

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 16th, 2018

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

MARK

8:27-35



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



This Sunday we celebrate *Catechetical Sunday* with the theme of “Enlisting Witnesses for Jesus Christ”. This celebration highlights the importance of catechesis and the role of each one of us by virtue of baptism in handing on the faith and being a witness to our faith, especially in our time.

According to a pew research, there is an increasing number of people who belong to the “none” group, meaning the group where they do not have any religious affiliation at all. We also heard some observations where parents are saddened that their children stop practicing their faith, if not leaving the church after preparing for and celebrating the sacraments of initiation - Baptism, First Communion and Confirmation.

We ask, why is this so? Why are they moving away from the life in Christ and His Body the Church? Who is to blame? The Church? The parents? Or it is just becoming a social trend influenced by worldly values and social media that the Church or teachings of the Church are no longer relevant in their personal lives?

I think to answer that question and observation, we need to go back to the basics. How did we act with our role in imparting our faith? Did we really do our part seriously, especially in their formational stage? Were we there, accompanying and helping them in understanding the faith?

It is said that the parents are truly the primary catechists of their children. They prepare the soil and plant the first seeds of the faith. The Church and the catechists or religious education teachers continue to nourish and mold them so they will have a strong foundation of faith. If all have done their part, then nobody will belong to the “none group” nor to those who step away from the Church because they were given a solid and strong foundation of faith.

And therefore, this Sunday is a wonderful opportunity to reflect, to renew and rededicate ourselves to the mission of sharing, teaching and giving witness to our faith.

I also would like to take this opportunity to introduce to you our new/updated parish mission statement that you probably have already seen in the past two issues on the front page of our weekly bulletin. It is a collective effort of our parish leadership team after reflecting on our parish journey.

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.

As everybody feels, especially the new members of our parish family, they joined the parish because they experienced a caring and welcoming family. We want to perpetuate these traits and make it as our trademark in our parish. But we don't want to end only in that aspect. We also want to commit to building and strengthening the relationship because in a family, it is very important that we know each other. And if we know each other, we can readily help and support one another. That is actually what Jesus did in His entire ministry. He let the people feel as though they were part of His family, especially the poor, the sick, the widowed and the orphans; until He formed His disciples, who then continued His mission. That is also what we want to happen in our parish - to form a disciple of Jesus Christ, ready to share, to reach out and give witness to our community and beyond.



September 16, 2018
Catechetical Sunday
Enlisting Witnesses for Jesus Christ



FORMED PICK OF THE WEEK

Truth and Life Audio Bible The Gospel of Matthew

Hear the Gospel Come Alive

You'll feel truly present at the events of the earthly life of Jesus with this dramatized audio version of the Gospel of Matthew. This presentation will move the Good News of the Incarnate Lord from your head to your heart.

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

Parish Council members busy calling all the families that registered to attend our Parish Appreciation Picnic that was scheduled for September 9th. Because of heavy rain, the picnic was cancelled and has been rescheduled for Sunday, October 14th!



RESCHEDULED

ST. MARY, MOTHER OF GOD
PARISH APPRECIATION PICNIC
OKTOBERFEST

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14TH—12:00 Noon-4:00 P.M.
 CHURCH GOUNDS




Pig and Chicken Roast





MENU

Hot Dogs & Sauerkraut
 Macaroni Salad
 Cole Slaw
 Baked Beans
 Corn on the Cob
 Desserts
 Watermelon
 Beverages
 (coffee/tea/soft drinks)





Picnic Games



We ask each family attending the picnic to bring a dessert and/or snacks. Thank you!



**Sign-up sheets are available at all of the church entrances.
 You must sign-up by Sunday, October 7th!**

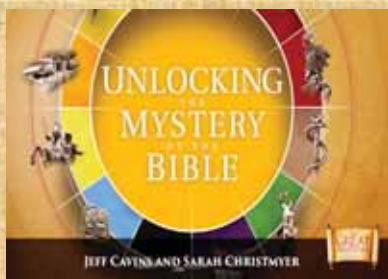
St. Mary Cemetery - All flowers and flags will be removed by cemetery personnel on October 1st. If arrangements, flowers or flags are wanted, the owners must remove them prior to September 30th.

Flea Market - St. Margaret Mary Church will host a Flea Market on Thursday, September 20th and Friday, September 21st, from 8:30 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. and on Saturday, September 22nd from 9:00 to 11:00 A.M. at the Parish Center, 3055 Leechburg Road, Lower Burrell. Great selection of items including furniture! Delicious food and beverages will also be available. Call 724-335-2336 for additional information. All proceeds benefit the St. Margaret Mary Food Bank.

Calendar of Events

- 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*
- 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.*
- September 30th *Religious Education Classes—9:30 - 10:40 A.M.; Choir Practice—9:45 - 10:45 A.M.; 11:00 A.M. Mass*
- October 1st *Christian Mother's Meeting—7:00 P.M. - Christian Mother's Room*
- October 5th *First Friday Adoration—6:30 P.M. - Benediction*

Confirmation Retreat



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. Visit: <https://stmaryfreeport.com/> or contact Beth Macurdy at 724-295-9411; email: bmacurdy@ufcw.org for additional information or to register. **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.



