



# 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**

*December 11th, 2016*



**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.

## From the Pastor's Desk



Entering the Third Sunday of Advent we have the first intergenerational family night this Sunday, December 11th, from 6:30 – 8:00 P.M., in the Conference Center. Our topic will be the Season of Advent from [FORMED.org](http://FORMED.org) - Session 3. If you were not able to watch it, don't worry because we will be showing it. You can bring your children, your family and friends as this is for everybody. All are welcome. In case you want to view the session ahead of our gathering, you can visit: [formed.org](http://formed.org), register with your name, and enter the parish code VNX4G6, there you can view all the programs, select Advent Session 3, and you will be able to watch it.

The following day, Monday, December 12th, we will not have mass in the morning. Instead, we will celebrate mass in the afternoon at 3:00 P.M. as a thanksgiving mass for my 10th year anniversary as a priest, and I extend this invitation to everyone. I know, for most of you, this will be difficult to attend since you will probably be at work, but you can still join me at the open house reception and that will be from 4:00 to 7:00 P.M., in our Fellowship Hall. The reason mass has been scheduled for 3:00 P.M. is the fact that most of the parishes in the diocese have their Advent Penance Services already scheduled. They cannot come to join us for evening mass nor for the early mass. With regards to our Advent Penance Service, the following is the schedule for our region:

December 13th – St. Mary Mother of God Parish, Yatesboro —7:00 P.M.

December 15th – St. Lawrence Parish, Cadogan —7:00 P.M.

December 17th – Christ, Prince of Peace Parish, Ford City — 12:00 Noon

**December 19th – St. Mary, Mother of God Parish, Freeport —7:00 P.M.**

December 20th – St. Mary of Guadalupe Parish, Kittanning —7:00 P.M.

*Hope this helps us in our preparation for Christmas. A blessed Third Sunday of Advent!*



### TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading** — The barren deserts will rejoice and flower. Tired bodies will receive strength. Aching hearts will be made glad (Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10).

**Psalm** — Lord, come and save us (Psalm 146).

**Second Reading** — Be patient, for the coming of the Lord is as sure as the rain (James 5:7-10).

**Gospel** — Tell of what you hear and see: The blind regain their vision, the crippled their movement, the deaf their hearing (Matthew 11:2-11).

### SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

**Sunday:** Third Sunday of Advent

**Monday:** Our Lady of Guadalupe

**Tuesday:** St. Lucy

**Wednesday:** St. John of the Cross

**Friday:** Las Posadas begins

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

**Monday:** Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Jdt 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47, or any readings from the Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary, nos. 707-712

**Tuesday:** Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-19, 23; Mt 21:28-32

**Wednesday:** Is 45: 6b-8, 18, 21b-25; Ps 85:9ab, 10-14; Lk 7:18b-23

**Thursday:** Is 54:1-10; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-12a, 13b; Lk 7:24-30

**Friday:** Is 56:1-3a, 6-8; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 7-8; Jn 5:33-36

**Saturday:** Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-4ab, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17

**Sunday:** Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24

### JUSTICE AND OBEDIENCE

*Justice is the insurance we have on our lives, and obedience is the premium we pay for it. —William Penn*

# PARISH NEWS



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

**December 15th** RCIA - 6:30 P.M. - Conference Room

**December 18th** Teen Ministry Meeting - 9:25 A.M.  
 Religious Education Christmas Party - 9:30 A.M.  
 Security Guard - "Christina Kapinskis"  
 Choir Practice - 9:45—10:45 A.M.; 11:00 A.M. Mass  
 Baptism - "Mientus" - within the 11:00 A.M. Mass  
 Christmas Choral Concert - 6:30 P.M.

**December 19th** Penance Service - 7:00 P.M.

**December 22nd** RCIA - 6:30 P.M. - Conference Room

**December 23rd** Parish Office Closes at 12:00 Noon

**December 26th** Parish Office Closed

**December 27th** Parish Office Closed



**A Christmas Party** for all of our Religious Education students will be held on Sunday, December 18th, in our Fellowship Hall. The children are to go to our Fellowship Hall where they will enjoy donuts and beverage, look at the decorated trees in the classrooms, have a sing-a-long, and more! Parents are invited and encouraged to attend this party with their children.



