



# 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

January 28th, 2018

## Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

# THE GOSPEL

# MARK 1:21-28



Father Ronald Maquiñana—*Pastor*  
[rmaquinana@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto: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](http://www.stmaryfreeport.com)

Parish Email Address: [thechurch@stmaryfreeport.com](mailto: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.

# Your comments & suggestions

As we continue to shovel and shiver here in Freeport, I checked the weather in the Philippines and found that the average high temperature will range from 85 to 89 from now until February 1<sup>st</sup>. So we can be jealous of Father Ron as he has a temporary escape from our winter weather, and we can also pray that the business portion of his trip back home will be successful.

Before Father Ron departed, he asked that we take the opportunity to co-author his weekly column for the next few weeks in his absence and discuss the neighborhood listening sessions that were conducted in September and October of last year. As the head of the Evangelization team, Beth joined me as your Pastoral Associate at many of these meetings, and it was Father Ron's desire that we present your comments and suggestions. It was his strong desire to sincerely listen to your thoughts and comments to enable him to properly evaluate what has occurred in the past and make decisions going forward that will hopefully produce continued growth in our family parish.

We conducted seven sessions throughout our parish geographical area with four sessions being held in Buffalo Township, one in Freeport, one in South Buffalo Township and one in Allegheny Township. Almost one hundred of our members joined us at one of these sessions (99 to be exact), and many of you shared a variety of thoughts and opinions to the questions that were presented.

Father Ron began the listening sessions by asking for the high points and the low points in the history of the parish and that is where will begin our discussion. The presence of our Catholic elementary was one of the predominant answers. Also included were the various improvements to the parish campus, from the interior of the church to the addition of the fellowship hall, the Father Dom prayer garden and a very attractive parish campus. Good leadership was also pointed out and a welcoming and family atmosphere was also very much appreciated. The children's *breaking open the word* at the 8:30 A.M. Mass each week, as well as the special Christmas Eve Children's Mass at 5:00 P.M. each year, both showed the importance of our children in the future of our parish. A successful CCD Program, RCIA, Teen Ministry and successful DLA campaigns also showed the continued successful efforts of our parish.

We then moved to the low points in the history of our parish, and the answer all sessions brought up was the closing of our elementary school in 2004 due to low enrollment. The collapse of the roof in 1986 was also a dramatic event in our recent history. Pastor turnover was also a concern, especially in the past fifteen years, and low teen and young adult involvement was also pointed out. And last but not least was the effect that the clearances have had on our volunteer participation.

In the next few weeks, we will continue our recap by identifying the strengths and weaknesses you pointed out at these sessions. And we will conclude with the important issues that were identified that need to be addressed as we move forward in our attempt to continue to bring our family parish closer and introduce some new and additional ministries and programs that will enable us to become even more welcoming to our current family members, as well as encouraging others to join us at St. Mary's. So please stay tune in the coming weeks to continue to learn what your fellow parishioners discussed. Have a wonderful week and stay warm. Maybe Father Ron will send us some warmer temps from his home. ~~William Girardi & Beth Macurdy

## FORMED PICK OF THE WEEK

### Saint John Bosco

Mission to Love

Meet St. John Bosco, Patron Saint of Young People

Discover the inspiring story of St. John Bosco, a brave priest whose ministry to homeless, outcast boys of Turin, Italy inspired the formation of the Salesians. See the incredible joy, trials, and profound charity that allowed John Bosco to win young souls for Christ.

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





# March for Life

Washington D.C.

A few of our fellow parishioners attended the *March for Life* in Washington, DC on Friday, January 19th



## Calendar of Events

- January 28th** Religious Education Classes—9:30 - 10:40 A.M.— Security Guard - “Linda Paustenbaugh”  
Choir Practice—9:45 - 10:45 A.M.; 11:00 A.M. Mass
- February 2nd** 1st Friday Adoration until 6:00 P.M.; **Deadline for names & addresses for Care Packages for college students**
- February 4th** Religious Education Classes—9:30 - 10:40 A.M.— Security Guard - “Linda Paustenbaugh”  
Teen Ministry Meeting—9:25 A.M.; Choir Practice—9:45 - 10:45 A.M.; 11:00 A.M. Mass  
Christian Mother’s Meeting—7:00 P.M.
- February 5th** Mardi Gras/Wine Tasting Event—6:00 - 10:00 P.M.—Fellowship Hall
- February 10th** Religious Education Classes—9:30 - 10:40 A.M.— Security Guard - “Kurt Hellgren”
- February 11th** Choir Practice—9:45 - 10:45 A.M.; 11:00 A.M. Mass
- February 14th** Ash Wednesday—Mass & Distribution of Ashes at 8:00 A.M. & 7:00 P.M.



