



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

February 26th, 2017
Eighth 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



A Lent to Remember!

After celebrating Mardi Gras in our parish, this coming Wednesday will be Ash Wednesday which marks the beginning of the Season of Lent. And by tradition, on this day we receive the ashes on our forehead from the minister while hearing the words of admonition to repent and believe in the gospel or to remember that we are dust and unto dust we shall return. This is a way to remember where we came from and the need to repent whenever we are aware of any sins committed, whether venial or mortal sins, in order to receive God's grace effectively.

During this season, we also observe some acts of piety and discipline like fasting, almsgiving and prayer as a way to make our observance more meaningful and to show our love for God in more concrete ways. **We observe fasting and abstinence on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday while observing abstinence on All Fridays of Lent.** Those who are fourteen years of age or older **must** abstain from meat on all Fridays of Lent, while those who are between the age of 18 - 59 **must** fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Those who are sick, working in the hospital and who engage in manual labor are exempted from fasting and abstinence.

Now I know some of you would like to look for other ways to deepen your spiritual journey and observance of the Lenten Season, so I invite you to join us for a four week, video-based study on formed.org to create a Lent to remember for our parish family. *Forgiven* is a beautiful presentation of the transforming power of Confession. No matter what you have done, no matter how long you have been away, Jesus is waiting for you in the Sacrament of Reconciliation!

To register for this powerful experience:

Go to formed.org

Click on Register

Create your FREE account by entering our Parish Code VNX4G6 and your email address

Click on the program Forgiven for weeks 1-3 and Symbolon Session 6 for Week 4.

Watch individually, as a family, or in small groups and use the Leader's Guide for discussion.



TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — God will never forget you (Isaiah 49:14-15)

Psalm — Rest in God alone, my soul (Psalm 62).

Second Reading — Make no judgments; the Lord will judge (1 Corinthians 4:1-5).

Gospel — God feeds the bird and clothes the flowers. Do not be anxious; God knows all your needs (Matthew 6:24-34).

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Monday: Julian Calendar Lent begins

Wednesday: Ash Wednesday; Fast and Abstinence

Friday: St. Katharine Drexel; Abstinence; First Friday; World Day of Prayer

Saturday: St. Casimir; First Saturday

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Sir 17:20-24; Ps 32:1-2, 5-7; Mk 10:17-27

Tuesday: Sir 35:1-12; Ps 50:5-8, 14, 23; Mk 10:28-31

Wednesday: Jl 2:12-18; Ps 51:3-6ab, 12-14, 17; 2 Cor 5:20 — 6:2; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday: Dt 30:15-20; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 9:22-25

Friday: Is 58:1-9a; Ps 51:3-6ab, 18-19; Mt 9:14-15

Saturday: Is 58:9b-14; Ps 86:1-6; Lk 5:27-32

Sunday: Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7; Ps 51:3-6, 12-13, 17; Rom 5:12-19 [12, 17-19]; Mt 4:1-11

GOOD TIMING

The best time to do something worthwhile is between yesterday and tomorrow. —Anonymous

Baptized in Christ



Congratulations to the proud parents, **Michael & Laurie Misera**, on the baptism of their daughter, **Lillie Ann**. She is a child of God, heir to the Kingdom!

CALENDAR of Events

March 1st Ash Wednesday - Mass/Distribution of Ashes - 8:00 A.M. & 7:00 P.M.
March 2nd RCIA - 6:30 P.M. - Conference Center
March 3rd First Friday - Adoration All Day; 7:00 P.M. - Stations of the Cross
March 5th Christian Mother's Mass - 8:30 A.M.
 Teen Ministry Meeting - 9:25 A.M.
 Religious Education Classes - 9:30—10:35 A.M.
 Open House - 3rd Grade; Security Guard - "Susan Zigo"
 Choir Practice - 9:45—10:45 A.M.; 11:00 A.M. Mass
 Christian Mother's Meeting - 7:00 P.M.
March 6th RCIA - 6:30 P.M. - Conference Center
March 9th Stations of the Cross - 7:00 P.M.
March 10th Donut & Beverage Social (after all masses)
March 11th/12th Religious Education Classes - 9:30—10:35 A.M.
March 12th 3rd Grade Mass - 11:00 A.M.; Security Guard - "Susan Zigo"
NO CHOIR PRACTICE; 11:00 A.M. Mass

POP CORN Fundraiser

The Teen Ministry is selling popcorn (Pittsburgh Popcorn Company). Order forms are located at all of the church entrances. All orders are due March 5th. The teens appreciate your support!

baptism class To understand the importance of the Sacrament of Baptism and your obligation as parents, you are required to attend one baptismal class. The schedule for this year will be: Thursday, March 2nd; Thursday, June 8th; Thursday, September 7th; Tuesday, December 5th. To register for this class, please call Mark and Melissa at 724-230-4450 or the Administrative Office at 724-295-2281.

