

St. Mary, Mother of God Church

608 High Street - Freeport, PA 16229

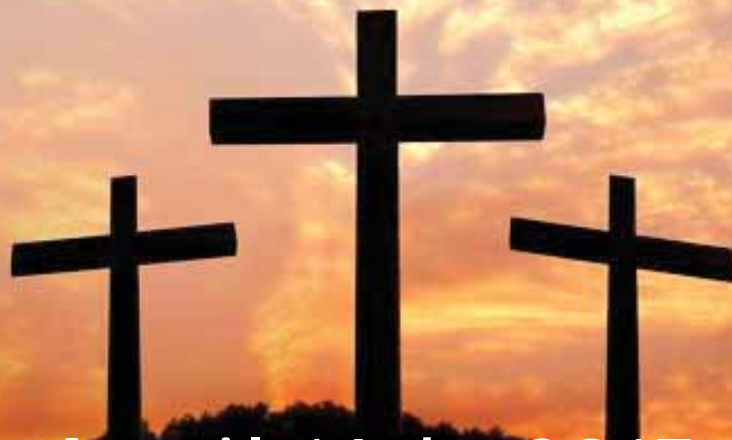
He is Risen

DEATH COULD NOT HOLD HIM.

Rejoice in the resurrection of

Jesus Christ.

MATTHEW 28



April 16th, 2017

From the Pastor's Desk



Today is the great feast that makes everything in our faith suddenly come together. St. Paul wrote to his converts: "If Christ is not risen from the dead, then is our faith in vain?" And this is true because without Easter, it will be hard to understand Good Friday.

Good Friday is a story of the suffering and death of our Lord Jesus, a story of the triumph of falsity over truth, of injustice over justice, of evil over goodness. Jesus was falsely charged of crimes he did not commit, and unjustly sentenced to a death he did not deserve. His good friend betrayed him, his trusted companions deserted him, and his number one man denied him. The people he loved demanded his crucifixion and chose to have the bandit, Barabbas, released in his place. It is a story of betrayal and lies, dishonesty and meanness, unfaithfulness and wicked violence directed against an innocent and apparently helpless victim. All this comes to a head on Good Friday when we see Jesus scourged, mocked, led on the death march, nailed to the cross where he died after a few hours and hastily buried in a tomb. If that were the end of the story, that would be a bad story, a tragedy. But glory be to God it is not.

Death is not the end of the story. There is one more chapter. And this is the most important chapter because this is the last chapter of the story of Jesus—The Resurrection. We see him rise from the dead in all glory and majesty. He is vindicated. His enemies are shamed and confused. Jesus regains his eternal glory with the Father. He is the Lord who will prevail over all humankind, his enemies included.

This is what the Easter experience calls us to do: To rejoice and be glad because Jesus, whom we follow, won the victory over suffering and death. And we can share in His resurrection if we persevere with faithfulness to the end. We may experience suffering, challenges, difficulties and even death along the way but if our faith is strong, nothing can defeat us and separate us from the love of God.

Today I share with you the joy of having our three candidates and one elect who successfully finished their journey into the RCIA program. We welcome Macy Smolic who received the Sacrament of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist for the first time at our Easter Vigil. And our three candidates, Cassie Smolic, Lexi Baer and Lindsay O'Donnell for receiving Confirmation and Communion. Congratulations!

Happy Easter!



TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — Peter is an eyewitness: The Lord is risen (Acts 10:34a, 37-43).

Psalm — This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad (Psalm 118).

(1) Second Reading — All who are baptized, set your hearts in heaven (Colossians 3:1-4) *or*

(2) Second Reading — Christ our Passover is sacrificed; therefore let us celebrate (1 Corinthians 5:6b-8).

Gospel — Three witnesses, Mary, Peter, and John; each responds to the empty tomb (John 20:1-9) *or* Matthew 28:1-10 (*or, at an afternoon or evening Mass, Luke 24:13-35*).

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

Monday: Monday within the Octave of Easter;
Income Tax Day

Tuesday: Tuesday within the Octave of Easter

Wednesday: Wednesday within the Octave of Easter

Thursday: Thursday within the Octave of Easter

Friday: Friday within the Octave of Easter

Saturday: Saturday within the Octave of Easter; Earth Day

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Acts 2:14, 22-33; Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-11; Mt 28:8-15

Tuesday: Acts 2:36-41; Ps 33:4-5, 18-20, 22; Jn 20:11-18

Wednesday: Acts 3:1-10; Ps 105:1-4, 6-9; Lk 24:13-35

Thursday: Acts 3:11-26; Ps 8:2, 5-9; Lk 24:35-48

Friday: Acts 4:1-12; Ps 118:1-2, 4, 22-27; Jn 21:1-14

Saturday: Acts 4:13-21; Ps 118:1, 14-21; Mk 16:9-15

Sunday: Acts 2:42-47; Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24;
1 Pt 1:3-9; Jn 20:19-31

THE LOOK OF LOVE

What does love look like?

