



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



Established 1826

January 15th, 2017
Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him
and said, "Look, the Lamb of God,
who takes away the sin of the world!"
--John 1:29

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



After celebrating the Epiphany of Our Lord last Sunday and His Baptism the following day, we enter now into the Ordinary Season in which we are back to the ordinary way of our life. We are back to work, back to school, and back to the world's reality and journey of life. And probably some of us have New Year's resolutions adopted, promising to do better and make life spent in a more meaningful way with God, with family and others. That is a good way to start our 2017.

This week we are urged to pray for the unity of Christians, for the evangelization of people, and for persecuted Christians as we observe the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**.

At least once a year, Christians are reminded of Jesus' prayer for his disciples that "they may be one so that the world may believe" (see John 17.21). Hearts are touched and Christians come together to pray for their unity. In some places, congregations and parishes exchange preachers or arrange special ecumenical celebrations and prayer services to commemorate this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. This is celebrated from the 18th to 25th of January. This year's theme is focused on the Reconciliation and the love of Christ that compels us (2Cor. 5:14-20).

Let us, therefore, pray for the unity of Christians as God envisioned for all of us. May reconciliation touch the hearts of many so unity may prevail.

Eternal Father, we praise you for sending your Son to be one of us and to save us. Look upon your people with mercy, for we are divided in so many ways, and give us the Spirit of Jesus to make us one in love. We pray that those who are persecuted may find strength in you to continue their journey with faith and hope that one day peace and love may reign and persecutions be ended. We ask this gift, loving Father through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

*Week of
Prayer for
Christian
Unity*



TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — The glory of the Lord shows through Israel, a light to all nations, that salvation may reach to the ends of the earth (Isaiah 49:3, 5-6).

Psalm — Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will (Psalm 40).

Second Reading — All those who call upon the name of the Lord are called to be holy (1 Corinthians 1:1-3).

Gospel — John the Baptist testifies: The one who comes after me, on whom the Spirit comes down and remains, is the Son of God (John 1:29-34).

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday: Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Tuesday: St. Anthony
Wednesday: Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins
Thursday: Julian Calendar Theophany (Epiphany)
Friday: St. Fabian; St. Sebastian
Saturday: St. Agnes

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Heb 5:1-10; Ps 110:1-4; Mk 2:18-22
Tuesday: Heb 6:10-20; Ps 111:1-2, 4-5, 9, 10c; Mk 2:23-28
Wednesday: Heb 7:1-3, 15-17; Ps 110:1-4; Mk 3:1-6
Thursday: Heb 7:25 — 8:6; Ps 40:7-10, 17; Mk 3:7-12
Friday: Heb 8:6-13; Ps 85:8, 10-14; Mk 3:13-19
Saturday: Heb 9:2-3, 11-14; Ps 47:2-3, 6-9; Mk 3:20-21
Sunday: Is 8:23 — 9:3; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; 1 Cor 1:10-13, 17; Mt 4:12-23 [12-17]

GOD KNOWS BEST

God's creative wisdom was at its best when making humans. There are four holes in the head for information to go in, and only one for it to go out. —Anonymous

Epiphany Sunday—Blessing of the doors in Church



PARISH NEWS

CALENDAR of Events

January 16th Parish Council Meeting - 7:00 P.M. - Conference Room
January 19th RCIA - 6:30 P.M. - Conference 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. - Conference 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

FORMED

Just use our parish code VNX4G6 at: formed.org to register
Suggestions for this week:

Programs: YDisciple: True Beauty Womanhood; YDisciple: True Beauty Chastity
Audio: Being All In; How to Save Your Marriage Before Meeting Your Spouse; Real Womanhood
eBook: The Book of Saints and Heroes



Mardi Gras Wine Tasting Festival - Saturday, February 25th, 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; Bill at 412-719-7085 for tickets. If you would like to be a sponsor for this event, forms are located at the church entrances and the parish office. This event is sponsored by our Parish Council and all proceeds will benefit our Fellowship Hall Sound System.

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Thank you for

- your love
- your support
- your generosity

Thank you to all who participated in the Baby Bottle Campaign this past November. Your life-saving gifts totaled \$3,766.00. That is \$1,100.00 OVER last year! What a blessing for LIFE! Because of your generosity, more lives will be saved. Thank you! May God bless each of you as you bless others!

Around the Diocese and Beyond.....



