

St. Mary, Mother of God Church

A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg
A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust
Roman Catholic Church
608 High Street ~ Freeport, PA 16229



SOLEMNITY OF
THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY,
MOTHER OF GOD
JANUARY 1

From the Pastor's Desk



We welcome our new year this year with the Solemnity of the Motherhood of Mary which rarely happens on a Sunday, just as our Christmas Day.

As we start a new year sometimes we ask what our new year will be like? Will it be good, full of God's blessings, or full of difficulty? I would rather be more hopeful in facing the New Year rather than to worry and be scared. With the Solemnity of the Motherhood Mary, it tells us that we have company in our journey as we begin our New Year. She gives us an example of what it means to trust and have faith in God all the time, especially when things are hard to understand.

There are ways that we can always appreciate our journey in life.

- As we look back in the past, we thank God, whether good or bad, because we are able to survive and continue to journey in the path that God calls us to be.
- Live the present and appreciate everything that you have, including your family and friends, because they are always there to love and care for you.
- As you look forward into the future, never worry, but always have hope that God will give what is best for you, especially if you remain good and faithful to Him.

With these attitudes, we will not worry at all and be afraid to face uncertainties in life because we are able to learn to trust, to have faith in God, to appreciate what we have and be grateful to God. As we begin the New Year:

- I invoke God's blessings upon you
- May the Lord bless you and keep you!
- May He let His face shine upon you and be gracious to you!
- May He look upon you kindly and give you peace. (Number 6: 24-26).

Happy New Year!

Happy New Year

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — The Lord bless you and keep you! The Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace! (Numbers 6:22-27).

Psalm — May God bless us in his mercy (Psalm 67).

Second Reading — God sent the Spirit of the Son into our hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" So you are no longer a slave but an heir, through God (Galatians 4:4-7).

Gospel — The shepherds glorified and praised God for all they had heard and seen (Luke 2:16-21).

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Mary, the Holy Mother of God; The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord; World Day of Prayer for Peace; New Year's Day

Monday: Ss. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen

Tuesday: The Most Holy Name of Jesus

Wednesday: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Thursday: St. John Neumann

Friday: St. André Bessette; First Friday

Saturday: St. Raymond of Penyafort; First Saturday; Julian Calendar Christmas

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 1 Jn 2:22-28; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 1:19-28

Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:29 — 3:6; Ps 98:1, 3cd-6; Jn 1:29-34

Wednesday: 1 Jn 3:7-10; Ps 98:1, 7-9; Jn 1:35-42

Thursday: 1 Jn 3:11-21; Ps 100:1b-5; Lk 4:14-22a

Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13; Ps 147:12-15, 19-20; Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-28 [23, 31-34, 36, 38]

Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21; Sal 149:1-6a, 9b; Jn 2:1-11

Sunday: Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

TIME

Do not squander time, for that is the stuff life is made of.

—Benjamin Franklin

PARISH NEWS

Christmas presents for St. Mary, Mother of God parishioners at Concordia

Millie Rezak with Nancy Laux



Dolores Watt



Flora Trettel



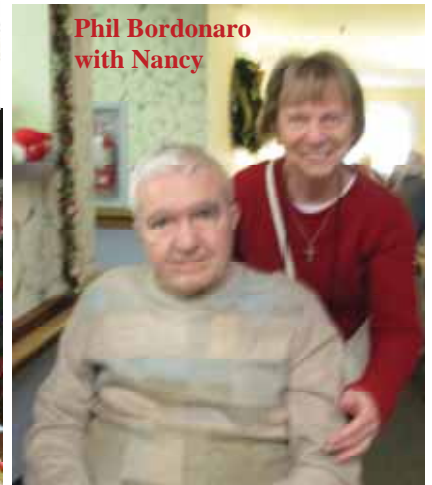
Bernice Cribbs with Nancy



Helen Goodman



Phil Bordonaro with Nancy



Baptized in Christ

Congratulations to the proud parents, Sean Mientus and Kelsey Moschetti on the baptism of their son, Oliver Miles, a child of God, heir to the Kingdom!



