



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

September 10th, 2017

23rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

If your brother
SINS
against you



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

Diane Grant—*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



WE ARE NOW 191 YEARS!

Founded in 1826, our Church continues to exist and serve the Catholic community, not only in Freeport, but the neighboring county in the region. And now we are celebrating our 191st anniversary.

To refresh a little bit of our history, St. Mary Church in Freeport began when Fr. Patrick O'Neil organized the congregation. It was in 1827 that the first church was built. Bishop Kenrick of the Pittsburgh Diocese dedicated it on September 8th, 1831 under the patronage of St. Mary of the Nativity. The original building measured 34 feet by 28 feet but was of inferior quality necessitating the construction of another building.

The present church building was completed in 1849 under the direction of Fr. M. J. Mitchell. The church was constructed of brick measuring 85 feet by 45 feet with a steeple in the front of the building. Even today, the church steeple makes St. Mary's a town landmark. The new church was dedicated on December 28th, 1851 by Bishop M. O'Connor.

St. Mary's belonged to the Diocese of Pittsburgh until 1951 when the Diocese of Greensburg was established. On December 8th, 1975, the Most Rev. William G. Connare issued a decree assigning a new title and feast day to our parish. We would now be known as St. Mary, Mother of God with the Feast day being January 1st.

In the course of time, the church underwent some renovations like in 1987 when a portion of the ceiling and roof collapsed inside. Miraculously, no one was in the church at the time. The parishioners rallied and with the assistance of their pastor, Fr. Denis Sweeney, were quickly able to raise \$320,000 to complete the repairs. Then, in 2002, under the guidance of Fr. Thomas Ferderline, the church was painted, windows repaired, front doors replaced and a new furnace was installed.

We are grateful that since its foundation, the parish has produced seven priests and eighteen sisters. We cannot deny that our parish grew over the years and during the time of Fr. Edward Volz, he had to demolish the rectory and retreat center to give way for more parking. Also, a new fellowship hall was built in 2011 to serve the growing parish family members.

Right now we have 792 families that are registered in our parish. Of course, that includes those families who are inactive that we want to reach out to. We also see a lot of young families which gives a testament that we continue to be a growing parish in spite of being one of the oldest parishes in the diocese. To all, we celebrate and give thanks for the 191 years of our parish existence.

Congratulations!

FORMED PICK OF THE WEEK

Drawing Strength from Our Lady of Sorrows

Let Mary Be Your Strength and Inspiration

Kimberly Hahn, wife of Dr. Scott Hahn and herself a convert to Catholicism, shares her journey of coming to encounter the Mother of God's loving guidance amid the joys and sorrows of daily life.

Listen on formed.org



"A great lesson on Mary... I will share this with everyone I know!"

—Donna, College Station, TX



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


Calendar of Events


<p>September 11th September 13th September 14th</p> <p>September 16th September 17th</p> <p>September 20th September 23rd & 24th September 24th September 27th</p>	<p>Christian Mother's Meeting—7:00 P.M. - Christian Mother's Room</p> <p>Rosary in Prayer Garden—6:00 P.M.</p> <p>Rehearsal for Stioakis/Morrison Wedding - 5:00 P.M.</p> <p>Baptismal Preparation Class—7:00 P.M. - Mark & Melissa Kristine's Home</p> <p>Wedding—Stioakis/Morrison - 2:00 P.M.</p> <p>Catechetical Sunday; First Day of Religious Education</p> <p>Baptism—12:15 - "Kapinskis"</p> <p>Biking for God—6:15 P.M. - Laneville</p> <p>Flu Shots immediately following mass - Fellowship Hall (Saturday) & the Conference Center (Sunday)</p> <p>Baptism - "Hauff" - 12:15 P.M.</p> <p>Biking for God—6:15 P.M.</p>
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Religious Education classes will be held this year on Sundays, beginning September 17th through May 6th. Classes will take place from 9:30 to 10:40 A.M. This time frame will allow children to participate at Mass with their families (either at the 8:30 or 11:00 A.M. Mass) in order to apply and reinforce the faith formation they are experiencing during the Religious Education classes. Although parents are the first teachers of the faith, it is important for children to learn about their faith with their peers by attending these classes. If you have a child that will be attending pre-school or kindergarten this September or if there is anyone that has recently joined our parish and has to pre-register their children for Religious Education classes (Pre-School thru 8th grade), please call Helen James, Director of Religious Education, at 724-295-4758. If your child attended our Religious Education program last year, there is no need to re-register this year!


