



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

March 26th, 2017
Fourth Sunday of Lent

2017 DIOCESAN LENTEN APPEAL



I pray. I serve. I give.

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



Part of the gospel this fourth Sunday of Lent is the discourse of Jesus addressed to the Pharisees. He said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains." (John 9:39-41)

Jesus made these remarks in order to help us understand blindness. There are people who are physically blind not of their own fault, but there can also be people who are not physically blind, yet they are spiritually blind because of their inability to identify their sins and shortcomings. They think as long as they don't do anything wrong to others, they are okay. True! But they failed to see the needs of others and that is the sin of omission. When we don't open our hearts and not recognize the needs of others around us, especially if we have the means to help them become better, we become spiritually blind.

In last week's gospel, we heard about the encounter of the Samaritan woman with Jesus, and this Sunday we have the encounter of Jesus with the blind man. Pharisees did not mind them at all because first, they think the Samaritans should be avoided because they are impure. Second, with the blind man, they think they could not do anything. But Jesus gives us the impression that yes, you can do something. Your love, your care and attention will make a difference towards them.

True piety means not only being self-absorbed with whatever we do, but also being sensitive to people around us in their needs. Failure to recognize them, we commit the sin of omission that leads us to be spiritually blind.

So, this week in the spirit of Lent, let our prayer be "Lord, help me to see not only my needs but also others' needs. Give me the light and spiritual insight."

This week we also begin our Lenten Penance Service in our region in which we are given an opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation and be sorry for our sins we committed, either the sins of commission or the sins of omissions. This helps us to prepare for the coming Holy Week and Easter spiritually filled with grace.

March 28th at 7:00 P.M. - St. Lawrence Church - Cadogan

April 1st at 12:00 Noon - St. Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe - Kittanning

April 4th at 7:00 P.M. - St. Mary, Mother of God Church - Yatesboro

April 8th at 12:00 Noon - Christ Prince of Peace Church - Ford City

April 10th at 7:00 P.M. - St. Mary, Mother of God - Freeport

Confession

A Lent to Remember!

Join us for a 4-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 through 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.

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Forgiven explores the grace and healing offered in Confession and shows how this sacrament of mercy reveals the depth and bounty of God's love. By looking at God's revelation of his mercy in Scripture and making a step-by-step examination of the Rite itself, *Forgiven* communicates God's invitation to each of us to come experience his indescribable love in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Week 4 *Symbolon Session 6: The Paschal Mystery*

"The Paschal Mystery" is a phrase we hear and use in the Mass and sacramental rites, but do we understand what it means in the greater story of Salvation, from the Passover in Egypt to the Last Supper and Crucifixion of Jesus?



RCIA

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults



Rite of Sending—March 12th, 2017
St. Mary, Mother of God Church



Rite of Election—March 19th, 2017
Blessed Sacrament Cathedral - Greensburg



**Thursday
March 16th**



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

St. Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Kittanning - Fish Dinners Friday's during Lent - 4:00 to 7:00 P.M. in St. Mary Parish Hall, 361 N. Jefferson Street, Kittanning. Fried fish filet, fried fish sandwich, baked fish or fried shrimp, baked potato, French fries and much more. Eat-in/Take-out - Adults/\$9.00, Children/\$5.00 (under 10). Information? Call 724-548-7649.

CALENDAR of Events

- March 29th** Evening Mass - 7:00 P.M.
- March 30** RCIA - 6:30 P.M. - Conference Center
- March 31st** Stations of the Cross - 7:00 P.M.
- April 2nd** Knights of Columbus Talk; Christian Mother's Mass - 8:30 A.M.
Teen Ministry Meeting - 9:25 A.M.
Religious Education Classes - 9:30—10:35 A.M.
Security Guard - "Heather Koharchik"
Choir Practice - 9:45—10:45 A.M.; 11:00 A.M. Mass
Baptism - "Zollinger" - 12:15 P.M.
- April 3rd** Christian Mother's Meeting - 7:00 P.M.
- April 5th** Evening Mass - 7:00 P.M.
- April 6th** RCIA - 6:30 P.M. - Conference Center
- April 7th** First Friday - Adoration All Day
Stations of the Cross - 7:00 P.M.—Intergenerational Night
Religious Education Classes - 9:30—10:35 A.M.
Security Guard - "Ed Dagula"
Choir Practice - 9:45—10:45 A.M.; 11:00 A.M. Mass
- April 9th** Donut & Beverage Social (after all weekend masses)
Lenten Penance Service (Here) - 7:00 P.M.
Greeters/Ushers Meeting - 6:30 P.M.
- April 9th/10th** Evening Mass - 7:00 P.M.
- April 10th**
- April 11th**
- April 12th**



Diocesan Lenten Appeal

Diocesan Target - \$43,279.00
Parish Target - \$68,279.00
Pledges to Date - \$35,380.00
Number of Donors - 94



Middle School Faith Night
"WITH JOY!"

