



# St. Mary, Mother of God

A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg  
A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust  
Roman Catholic Church  
608 High Street ~ Freeport, PA 16229



**Established 1826**

*January 8th, 2017*  
*The Epiphany of the Lord*



**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*  
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

Jean Miller—*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.

## *From the Pastor's Desk*



For most of the world, the Solemnity of the Epiphany, which is the manifestation of Jesus Christ to the gentiles (world) as represented by the magi, is celebrated on the 12<sup>th</sup> day after Christmas. For dioceses of the United States, we celebrate the Solemnity this Sunday. The three magi, Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar, followed the star to Bethlehem to adore the new born King. They brought gifts of *gold* because the Child was a King, *frankincense* because the Child was God, and *myrrh* because the Child was destined to be a sacrifice. Since before the middle ages, Catholics would bless their houses by inscribing, with blessed chalk, the initials of the three kings above their doorways. It symbolizes the family's commitment to welcome Christ into their homes throughout the year.

The pastor normally would go through the parish neighborhoods bringing holy water and chalk in hand-blessing homes and marking the portals. But knowing how this would be hard to do for a day, the head of the family can do the blessing of their home. The father inscribes the initials and each child can mark the crosses. Mom can stand by with holy water. It is traditions like these that we build our *Roman Catholic Identity*. When we know who we are, we can more effectively share the gift with others.

### **Here is one form of an Epiphany House Blessing:**

**Leader:** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Response:** Amen

**Leader:** Peace be to this house and to all who dwell here, in the name of the Lord. **Response:** Blessed be God forever.

**Leader:** A reading from the holy gospel according to St. John. **Response:** Glory to You, O Lord

*In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be..... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth. (John 1:1-3.14)*

**Leader:** The Gospel of the Lord. **Response:** Praise to you O Lord Jesus Christ!

**Let us pray:** (*Christus Mansionem Benedicat.*) May Christ bless this house! **Response:** Amen.

**Leader:** We sign this doorway with four crosses and the numerals of the New Year:

**20 + C + M + B + 17**

**After the prayers of the blessing are recited, each room of the home is sprinkled with holy water. The year and initials of the Magi are inscribed above the doors with the blessed chalk (Casper, Melchior and Balthasar with the first two numerals of the year preceding the C and the last two numerals of the year placed after the B).**

**Leader:** Lord God of heaven and earth, you revealed your only begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless this house and all who inhabit it. May we be blessed with health, goodness of heart, gentleness and the keeping of your law. Fill us with the light of Christ that our love for each other may go out to all. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Response:** Amen.

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# From the Pastor's Desk

*(Each room of the house is sprinkled with holy water)*

## Living Room

**Leader:** You are present where two or three are gathered. Bless this room, O Lord.

**Response:** Amen

## Kitchen

**Leader:** Give us daily bread. Bless this room, O Lord. **Response:** Amen

## Dining Room

**Leader:** May we be seated at the heavenly banquet. Bless this room O Lord. **Response:** Amen

## Bedrooms

**Leader:** Protect us, stay with us through the night. Bless this room. **Response:** Amen

## Bathroom

**Leader:** You cleanse us always from sin. Bless this room. **Response:** Amen

*(All return to the living room to pray together)*

**Leader:** Let us pray as Jesus taught us: **All:** Our Father.....

*Then the leader sprinkles all present with holy water and concludes:*

**Leader:** Bless this household through all days to come, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever. **All:** Amen.

## Note: Blessing the Chalk

If you cannot obtain blessed chalk, it is permissible for the head of the household to bless chalk to be used. Here is a simple formula:

**V.** Our help is the name of the Lord. **R.** Who made heaven and earth.

Let us pray.

Bless, O Lord God, this creature chalk to render it helpful to your people. Grant that they who use it in faith and with it inscribe upon the doors of their homes the names of your saints, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar, may through their merits and intercession enjoy health of body and protection of soul.

Through Christ our Lord.

And the chalk is sprinkled with Holy Water.



## TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading** — Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! The Lord shines upon you and the glory of the Lord appears over you (Isaiah 60:1-6).

**Psalm** — Lord, every nation on earth will adore you (Psalm 72).

**Second Reading** — The Gentiles are coheirs, copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus (Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6).