Happy New Year

The parish office will be closed on Monday, January 2nd in celebration of the holiday. The staff would like to wish everyone a "Prosperous and Happy New Year"!



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.

FIRST FRIDAY

First Friday Adoration will be January 6th, 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!



Our Parish extends its sincere sympathy to the family and friends of **Kenneth Hughes**. May he and all of our faithful departed rest in peace.

CALENDAR of Events



January 2nd	Parish Office Closed
January 5th	RCIA - 6:30 P.M. - Christian Mother's Room
January 6th	First Friday Adoration
January 7/8th	Donut Social - Fellowship Hall—following Mass
January 8th	Religious Education Classes—9:30 - 10:35 A.M. Security Guard "Christina Kapinskis" Choir Practice—9:30 - 10:45 A.M.; 11:00 A.M. Mass
January 9th	Christian Mother's Christmas Party - 6:30 P.M. Evolution Grille
January 12th	RCIA - 6:30 P.M. - Christian Mother's Room
January 15th	Teen Ministry Meeting - 9:25 A.M. Religious Education Classes - 9:30—10:35 A.M. Security Guard - "Sandi Hellgren" Choir Practice - 9:45—10:45 A.M.; 11:00 A.M. Mass
January 19th	RCIA - 6:30 P.M. - Christian Mother's Room
January 22nd	Religious Education Classes—9:30 - 10:35 A.M. Security Guard "Sandi Hellgren" Choir Practice—9:30 - 10:45 A.M.; 11:00 A.M. Mass
January 26th	RCIA - 6:30 P.M. - Christian Mother's Room
January 29th	Religious Education Classes—9:30 - 10:35 A.M. Security Guard "Sandi Hellgren" Choir Practice—9:30 - 10:45 A.M.; 11:00 A.M. Mass

Donut Sunday

January 7th/8th—Fellowship Hall (immediately following weekend masses)
Beverage, Donut, Fellowship



Christian Mother's - Members will have their Christmas Party at 6:30 P.M., on Monday, January 9th, at The Evolution Grille. By that time, the hustle and bustle of the holiday season will be over and it will be a great way to sit back, relax and enjoy a fun-filled evening. Please call Jean Miller at 330-321-4646 to let her know if you plan to attend. **Reservations are a must and the deadline is Thursday, January 5th.** Please note that this party will be in place of the January meeting.



The Epiphany Experience—The gifts are unwrapped, the hustle and bustle is over. Why not go and reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. Plans are underway for St. Joseph's Church, New Kensington, annual event to be presented on Sunday, January 8th, at 2:00 P.M. This experience brings to life the story of the birth of Jesus, featuring sacred music by the combined choirs, a costumed cast and live animals. Join with your family and friends for an afternoon of readings and carols, angels and kings, shepherds and a few of God's creatures, fellowship and blessings. Children and adults (ages 3 and up) are needed in the actual program as angels and archangels, shepherds, kings, St. Francis, slave women, Gabriel the Archangel and more. All that is required is the rehearsal on Friday, January 6th, at 6:30 P.M., at St. Joseph Church. Even the costumes are provided! Please call Debby at the Religion Center at 724-335-0785, or email: ddiscello@stmarynk.org if you would like to participate.



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!!!

History of St. Mary's Week 7

In 2006, under the guidance of Fr. Edward Volz, the St. Mary's Parish Center was created. Also, the rectory and Retreat Center (former convent) were demolished to create more parking. In 2010, a major capital campaign was conducted to raise funds to renovate our Fellowship Hall which was dedicated in August, 2011. At that time, the statues of St. Joseph and our Lady were moved to the proper positions on either side of the altar on restored gothic pedestals. In October 2014, through the generosity of the parishioners, the mortgage for the hall renovations was paid off a year early. The hall was renamed the Rev. Edward P. Volz Fellowship Hall in February, 2015.

FORMED

Just use our parish code VNX4G6 at: formed.org to register.