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If you have any questions, please contact Beth Macurdy at: bmacurdy@ufcw.org or call her at 724-295-9411.

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

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&
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FOR A BROCHURE AND MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Fr. Ronald Maquinana at St. Mary Mother of God:
Tel.: (724) 295-2281 / Email: thechurch@stmaryfreeport.com
Or Contact Mr. Jeff Polana
Tel.: (724) 596-0503 / Email: defib80@hotmail.com

**CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE APPARITIONS AT FATIMA**

**Reducing Substance Use
Seminar--for the Faith-based
Community**

Wed, March 8
9 am.-noon
Bishop Connare Center
2900 Seminary Dr, Greensburg

9-9:30 Light breakfast, check-in
9:30-Noon

WQED "Hope After Heroin"
-Pathways to Addiction, Eric Kocian, PhD
-Boundaries for Pastoral Guidance Professionals,
Dr. Paul Niemiec
-Panel Discussion: Tim Krupar on Mindful
Meditation in the Bhuddist tradition, Vonzell Wade, PhD,
on Bridge to Faith; Msgr. Roger Statnick,
Belle Vernon Ministerium; Dawn Hennessey, Faith
Forward

Moderator: Tim Phillips, CADC, CFC



Call 724-830-3110 to register, or visit <http://bit.do/Mar8>

Silent Lenten Retreat at St. Emma Monastery - Benedictine Father Tom Acklin will lead a Silent Lenten Retreat, for women and men, March 3rd-5th at St. Emma Retreat House, Greensburg. Retreat begins with dinner Friday evening and ends with a noon meal on Sunday. Fee: \$170.00. For reservations, please call 724-834-3060 or email: retreats@stemma.org.

St. Joseph Preschool, Cabot, is now registering students for the 2016-2017 school year, which begins in September. Preschool offers academic and social opportunities to help children thrive in school. Their program fosters development of language, early literacy and math skills, fine motor skills, and much more. Please call Marcie Parks at 724-355-0256 to reserve a place for your child



A Lenten Journey for Christ's Disciples

Lent is the period of 40 days which comes before Easter in the Christian calendar. Beginning on Ash Wednesday, Lent is a season of reflection and preparation before the celebrations of Easter. By observing the 40 days of Lent, Christians replicate Jesus Christ's sacrifice and withdrawal into the desert for 40 days. During this time, we as Christians, try to replicate the self-discipline of Jesus in order to grow as a disciple. "Giving up" for Lent is about making room in our lives to grow. How is God challenging you? Where do you need to change?

Join the Freeport Ministerium during this Lenten season at noon on Thursdays for lunch, fellowship and inspiration.

Date	Host Church	Worship Leader
March 9	Trinity Lutheran	Rev. Dawn Lynn Check
March 16	St. Mary's	Rev. Jocelyn Johnston
March 23	Freeport United Methodist	Rev. David Caves, Jr.
March 30	Sower's Chapel	Rev. Mark Davis
April 6	Freeport Presbyterian	Rev. Derrick Lumdsen



**February 2017
Seminarian Update**



Mark R. Dunmire, of St. Margaret Mary Parish, Lower Burrell, will be installed into the Ministry of Acolyte on **March 22, 2017** at St. Mary's Seminary, Baltimore



Daniel E. Carr, attending the Pontifical North American College in Rome, will be ordained to the Diaconate on **July 15, 2017** at 10:00 am in Blessed Sacrament Cathedral, Greensburg.


Please keep all our Seminarrians in your prayers as they continue to discerns God's call in their lives.



The **Melchizedek Project** is a discernment group for those **18 or older** who are discerning a vocation to the Priesthood. The group meets Sunday night at 6:30 PM at the Rectory, Holy Family Church, Latrobe.

The Upcoming dates are:
February 26,
March 12 and 26,
April 9 and 23.


Contact gbgvocations.org to register



**Way of the Cross
for
Vocations**

A WORSHIP AID IS AVAILABLE
FOR USE VIA MYHALO
(MAIN PAGE "WAY OF THE CROSS")

Upcoming Events-Mark your Calendar




**World Day of Prayer
for Vocations
May 17, 2017**

MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR MARCH 1ST, 4TH & 5TH, 2017


