



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

April 8th, 2018

Divine Mercy Sunday

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 celebrate the feast of the Divine Mercy. On April 30th, 2000, the day of the canonization of Sr. Faustina Kowalska, the late Pope John Paul II officially proclaimed that the second Sunday of Easter would be known as the Divine Mercy Sunday. This is after the Church recognized the messages given to Sr. Faustina by Our Lord when she was still living. Sr. Faustina received a series of private revelations and messages from Our Lord and she wrote them in her diary. One of them was the explicit desire of Our Lord to celebrate the feast of the Divine Mercy on the first Sunday after Easter. **"I want the image to be solemnly blessed on the first Sunday after Easter, and I want it to be venerated publicly so that every soul may know about it"** (Diary 341).

In his homily, at the canonization of Sr. Faustina on April 30th, 2000, Pope John Paul II said: "it is important that we accept the whole message that comes to us from the word of God on this Second Sunday of Easter, which from now on throughout the Church, will be called "Divine Mercy Sunday".

He continued to say, "it becomes clear why Jesus insisted that the sacred image of Himself as The Divine Mercy is to be venerated throughout the world in connection with the observance of this Sunday because before speaking these words, Jesus shows His hands and His side. He points to the wounds of the Passion, especially the wound in His Heart, the source from which flows the great wave of mercy poured out on humanity."

"From that Heart, Sr. Faustina saw two rays of light shining from that Heart and illuminating the world: **'The two rays', Jesus Himself explained to her one day, 'represent blood and water'**" (Diary, 299). "Blood and water!" We immediately think of the testimony given by the Evangelist John, who, when a soldier on Calvary pierced Christ's side with his spear, sees blood and water flowing from it (cf. Jn 19:34). Moreover, if the blood recalls the sacrifice of the Cross and the gift of the Eucharist, the water, in Johannine symbolism, represents not only Baptism but also the gift of the Holy Spirit (cf. Jn 3:5; 4:14; 7:37-39).

And because our Lord asked Sr. Faustina to spread Him to the world as love and mercy **"Tell, My daughter, [all people] that I am Love and Mercy itself"** (Diary, 1074), we are observing it in our Church which we started the novena last Good Friday and celebrate his feast this Sunday.

As promised to Sr. Faustina, anybody who will have devotion and observe the feast of the Divine Mercy with the following conditions - to go to confession and receive communion - will be granted complete forgiveness of his/her sins.

"I want to grant a complete pardon to the souls that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion on the Feast of My mercy" (1109). "Whoever approaches the Fountain of Life on this day will be granted complete forgiveness of sins and punishment" (300). "The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion will obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment" (699).

So let us take this opportunity to receive the grace that Our Lord is offering us on this feast of Divine Mercy.



FORMED PICK OF THE WEEK

Divine Mercy

Experience the Power of God's Mercy

Join Fr. Michael Gaitley on a breathtaking journey to uncover the reality of God's merciful love as he weaves together history, Sacred Scripture, the prophetic apparitions of Fatima, and the world-changing witnesses of St. Faustina, St. Maximilian Kolbe, and Pope St. Paul II.

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PAI MI SUNDAY



The Teen Ministry participating in their service project with Howard International Ministries (HIM) Pittsburgh - Saturday, March 24th



Thank you to the many parishioners who donated new socks/soaps/toiletries for our recent Lenten service project. Donated items went to men, women and children in need. Your thoughtfulness and generosity is a great example of stewardship to us!

The Teen Ministry





Easter Egg Hunt—Saturday, March 31st—1:00 P.M.



Calendar of Events

April 7th	Baptism (Harmon)—5:15P.M.
April 8th	Religious Education Classes—9:30 - 10:40 A.M.— Security Guard - “Erik Beach” Choir Practice—9:45 - 10:45 A.M.; 11:00 A.M. Mass
April 14th/15	Donut Social—Immediately following all weekend Masses - Fellowship Hall
April 15th	Religious Education Classes—9:30 - 10:40 A.M. - Security Guard - “Erik Beach” Teen Ministry Meeting—9:25 A.M.; Choir Practice—9:45 - 10:45 A.M.; 11:00 A.M. Mass
April 22nd	Religious Education Classes—9:30 - 10:40 A.M. - Security Guard - “Trina Champagne” Choir Practice—9:45 - 10:45 A.M.; 11:00 A.M. Mass; Baptism (Kowalski)—12:15 P.M.
April 29th	Religious Education Classes (Last one for the year)—9:30 - 10:40 A.M. - Security Guard - “Trina Champagne” Choir Practice—9:45 - 10:45 A.M.; 11:00 A.M. Mass; Baptism (Korbeck)—12:15 P.M.
April 30th	Spring Card Party—6:30 P.M. - Fellowship Hall