The Teen Ministry is planning to send care packages to the college students from our parish. They are asking that names and addresses of family and friends away at college be submitted **no later than Friday, February 2nd**. Names and addresses can be sent to: [juliegardone@gmail.com](mailto:juliegardone@gmail.com); [khughesmpt@yahoo.com](mailto:khughesmpt@yahoo.com); [thechurch@stmaryfreeport.com](mailto:thechurch@stmaryfreeport.com). You can also drop off this information at the Administrative Office during normal office hours. Your support of the teen ministry projects is greatly appreciated!



Adoration will be held on Friday, February 2nd, beginning at 8:30 A.M. and will conclude at 6:00 P.M. Sign-up sheets are located at the church entrances.

**Throats will be blessed on the feast day of St. Blaise, Saturday, February 3rd at the 4:00 P.M. Mass and also on Sunday at both the 8:00 & 11:00 A.M. masses**

## Sponsor / Donate

Have you considered sponsoring our Mardi Gras Wine Tasting Event? Sponsor forms are located the church entrances. You can fill one out and return it to the Parish Office. **Deadline for sponsor forms is Monday, January 29th**. If you would rather help out in another way, donations are being accepted for theme baskets. If you would like to donate one or several items, please call Judy Bergstrom at 724-316-5352. **Deadline for donations is Friday, February 2nd**.



Sunday  
February 18th  
7:00 P.M.

Details in next week’s bulletin!

# Mardi Gras



Wine Tasting  
and Lite Fare

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

Wine/Cheese/Crackers  
Pasta  
Carving Table

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—

## lifechoices

Dear St. Mary, Mother of God,  
Thank you so much for participating  
in our Change for Life campaign once  
again this year. We are so grateful for  
this partnership of over 10 years! And  
this year was record breaking - you  
raised \$4,384.19 - about \$800 more than  
ever before - what a true blessing!  
Because of you more lives will be  
saved & changed! Blessings.  
Bri Sherman & the Life Choices Team

### Catholic Engaged Encounter

Catholic Engaged Encounter is an opportunity for Christian couples to prepare for a life-time commitment. If you desire a loving, faithful, permanent and life-giving marriage, consider attending a Catholic Engaged Encounter weekend. This marriage preparation program presents a comprehensive, up-close and personal look at marriage. For more information, please call George and Pat Ziringer at 724-335-4966; email: [ziringer@comcast.net](mailto:ziringer@comcast.net) or visit: [www.greensburgcee.com](http://www.greensburgcee.com). The next scheduled weekend in Greensburg will be held on February 2nd-4th. The next scheduled weekend in Pittsburgh will be held on February 16th-18th. To attend, please call Brian & Nancy Stevens at 412-861-0262; email: [eweekends@verizon.net](mailto:eweekends@verizon.net).

### HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE

You are invited to join Bishop Malesic on an inspiring and amazing *Pilgrimage to the Holy Land*, October 1st - 11th, 2018. This pilgrimage includes visits to Tiberias, Nazareth, Cana, the Sea of Galilee, Jerusalem, Bethlehem & more! Please contact Father Willie Lechnar, Director of Pilgrimages, at 724-552-2645 or via email at: [wlechnar@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:wlechnar@dioceseofgreensburg.org). Space is limited so contact Father Lechnar today!

### Human Trafficking Awareness

The third annual *Day of Prayer and Awareness for Human Trafficking* will be held on Saturday, February 10th, from 1:00-4:00 P.M., at St. Vincent Grove, Latrobe. The speaker will be Marlene Carson, Ph.D., a survivor of trafficking as a teen and founder of The SWITCH National Anti-trafficking Network. Register for the free event at: [rsvpf@hotmail.com](mailto:rsvpf@hotmail.com) or call 724-537-2064.

### NIGHT OF WORSHIP

Mount St. Peter Parish, New Kensington, will host the Steubenville Night of Worship on Thursday, February 8th, at 7:00 P.M., with speakers, music, praise, worship, and Eucharistic procession. If interested in attending, contact Elizabeth Haberstroh at 724-335-9877, Ext. 206 for all details.

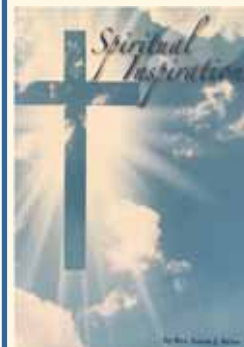
### THE MELCHIZEDEK PROJECT

The Melchizedek Project, a discernment group for high school aged boys, meets monthly. The next meeting will be held Sunday, January 28th, from 6:30-8:00 P.M., at Greensburg Central Catholic High School. To register, please email: [vocations@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:vocations@dioceseofgreensburg.org).