<i>Altar Servers</i>	<i>Extraordinary Ministers Of Holy Communion</i>	<i>Lector</i>	<i>Organist</i>	<i>Cantor</i>
Ash Wednesday - 8:00 A.M.				
TBA	TBA	TBA	Sue Myford	Sue Myford
Ash Wednesday - 7:00 P.M.				
TBA	TBA	TBA	Dave Wesolosky	Choir
Saturday - 4:00 P.M.				
Bill Girardi Fred Walker	Stella Aul; Deb Showers Dave Valencic	Dave Brestensky	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.				
Marie Pelliccione; Mason DeMeno Megan Rossey; Paige Liti	Helen James; Andre Volek Dan Lucovich	Bill Cogley	Dave Wesolosky	Choir

Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK

MASSES FOR THE 8TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	
SATURDAY: 4:00 P.M.	February 25th ✦ Jane Thompson (Ron & Peggy Thompson)
SUNDAY: 8:30 A.M. 11:00 A.M.	February 26th St. Mary Parishioners ✦ Kenneth Hughes (Lil & Geno Pernazza)
MONDAY: 8:00 A.M.	February 27th ✦ Delores Gowetski (Bob & Diane Grant)
TUESDAY: 8:00 A.M.	February 28th ✦ "Fuzz" Palko (Mr. & Mrs. Robert Hager)
WEDNESDAY: 8:00 A.M. 7:00 P.M.	March 1st—Ash Wednesday ✦ Alma Ebig (Family) ✦ Special Intention (Bill & Mary Fullerton)
THURSDAY: 8:00 A.M.	March 2nd ✦ Frank Palko (Pat & Bill Davis)
FRIDAY: 8:00 A.M. 7:00 P.M.	March 3rd—First Friday ✦ Millie Rezak (Wyant Family) Stations of the Cross
MASSES FOR THE 1ST SUNDAY OF LENT	
SATURDAY: 4:00 P.M.	March 4th ✦ Jovita Walker (Bob & Judy Bergstrom)
SUNDAY: 8:30 A.M. 11:00 A.M.	March 5th St. Mary Parishioners ✦ Baustert Family (Family)




The Altar Bread and Wine were donated for this week in loving memory of **EDWARD & MARY LEPKOWSKI**
By *Robert Lepkowski*



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 February 20th, 2017
No. of Envelopes Mailed Out: 591
No. of Envelopes Received: 250
Collection: Offertory - \$5,805.00
Loose - \$230.00
Children - \$17.50
Catholic Accent - \$5.00
Votive Candles - \$211.00
THANK YOU!



Saturday, March 4th, 2017
Betty Canterna and Janice Meola

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Has This Ever Happened to You? The ushers come forward to begin the Offertory collection process. You check your pocket/purse. That's when you realize you left it on the table. Ooops! No envelope to give this week! In the rush of getting off to church, we all forget our envelope once in a while. There is an easier way to give. Why not try on-line banking as an alternative? It's simple! It's safe! And it keeps God at the top of your giving list! When you sign up, please remember to provide your envelope number.



Inspirational Resources for Lent

FORMED provides amazing content 24/7 for you to grow in your faith this Lenten season. With FORMED, you can:

- Prepare for Sunday Mass each week by watching an insightful five-minute video by renowned Catholic teachers
- Enjoy a movie with your family that is both entertaining and encouraging
- Listen to a thought-provoking audio talk about how to grow in your faith
- Help your children grow in character and embrace the beauty and wonder of the faith

It's EASY and FREE to Register!

- Visit formed.org with a web browser
- Click on Register (lower right of page)
- Enter Parish Access Code **VNX4G6**
- Enter your email and create a password (you need this to login later)
- Enjoy and share with others in our local community!

Resources for the Lenten Season

Programs

[Forgiven](#) **

[Symbolon: Knowing the Faith, Session 6: The Paschal Mystery](#) **

[Divine Mercy](#)

[Lectio: Peter, Session 7: Discipleship at a Distance](#)

[YDisciple Activity: Your Best Lent Yet](#)

[The Wild Goose, Segment 10: The Spirit and the Desert](#)

[The Wild Goose, Segment 11: The Spirit Convicts](#)

[Lectio: Eucharist](#)

Movies

[Mary of Nazareth](#)

[Did Jesus Really Rise from the Dead?](#)

[Saint Peter](#) **

[Prayer: A Surge of the Heart](#)

Audios

[The Passion of the Christ in Light of the Holy Shroud of Turin](#)

[This Changes Everything](#)

[The Fourth Cup](#)

[The Lamb's Supper](#)

[The Christmas and Easter Story](#)

[Cristo en el Credo y Pasión](#)

[Comprendiendo la Eucaristía](#)

Books

[Awakening](#)

[Sacraments in Scripture](#)

[My Path to Heaven](#)

[The Year and Our Children](#)

[Read-Aloud Book of Bible Stories](#)

[Love Unveiled: The Catholic Faith Explained](#)

[Because God is Real](#)

[Open Wide the Doors to Christ](#)

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