

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

February 25th, 2018



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



Being away from the parish for several weeks, I missed celebrating mass with you and other parish events like the Mardi Gras, which I learned was another success this year with an additional feature to the silent auction—the pastor will cook for the winner and his/her family. That made me nervous! But I will try to make the winner happy and schedule it at their convenience.

I thank the members of the pastoral council and volunteers for making this event a success. On the other hand, I also thank the parish staff for taking care of the parish while I was away, the priests who covered for the masses, confessions, and other pastoral duties in my absence, and the extra ordinary ministers of holy communion who did communion services. Thank you!

My vacation was good in a sense that I was able to accomplish what I intended to do. I performed the baptism for my two nephews and the wedding for my brother. I visited my diocese. No bishop has been assigned yet since the move of my former bishop to a larger diocese and becoming an archbishop of the Archdiocese of Lipa. I then talked with our Diocesan Administrator and shared with him my intention of extending my stay and possible incardination in the Diocese of Greensburg since my five year contract has been completed and supposedly to go back to my diocese. He gave me permission.

Now that I have returned, I need to catch up with everything in the parish including all the upcoming events. During this season of Lent, our mass on Wednesday will be celebrated at 7:00 P.M. to provide an opportunity for working people to attend mass. Stations of the Cross will still be said Friday evenings at 7:00 P.M. with adoration of the Blessed Sacrament an hour before the Stations. The Lenten Series, sponsored by the Ministerium of Freeport, began last Thursday and will continue every Thursday at 12:00 Noon until March 22nd. I am scheduled to speak at the United Presbyterian Church on March 1st. Last Sunday, we also started the series called *Alteration: The Mystery of the Mass Revealed*, from 9:30 -10:40 A.M. The sessions are scheduled for three consecutive Sundays, beginning at the same time.

With all these events, I invite you to join and participate. These are opportunities where we can spend our season of Lent in a more spiritual and meaningful way to become attune to God and listen to Him more. This will be our break from our usual week as we continue our observance of the Lenten Season.



We have been on a journey to discover the mystery of the Mass and our role in bringing the graces we have received in the Eucharist to a needy world. In the last session of *Alteration: The Mystery of the Mass Revealed*, we are going to take a closer look at the actual parts of the Mass. Fr. Mike Schmitz will walk us through the deeper meaning behind the words and actions we have witnessed thousands of times. Join us for the last session of *Alteration* on March 4th, from 9:30 – 10:40 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Attendance of the two previous sessions is not required. All teens (grades 7th – 12th) and adults are encouraged to come.

Dynamic Catholic Best Lent Ever

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A free email program that will guide you on an incredible 40-day journey to become the-best-version-of-yourself, making this a truly life-changing Lent. Beginning Ash Wednesday (February 14th), you'll receive daily emails with short inspirational videos from Matthew Kelly, practical tips to incorporate into your everyday life, and personal stories from Dynamic Catholic team members. Our lives change when our habits change. Your 40 days of Lent will be an incredibly transformative experience because you've learned simple yet powerful ways to become the person God created you to be. Sign up at DynamicCatholic.com/40Days.

+ Ash Wednesday



Calendar of Events

February 25th

Religious Education Classes—9:30 - 10:40 A.M.— Security Guard - “Joe Sutara”
 Altaration: *The Mystery of the Mass Revealed*—9:30 - 10:40 A.M.
 Choir Practice—9:45 - 10:45 A.M.; 11:00 A.M. Mass
 Evening Mass—7:00 P.M.

February 28th

March 1st

March 2nd

March 4th

Soup and Sandwich—12:00 Noon—United Presbyterian Church—Speaker will be Fr. Ron
 First Friday; Stations of the Cross—7:00 P.M.

Religious Education Classes—9:30 - 10:40 A.M.— Security Guard - “Chris Kapinskis”

Altaration: *The Mystery of the Mass Revealed*—9:30 - 10:40 A.M.

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.

Evening Mass—7:00 P.M.

March 5th

March 7th

March 8th

March 9th

March 10th/11th

March 11th

Soup and Sandwich—12:00 Noon—St. Mary to host

Stations of the Cross—7:00 P.M.

Donut Social

Religious Education Classes—9:30 - 10:40 A.M.— Security Guard - “Chris Kapinskis”

Choir Practice—9:45 - 10:45 A.M.; 11:00 A.M. Mass; Popcorn Orders due



First Friday Adoration will be March 2nd, beginning at 8:45 A.M. Sign-up sheets are located at the church entrances and two people should be represented for each half hour. Please join us as we adore our Lord, Jesus!



This weekend is Education Weekend, and we heard at all Masses about the importance of participating in this year’s Appeal. Please remember that next weekend is Commitment Weekend. If you haven’t spent time reviewing the request that you received in the mail from Bishop Malesic, please take a few minutes this week to do so.



Diocesan Lenten Appeal

Diocesan Target - \$39,816.68
 Parish Target - \$70,816.68
 Pledges to Date - \$10,600.00
 Number of Donors - 10

Lenten Penance Service

Regional Lenten Penance Services Schedule - This schedule is in addition to our regular confession schedule which is 3:00 to 3:45 P.M. on Saturdays. Following is the Regional Penance Schedule:

- Saturday, March 10th - St. Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Kittanning - 12:00 Noon
- Monday, March 19th - St. Mary, Yatesboro - 7:00 P.M.
- Tuesday, March 20th - St. Lawrence, Cadogan - 7:00 P.M.
- Saturday, March 24th - Christ, Prince of Peace, Ford City - 12:00 Noon
- Monday, March 26th - St. Mary, Mother of God, Freeport - 7:00 P.M.



Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast
 Freeport Methodist Church
 Saturday, March 3rd
 8:00 to 11:00 A.M.
 \$7.00/person

POP CORN
Fundraiser

The Teen Ministry is selling popcorn (Pittsburgh Popcorn Company) beginning this weekend (February 24th-25th). Order forms are located at all the church entrances. **All orders are due March 11th.** The teens appreciate your support!

Baptism Preparation

The next class scheduled for this year will be held **Thursday, March 1st.** Please call Mark or Melissa at 724-230-4450 or the Administrative Office at 724-295-2281 to register.



You are invited to learn more about **Butler Catholic School** at their upcoming Open House on Sunday, March 4th, 1:00 to 3:00 P.M. You will receive a personalized tour of the school, talk with teachers, get to know the current students and families, and meet school Principal Sister John Ann. Visit them and discover the difference a Catholic education can make in the life of your child! Butler Catholic is an excellent choice for your child’s education offering small class sizes; allowing for individual attention from committed, caring teachers; a comprehensive Preschool through 8th grade education in one building; an environment permeated by faith and Gospel values. **Tuition assistance available!**

I AM

A Community Lenten Journey

The Freeport Ministerium invites you to join them for the 2018 Lenten Series “I AM”. Thursdays during Lent, area churches will host a light luncheon at noon (a freewill offering will be taken). Pastors will offer a short message during our time together. All our welcome!

March 1	Father Ron Maquinana <i>(St. Mary's Catholic Church)</i>	United Presbyterian
March 8	Pastor Raphael Koikoi <i>(Freeport United Methodist Church)</i>	St. Mary's
March 15	Pastor Mike Harvey <i>(Harvest Community Church Freeport Campus)</i>	Freeport UMC
March 22	Rev. Derrick Lumsden <i>(Sower's Chapel)</i>	Trinity Lutheran

Homeschool Families

The **Office for Evangelization and Faith Formation** invites homeschool families from the diocese to an evening of prayer, faith, spirituality and fun with Bishop Malesic at St. Paul Parish, Greensburg, March 9th from 6:00-9:00 P.M. The evening will include Stations of the Cross, Mass, and a pot luck dinner and reception with Bishop Malesic. For more information and to register, please visit: www.dioceseofgreensburg.org. The registration deadline is February 28th.

LOVE One Another With GREAT LOVE



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20
LENT
APPEAL

The Diocese
of Greensburg

CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Catholic Charities brings comfort and compassion to those in spiritual and emotional need. Recently, it has made a concerted effort to help those who are struggling due to the opioid crisis.

"I lost my sister to the opioid crisis, it means a lot to me personally to feel supported by the Diocese. Every gift to the Diocese goes toward a mission of loving people, of doing things for other people."

John D. Niemiec, Director of Evangelization, Catholic Community of Connellsville

"Accepting people for who they are, even in the midst of their addiction, in the midst of their struggles, that's an act of love. From our perspective, God accepts all of us."

John D. Niemiec, Director of Counseling, Catholic Charities

Education Weekend

February 24-25, 2018

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MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR MARCH 3RD & 4TH, 2018

<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	Karen Savage	Dave & Lois Posney	Verne Bergstrom	Jamie Phillips
Sunday—8:30 A.M.					
Evan McCrea; Eva DeMeno Sarah & Hannah Shepherd Abby Koharchik	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	Helen James Andre Volek Bill Cogley	Marushka Steele	Rose Naughton	Dave Wesolosky	Choir

Mass Intentions

FOR THE WEEK

MASSES FOR THE 2ND SUNDAY OF LENT

SATURDAY: 4:00 P.M.	February 24th ✦Richard L. Bayne (Tim & Bridget Fogarty)
SUNDAY: 8:30 A.M. 11:00 A.M.	February 25th St. Mary Parishioners ✦Frank & Agnes Shuster (Dan & Barb Coyle)
MONDAY: 8:00 A.M.	February 26th ✦Mary Ann Laux (Patty Hughes & Family)
TUESDAY: 8:00 A.M.	February 27th Walter & Hannah Konkle (Bill & Mary Fullerton)
WEDNESDAY: 7:00 P.M.	February 28th ✦Robert Hoffman (Joe & Vickie Hoffman)
THURSDAY: 8:00 A.M.	March 1st ✦Alma Ebig (Bob & Judy Bergstrom)
FRIDAY: 8:00 A.M. 7:00 P.M.	March 2nd ✦John & Betty Bartosiewicz (Gary & Chris Miller & Family) Stations of the Cross

MASSES FOR THE 3RD SUNDAY OF LENT

SATURDAY: 4:00 P.M.	March 3rd ✦Philip Bordonaro (Betty Labiaux)
SUNDAY: 8:30 A.M. 11:00 A.M.	March 4th St. Mary Parishioners ✦Janice Rakowski [80th Birthday] (Family)

The Altar Bread and Wine
were donated for this week
in loving memory of
EDWARD & HELEN KENGOR
By
Gary & Arlene Miller

In acknowledging the Real Presence of Christ,
The Sanctuary Lamp (Candle) will burn this week in
loving memory of
CLYDE & ANGIE FULLERTON
By
Bill & Mary Fullerton

Offertory Collection for February 18th, 2018
No. of Envelopes Mailed Out: 602
No. of Envelopes Received: 209
Collection: Offertory - \$5,377.00
Electronic Payments (17) - \$1,083.00
Loose - \$282.00; Children - \$28.50; Ash Wednesday - \$1,075.00
Catholic Home Missions - \$709.75
Total Collection - \$8,555.25
THANK YOU!

Saturday, March 3rd, 2018
Donna Smith and Deb Showers

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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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