It has feet to go to the poor and needy.

It has eyes to see misery and want.

It has ears to hear

the sighs and sorrows of others.

—St. Augustine

Baptized in Christ

Congratulations to the proud parents, **James and Angela Zollinger**, on the baptism of their daughter, **Corinne Crystal**. She is a child of God, heir to the Kingdom!



Calendar of Events

April 20th NO RCIA Class
April 23rd Teen Ministry Meeting - 9:25 A.M.
 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 24th Finance Council Meeting - 6:30 P.M.
April 27th RCIA - 6:30 P.M. - Conference Center
April 30th Religious Education Classes - 9:30—10:35 A.M. - Final Class
 Security Guard - "Ed Dagula"
May 1st Christian Mother's Meeting - 7:00 P.M.
May 2nd First Holy Communion Practice - 7:00 P.M.
May 5th First Friday Adoration; 6:30 P.M. —Benediction



Religious Education Classes will resume on Sunday, April 23rd, from 9:30 to 10:35 A.M. The Security Guard will be Ed Dagula .

April 30th - Final class - students must attend the 11:00 A.M. Mass

On Tuesday, May 2nd, there will be 1st Holy Communion practice in church from 7:00 to 8:00 P.M.

All children must attend.

First Holy Communion will be celebrated at the 11:00 A.M. Mass on Sunday, May 7th.

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



Freeport Meals on Wheels is in desperate need of drivers for delivery routes in Freeport, Sarver, Cabot and Saxonburg. Anyone interested in volunteering an hour or two of their time, one or more days a month, should contact Betsy Olsen at 724-353-1424 for details. Meals are delivered on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

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



Diocesan Lenten Appeal

Diocesan Target - \$43,279.00
 Parish Target - \$68,279.00
 Pledges to Date - \$64,703.00
 Number of Donors - 215
Diocesan Target Achieved!!!

Due to the early submission of the April 16th bulletin, there is no update available from last week's totals.



Divine Mercy Novena continues this week. The novena and chaplet will be said mornings following the 8:00 A.M. Mass. On Divine Mercy Sunday, the chaplet will be recited before our weekend Masses. Note that you may also pray this Novena at home. Pamphlets are located at each entrance.



Are you trying to cut down on the paper you use? Is the check you write to our parish one of the few checks that you write anymore? You can give greener by using Online Banking. You can set up the amount that you would like to give on a schedule that meets your needs and you never have to worry about writing another check, forgetting your envelope, or having cash in your wallet. Keep God at the top of your giving list! *When you sign up, please remember to provide your envelope number.*

Around the Diocese.....



Bishop Edward C. Malesic will lead a Divine Mercy Sunday outdoor service and Eucharistic procession on April 23rd at 3:00 P.M., in St. Clair Park, Greensburg. In the event of inclement weather, the service will be moved to Blessed Sacrament Cathedral.



Attention Parents: If your child will be 3 or 4 by September, this news is for you! St. Joseph Preschool is now registering students for the 2017-2018

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 now to reserve a place for your child. They would be happy to schedule a time for you to go in and see the preschool with your whole family. Please call Marcie Parks at 724-355-0256—St. Joseph Church, Cabot.



CM-BBT is a medically based, scientifically researched, highly effective NFP method that safely promotes personal health and wellness of body. CM-BBT invites better marriages, enhances couple communication and encourages mutual respect and responsibility. The NFP Method can be used to avoid, postpone, plan or achieve pregnancy. The next Natural Family Planning CM-BBT Method Instruction is scheduled for Monday, May 8th, beginning at 6:00 P.M. at the Catholic Charities office in Greensburg. Participants are required to attend only ONE session. The instruction, continued support and follow-up are provided by a medically certified CM-BBT Professional. Call at least one week prior to instruction date to PRE- register. Contact Mary Ann Newhouse at Catholic Charities at 724-837-1840, Ext. 1658 for additional information or to register for this or an upcoming class. For more information about Natural Family Planning and the CM-BBT Method, visit: www.ccharitiesgreensburg.org and link into Natural Family Planning under "Services".



St. Edward Parish, 120 St. Edwards Lane, Herminie will sponsor an Oldies Dance with DJ Georgio from Radio WKFB 97.5 FM on Saturday, May 6th from 7:30 – 11:30 P.M., in the church hall. Admission is \$10.00/person (in advance) which includes Beer, Beverages, Door Prizes. This is a BYOB & BYO Snacks. A 50/50 drawing and Raffle Baskets will also be featured. Must be 21 years of age for entry. Singles welcome! For more information, tickets, and table reservations, please call Tony or Dianna at 724-864-2086. Tickets will be \$12.00 at the door.