The Christian Mothers would like to thank everyone who participated and helped to make the Christmas basket raffle a success. Congratulations to all the winners! **Have a very Merry Christmas!**



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](http://stmaryfreeport.com). This will pre-fill our parish code. Or you can visit: [FORMED.org](http://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:** Advent, Session 3: Watch and Pray, YDisciple Advent, Session 3: Watch and Pray, Catholicism, Session 4: Our Tainted Nature's Solitary Boast

**Audio:** The True Meaning of Christmas, Three to Get Married

**Movie:** Guadalupe: The Miracle and the Message

**Ebook:** Deep Conversion, Deep Prayer

**History of St. Mary's Week 4**

In 1902, the rectory was built by Pastor, H. McCullough. And in the year 1919, a service flag was dedicated in St. Mary's Church in honor of the forty-two young men of the parish serving their country, and the three young ladies serving as Red Cross Nurses. While Father S.J. Benson was pastor, the present school was built. Around that same time in 1923, the cemetery was moved from the site of the school and the remains moved to the site of our present cemetery off Freeport Road. The sisters of St. Joseph lived in a house at that time just across the street from the church, and in 1926, a new convent was built next to the church.

**Christmas Memorial Flower** envelopes may be placed in the regular collection until Sunday, December 18th. Please write the names of those you wish to honor on the envelope. We will publish the names of those you so wish to honor with a donation.



The Mardi Gras wine tasting festival will be held on 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. Have you started your Christmas shopping yet? Do you have someone on your list that you have no idea what to buy them? Perhaps you need a couple stocking stuffers? How about tickets to our wine tasting event? What a perfect gift for the one who has everything! To reserve your tickets, you may call Bridget at 724-294-0089, Marianne at 724-295-9568 or Jeff at 724-596-0503. This event is sponsored by our Parish Council. All proceeds will benefit our Fellowship Hall Sound System.

**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**



**FINANCIAL REPORT: FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2015 - JUNE 30, 2016**

<b>Beginning Cash Balance July 1, 2015</b>	<u>\$ 21,803.94</u>
<b>INCOME LINE ITEMS (JULY 1, 2015 - JUNE 30, 2016)</b>	
<b>ORDINARY:</b> Offertory (Sunday, Holy Days, seasonal, candle, flowers)	319,440.76
<b>EXTRAORDINARY:</b> Fundraising, bequests, donations, interest on investments, rentals	22,629.85
<b>NON-ASSESSABLE:</b> Catholic accent, withdrawal from reserve, Diocesan Lenten appeal refund, Exchange, Diocesan Capital, Campaign Refund, Religious Education Refund	<u>155,554.80</u>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<u>\$519,429.35</u>
<b>EXPENSE LINE ITEMS (JULY 1, 2015 - JUNE 30, 2016)</b>	
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE:</b> Salaries of clergy, Pastoral Ministry, Administrative staff, telephone, office expenses, offertory envelopes, Catholic Accent, hospital ministry	\$118,950.89
<b>CHURCH:</b> Music expense, liturgical/sanctuary supplies, RCIA, clergy assistance, routine maintenance and repairs, flower expense	33,767.41
<b>RECTORY:</b> Housing of pastor, basic needs and hospitality, routine maintenance/repairs	2,636.90
<b>EDUCATIONAL:</b> Religious education salaries, education assessment, adult education, vacation bible school, teen ministry, sacramental prep	56,318.80
<b>GENERAL:</b> Salary of maintenance staff, utilities, building maintenance and repairs, clergy/employee benefits/FICA, property taxes, insurance, Diocesan assessment	110,140.44
<b>EXTRAORDINARY:</b> Debt interest and principal, major repairs, additions to reserve fund, Diocesan Lenten Appeal, miscellaneous collections	<u>162,545.83</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<u>\$484,360.27</u>
<b>Ending Cash Balance June 30, 2016</b>	<u>\$ 35,069.08</u>




**Christmas Eve**  
5:00 & 10:00 P.M.


**Christmas Day**  
8:30 & 11:00 A.M.

**Give the Perfect Gift this Christmas**

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!