Religious Education

Sunday, April 29th - Final class - students must attend the 11:00 A.M. Mass

Wednesday, May 2nd - Candle Service followed by 1st Holy Communion practice in church—7:00 P.M. **All children must attend.**

May 6th - 1st Holy Communion will be celebrated at the 11:00 A.M. Mass. Children to assemble in the Conference Room at 10:30.



St. Mary Cemetery - Do you like working outside? Our cemetery is in need of someone to help with the grass trimming and light labor work. One or two days a week from April to November. If you are interested, please call our caretaker, Richard Bertino, at home at 724-295-3632 or on his cell at 724-602-5986.



Our Donut and Beverage Social will be held in our Fellowship Hall next weekend immediately following all masses. Please take the time to stop in and extend a friendly hello to your fellow parishioners. They just may be new parishioners!



Christian Mother's Card Party
April 30th
6:30 to 10:00 P.M.



In your charity, please remember the soul of Marjorie “Margie” Jane Kohlmyer who recently passed away. Welcome her and all who have gone before us into the joy of everlasting life and bring comfort & peace to their families.



Diocesan Lenten Appeal

Diocesan Target - \$39,816.68

Parish Target - \$30,183.32

Combined Target - \$70,000.00

Pledges to Date - \$80,526.00

Paid to Date - \$61,598.70

Number of Donors - 254

Diocesan & Parish Targets Achieved!!!

MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR APRIL 14TH & 15TH, 2018

Altar Servers	Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Lector	Greeters	Organist	Cantor
Saturday - 4:00 P.M.					
Brandon & Zachary Bowser Lauren & Leah Clark	Stella Aul; Deb Showers Dave Valencic	Karen Savage	Sharon Mihalich	Verne Bergstrom	Jamie Phillips
Sunday—8:30 A.M.					
Evan McCrea; Eva DeMeno Sarah & Hannah Shepherd Abby Koharchik	Betty Lou Nemcek John Nemcek Lisa Boylan	Judy Bergstrom	Don & Jean Miller	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	Marushka Steele	Rose Naughton	Dave Wesolosky	Choir

Mass Intentions



FOR THE WEEK

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

- SATURDAY:** April 7th
4:00 P.M. †Ray Ravotti (John & Brenda DeMeno)
- SUNDAY:** April 8th
8:30 A.M. St. Mary Parishioners
11:00 A.M. †Evely Kline (Family)
- MONDAY:** April 9th
8:00 A.M. †Pat Pflugh (Ron & Linda Gallagher)
- TUESDAY:** April 10th
8:00 A.M. †Victor Zadnik (Wife)
- WEDNESDAY:** April 11th
8:00 A.M. Mary Kristine (Beth Macurdy)
- THURSDAY:** April 12th
8:00 A.M. †J.D. Easley Family (Estate)
- FRIDAY:** April 13th
8:00 A.M. †Alberta Hager (Mary Lou Wilson)

MASSES FOR THE 3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER

- SATURDAY:** April 14th
4:00 P.M. †Charles B. Huth (Ellen Huth & Family)
- SUNDAY:** April 15th
8:30 A.M. St. Mary Parishioners
11:00 A.M. †Jarod Bennis (Alyson Scholl)



Saturday, April 14th, 2018
Nancy Laux & Betty Lou Nemcek

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



Collections

Offertory Collection for March 25th, 2018
No. of Envelopes Mailed Out: 608
No. of Envelopes Received: 235
Collection: Offertory - \$4,378.00
Electronic Payments (16) - \$2,383.00
Candles - \$213.00; Loose - \$353.00; Children - \$44.50
Total Collection - \$7,371.50

Offertory Collection for April 1st, 2018
No. of Envelopes Mailed Out: 608
No. of Envelopes Received (Holy Thursday): 73
No. of Envelopes Received (Good Friday): 66
No. of Envelopes Received (Easter): 258
Holy Thursday Collection - \$1,162.00
Good Friday Collection - \$906.00
Collection (Easter): Offertory - \$9,458.00
Electronic Payments (16) - \$736.00
Loose - \$702.00; Children - \$41.00
Total Collection - \$13,005.00

THANK YOU!

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