**Gospel** — Magi from the east arrive looking for the newborn king of the Jews (Matthew 2:1-12).

## SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

**Sunday:** The Epiphany of the Lord; National Migration Week

**Monday:** The Baptism of the Lord

**Tuesday:** First Week in Ordinary Time begins

**Friday:** St. Hilary

**Saturday:** Blessed Virgin Mary

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

**Monday:** Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Acts 10:34-38; Ps 29:1-4, 3, 9-10; Mt 3:13-17

**Tuesday:** Heb 2:5-12; Ps 8:2ab, 5, 6-9; Mk 1:21-28 or Heb 1:1-6 and 2:5-12; Ps 8:2ab, 5, 6-9; Mk 1:14-20 & 1:21-28

**Wednesday:** Heb 2:14-18; Ps 105:1-4, 6-9; Mk 1:29-39

**Thursday:** Heb 3:7-14; Ps 95:6-11; Mk 1:40-45

**Friday:** Heb 4:1-5, 11; Ps 78:3, 4bc, 6c-8; Mk 2:1-12

**Saturday:** Heb 4:12-16; Ps 19:8-10, 15; Mk 2:13-17

**Sunday:** Is 49:3, 5-6; Ps 40:2, 4, 7-10; 1 Cor 1:1-3; Jn 1:29-34

## SELFLESSNESS REWARDED

*Help another's boat across, and lo! thine own has reached the shore.*  
—Old Hindu proverb



# Christmas—2016



## History of St. Mary's Week - 8

Our parish has produced seven priests and eighteen sisters. We are privileged to still have one living "native son" - Msgr. Thomas Klinzing, ordained in 1971. After retiring, "native son" Rev. Dominick A. DeBlasio, ordained June 16, 1940, returned to Freeport to serve the parish for many years. He passed away in November 2014 at the age of 101. As a parish family, we continue to pray for the young men and women of our congregation that they will be able to hear God's call to serve Him as priests and consecrated religious. Next to the statue of Our Lady, a paten and chalice are contained in a repository as a gift for the next young man of our parish that is ordained to the priesthood. Please pray for our youth.



## FORMED

Just use our parish code VNX4G6 at: [formed.org](http://formed.org) to register

*Suggestions for this week:*

Programs: Reborn; YDisciple: Living the Faith, Session 1: Baptism and Confirmation

Audio: Prepare the Way of the King

eBook: The Book of Saints and Heroes

## CALENDAR of Events

- January 9th** Christian Mother's Christmas Party - 6:30 P.M.  
Evolution Grille
- January 12th** RCIA - 6:30 P.M. - Christian Mother's Room
- January 15th** Teen Ministry Meeting - 9:25 A.M.  
Religious Education Classes - 9:30—10:35 A.M.  
Security Guard - "Sandi Hellgren"  
Choir Practice - 9:45—10:45 A.M.; 11:00 A.M. Mass
- January 19th** RCIA - 6:30 P.M. - Christian Mother's Room
- January 22nd** Religious Education Classes—9:30 - 10:35 A.M.  
Security Guard "Sandi Hellgren"  
Choir Practice—9:30 - 10:45 A.M.; 11:00 A.M. Mass
- January 26th** RCIA - 6:30 P.M. - Christian Mother's Room
- January 29th** Religious Education Classes—9:30 - 10:35 A.M.  
Security Guard "Sandi Hellgren"  
Choir Practice—9:30 - 10:45 A.M.; 11:00 A.M. Mass



## Mardi Gras Wine Tasting Festival -

Saturday, February 25th, 2017, 6:00—10:00 P.M., in our Fellowship Hall. Tickets are \$30.00 each and includes wine tasting and a lite fare. Call

Bridget at 724-294-0089, Marianne at 724-295-9568 or Jeff at 724-596-0503 for tickets. Event sponsored by our Parish Council. Proceeds benefit our Fellowship Hall Sound System.