St. Mary's will have a Christmas Concert, complete with readings, reflections and group singing by all in attendance on Sunday, December 18th, at 6:30 P.M. Featured will be St. Mary's Adult Church Choir and special guest Freeport Senior High School Choral Ensemble. This concert will top off our 190th Anniversary celebration. Immediately following the concert, there will be a lite social in our Fellowship Hall consisting of refreshments and desserts (provided by the Christian Mothers). Free to all!



Thank you to *Lola Bono* and *Laurie Kolish* for baking the bread and *Kim Holbein* for donating the apples that were given out to the people who attended the Thanksgiving Day Mass. This has been a long time tradition here at our parish. **The Christian Mothers would like to thank everyone who helped and participated.**

**Bag a Buck to Fight Hunger! When you donate an average-size deer, you help feed up to 200 people. Please visit: [www.sharedeer.org](http://www.sharedeer.org) or call 1-866-HSH-2141 for all details.**

# MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 17TH & 18TH, 2016

*Altar Servers*

*Extraordinary  
Ministers  
Of Holy Communion*

*Lector*

*Organist*

*Cantor*

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

Brandon Bowser	Patty Hughes	Tim Fogarty	Verne Bergstrom	Jamie Phillips
Zachary Bowser	Deb Showers			
Kennedi Clark	Dave Brestensky			

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

Evan McCrea; Akina Boynton	Laura Huth	Judy Bergstrom	Tom Koharchik	Tom Koharchik
Sarah & Hannah Shepherd	Pat Ralston			
Hadley Hellgren	Kim Holbein			

**Sunday - 11:00 A.M.**

Marie Pelliccione	Andre Volek	Pat Westerman	Dave Wesolosky	Choir
Megan Rossey	Debbie Baustert			
Paige Liti; Mason DeMeno	Melissa Schaeffer			



**MASSES FOR THE 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**SATURDAY:** December 10th  
4:00 P.M. St. Mary Parishioners

**SUNDAY:** December 11th  
8:30 A.M. ✦ Morris & Elva Berry  
11:00 A.M. ✦ Bill Burk & Mary Louise Ruk (Dave & Cleatus Burk)

**MONDAY:** December 12th  
3:00 P.M. ✦ Fr. Ron's 10th Anniversary Celebration

**TUESDAY:** December 13th  
8:00 A.M. ✦ Joseph Klaput, Sr. (Family)

**WEDNESDAY:** December 14th  
8:00 A.M. ✦ Judith Polana (Gene Forish)

**THURSDAY:** December 15th  
8:00 A.M. ✦ William Jansen (Brother-in-law—Fred)

**FRIDAY:** December 16th  
8:00 A.M. ✦ Fr. Louis Cheatham (The Policchio's)

**MASSES FOR THE 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**SATURDAY:** December 17th  
4:00 P.M. St. Mary Parishioners

**SUNDAY:** December 18th  
8:30 A.M. ✦ Bob Lepkowski (Wife & Children)  
11:00 A.M. ✦ Jane E. Thompson (Paul & Jackie Mihn & Family)

The Altar Bread and Wine were donated for this week in loving memory of **ROSE AIELLO** By *Family*

In acknowledging the Real Presence of Christ, The Sanctuary Lamp (Candle) will burn this week in loving memory of **BINA NOBLE** By *Margaret Flick*

**Offertory Collection for December 4th, 2016**  
No. of Envelopes Mailed Out: 591  
No. of Envelopes Received: 171  
Collection: Offertory - \$7,078.00  
Loose - \$391.00  
Children - \$19.00  
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