



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



December 17th, 2017 Third Sunday of Advent

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 enter into the third Sunday of Advent. You will see the priest wearing a rose vestment and the rose candle is lit in the advent wreath, together with the first two purple candles, to symbolize the third Sunday of Advent and emphasize our joy that Christmas is near. This Sunday is actually known as *Gaudete Sunday* which means rejoice because the Lord is close at hand.

St. Paul reminds us in the second reading: "Always be joyful!" It is not just about joyful expectancy that Christmas is very near but a reminder that Jesus is the reason to rejoice in the midst of life's pains, sufferings and tragedies. Come to think of it, Jesus is "the reason for the season" and at the same time "the reason to rejoice in all seasons"!

I know we have different reasons for celebrating Christmas, like a time to be gathered as a family, a time to enjoy each other's company, a time of giving gifts to our dear ones, and a time to share our blessings to others. But I hope we will not forget the real reason for our Christmas celebration—Jesus being born to us. A gift which God the Father has given to each one of us. So precious of a gift that deserves full attention and welcome from us. The past two Sundays we have been called to prepare so we can give Jesus what He truly deserves - a preparation that includes our heart to be free from any impurity.

We heard invitation to recourse to the sacrament of reconciliation within our region. I hope that everyone can make the time so we can approach Jesus with no hesitation and welcome Him into our hearts with joy and gratitude this coming Christmas.

In the Gospel, even John the Baptist prepared for the coming of the Lord by making straight the way of the Lord. He said, "I am the voice of the one crying out in the desert; make straight the way of the Lord". So he did prepare and called the people to prepare as well by preaching the baptism of repentance and conversion.



FORMED PICK OF THE WEEK

Mary of Nazareth

Who was Mary, Mother of the Messiah?

Experience life with Christ through the eyes of his mother in this beautiful film capturing Mary's special role in God's plan for our redemption, her unique relationship with Jesus, and the mysterious joys and sufferings she encountered with deep love, profound humility, and unwavering faith.

Watch on formed.org

FORMED THE CATHOLIC FAITH DEPARTMENT



"This is a spell-binding and touching representation of the life of the Blessed Mother...Highly recommended and praise God for the gift of His mother!"

—Alfredo N., Buda, 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.

Marble laying under way!



Advent Prayer Service
at Concordia
Nursing Home
Rosary, Confession
and Communion

The Mardi Gras
Stocking wine tasting festival
will be held Saturday, February 10th, 2018, 6:00-10:00 P.M. in our Fellowship Hall. Tickets are \$30.00 each and includes wine tasting and a lite fare. Do you have someone on your list that you have no idea what to buy them? Perhaps you need a couple stocking stuffers? How about tickets to our wine tasting event? What a perfect gift for the one who has everything! To reserve your tickets, call Bridget at 724-294-0089, Marianne at 724-295-9568 or Jeff at 724-596-0503. This event is sponsored by our Parish Council and your support is appreciated.



Penance Services for Advent - Communal Penance services are an excellent way to enter into the spirit of the call to conversion that Jesus issues to each of us. We are ever more conscious of the need for reconciliation among the people of God, God's great mercy in forgiving us, and the benefit that we receive from each others prayers. Several priests will be available at each of these Penance services. Following is the remaining schedule for our Regional Penance Services for our area:

- Monday, December 18th - St. Mary, Yatesboro - 7:00 P.M.
- Tuesday, December 19th - St. Lawrence, Cadogan - 7:00 P.M.
- Thursday, December 21st - St. Mary, Freeport - 7:00 P.M.



The Christian Mothers would like to thank everyone who participated and helped to make the Christmas basket raffle a success. Congratulations to all the winners! Have a very Merry Christmas!



Christmas Eve
5:00 & 10:00 P.M.
Christmas Day - 10:00 A.M.



**Fair
Winds
Manor
Merry
Christmas
to
Richard
and
Louise
Flannigan**

**GOD PROVIDES,
BUT YOU'RE THE
DELIVERY SYSTEM**



Please consider a gift this Christmas to the Children and Family Services Appeal; the second collection at all Masses on December 24th & 25th.



