cantor

Saturday - 4:00 P.M.

Brandon Bowser
Zachary Bowser
Kennedi Clark

Patty Hughes
Deb Showers
Dave Brestensky

Jackie DeFelice

Verne Bergstrom

Jamie Phillips

Sunday - 8:30 A.M.

Andrew Nigra; Luke Boylan
Madison & Austin Bachar
Alexandra Lasko

Judy Bergstrom
Carol Carson
Rose Check

John Nemcek

Tom Koharchik

Tom Koharchik

Sunday - 11:00 A.M.

Celeste Beacom
Victor Svitek; Evan Giori
Jacob & Erin Schaeffer

Helen James
Andre Volek
Dan Lucovich

Debbie Baustert

Dave Wesolosky

Choir



MASSES FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SATURDAY: November 26th
4:00 P.M. St. Mary Parishioners

SUNDAY: November 27th
8:30 A.M. ♣ Carol Stewart (The Policicchio's)
11:00 A.M. ♣ Olga Varshine (Judy & Larry Lutz & Family)

MONDAY: November 28th
8:00 A.M. ♣ Walter Sliviak (Daughter)

TUESDAY: November 29th
8:00 A.M. ♣ Judith M. Polana (Family)

WEDNESDAY: November 30th
8:00 A.M. ♣ Rose Pesci (Estate)

THURSDAY: December 1st
8:00 A.M. ♣ Nicole Kotchey (Michael & Mariann Chahoy)

FRIDAY: December 2nd
8:00 A.M. ♣ Jane E. Thompson (The Wyant Family)

MASSES FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

SATURDAY: December 3rd
4:00 P.M. ♣ William R. Burk (Judith A. Kelly)

SUNDAY: December 4th
8:30 A.M. ♣ Don Macurdy (Rose Marie Smith)
11:00 A.M. St. Mary Parishioners



The Altar Bread and Wine were donated for this week in loving memory of **LARRY KRANER** By **Maureen Dahmen**



In acknowledging the Real Presence of Christ, The Sanctuary Lamp (Candle) will burn this week in loving memory of **LORNA LOMACK** By **Ken Peth**



Due to the early deadline for the submission of the November 27th bulletin, the weekly contribution report for November 20th was not available. This information will be published in next Sunday's bulletin. **THANK YOU!**



Saturday, December 3rd, 2016
Nancy Laux and Betty Lou Nemcek

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