

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

September 9th, 2018

23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

MARK

7:31-37



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 Office 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 Office at 724-295-2281.

MISSION STATEMENT—*St. Mary's is a caring and welcoming family committed to building and strengthening a community of God, reaching out as disciples of Jesus Christ to Freeport and beyond.*

From the Pastor's Desk



September 8th is known as the Feast of the Birth of Our Blessed Virgin Mary and is being observed by the Catholic Church in many parts of the world. But for us, as a parish, September 8th is not only the Feast of the Birth of Our Blessed Virgin Mary, but also our parish day. It is our parish day in a sense that when our church was built in 1826 under the first pastor, Rev. Patrick O'Neil, it was dedicated on September 8th, 1831 by Bishop Kenrick on his first visit to Freeport.

Although in 1954, the church was remodeled and Bishop William Connare rededicated it to another title of the Blessed Virgin Mary to avoid confusion with other parishes in the Diocese of Greensburg. Thus, the new name was given to the parish as St. Mary, Mother of God whose solemnity we observe every January 1st. Prior to 1954, St. Mary parish belonged to the Diocese of Pittsburgh until March 10th, 1951 when the Diocese of Greensburg was established.

Anyway, we may go through some changes in our parish, but I think it is always good to remember our humble beginnings because that is where we started. Had it not been for our ancestors, we would not have our parish today.

That is why we choose to celebrate our parish family day by having a picnic with a mass celebrated outside the parish on a Sunday close to September 8th, to remember our foundation and let the younger generation know about it.

This year we are celebrating the 192nd year of our parish existence. I have to say that in spite of our being an old church, we still grow with younger families and we care for everybody.

We remain active and vibrant because of your continuous support and your generosity in your time, talent and treasure.

We thank God for our 192nd fruitful parish existence and ask that He may continue to bless us through the intercession of Our Blessed Mother, our parish patroness.

St. Mary Mother of God, pray for us!



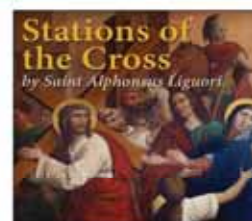
FORMED PICK OF THE WEEK

Stations of the Cross

Walk with Christ in His Last Hours

The Augustine Institute presents a beautiful meditation on the Stations of the Cross. Ponder the greatest act of love this world has seen with this audio devotion at home or on the go.

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Baptized in Christ



Congratulations to the proud parents, Michael and Hedy Mills, on the baptism of their son, Andrew Michael. He is a child of God, heir to the Kingdom!



Calendar of Events

- September 9th Parish Appreciation Picnic at Renshaw Farm—11:00 A.M. - Outside Mass
 September 10th Christian Mothers Meeting—7:00 P.M. - Christian Mother's Room
 September 16th First Day of Religious Education Classes—9:30 - 10:40 A.M.; Choir Practice—9:45 - 10:45 A.M.; 11:00 A.M. Mass
 Catechetical Sunday
 September 23rd Religious Education Classes—9:30 - 10:40 A.M.; Choir Practice—9:45 - 10:45 A.M.; 11:00 A.M. Mass
 September 29th Wedding—McDermott/Himes—1:30 P.M.



Do you have a prayer request or intention? Would you like to join St. Mary's group that prays for these requests? If so, please contact Barb Coyle at 724-295-2607 or email her at: coyle@zoominternet.net. She will email or phone you with the prayer requests each week as they are received. Prayer intentions may be entered in the green binder in the back of church. You may also request them online at: <http://www.stmaryfreeport.com/prayer-request>.



St. Mary Cemetery - All flowers and flags will be removed by cemetery personnel on October 1st. If arrangements, flowers or flags are wanted, the owners must remove them prior to September 30th.



Religious Education classes will be held this year on Sundays, beginning September 16th through May 5th. Classes will take place from 9:30 to 10:40 A.M.