The Bishop Morrow Personal Care Home (located in Leechburg) now has a vacancy. If you are interested or you know of someone that is, please call them at 724-845-2828.

thank you for
 your love
 your support
 your generosity

Thank you to all who participated in the Baby Bottle Campaign this past November. Your life-saving gifts totaled **\$3,087.00**. What a blessing for LIFE! Because of your generosity, more lives will be saved. Thank you, and may God bless each of you as you bless others!

FINANCIAL REPORT: FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2016 - JUNE 30, 2017

Beginning Cash Balance July 1, 2016	<u>\$ 35,044.08</u>
INCOME LINE ITEMS (JULY 1, 2016 - JUNE 30, 2017)	
ORDINARY: Offertory (Sunday, Holy Days, seasonal, candle, flowers)	329,248.51
EXTRAORDINARY: Fundraising, bequests, donations, interest on investments, rentals	73,750.25
NON-ASSESSABLE: Catholic accent, withdrawal from reserve, Diocesan Lenten appeal refund, Exchange, Diocesan Capital, Campaign Refund, Religious Education Refund	<u>92,906.83</u>
TOTAL INCOME	<u>\$495,905.59</u>
EXPENSE LINE ITEMS (JULY 1, 2016 - JUNE 30, 2017)	
ADMINISTRATIVE: Salaries of clergy, Pastoral Ministry, Administrative staff, telephone, office expenses, offertory envelopes, Catholic Accent, hospital ministry	\$111,181.39
CHURCH: Music expense, liturgical/sanctuary supplies, RCIA, clergy assistance, routine maintenance and repairs, flower expense	44,672.00
RECTORY: Housing of pastor, basic needs and hospitality, routine maintenance/repairs	3,884.08
EDUCATIONAL: Religious education salaries, education assessment, adult education, vacation bible school, teen ministry, sacramental prep	49,567.63
GENERAL: Salary of maintenance staff, utilities, building maintenance and repairs, clergy/employee benefits/FICA, property taxes, insurance, Diocesan assessment	99,676.31
EXTRAORDINARY: Debt interest and principal, major repairs, additions to reserve fund, Diocesan Lenten Appeal, miscellaneous collections	<u>195,801.08</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>\$ 504,782.49</u>

Mardi Gras

*Wine Tasting
and Lite Fare*

*St. Mary's Fellowship Hall
608 High Street—Freeport
Saturday, February 10th, 2018
6:00 P.M.—10:00 P.M.*

Wine/Cheese/Crackers
Pasta
Carving Table

Great for
Stocking Stuffers



Tickets are \$30.00 each and may be
purchased by calling Bridget at
724-294-0089, Marianne at
724-295-9568 or Jeff at 724-596-0503

~~All proceeds benefit Fellowship Hall Improvement Projects~~

St. Mary, Mother of God Church
608 High Street—Freeport 724-295-2281 (Church) 724-295-3090 (Fax)

Mardi Gras Wine Tasting and Lite Fare
Saturday, February 10th, 2018
6:00 P.M.—10:00 P.M.



Sponsorship Opportunities

\$400.00 Major Event Sponsor
Includes four (4) complimentary tickets and sponsor sign at entrance

\$200.00 Food Table Sponsor
Includes two (2) complimentary tickets and food table sponsor sign

\$100.00 Wine Table Sponsor
Includes one (1) complimentary ticket and wine table sponsor sign

\$ 75.00 Cutlery Sponsor
Includes cutlery sponsor sign

\$ 50.00 Centerpiece Sponsor
Includes centerpiece sponsor sign

Silent Auction Contributor
We are happy to accept quality items for our silent and Chinese auctions

Description of Item: _____

_____ Estimated Value: _____

Organization Name: _____

Contact Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City, Street, ZIP: _____

Phone: _____

Please mail the completed reservation form, along with your check made payable to St. Mary, Mother of God Church - 608 High Street—Freeport, PA 16229.