For youth in grades 6th-8th
Friday, March 31st—6:30-9:00 P.M.
Geibel Catholic Junior-Senior High School
\$10.00/person

Featuring games, music, prayer, a keynote address by Mrs. Mary Sampey, and much more.

Register at: www.dioceseofgreensburg.org

Sponsored by the Office for Evangelization and Faith Formation



Easter Flower Offering Envelopes - Remember your loved ones this Easter by making a donation for flowers and decorations for the sanctuary during the Easter season. Envelopes were included in your monthly packet. **Deadline is Monday, April 10th.**



St. Mary Cemetery - If you want your Christmas wreaths and decorations, please remove them by March 31st. If you don't, they will be removed. Thank you.



St. Margaret Mary Church Easter Nut Roll Sale - Pick-up dates : April 4th-6th—10:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. and April 7th—10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. at 3055 Leechburg Road, Lower Burrell. \$12.00/ea. To order, call the office at 724-335-2336; Toni at 724-339-0839; Maureen at 724-335-6501; Dolores at 724-335-0959. **Order deadline is March 27th.**



Friday, April 7, 2017

5:30 PM

Fellowship Hall

St. Mary

Intergenerational Family Night

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall at 5:30 PM for fellowship and pizza before heading to the church for the Stations of the Cross.



Would your family like to help Fr. Ron with the station meditations? All families (any shape or size) are invited to volunteer to lead a station (read the part Father would normally say). Please indicate on the registration below if you are willing to lead one of the stations. If you have a preference of which station your family would like to lead, please request it below—we will do our best to fulfill all requests.

PLEASE PRE-REGISTER to ensure that we have enough pizza for everyone.

All are welcome ... families, singles, empty nesters, grandparents.

Please register by April 5th.

Name _____ **Phone** _____

Number adults attending _____ **Number children attending** _____

_____ **My family would be delighted to lead a station**

Station requesting to lead _____

MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR APRIL 1ST & 2ND, 2017

Altar Servers

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Lector

Organist

Cantor

Saturday - 4:00 P.M.

Bill Girardi	Stella Aul	Dave Brestensky	Verne Bergstrom	Jamie Phillips
Fred Walker	Deb Showers			
Dawson Gaillot	Dave Valencic			

Sunday - 8:30 A.M.

Andrew Nigra; Luke Boylan Madison & Austin Bachar Alexandra Lasko	Lisa Boylan John Nemcek Betty Lou Nemcek	Susan Shea	Tom Koharchik	Tom Koharchik
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Sunday - 11:00 A.M.

Marie Pelliccione; Paige Liti Mason DeMeno Megan Rossey; Evan Giori	Lisa Isenberg Doree Rossey Marushka Steele	Pat Westerman	Dave Wesolosky	Choir
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Mass Intentions 

MASSES FOR THE 4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

SATURDAY: March 25th
4:00 P.M. ✦ Philip Fuhrman (Dr. Nancy Fuhrman)

SUNDAY: March 26th
8:30 A.M. ✦ Helen Murphy (Eugene & Karol Mennow)
11:00 A.M. St. Mary Parishioners

MONDAY: March 27th
8:00 A.M. ✦ Paul Huth (Mom & Dad)

TUESDAY: March 28th
8:00 A.M. ✦ Kerry Liti (Posney & Rezak Families)

WEDNESDAY: March 29th
7:00 P.M. ✦ Barbara Sliviak (Sister—Diane)


THURSDAY: March 30th
8:00 A.M. ✦ Son—Richard & Mother-In-Law—Mary (Mom & Dad)

FRIDAY: March 31st
8:00 A.M. ✦ Rose Kimmel (Dunmyre Family)
7:00 P.M. Stations of the Cross


MASSES FOR THE 5TH SUNDAY OF LENT

SATURDAY: April 1st
4:00 P.M. ✦ Gertrude Chahoy (Michael & Mariann Chahoy Family)

SUNDAY: April 2nd
8:30 A.M. ✦ Charles Ziga (Bob & Judy Bergstrom)
11:00 A.M. St. Mary Parishioners




The Altar Bread and Wine were donated for this week in loving memory of **SAM, CATHERINE & MARY PILLITTERI**
By **Joe & JoAnn Pillitteri**



In acknowledging the Real Presence of Christ, The Sanctuary Lamp (Candle) will burn this week in loving memory of **CHARLES ZIGA**
By **Bridget & Tim Fogarty**


Collections

Offertory Collection for March 19th, 2017
No. of Envelopes Mailed Out: 592
No. of Envelopes Received: 229
Collection: Offertory - \$7,136.00
Loose - \$319.00
Children - \$28.00
THANK YOU!



Saturday, April 1st, 2017
Donna Smith and Deb Showers

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