



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

January 29th, 2017
Fourth 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



Last Sunday, with the permission of the Bishop, I made an appeal to you for my province in the Philippines who was badly hit by the Typhoon Nina. I would like to share with you the letter of appeal from Fr. Rex Paul Arjona, in charge of the Social Action Center appointed by the Bishop of Legazpi, to spearhead the operation for the victims of Typhoon Nina in the whole province of Albay:

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord:

Two weeks after Typhoon Nina (International Name: Nock-ten) hit Albay and neighboring provinces, we are appealing for priority donations of SHELTER KITS to families with totally-damaged houses. Things may have improved already for many of our people in terms of road access, water supply, and electricity. But families with totally and critically damaged houses still find it most difficult to bounce back from the impact of this natural disaster. Each shelter kit costs approximately Php 4,400.00, and consists of 6 GI sheets, 8 pcs lumber, and 2 kg nails.

We continue to accept donations since those hit the hardest are low income families perennially facing food security issues. Thus, this recent calamity further diminished their capacity to meet their daily needs.

A total of 27,679 houses were totally damaged and another 40,360 were critically damaged by Typhoon Nina in the province of Albay. The cost of these damaged houses is estimated at Php 2,441,950,000.00. Damage to agriculture and fisheries is pegged at Php 482,422,234.78; damage to livestock and poultry: Php 10,176,670.00; and damage to infrastructure: Php 3,528,749,004.00; for a total cost of Php 6,463,297,908.78.

Typhoon Nina struck Albay on Christmas evening, 25 December 2016, with maximum sustained winds of 185 kph and gustiness of 215 kph. It pounded Albay province in the evening and it lasted about three hours. The most affected areas were those in the northern and north-western parts of the province: Tiwi, Malinao, Tabaco City, Polangui, Oas, Libon, and Ligao City, and the islands of San Miguel and Cagraray.

The Provincial Board of Albay declared the entire province under State of Calamity on December 25th. SAC Legazpi started AYUDA ALBAY 2017: Operation Typhoon Nina (Nock-ten) with initial rounds of Rapid Field Assessment on December 26th and 29th, and first wave of food and water relief distribution to around 2,680 families with food security issues on December 28th.

Our AYUDA ALBAY 2017 relief operations distribute shelter kits, food relief packages, water kits, blankets and clothing to typhoon-affected households in nine municipalities and cities in the province, in partnership with 22 parishes. We also coordinate relief initiatives of various organizations and individuals with our trained and ready parish volunteers on the ground. We are happy to note that most of our parishes also conduct their own immediate disaster response to their parishioners, with least affected parishes extending help to more affected parishes.

Kindly send your donations to: SAC Legazpi, Chancery Bldg., Albay Cathedral Comp., Legazpi City 4500, Philippines; or through our bank account: Social Action Center – SPM, BPI Albay Branch, 0851-0067-37. You may call us at (63)(052)742-6126 or +639175581719; or email us at: saclegazpi1972@gmail.com or rparjona@yahoo.com.

Sincerely yours in the Lord,

Rev. Fr. Rex Paul Arjona - Executive Director - Social Action Center - Diocese of Legazpi



SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday:	4th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Catholic Schools Week
Tuesday:	St. John Bosco
Thursday:	The Presentation of the Lord; Groundhog Day
Friday:	St. Blaise; St. Ansgar; 1st Friday; Blessing of throats
Saturday:	Blessed Virgin Mary; First Saturday

THE CHRISTIAN IDEAL

The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting. It has been found difficult and left untried. —Gilbert K. Chesterton

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday:	Heb 11:32-40; Ps 31:20-24; Mk 5:1-20
Tuesday:	Heb 12:1-4; Ps 22:26b-28, 30-32; Mk 5:21-43
Wednesday:	Heb 12:4-7, 11-15; Ps 103:1-2, 13-14, 17-18a; Mk 6:1-6
Thursday:	Mal 3:1-4; Ps 24:7-10; Heb 2:14-18; Lk 2:22-40 [22-32]
Friday:	Heb 13:1-8; Ps 27:1, 3, 5, 8b-9; Mk 6:14-29
Saturday:	Heb 13:15-17, 20-21; Ps 23:1-6; Mk 6:30-34
Sunday:	Is 58:7-10; Ps 112:4-9; 1 Cor 2:1-5; Mt 5:13-16

Baptized in Christ



Congratulations to the proud parents, Chad & Nicole Beale, on the baptism of their daughter, Aubrey Lynn. She is a child of God, heir to the Kingdom!