LITURGICAL MINISTRIES SCHEDULE All Altar Servers, Lectors, and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are asked to pick up their new schedules in the Sacristy after today's mass. *Note - Please remember to find a replacement if you cannot serve your scheduled time.*

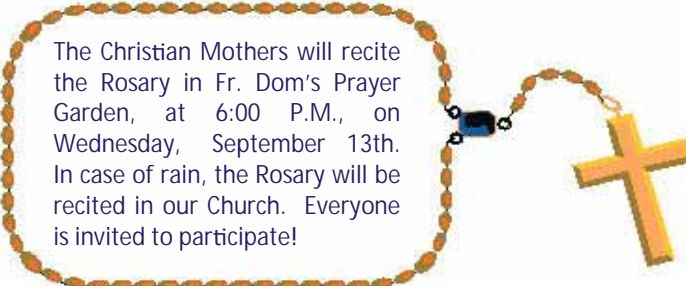
 St. Mary Cemetery - All flowers and flags will be removed by cemetery personnel on October 1st. If arrangements, flowers or flags are wanted, the owners must remove them prior to September 30th.

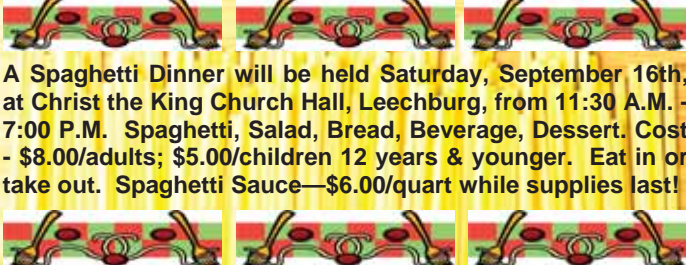
 To understand the importance of the Sacrament of Baptism and your obligation as parents, you are required to attend one baptismal class. **The next class scheduled for this year will be held Thursday, September 14th.** Please call Mark or Melissa—724-230-4450 or the Administrative Office at 724-295-2281 to register.


 **REST IN PEACE**—In your charity of prayers, please remember the soul of **Martin E. "Chip" Hoffman, Jr.** who recently passed away. Welcome him and all who have gone before us into the joy of everlasting life and bring comfort and peace to their families.

 **The Christian Mother's** monthly meetings will resume this month. The meeting for September will be held on Monday, September 11th, at 7:00 P.M., in the Christian Mother's Room. All members are encouraged to attend. The rosary will be recited at 6:30 P.M.

 St. Margaret Mary Church will host a Flea Market on Thursday, September 21st and Friday, September 22nd, from 8:30 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. and on Saturday, September 23rd, from 9:00 to 11:00 A.M. at the Parish Center, 3055 Leechburg Road, Lower Burrell. Great selection of items including furniture! Delicious food and beverages will also be available. Call 724-335-2336 for additional information.

 The Christian Mothers will recite the Rosary in Fr. Dom's Prayer Garden, at 6:00 P.M., on Wednesday, September 13th. In case of rain, the Rosary will be recited in our Church. Everyone is invited to participate!

 **A Spaghetti Dinner will be held Saturday, September 16th, at Christ the King Church Hall, Leechburg, from 11:30 A.M. - 7:00 P.M. Spaghetti, Salad, Bread, Beverage, Dessert. Cost - \$8.00/adults; \$5.00/children 12 years & younger. Eat in or take out. Spaghetti Sauce—\$6.00/quart while supplies last!**

 **Christians** throughout Pittsburgh are invited to take part in the international **40 Days for Life** campaign from September 27th through November 5th. The mission of 40 Days for Life is to unite the Body of Christ in the spiritual battle to end abortion. Through 40 Days of Life, 13,305 lives have been spared from abortion, 154 abortion workers converted and 86 abortion facilities have closed! Join them for 40 days of prayer and fasting and a peaceful vigil held everyday (between September 27-November 5th) from 7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. in front of Planned Parenthood at 933 Liberty Avenue, Pittsburgh. Join them for their kick-off event on Sunday, September 24th, from 5:00-7:00 P.M., at St. Boniface Church, 2208 Street, Pittsburgh. Go and be inspired by speaker Kurt Kondrich, as he speaks about his daughter, Chloe, and about his work defending the most vulnerable among us.