The Greensburg Chapter of Magnificat—A Ministry to Catholic Women is holding a Breakfast at the Ramada Hotel and Convention Center, Rt. 30 East, Greensburg on Saturday, January 28th, from 9:00 A.M. – 12:00 Noon. Guest speaker will be Holly Joy McIlwain, a young mother whose story includes cancer survival, difficult family relationships, and being the Assoc. Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministry in the Pittsburgh Diocese. Cost is \$20.00; student rate \$15.00. To register, please call Brenda by January 20th at 724-836-2094 or you can visit: www.magnificatgreensburg.com to download a registration form. Please note that there is no online registration.



St. Joseph Preschool in Cabot is now registering students for the 2016-2017 school year. Please call now to reserve a place for your child at 724-355-0256. They are having an open house on Sunday, January 15th, from 9:30 A.M.—1:30 P.M., but you are welcome to schedule a visit at any time!

The Clelian Center at Clelian Heights School is looking to hire Personal Care Assistants for adults in the pre-vocational workshop. Part-time (34 hours/week). Please email resume to: srslyons@yahoo.com.



St. Joseph High School is now enrolling the Class of 2021. Schedule your shadow day now. Private tours can be scheduled anytime. Please contact Admissions Director, Mrs. Shane Palumbo '92 at: admissions@saintjosephhs.com or call 724-226-4932.

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 for 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 her at: sjaff@zoominternet.net. All adults welcome.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY 21ST & 22ND, 2017

Altar Servers

*Extraordinary
Ministers
Of Holy Communion*

Lector

Organist

Cantor

Saturday - 4:00 P.M.

Bill Girardi
Fred Walker

Patty Hughes
Deb Showers
Dave Brestensky

Tim Fogarty

Verne Bergstrom

Jamie Phillips

Sunday - 8:30 A.M.

Evan McCrea; Akina Boynton
Sarah & Hannah Shepherd
Hadley Hellgren

Judy Bergstrom
Carol Carson
Rose Check

Laura Huth

Tom Koharchik

Tom Koharchik

Sunday - 11:00 A.M.

Marie Pelliccione
Mason DeMeno; Paige Liti
Megan Rossey

Helen James
Andre Volek
Dan Lucovich

Bill Cogley

Dave Wesolosky

Choir

Mass Intentions
FOR THE WEEK

MASSES FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

- SATURDAY:** January 14th
4:00 P.M. ✠ Grace V. Neff (Ron & Linda Gallagher)
- SUNDAY:** January 15th
8:30 A.M. ✠ Frank Hager (Dick & Mary Bertino and Ed & Jeannie Lepkowski)
11:00 A.M. St. Mary Parishioners
- MONDAY:** January 16th
8:00 A.M. ✠ Dodo Canterna (Betty Canterna)
- TUESDAY:** January 17th
8:00 A.M. ✠ Mary Krumenacker (Family)
- WEDNESDAY:** January 18th
8:00 A.M. ✠ Patricia Chahoy (Family)
- THURSDAY:** January 19th
8:00 A.M. ✠ Victor Zadnik (Diane Zadnik)
- FRIDAY:** January 20th
8:00 A.M. ✠ Walter Sliviak (Daughter—Diane)

MASSES FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

- SATURDAY:** January 21st
4:00 P.M. IHO David & Janie Kushon—50th Wedding Anniversary (Children & Grandchildren)
- SUNDAY:** January 22nd
8:30 A.M. ✠ Richard Brestensky, Jr. (Mom & Dad)
11:00 A.M. St. Mary Parishioners



The Altar Bread and Wine were donated for this week in loving memory of **PARENTS—FRED & ISABELLE BAZAY** By **Daughter—Veronica Stankiewicz**



In acknowledging the Real Presence of Christ, The Sanctuary Lamp (Candle) will burn this week in loving memory of **CLYDE & ANGIE FULLERTON** By **Bill & Mary Fullerton**

Collections

Offertory Collection for January 8th, 2017

No. of Envelopes Mailed Out: 591

No. of Envelopes Received: 231

Collection: Offertory - \$5,185.01

Loose - \$254.00

Children - \$27.05

Additional Christmas Donations - \$145.00

Additional Children & Family Services Donations - \$120.00

Solemnity of Mary Additional Donations - \$27.00

THANK YOU!



Saturday, January 21st, 2017
Jeannie Lepkowski and Mary Bertino

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