Suggestions for this week:

Programs: The Bible and the Virgin Mary, Lesson 7: The Promised Mother; Symbolon: Living the Faith, Session 10: Catholic Social Teaching; YDisciple: The Creed, Session 9: Mary and the Saints

Audio: Mary: Handmaid of the Lord

Movie: The Story of the Nativity; God's Doorkeeper

eBook: The World's First Love; The Young People's Book of Saints

January 8th, from 6:30 - 8:00 P.M. will be the next **Intergenerational Family Night**. The evening will be based on Reborn Session 3: Nurturing the Grace of Life. Reborn is found under Sacramental Preparation on FORMED.org. Don't worry if you don't have Internet access to watch the session before coming. We will look at the sacrament of Baptism and explore how we are called to live out our Christian lives to the fullest. At the time of year when we usually take stock of where our lives are headed and make a resolution or two to improve or change it, this evening's topic is right on point. All are welcome..... families, singles, empty nesters, grandparents. Register online at: <http://www.stmaryfreeport.com/underNews/Events> or use a form found at the church doors. **Deadline to register is January 4th.**

Thursdays 10:00 a.m.
All are welcome!

St. Joseph Church, Cabot is offering a morning study, **The Bible and the Church Fathers**. It introduces Irenaeus, Origen, Hippolytus and others. The study will meet six consecutive Thursdays at 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon in St. Joseph Parish Hall Cafe, beginning January 19th. Registration is necessary and the cost is \$10.00 for a workbook. Contact Marian at 724-352-3443 or email: sjaff@zoominternet.net. All adults welcome.

In a troubled marriage? Retrouvaille can help. Please visit: <http://www.retrouvailleofpittsburghinc.org/>

MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY 7TH & 8TH, 2017

Altar Servers

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Lector

Organist

Cantor

Saturday - 4:00 P.M.

Bill Girardi
Fred Walker

Patty Hughes
Deb Showers
Dave Brestensky

Janice Meola

Verne Bergstrom

Jamie Phillips

Sunday - 8:30 A.M.

Andrew Nigra; Luke Boylan
Madison & Austin Bachar
Alexandra Lasko

Lisa Boylan
John Nemcek
Betty Lou Nemcek

CCD - Fifth Grade

Tom Koharchik

Tom Koharchik

Sunday - 11:00 A.M.

Marie Pelliccione
Mason DeMeno
Megan Rossey; Paige Liti

Lisa Isenberg
Doree Rossey
Marushka Steele

Susan Shea

Dave Wesolosky

Choir


Mass Intentions
FOR THE WEEK

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
- MONDAY:** January 2nd
8:00 A.M. ✦ Jane Thompson (Ron & Peggy Thompson)
- TUESDAY:** January 3rd
8:00 A.M. ✦ Francis Laux (Jack & Mary Ann Laux)
- WEDNESDAY:** January 4th
8:00 A.M. ✦ Martha Kerr (Dave & Linda Huth)
- THURSDAY:** January 5th
8:00 A.M. ✦ Aaron M. Myers (Sheree Martinetti)
- FRIDAY:** January 6th - First Friday
8:00 A.M. ✦ Joan Sliwiak (Kymer Family)

MASSES FOR THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

- SATURDAY:** January 7th
4:00 P.M. ✦ Deceased Members of the DeBlasio Family
(Betty Labiaux)
- SUNDAY:** January 8th
8:30 A.M. St. Mary Parishioners
11:00 A.M. ✦ Rev. Henry A. Szarnicki (Dr. & Mrs. William Balash
and Family)



The Altar Bread and Wine were donated for this week in loving memory of **JOHN BONO**
By
Wife—Lola & Daughter—Amy & Family



In acknowledging the Real Presence of Christ, The Sanctuary Lamp (Candle) will burn this week in loving memory of **JOHN BONO**
By
Lola Bono


Collections

Due to the early deadline for the submission of the January 1st bulletin, the weekly contribution report for December 25th was not available. This information will be published in next Sunday's bulletin. **THANK YOU!**

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