This time frame will allow children to participate at Mass with their families (either at the 8:30 or 11:00 A.M. Mass) in order to apply and reinforce the faith formation they are experiencing during the Religious Education classes. Although parents are the first teachers of the faith, it is important for children to learn about their faith with their peers by attending these classes. If you have a child that will be attending pre-school or kindergarten this September or if there is anyone that has recently joined our parish and has to pre-register their children for Religious Education classes (Pre-School thru 8th grade), please call Helen James, Director of Religious Education, at 724-295-4758. If your child attended our Religious Education program last year (1st thru 8th grade only), there is no need to re-register this year! **Those who attended pre-school or kindergarten last year must re-register again this year!**



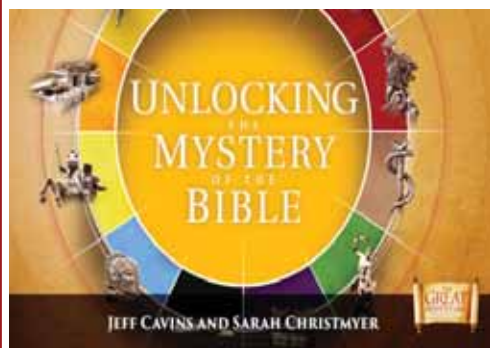
The Christian Mother's monthly meetings will resume this month. The meeting for September will be held on Monday, September 10th, at 7:00 P.M., in the Christian Mother's Room. All members are encouraged to attend. The rosary will be recited at 6:30 P.M.



The family of Lillian and Geno Pernazza would like to thank all the parish members and friends for attending their reception on Sunday. They appreciate all the kind words and congratulatory wishes relayed to their parents. They enjoyed speaking and meeting with all of you. The family would also like to thank you for the many cards they received throughout the week. A special thank you to Father Ron for his beautiful blessing. Lillian and Geno will always remember this special day and the kindness of our church members.



The Freeport Renaissance Association is in need of volunteers to help with their fall festival, *September by the River*. If you could spare two-three hours on Saturday, September 15th or Sunday, September 16th, would you please call Sue Hunter at 724-295-2041. Thank you!



Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible!

If you would like to have a deeper relationship with God and a better understanding of your faith, then join us for *Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible*. You will not only benefit personally from being part of this study; you will also help to bring about a profound renewal in our parish as we grow closer to Christ. St. Mary's will begin *Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible* on Wednesday, September 26th at 6:30 P.M. in the Fellowship Hall. The eight week study will run through November 14th. For additional information or to register, visit: <https://stmaryfreeport.com/unlockingbible>; contact Beth Macurdy at 724-295-9411; email: bmacurdy@ufcw.org. **Registration forms are also available at all the church entrances.** *Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible* helps you uncover the story woven through Scripture with its clever narrative

approach and ingenious color-coded Bible Timeline. It is a great way to get the "big picture" of the Bible and see how our Catholic Faith is rooted in Scripture. You'll see how the Bible reveals God's loving plan for your life, and you will learn helpful ways to put your faith into practice. The study includes a series of eight informative and engaging videos presented by Jeff Cavins. Each video will be followed by a lively group discussion. There is a \$20 fee to cover the cost of the study materials. You will receive a color-coded Bible Timeline Chart, a Bible study workbook, and the ability to stream the study videos online at your convenience.

PILGRIM PRAYERS

Under the spiritual direction of Bishop Edward C. Malesic and led by Father William J. Lechnar, pilgrims from the Diocese of Greensburg will make a pilgrimage to the Holy Land October 1st-11th. You are invited to submit confidential prayer intentions, which will be carried to and remembered at each holy site the group visits. Visit: www.dioceseofgreensburg.org/holyland to register your request via the diocesan extranet; or email your requests to: pilgrimprayers@dioceseofgreensburg.org or mail your requests to Diocese of Greensburg, 723 East Pittsburgh St., Greensburg, PA 15601, Attention: Pilgrim Prayers. *Pilgrimage prayer intentions being accepted until September 25th.*



Always God's Children, a ministry to LGBT people and their families, will be held September 13th at 7:00 P.M. at Saint Vincent Grove in Latrobe. For more information, please contact Alecia Moss at: leashmo@hotmail.com or 724-433-1857.



Blessed Sacrament Cathedral, Greensburg, will host an organ recital with J. Christopher Pardini September 16th at 3:00 P.M. Pardini is the diocesan organist and director of music and liturgy at the cathedral parish.



Scouts in grades 5-12 are invited to the 2018 Retreatoree "Many Vocations — One Call to Holiness" at Camp Conestoga, Bakersville, September 28th-30th. A day session will be held for Cub Scouts and Brownies in grades 1-4 on September 29th from 10:30 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. Register at: www.dioceseofgreensburg.org/retreatoree.