Deadline for submission of sponsorship and advertising materials is Monday, January 29th.
Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Consult your tax professional.

~ ~All proceeds benefit Fellowship Hall Maintenance and Improvements~ ~

MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 23RD, 24TH & 25TH, 2017

<i>Altar Servers</i>	<i>Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion</i>	<i>Lector</i>	<i>Greeters</i>	<i>Organist</i>	<i>Cantor</i>
Saturday - 4:00 P.M.					
Brandon & Zachary Bowser Lauren & Leah Clark	Stella Aul; Deb Showers Dave Valencic	Tim Fogarty	Dave & Lois Posney	Verne Bergstrom	Jamie Phillips
Sunday—8:30 A.M.					
Breanna, Olivia & Ryan Sutura Nicolette Zollinger Katie Huth; Mary Huth	Carol Carson; Pat Ralston Lisa Boylan	Judy Bergstrom	Diane Grant Janis Harbison	Tom Koharchik	Tom Koharchik
Sunday—11:00 A.M.					
Marie Pelliccione Mason DeMeno; Paige Liti Megan Rossey; Evan Giori	Dan Lucovich Patty Hughes; Andre Volek	Pat Westerman	Jenn Liti	Dave Wesolosky	Choir
Christmas Eve—5:00 P.M. TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	Tom Koharchik	Jamie Phillips
Christmas Eve—10:00 P.M. TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	Dave Wesolosky	Choir
Christmas Day—10:00 A.M. TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	Greg Fuhrman	Alex Smith

Mass Intentions

MASSES FOR THE 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SATURDAY: 4:00 P.M.	December 16th ✦ Anita Rosato (Family)
SUNDAY: 8:30 A.M. 11:00 A.M.	December 17th St. Mary Parishioners ✦ Martha Kerr (Garrie & Christine Davies)
MONDAY: 8:00 A.M.	December 18th ✦ Fr. Dominick DeBlasio (Deb & Dennis Baustert)
TUESDAY: 8:00 A.M.	December 19th ✦ Jane E. Thompson (Ron & Peggy Thompson)
WEDNESDAY: 8:00 A.M.	December 20th ✦ Elizabeth McDermott (Gary & Chris Miller & Family)
THURSDAY: 8:00 A.M.	December 21st ✦ Joseph Poretti (Sister—Norma Jane)
FRIDAY: 8:00 A.M.	December 22nd ✦ Dawn Heilman (Friends)

MASSES FOR THE 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SATURDAY: 4:00 P.M.	December 23rd ✦ James Negley (Jeff & Donna Smith)
SUNDAY: 8:30 A.M. 11:00 A.M.	December 24th ✦ Kenneth Hughes (Bob & Judy Bergstrom) St. Mary Parishioners



The Altar Bread and Wine were donated for this week in loving memory of **WALTER & HANNAH KONKLE**
By **Bill & Mary Fullerton**



In acknowledging the Real Presence of Christ, The Sanctuary Lamp (Candle) will burn this week in loving memory of **DAWN HEILMAN**
By **Ren & Marushka Steele**

Collections

Offertory Collection for December 10th, 2017

No. of Envelopes Mailed Out: 593
No. of Envelopes Received: 232
Collection: Offertory - \$5,196.00
Electronic Payments (4) - \$270.00
Loose - \$286.00; Children - \$43.00
Feast of the Immaculate Conception - \$1,126.00

Total Collection - \$6,921.00

THANK YOU!



Saturday, December 23rd, 2017
Jeannie Lepkowski and Mary Bertino

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Please support them with your business.

ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK

"Freeport Beverage"



Christmas is a wonderful time for us. In addition to the very special meaning of the liturgical celebration, we are always happy to see so many parishioners whose schedules may not allow them to attend Mass at our parish on a regular basis. If you are one of those who cannot visit our parish as much as you like, why not consider scheduling a recurring electronic contribution. This will allow you to continue to support your parish even when you are out-of-town, too busy to remember an envelope, working weekends, or attending Mass at another parish. *When you sign up, please remember to provide your envelope number.*

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