St. Joseph Parish will hold its monthly soup luncheon on Thursday, April 27th, from 11:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M., at St. Ladislaus Church Hall, 48 Spruce Street, Natrona. Enjoy homemade soups, fresh Vibo's rolls with butter, hot and cold beverages and homemade desserts. The lunch is free and open to the public. Everyone is welcome!



SAINT VINCENT COLLEGE

HIGH SCHOOL juniors or seniors and their families are invited to a *Get Acquainted Day Open House* at St. Vincent College, Latrobe, on Sunday, April 23rd. The event will begin with registration and breakfast buffet from 10:30 A.M. to 12:00 Noon and will conclude at 3:00 P.M. The presentation will include an introduction to St. Vincent College and a student panel. Find out more about this top-ranked Catholic, Benedictine, liberal arts college. Listen to financial aid and admission presentations, meet faculty, administrators and coaches and take a campus tour. For information or reservations, please e-mail: admission@stvincent.edu, call 1-800-782-5549, or register online at: www.stvincent.edu.



The world-renowned **Pittsburgh Symphony** will return to St. Vincent Archabey Basilica on Saturday, April 29th at 7:30 P.M., under the direction of Maestro Manfred Honeck. The Symphony will perform Bruckner's Symphony No. 8, the crowning musical achievement of the composer. There will be a pre-concert reception at 5:30 P.M. in the Fred Rogers Center. Maestro Honeck and members of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra will be in attendance to meet those attending the reception. The reception will benefit the Students First Fund. Tickets for the concert are \$25.00 and tickets for the Reception are \$100.00 and will include preferred seating during the concert. For tickets and more information, please call 724-805-2177 or you can visit: eventregistration.stvincent.edu/pso2017.



Spring Card Party

Monday, April 24th

6:30 - 10:00 P.M.

Reverend Edward P. Volz Fellowship Hall

608 High Street—Freeport



\$10.00/person



Salad Bar



50/50 Raffle



Door/Table Prizes



Information/Tickets - Contact



Carol Carson - 724-353-2641



Salad Bar



MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR APRIL 22ND & 23RD, 2017

Altar Servers

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Lector

Organist

Cantor

Saturday - 4:00 P.M.

Brandon & Zachary Bowser
Kennedi & Lauren Clark

Dave Brestensky
Andrea Camerlo
Bill Girardi

Tim Fogarty

Verne Bergstrom

Alex Smith

Sunday - 8:30 A.M.

Samuel & Jacob Kristine
Ali & Ben Brestensky

Laura Huth
Pat Ralston
Kim Holbein

John Nemcek

Tom Koharchik

Tom Koharchik

Sunday - 11:00 A.M.

Celeste Beacom
Victor & Olivia Svitek
Jacob & Erin Schaeffer

Bill Cogley
Patty Hughes
Melissa Schaeffer

Rob Svitek

Dave Wesolosky

Choir

Mass Intentions


FOR THE WEEK

MASSES FOR EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD


- SATURDAY:** April 15th
8:30 P.M. St. Mary Parishioners
- SUNDAY:** April 16th
8:30 A.M. St. Mary Parishioners
11:00 A.M. St. Mary Parishioners
- MONDAY:** April 17th
8:00 A.M. †Dorothy Mollica (Dave & Janis Harbison)
- TUESDAY:** April 18th
8:00 A.M. †Agnes Fisher (Mr. & Mrs. Moravek)
- WEDNESDAY:** April 19th
8:00 A.M. †William Jansen (Grandchildren)
- THURSDAY:** April 20th
8:00 A.M. †Elva Berry (Theresa Barger)
- FRIDAY:** April 21st
8:00 A.M. †Helen Murphy (Boylan Family)

MASSES FOR THE 2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER (DIVINE MERCY)

- SATURDAY:** April 22nd
4:00 P.M. St. Mary Parishioners
- SUNDAY:** April 23rd
8:30 A.M. †Rinaldo Policicchio (The Policicchio's)
11:00 A.M. †Special Intention




The Altar Bread and Wine were donated for this week in loving memory of **MILDRED REZAK**
By **Sue Lepkowski & Family**



In acknowledging the Real Presence of Christ, The Sanctuary Lamp (Candle) will burn this week for **OUR WEDDING ANNIVERSARY**
(John & Lola Bono)
By **Lola Bono**



Offertory Collection for April 2nd, 2017
No. of Envelopes Mailed Out: 593
No. of Envelopes Received: 232
Collection: Offertory - \$4,809.00
Loose - \$292.00
Children - \$45.00
No. of Electronic Payments - 2 - \$55.00
Due to the early deadline for the submission of the April 16th bulletin, the weekly contribution report for April 9th was not available. This information will be published in next Sunday's bulletin.
THANK YOU!



Saturday, April 22nd, 2017
Charlene Becker

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