**Knights of Columbus #2602
Pancake & Sausage Breakfast
Sunday, September 16th
9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.
at the council home
28 Garfield Street, Natrona
\$6.00/Adults
\$3.00/Children under 6**

Join Us for a Retreat with

~ **Matthew Leonard** ~

**Saturday, September 22
8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

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Conversion Story, Pray Like a Saint, Spiritual GPS

The day will begin with Mass at 8:00 a.m., the retreat will follow from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in St. Mary Parish Hall, Kittanning. Free admission with a complimentary continental breakfast & light lunch.

Presented by Region Four Catholic Men's Fellowship & Sponsored by St. Vincent DePaul Thrift Store, Kittanning and the Knights of Columbus, Council #1011

Retreat is open to all! Bring your family and friends!

Please help us plan ~ Pre-registration requested.

- Email jgaggini@dioceseofgreensburg.org Call or text 724-954-6853 and leave name and number of people attending.
- Call St. Mary Parish Office, Kittanning at 724-548-7649.
- Or fill out the Retreat Registration below & return it via the collection basket or mail by Monday, September 17:

Name: _____ Number attending: _____

MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR SEPTEMBER 15TH & 16TH, 2018

Altar Servers	Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Lector	Greeters	Organist	Cantor
Saturday - 4:00 P.M.					
Bill Girardi; Zach Showers Madison & Dawson Gaillot	David Brestensky Andrea Camerlo; Fred Walker	Karen Savage	Arlene Miller Gary Miller	Diane Pleva	Alex Smith
Sunday—8:30 A.M.					
Breanna, Olivia, Ryan Sutara Katie Huth & Mary Huth Nicolette Zollinger	Kim Holbein Cindy Harbison Rose Check	Annette Domachowski	Karen Nigra	Tom Koharchik	Tom Koharchik
Sunday—11:00 A.M.					
Marie Pelliccione; EvanGiori Mason DeMeno; Paige Liti	Dan Lucovich; Patty Hughes Marushka Steele	Bill Cogley	Karen Fennell	Dave Wesolosky	Choir

Mass Intentions

<u>MASSES FOR THE 23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</u>	
SATURDAY: 4:00 P.M.	September 8th ✦ Anita Rosato (Family)
SUNDAY: 8:30 A.M. 11:00 A.M.	September 9th ✦ Ray Ravotti (Bob & Diane Grant) St. Mary Parishioners
MONDAY: 8:00 A.M.	September 10th ✦ J.D. Easley Family (Estate)
TUESDAY: 8:00 A.M.	September 11th COMMUNION SERVICE (Fr. Ron will take the mass intention for Ann & Ben Kort [Kort Kids] with him)
WEDNESDAY: 8:00 A.M.	September 12th COMMUNION SERVICE (Fr. Ron will take the mass intention for Edna Barr Lillian & Geno Pernazza] with him)
THURSDAY: 8:00 A.M.	September 13th COMMUNION SERVICE (Fr. Ron will take the mass intention for Maurice Heinritz Family [Estate] with him)
FRIDAY: 8:00 A.M.	September 14th COMMUNION SERVICE (Fr. Ron will take the mass intention for Ken Hughes [Ravotti Family] with him)
<u>MASSES FOR THE 24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</u>	
SATURDAY: 4:00 P.M.	September 15th ✦ Alberta Hager (Bernadette Stewart)
SUNDAY: 8:30 A.M. 11:00 A.M.	September 16th St. Mary Parishioners ✦ Mary Flora Trettel (Family)

The Altar Bread and Wine were donated for this week in loving memory of **WILLIAM & WANDA GLATH**
By **Doug and Mary Scholl**

In acknowledging the Real Presence of Christ, The Sanctuary Lamp (Candle) will burn this week in loving memory of **DAVE SINGER**
By **Bill and Doree Rossey & Family**

Collections

Offertory Collection for September 2nd, 2018

No. of Envelopes Mailed Out: 610
No. of Envelopes Received: 176
Collection: Offertory - \$4,953.43
Electronic Payments (22) - \$641.00
Loose - \$244.00; Children - \$15.00; Feast of the Assumption - \$25.00
Combined Catholic University/Schools - \$30.00
Total Collection - \$5,908.43

THANK YOU!

Saturday, September 15th, 2018
Nancy Laux and Betty Lou Nemcek

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