Next weekend, we will take up the Collection for the *Church in Central and Eastern Europe*. This collection supports the Church in over 20 countries, many of which are still struggling to recover in the aftermath of Soviet rule. Your support restores the Church and builds the future in this region. Please prayerfully consider supporting this collection.

### SPIRITUAL INSPIRATIONS



Fr. Aaron Kriss, a Pittsburgh Diocesan priest who serves at Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament Parish, Natrona Heights, and St. Joseph Parish, Natrona, has written and completed his second book of poems entitled "*SPIRITUAL INSPIRATIONS*". This composition contains 300 poems written between October, 2015 and July, 2017 and is spiritual in scope. It covers six themes: *Prayer and Praise, Jesus and Mary, Goodness and Holiness, Forgiveness and Mercy, Gifts and Blessings and Heaven and Eternity*. Perhaps you would like to have one for yourself or even as a gift for someone else for spiritual reading as we prepare for Lent. "*SPIRITUAL INSPIRATIONS*" can be obtained through a suggested donation of \$19.00 by contacting Fr. Aaron at 724-226-4900, Ext. 20, or email him at: [akriss@diopitt.org](mailto:akriss@diopitt.org).



## MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY 3RD & 4TH, 2018

Altar Servers	Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Lector	Greeters	Organist	Cantor
<b>Saturday - 4:00 P.M.</b>					
Brandon & Zachary Bowser Lauren & Leah Clark	Stella Aul; Deb Showers Dave Valencic	Karen Savage	Doug & Mary Scholl	Verne Bergstrom	Jamie Phillips
<b>Sunday—8:30 A.M.</b>					
Evan McCrea; Eva DeMeno Sarah & Hannah Shepherd Abby Koharchik	Carol Carson Pat Ralston Lisa Boylan	Judy Bergstrom	Karen Nigra	Tom Koharchik	Tom Koharchik
<b>Sunday—11:00 A.M.</b>					
Marie Pelliccione Mason DeMeno Megan Rossey Paige Liti; Evan Giori	Dan Lucovich Patty Hughes Andre Volek	Marushka Steele	Rose Naughton	Dave Wesolosky	Choir

### Mass Intentions

FOR THE WEEK

#### MASSES FOR THE 4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

- SATURDAY:** January 27th  
4:00 P.M. ✠J.D. Easley Family (Estate)
- SUNDAY:** January 28th  
8:30 A.M. St. Mary Parishioners  
11:00 A.M. ✠Frank "Fuzz" Palko & Mary "Boots" Palko (Dan & Barb Coyle)
- MONDAY:** January 29th  
8:00 A.M. ✠Maurice Heinritz Family (Estate)
- TUESDAY:** January 30th  
8:00 A.M. COMMUNION SERVICE
- WEDNESDAY:** January 31st  
8:00 A.M. ✠Joanne Marie Jancaro (Friend)
- THURSDAY:** February 1st  
8:00 A.M. COMMUNION SERVICE
- FRIDAY:** February 2nd  
8:00 A.M. ✠Joseph Klaput, Jr. (Family)  
1st Friday Adoration

#### MASSES FOR THE 5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

- SATURDAY:** February 3rd  
4:00 P.M. ✠Helen Murphy (Mr. & Mrs. Robert Phillips)
- SUNDAY:** February 4th  
8:30 A.M. ✠Phillip Bordonaro (Rose Check)  
11:00 A.M. St. Mary Parishioners



The Altar Bread and Wine were donated for this week in loving memory of **JOEY CULLINAN**  
By *Beth Cullinan*

In acknowledging the Real Presence of Christ, The Sanctuary Lamp (Candle) will burn this week in loving memory of **ZALEWSKI & ERSKINE FAMILIES**  
By *Tedd & Jill Zalewski*

**Offertory Collection for January 21st, 2018**  
 No. of Envelopes Mailed Out: 611  
 No. of Envelopes Received: 229  
 Collection: Offertory - \$4,968.00  
 Electronic Payments (10) - \$2,430.00  
 Loose - \$261.00; Children - \$11.00  
**Total Collection - \$7,670.00**  
**THANK YOU!**

**Saturday, February 3rd, 2018**  
*Betty Canterna and Janice Meola*

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**ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK**

**"Medical Alert System"**

Winter weather is here and that means ice and snow may make it difficult for some people to get to church. But parish bills keep growing during the winter, including increased heating costs and snow removal expenses. You can make sure your parish support doesn't stop just when we need it the most. Why not check out the simple, safe and secure online giving option with your bank. Currently twenty-one families are giving online. Please consider joining that growing number of dedicated givers! We are most grateful to all those who make every effort to give consistently whether electronically or through the weekly offering basket. It really helps us plan and meet our budget.

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