Flu Shot Clinic

Courtesy of Giant Eagle Pharmacy

Saturday September 23rd Following the 4pm Mass

Sunday September 24th Following the 8:30am
and 11am Masses

Given in the Parish Hall – No appointment needed

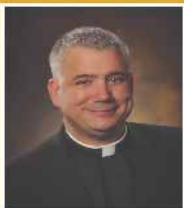
Ages 9 and older

Free for Medicare, UPMC and Highmark Patients

\$30.00 for all others - Exact Cash or Check

HURRICANE HARVEY COLLECTION

A special disaster relief collection will be taken at all Masses the weekend of September 16th-17th to support Catholic relief efforts in the wake of Hurricane Harvey. ALL of the funds the diocese receives from the Hurricane Harvey relief collection will go directly to Catholic Charities USA for use in relief and rebuilding efforts in Texas and the Gulf Coast areas impacted by the storm and flooding that has followed.



Join Us for an Inspirational Retreat with

Father Larry Richards

Saturday, September 30, 2017
8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

St. Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish
Kittanning

Please join us and our outstanding speaker for this dynamic retreat.

Father Larry has directed hundreds of retreats, parish missions, and conferences for young and old alike.

His inspirational talks, presentations, and books, always authentic and enthusiastic,

have changed the hearts, minds and lives of millions of listeners and readers worldwide.

The day will begin with Mass at 8:00 a.m. in the church (101 W High Street).

The retreat will follow from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

in St. Mary Parish Hall (361 N Jefferson Street).

Free admission with a complimentary breakfast and lunch.

A love offering will be graciously accepted.

Presented by Region Four Catholic Men's Fellowship & Sponsored by St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store, Kittanning and the Knights of Columbus, Council #1011.

COME **JOIN US** PROGRAM IS OPEN TO ALL!
BRING YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS!

Please help us plan!

Pre-registration is required.

Please provide your name and the number of people who will be attending.

Please contact:

James Gaggini 724-954-6853 jgaggini@hotmail.com
Mitch Cook 724-212-6466 strongbow5555@yahoo.com
Bobby Skamai 724-859-8541 bskamai86@gmail.com
St. Mary Parish Office, Kittanning 724-548-7649

or Fill Out the Retreat Registration below:

Name: _____ Number attending: _____

Please register via the phone, email or return this form to

St. Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, 101 West High Street, Kittanning by Sunday, September 24.



On October 7th & 8th, a representative from a nonprofit organization called Land of Peace will be with us speaking about the Christian situation in the Holy Land and selling Crucifixes, religious art work, and rosaries - all made of olive wood which is native to Israel and Bethlehem. Since tourism has greatly depleted, Christian families in the holy land who depend on tourists have been greatly affected. The goal of this mission is to build a Charitable Hospital in Bethlehem and help the poor and needy families in Bethlehem and Jerusalem. Sale of these goods will help them very much and also give you the opportunity to have "something" authentic from the holy land. Please browse and buy some articles. It is for a good cause and also a help to your personal devotion. Visit: www.landofpeace.org and Bethlehem Christian Families if you would like additional information.



For those who are still in need of the VIRTUS (Protecting God's Children) clearance...a session is being offered at St. Margaret Mary Church (Lower Burrell) on Tuesday, September 12, at 6:30 P.M., in the Sullivan Room. You are requested to RSVP by calling their parish office at 724-335-2336 so that they may prepare accordingly.

The Diocese of Greensburg will conduct its annual *Seminarian and Clergy Formation Collection* the weekend of September 23rd and 24th. Please look for a special letter from Bishop Malesic to arrive in your mail this week. Bishop Malesic highlights our seminarians, men preparing for the permanent diaconate, the on-going formation of our clergy, and our International priests serving in the Diocese. More information, including a video for this collection, is available on the Diocesan website: www.dioceseofgreensburg.org.

Produce to People

Sponsored by Allegheny Valley Association of Churches

AVAC has partnered with the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank to distribute produce and other grocery items to at-need families on a monthly basis. AVAC will be sponsoring distributions in the Allegheny Valley area on the 2nd Tuesday evening of each month beginning at 5:30. Anyone who financially qualifies is welcome. To qualify for the distribution, your total household income should be below 100% of poverty level - see below for income guidelines. No proof of income is required, participants simply self-declare their income.