The Office of Catholic Schools and The Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of Greensburg are seeking nominations for Golden Apple Excellence in Teaching Awards. Teachers and principals from diocesan Catholic schools are eligible. The awards will be presented to three people at a Celebration of Catholic Schools Breakfast March 9th, 2017, at 8:00 A.M., at the Greensburg Country Club. The honorees will receive a \$5,000.00 cash award. Innovation Grants will also be awarded to accelerate and advance learning in the classroom. The nominations for the Golden Apple Awards are due by January 20th. For nomination materials and more information, including sponsorship opportunities, visit: [www.dioceseofgreensburg.org/celebration](http://www.dioceseofgreensburg.org/celebration) or contact Mallory Reese at: [mreese@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:mreese@dioceseofgreensburg.org) or call 724-552-2593.

# MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY 7TH & 8TH, 2017

*Altar Servers*

*Extraordinary  
Ministers  
Of Holy Communion*

*Lector*

*Organist*

*Cantor*

**Saturday - 4:00 P.M.**

Brandon Bowser  
Zachary Bowser  
Kennedi Clark

Andrea Camerlo  
Fred Walker  
Dave Valencic

Dave Brestensky

Verne Bergstrom

Alex Smith

**Sunday - 8:30 A.M.**

Samuel & Jacob Kristine  
Ali Brestensky; Akina Boynton  
Hadley Hellgren

Laura Huth  
Pat Ralston  
Kim Holbein

John Nemcek

Tom Koharchik

Tom Koharchik

**Sunday - 11:00 A.M.**

Celeste Beacom  
Victor Svitek; Evan Giori  
Jacob & Erin Schaeffer

Andre Volek  
Debbie Baustert  
Melissa Schaeffer

Rob Svitek

Dave Wesolosky

Choir



**MASSES FOR THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

<b>SATURDAY:</b> 4:00 P.M.	<b>January 7th</b> ✠ Deceased Members of the DeBlasio Family (Betty Labiaux)
<b>SUNDAY:</b> 8:30 A.M. 11:00 A.M.	<b>January 8th</b> St. Mary Parishioners ✠ Rev. Henry A. Szarnicki (Dr. & Mrs. William Balash and Family)
<b>MONDAY:</b> 8:00 A.M.	<b>January 9th</b> ✠ Charles Ziga (The Policicchio's)
<b>TUESDAY:</b> 8:00 A.M.	<b>January 10th</b> ✠ Elva Berry (Family)
<b>WEDNESDAY:</b> 8:00 A.M.	<b>January 11th</b> ✠ Erma McCulloch (Marc & Diana Mantini)
<b>THURSDAY:</b> 8:00 A.M.	<b>January 12th</b> ✠ Helen Murphy (Mary Jo, Donna, Marion & Margie)
<b>FRIDAY:</b> 8:00 A.M.	<b>January 13th</b> ✠ Kenneth Hughes (Patty & Family)

**MASSES FOR THE 2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

<b>SATURDAY:</b> 4:00 P.M.	<b>January 14th</b> ✠ Grace V. Neff (Ron & Linda Gallagher)
<b>SUNDAY:</b> 8:30 A.M. 11:00 A.M.	<b>January 15th</b> ✠ Frank Hager (Dick & Mary Bertino and Ed & Jeannie Lepkowski) St. Mary Parishioners



The Altar Bread and Wine  
for this week  
is presented by  
**THE SHIPE FAMILY**



In acknowledging the Real Presence of Christ,  
The Sanctuary Lamp (Candle) will burn this week in  
loving memory of  
**LUSCKAY & BACHAR FAMILIES**  
By  
**Jeff & Dori Bachar**

**Collections**

**Offertory Collection for December 25th, 2016**

No. of Envelopes Mailed Out: 591  
No. of Envelopes Received: 213  
Collection: Offertory - \$5,451.00  
Loose - \$196.00  
Children - \$21.50

Christmas Collection - \$10,579.10

Children & Family Services Collection - \$1,612.00

**Offertory Collection for January 1st, 2017**

No. of Envelopes Mailed Out: 591

No. of Envelopes Received: 197

Collection: Offertory - \$5,704.00

Loose - \$330.00

Children - \$26.00

Catholic Accent - \$294.50

Solemnity of Mary - \$1,228.00

Loose - \$101.00

Additional Christmas Collection - \$2,920.00

Additional Children & Family Services Collection - \$51.00

**THANK YOU!**



Saturday, January 14th, 2017  
**Judy Policicchio and Joanne Colpo**




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