Challenging Young Catholics to Love Christ
and Embrace the Life of the Church

NET Ministries retreats, which invites

young people to live for Christ, will be held at four locations in the diocese this month: for grades 6-8, from 4:30-9:00 P.M., September 23rd at St. Bernard of Clairvaux Parish, Indiana; 5:00 -10:00 P.M., September 24th at St. John the Baptist Parish, Perryopolis; September 28th at St. John Baptist de La Salle Parish, Delmont; for grades 9-1, September 29th-30th, from 1:00 P.M. Saturday to 1:00 P.M. Sunday at Mother of Sorrows Parish, Murrysville. Registration is \$15.00; \$40.00 for the overnight event. Register at: www.dioceseofgreensburg.org/NET.



THE MELCHIZEDEK PROJECT

The Melchizedek Project evenings for young adults to discern a vocation to the priesthood will be held

September 23rd, October 7th and 28th, November 11th and 25th and December 9th at 6:30 P.M. in the rectory at Holy Family Parish, Latrobe. Contact Father Daniel Mahoney at: dmahoney@dioceseofgreensburg.org to register. The Melchizedek Project days for young men in grades 9th-12th will be held at Greensburg Central Catholic Junior-Senior High School from 6:30-8:00 P.M. October 14th, November 18th, December 9th, February 17th, March 10th, April 14th and May 12th. Contact: vocations@dioceseofgreensburg.org to register.



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 PHONE 724-295-2281 • FAX 724-295-3090
 EMAIL thechurch@stmaryfreeport.com



Father Dom's Prayer Garden was started in 2017 and is managed by the Christian Mothers. We currently have cement rosary stones laid in the garden. We would like to replace them with colored granite stones. These granite stones can be sponsored and engraved In Memory Of, In Honor Of or Presented By...

The pricing, including inscription, would be:

- 1 - Glory Be\$500
- 6 - Our Fathers\$400 each
- 53 - Hail Marys...\$300 each

The Christian Mothers are paying to have the garden professionally landscaped with more trees and plants.

The Christian Mothers are also buying a new sign that will hang over the new brick sidewalk that will be installed.



The Parish is paying to install a new brick walkway from the Market St. entrance to the rosary. The bricks hopefully will be in the shape of our church steeple, starting at 6 feet at the street going to 2 feet at the top. Our intention is to have the walk end at the cross of the rosary so it will look like the cross on top of the steeple. The bricks will be buff color in the middle and red on the outside.

The bricks will also be sold for inscription for \$150 each.

For information or to order contact: Judy Bergstrom @ 724-316-5352

Note: All orders accepted on a first come / first served basis

Order/Request Form

Name: _____ Address: _____
 Telephone: _____ eMail: _____

I would like to purchase _____

Rosary Granite Stone _____ @ _____
 _____ In Memory of _____ In Honor of _____
 Presented By _____

Walkway Bricks _____ @ _____
 _____ In Memory of _____ In Honor of _____
 _____ In Memory of _____ In Honor of _____
 Presented By _____

MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR SEPTEMBER 22nd & 23RD, 2018

Altar Servers	Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Lector	Greeters	Organist	Cantor
Saturday - 4:00 P.M.					
Fred Walker; Zach Showers Lauren & Leah Clark	Stella Aul, Deb Showers Dave Valencic	Tim Fogarty	Jim Talotta Diana Talotta	Diane Pleva	Alex Smith
Sunday—8:30 A.M.					
Samuel & Jacob Kristine David Kristine Ali & Ben Brestensky	Carol Carson Judy Bergstrom John Nemcek	Lisa Boylan	Carol Carson Dave Kradel	Tom Koharchik	Tom Koharchik
Sunday—11:00 A.M.					
Celeste Beacom Jacob & Erin Schaeffer Victor & Olivia Svitek	Lisa Isenberg Debbie Baustert Melissa Schaeffer	Pat Westerman	Jenn Liti	Dave Wesolosky	Choir


Mass Intentions

MASSES FOR THE 24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME


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 ✦ Flora Trettel (Family)
MONDAY: 8:00 A.M.	September 17th ✦ Joe & Mary Ellen Hrivnak (Gary & Chris Miller & Family)
TUESDAY: 8:00 A.M.	September 18th ✦ Andrew Sliwiak (Kymer Family)
WEDNESDAY: 8:00 A.M.	September 19th ✦ Robert Hoffman (Ed & Jeannie Lepkowski)
THURSDAY: 8:00 A.M.	September 20th ✦ Berness Cribbs
FRIDAY: 8:00 A.M.	September 21st ✦ Paul Huth (Parents - Jim & Mary Huth)

MASSES FOR THE 25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SATURDAY: 4:00 P.M.	September 22nd ✦ Jim Ebig (Maryellyn & Bill Bale)
SUNDAY: 8:30 A.M. 11:00 A.M.	September 23rd ✦ Tony Ranieri (Dave & Cleatus Burk) St. Mary Parishioners



The Altar Bread and Wine were donated for this week in honor of
GENO PERNAZZA'S 92ND BIRTHDAY
By
Children & Grandchildren



In acknowledging the Real Presence of Christ, The Sanctuary Lamp (Candle) will burn this week in loving memory of
MR. & MRS. EMIL SVEICZ
By
Mr. & Mrs. James Cibik




Collections

Offertory Collection for September 9th, 2018

No. of Envelopes Mailed Out: 610
No. of Envelopes Received: 157
Collection: Offertory - \$4,063.50
Electronic Payments (9) - \$590.00
Catholic Accent - \$270.00; Loose - \$231.00; Children - \$33.00
Total Collection - \$5,187.50
THANK YOU!



Saturday, September 22nd, 2018
Connie Cornman and Linda Ullrich



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