Time:

5:30pm to 7:00pm

* MUST BE BY LINE BY 5:00 TO BE SERVED

Upcoming Dates:

(2nd Tuesday of Every Month)

Our Lady of the Most Blessed
Sacrament Parish

Parking Lot @ Union & Liberty Ave.
Natrona Heights, PA 15060

Income Guidelines for Produce to People (Effective January 26, 2017)			
Household Size	Annual Income	Monthly Income	Weekly Income
1	\$18,090	\$1,508	\$377
2	\$24,360	\$2,030	\$507
3	\$30,630	\$2,552	\$638
4	\$36,900	\$3,075	\$769
5	\$43,170	\$3,597	\$899
6	\$49,440	\$4,120	\$1,030
7	\$55,710	\$4,642	\$1,161
8	\$61,980	\$5,165	\$1,291

*100% of the poverty level

If you do not fit the income guidelines but someone in your household receives unemployment, food stamps, cash assistance, disability, retirement and/or medical assistance, you still qualify for Produce to People.

•September 12th

•October 10th

Please do not line up before 5:00 PM.

Dress for the weather. We do not cancel because of rain.

PLEASE bring a box, durable bags, a laundry basket, cooler and/or a wheeled cart for the food, which can be very heavy.

For additional information call AVAC:

(724)-226-0606 ext. 10



Looking for a sign to join the choir?

This is it.

Join us.

Sunday.

Rehearsal - 9:45 AM

Mass - 11:00 AM

For more info, call 724-889-3862

MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR SEPTEMBER 16TH & 17TH, 2017

Altar Servers

*Extraordinary
Ministers
Of Holy Communion*

Lector

Organist

Cantor

Saturday - 4:00 P.M.

Brandon & Zachary Bowser
Kennedi & Lauren Clark

Stella Aul
Deb Showers
Dave Valencic

Jackie DeFelice

Verne Bergstrom

Jamie Phillips

Sunday - 8:30 A.M.

Evan McCrea
Sarah & Hannah Shepherd
Eva DeMeno

Laura Huth
Kim Holbein
Rose Check

Lisa Boylan

Tom Koharchik

Tom Koharchik

Sunday - 11:00 A.M.

Marie Pelliccione
Mason DeMeno; Evan Giori
Megan Rossey; Paige Liti

Helen James
Andre Volek
Bill Cogley

Pat Westerman

Dave Wesolosky

Choir

Mass Intentions
FOR THE WEEK

MASSES FOR THE 23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SATURDAY: September 9th
4:00 P.M. ✦ Anita Rosato (Family)

SUNDAY: September 10th
8:30 A.M. St. Mary Parishioners
11:00 A.M. ✦ Dawn Heilman (Ren & Marushka Steele)

MONDAY: September 11th
8:00 A.M. ✦ Bernard & Ann Kort (Kort Children)

TUESDAY: September 12th
8:00 A.M. ✦ Agnes Fisher (Drs. John & Roberta Malobicky)

WEDNESDAY: September 13th
8:00 A.M. ✦ Wilma & Gib Kelly (Posney & Rezak Families)

THURSDAY: September 14th
8:00 A.M. ✦ Jane Thompson (Ron & Peggy Thompson)

FRIDAY: September 15th
8:00 A.M. ✦ Mark Fuhrman (Jody Nurrick)

MASSES FOR THE 24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SATURDAY: September 16th
4:00 P.M. ✦ Donna & Gene Nagy (Pat & Bill Davis)

SUNDAY: September 17th
8:30 A.M. ✦ Aaron Myers (Sheree Martinetti)
11:00 A.M. St. Mary Parishioners



The Altar Bread and Wine
were donated for this week
in loving memory of
HELEN TREACY & REED WHITE
By
The White Family

In acknowledging the Real Presence of Christ,
The Sanctuary Lamp (Candle) will burn this week in
loving memory of



MARK FUHRMAN
By
Family

Collections

Offertory Collection for September 3rd, 2017

No. of Envelopes Mailed Out: 596
No. of Envelopes Received: 200
Collection: Offertory - \$5,310.00
Electronic Payments (3) - \$240.00
Loose - \$367.00; Children - \$16.50
St. Vincent de Paul Collection - \$1,024.00

Total Collection - \$6,957.50

THANK YOU!



Saturday, September 16th, 2017
Donna Smith and Deb Showers

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