



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

November 5th, 2017

Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

whoever exalts himself will be
HUMBLLED

whoever humbles himself will be
EXALTED

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*
William Girardi, *Social Hall Coordinator—412-719-7085*
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



This Sunday, we begin to celebrate *National Vocations Awareness Week* until November 11th, 2017. This annual event is a special time for parishes in the United States to actively foster and pray for a culture of vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and consecrated life, especially since we continue to hear of the decline to priestly vocations across the United States. It is said that the number of Catholic priests in the United States has seen a drastic decline since 1965 from nearly 60,000 priests to 37,500 in 2015. We see this decline in the Diocese of Greensburg where we belong. For the past few years, we heard of some parishes being closed or merged because of many old and retiring priests with no young priests to replace them. We also heard of the presence of the international priests, which I represent, because there are just not enough priests to accommodate the 78 parishes in the entire Diocese of Greensburg.

We may wonder why there is such a decline in the priestly vocation. There may be many reasons, but Pope Francis pointed out that modern culture is very seductive, tempting people away from religious life with promises of easy sex, material gain, and instant gratification.

Unfortunately, these attractions are empty. The packages are beautiful, but the rewards they contain leave much to be desired.

Cardinal Joseph Tobin, the Chair of the US Bishops' Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life, and Vocations, reminds us that each of us in the Church has a key role to play in the witness of our vocation in ordinary circumstances. "As we go about our everyday life and most especially this week, we must keep vocations in our prayers, while, at the same time, being a mindful witness with our own vocation. We may never know how our lives may have an impact on someone else's story. Simply living out our call as disciples of Jesus Christ fully and joyfully in the world bears witness to the love of Christ as He generously bestows on each of us our own personal call."

Let us pray for more vocations to the priesthood, especially to the Diocese of Greensburg. May we be an instrument to promote vocations, even among our family.

Mary, mother of priestly vocations, pray for us.

IS GOD CALLING YOU?

FORMED PICK OF THE WEEK

Who Am I to Judge?

Presented by Dr. Edward Sri

How can we stand up for truth in a world that says there is no truth?

How can we explain our moral convictions without being labeled "judgmental?" Join Dr. Edward Sri as he explores what the Church teaches about truth and learn how to better explain it without fear of being "intolerant."

Watch on formed.org

FORMED THE CATHOLIC PATH, ON DEMAND



"Well explained! I definitely feel more at peace knowing and understanding how to act and speak with others that live a more secular lifestyle."

—Chuck S, Wichita, KS



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

Baptized in Christ

Congratulations to the proud parents, Edward Daquila and Kera Lavrich, on the baptism of their twin daughters, Adelynn Grace and Reagan Ann. They are children of God, heirs to the Kingdom!



Dan Thimons and his workers are busy at work.....



Calendar of Events

November 5th

*Christian Mother's Mass—8:00 A.M.
 Teen Ministry Meeting—9:25 A.M.; Deadline for all pie orders
 "Forgiven"—9:30 - 10:40 A.M.—Fellowship Hall
 Religious Ed. Classes—9:30 - 10:40 A.M.— Security Guard - "Brandon Showers"
 Choir Practice—9:45 - 10:45 A.M.; 11:00 A.M. Mass
 Final Neighborhood Listening Session—2:00 P.M. - Renshaw Farms
 Christian Mother's Meeting—7:00 P.M. (members are to arrive at 6:30 P.M.)*

November 6th

November 7th

November 11th/12th

November 12th

November 13th

November 14th-18th

*Teen Ministry—4:00 P.M. - Freeport Food Bank
 Donut Social
 Religious Ed. Classes—9:30 - 10:40 A.M.— Security Guard - "Brandon Showers"
 Choir Practice—9:45 - 10:45 A.M.; 11:00 A.M. Mass
 Rosary—6:00 P.M. - Fr. Dom's Prayer Garden (Final One)
 Pictures for Parish Directory - Fellowship Hall*

The Christian Mother's monthly meeting will be held on Monday, November 6th, at 7:00 P.M., in the Christian Mother's Room. The rosary will be prayed at 6:30 P.M. All members are asked and encouraged to attend.



Donut Social
 November
 11th & 12th
 Fellowship Hall
 (immediately following mass)

Thank you to all the families that have made an appointment for our upcoming photography event. We look forward to seeing you! There are still prime appointment times available for those that need to sign up. The Friday and Saturday after Thanksgiving have been added as additional days to be photographed. Don't miss out! Be a part of our photo directory and stay connected. Sign up today at the photo table in the back of church or sign up online at our parish website: www.stmaryfreeport.com by clicking on the "Schedule your Photography Session" button.


Just a quick reminder!
St. Mary Teen Ministry is having a Pie Sale. Proceeds help fund their service projects and activities. Order forms are located at all of the church entrances and on our website. **Deadline for all orders is Sunday, November 5th.**




Baby Bottle Campaign— Thank you to all who took home baby bottles last weekend. Please remember to return them to church next week. There are empty bottles available for those who did not receive one last week and would like to participate! Thank you!


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

Christmas Basket Raffle - Raffle tickets are attached to today's bulletin. Ticket stubs and money may be put in the envelope and placed in the collection basket, mailed in, dropped off at the Administrative Center, or given to any Christian Mother. Tickets are only \$1.00/each. This is the main fundraiser for the Christian Mothers and your support will be greatly appreciated!