February 1st	Deadline for Names/Addresses for Care Package Boxes
February 2nd	RCIA - 6:30 P.M. - Conference Center
February 3rd	Blessing of the Throats - 8:00 A.M. & 7:00 P.M. (Prayer Service) 1st Friday - Adoration all day - Benediction - 6:30 P.M.
February 4th	Welcome Dinner for new parishioners
February 5th	Christian Mother's Mass & Induction of new officers - 8:30 A.M. Teen Ministry Meeting - 9:25 A.M. Religious Education Classes - 9:30—10:35 A.M. In-class parent/child 1st Holy Communion workshop Security Guard - "Joe Sutara" Choir Practice - 9:45—10:45 A.M.; 11:00 A.M. Mass
February 6th	Christian Mother's Meeting - 7:00 P.M.
February 9th	RCIA - 6:30 P.M. - Conference Center
February 11th/12th	Donut Social after all weekend masses
February 12th	Religious Education Classes - 9:30—10:35 A.M. Security Guard - "Joe Sutara" Choir Practice - 9:45—10:45 A.M.; 11:00 A.M. Mass



The Teen Ministry students are planning to send care package boxes to college students from St. Mary Church. They are currently accepting names and addresses of family and friends away at college. Please submit names and addresses of your student **no later than Wednesday, February 1st**. Your requests may be emailed to: thechurch@stmaryfreeport.com, placed in the collection basket or dropped off at the Parish Office.

Pro-Life "The primary moral judgment on candidates and their positions is to be made in the light of their concern for protecting human life from conception to natural death." *Cardinal Francis George*



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.

There will be two opportunities to have your throats blessed on the feast day of St. Blaise

Friday, February 3rd
Mass—8:00 A.M.
Prayer Service—7:00 P.M.

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



Pastoral Council met Monday, January 16th, and I would like to share with the Parish some of the items discussed. First of all, a *Special 'Thank You'* to parishioner **Fred Walker** for donating his time and talents transforming himself into St. Nicholas for the annual CCD Christmas Party. From what I understand, it was a memorable event and Fred passed onto our children how important and rewarding it is to be giving and not always receiving. It is also wonderful to hear of the generosity of our CCD families to the different charity organizations that they support.

Council will be hosting a Welcome Dinner in February for all families that joined St. Mary's in 2016. We look forward to meeting all of our new parishioners.

The projects selected for this year's DLA will be painting our steeple and upgrading our aging electrical system in our church. Two years ago, we completed work on the Bell Tower and now it is time to tend to the steeple that rises above the bell tower. With a successful campaign, our goal will be to have both of these projects completed by fall.

We are going to have a structural engineer review the condition of our stone foundation under the back of the church that supports the bell tower and steeple. We want to stay proactive and maintain the integrity of our beautiful church. Many thanks to our group of 'concrete pouring angels' that have spent many hours reinforcing the existing stone supporting piers in the church basement. What a great gift to our parish!

Our Fifth Annual Mardi Gras Wine Tasting Event will be held February 25th. This is our main fund raiser of the year and always a good time! Proceeds from past events have been used to pay off our loan for the construction of the hall and for the school roof. Proceeds this year will be used to purchase a PA System for our Fellowship Hall. Those who attended our 190th Dinner would agree that this is something that is needed as we grow as a parish and hold larger events in our hall. Sponsorships are available and once again this year, there will be a special Sponsors' Drawing. Hope to see everyone there.

Usage of the **FORMED** website continues to increase and we encourage everyone to log in and check it out. This is wonderful resource that we provide to the parish where everyone can take advantage of on their own schedule.