 **The Retirement Fund for Religious and Diocesan Priests** appeal will be held this weekend. Seventy-five percent of the funds collected will support retired men and women religious communities around the country and twenty-five percent of the funds will stay in the diocese to support the retired diocesan priests' fund.

Ye Olde Christmas Shoppe **St. Emma Monastery** will hold its "Ye Olde Christmas Shoppe" event November 9th-11th at the monastery at 1001 Harvey Ave., Greensburg. Hours are: November 9th, 2:00-7:00 P.M.; November 10th, 10:00 A.M.-6:00 P.M.; November 11th, 10:00 A.M. -3:00 P.M. For more information, including special pricing, visit: stemma.org and click on "Upcoming Events".


 Greensburg Central Catholic Junior-Senior High School will host a junior high visit day on Thursday, November 9th, from 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM at the school. For information, visit: www.gcchs.org or call 724-834-0310.


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For information or to make an appointment, call Catholic Charities at 724-837-1840 or email: counseling@dioceseofgreensburg.org
 Check out their website at: <http://www.ccharitiesgreensburg.org/services/Pages/counseling.aspx>
Catholic Charities provides faith-based counseling for individuals, couples, and families

 **Discover Days at La Roche College**—La Roche College invites high school juniors and seniors as well as transfer students to its fall Discover Day, a major-focused La Roche experience! You and your family will have the opportunity to meet faculty and learn about their unique programs. You'll also get a glimpse of Redhawk life by interacting with current students, touring campus and enjoying a free lunch in the dining hall. Saturday, November 11th—8:30 – 9:15 A.M. will be registration. Prospective students will learn more about the admissions process, financial aid and the college's merit-based scholarships, based on SAT/ACT and GPA, which make La Roche College one of the most affordable private colleges in Western Pennsylvania. Another feature of a La Roche education is the nearly-free Study Abroad+Study USA program, included in the tuition structure. Students who bring a completed application, high school transcript and SAT/ACT scores will be able to receive an admissions decision during their visit. A complimentary lunch is also provided. Questions? Email: admissions@LaRoche.edu or call 412-536-1272. La Roche is a private, nonprofit, Catholic, co-educational institution in North Hills, McCandless Township.

CALLING ALL MEN! Transformation: A night of adoration, prayer, and discussion for men - The Office for Evangelization and Faith Formation invites all men from throughout the Diocese of Greensburg for an encounter with Christ. Our call as men of Christ is to transform the culture and renew the lives of men to lead their families, their work, and their parish. Adoration, reconciliation, prayer, music, and small group discussions are all a part of Transformation. Join them on November 7th, at 7:00 P.M. at St. Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Kittanning. St. Mary's is located at 101 West High Street in Kittanning.

MUSIC MAJOR FOR A DAY! Seton Hill University, Department of Music, invites high school senior and junior musicians to experience their Music Major for a Day program on Thursday, November 9th from 8:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M., in the SHU Performing Arts Center, Greensburg. If you would like additional information, please contact undergraduate admissions at 724-838-4281 or email: admit@setonhill.edu.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR NOVEMBER 11TH & 12TH, 2017

Altar Servers	Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Lector	Greeters	Organist	Cantor
Saturday - 4:00 P.M.					
Brandon & Zachary Bowser Kennedi & Lauren Clark	Stella Aul; Deb Showers Dave Valencic	Janice Meola	Sharon Mihalich	Verne Bergstrom	Alex Smith
Sunday—8:30 A.M.					
Evan McCrea Sarah & Hannah Shepherd Eva DeMeno	Carol Carson Pat Ralston Lisa Boylan	CCD - 7th Grade	Steve Brestensky Family	Tom Koharchik	Tom Koharchik
Sunday—11:00 A.M.					
Marie Pelliccione Mason DeMeno; Evan Giori Megan Rossey, Paige Liti	Dan Lucovich Patty Hughes Andre Volek	Bill Cogley	Rose Naughton	Dave Wesolosky	Choir

Mass Intentions

MASSES FOR THE 31ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SATURDAY: 4:00 P.M.	November 4th ✦ All Souls' Intentions
SUNDAY: 8:30 A.M. 11:00 A.M.	November 5th ✦ Christian Mothers—Deceased Members (Christian Mothers) ✦ All Souls' Intentions & St. Mary Parishioners
MONDAY: 8:00 A.M.	November 6th ✦ All Souls' Intentions
TUESDAY: 8:00 A.M.	November 7th ✦ All Souls' Intentions
WEDNESDAY: 8:00 A.M.	November 8th ✦ All Souls' Intentions
THURSDAY: 8:00 A.M.	November 9th ✦ All Souls' Intentions
FRIDAY: 8:00 A.M.	November 10th ✦ All Souls' Intentions

MASSES FOR THE 32ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SATURDAY: 4:00 P.M.	November 11th ✦ Domenic & Isabelle Canterna (Betty Canterna)
SUNDAY: 8:30 A.M. 11:00 A.M.	November 12th ✦ Fr. Dominick DeBlasio (Donna & Steve Gardiner) St. Mary Parishioners



Saturday, November 11th, 2017
Betty Canterna and Janice Meola

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

Collections

Offertory Collection for October 30th, 2017

No. of Envelopes Mailed Out: 596
No. of Envelopes Received: 214
Collection: Offertory - \$3,898.00
Electronic Payments (2) - \$90.00
Loose - \$267.00; Children - \$38.75
World Mission Sunday - \$1.00

Total Collection - \$4,294.75

THANK YOU!



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