Beginning in February, Donut Sunday will be getting a little addition by having a ministry fair in which different groups will staff a table and present themselves with information about their ministry. Those interested can join. The groups involved each month will be announced at the masses. It is always refreshing to hear of the many people that share their time, talents and treasure with our parish. We would not be the growing parish without them. As St. Nicholas reminded our children, sharing and giving can be very rewarding.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Fr. Ron, Bill Girardi or myself.

Dave Posney—Pastoral Council Facilitator



Our Parish extends its sincere sympathy to the family and friends of **Mildred "Millie" Rezak**. May she and all of our faithful departed rest in peace.



First Friday Adoration will be February 3rd, 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. *Join us as we adore our Lord Jesus!*

Around the Diocese and Beyond.....



The second annual Human Trafficking Prayer and Education Day will be held February 4th, from 1:00-3:30 P.M., at Caritas Christi, 144 DePaul Center Road, Greensburg. The speaker will be Dr. Katariina Rosenblatt, a survivor of human trafficking, founder of *There is Hope For Me* (www.thereishopeforme.org) and author of "Stolen." For more information about the event or to register, email: rsvpf@hotmail.com or call 724-537-2064. The day is sponsored by the Greensburg DCCW of the NCCW.



Next week, we will take up the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. This collection supports the Church in over 20 countries, many of which are still struggling to recover in the aftermath of Soviet rule. Funds from this collection support pastoral care, catechesis, building renovations, and seminary formation. Your support restores the Church and builds the future in this region. Please prayerfully consider supporting this collection.



Father Shenan Boquet, President of Human Life International, will visit Our Lady of Grace Parish, Greensburg, to speak at the 8:00 and 10:30 A.M. Masses; be the guest at a noon luncheon; then give a talk, "Catholic Teaching and End-of-Life Care," at 1:00 P.M. The events are free, but a RSVP is requested to plan the luncheon. Call 724-834-2723 by February 1st. The event is sponsored by the parish's St. Gianna Sodality for the Sanctity of Human Life.

American Cancer Society Daffodil Days—week of March 13th. Donation—\$10.00/bunch of 10. Delivery dates will be Tuesday, March 14th and Wednesday, March 15th. To place order, please call Betty Canterna at 724-295-2972. *Deadline to place your order is Monday, February 20th.*



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!!!

MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY 4TH & 5TH, 2017

Altar Servers

*Extraordinary
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Of Holy Communion*

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

Laura Huth
Pat Ralston
Kim Holbein

Lisa Boylan

Tom Koharchik

Tom Koharchik

Sunday - 11:00 A.M.

Marie Pelliccione
Megan Rossey; Paige Liti
Mason DeMeno

Bill Cogley
Debbie Baustert
Melissa Schaeffer

Pat Westerman

Dave Wesolosky

Choir

Mass Intentions
FOR THE WEEK 

MASSES FOR THE 4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SATURDAY: January 28th
4:00 P.M. ✦Domenica & George Seitam (Pat & Bill Davis)

SUNDAY: January 29th
8:30 A.M. St. Mary Parishioners
11:00 A.M. ✦Aaron Myers (The Myers Family)

MONDAY: January 30th
8:00 A.M. ✦Kenneth Hughes (Geno & Lillian Pernazza)

TUESDAY: January 31st
8:00 A.M. ✦Joann Marie Jancaro (Friend)

WEDNESDAY: February 1st
8:00 A.M. ✦Charles Ziga (Carol Carson)

THURSDAY: February 2nd
8:00 A.M. ✦Rose Kimmel (The Dunmyre Family)

FRIDAY: February 3rd
8:00 A.M. ✦Helen Murphy (The Policicchio's) **St. Blaise**

MASSES FOR THE 5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SATURDAY: February 4th
4:00 P.M. ✦Delores Gowetski (Bill & Maryellyn Bale)

SUNDAY: February 5th
8:30 A.M. ✦Martha Kerr (Ken & Patty Hughes)
11:00 A.M. St. Mary Parishioners



The Altar Bread and Wine were donated for this week in loving memory of **NICK CANTERNA** By **The Pat Meola 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

Offertory Collection for January 22nd, 2017

No. of Envelopes Mailed Out: 591

No. of Envelopes Received: 238

Collection: Offertory - \$4,774.25

Loose - \$347.00

Catholic Accent - \$372.00

Children - \$22.85

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