

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

December 9th, 2018



forgive
US OUR TRESPASSES
+ AS WE
forgive
THOSE WHO TRESPASS
AGAINST US

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*
Gina Jones—*Helping Hands*

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



We are at the second Sunday of Advent and the call to prepare for the coming of the Lord continues as we see it in our gospel this Sunday. When the word of God came to John the Baptist while he was in the desert, he acted on it. He went throughout the entire region of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance to the people. He said "prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths."

This call also extends to us. Last Sunday I invited you to focus your preparation not only in the material aspect, but also in the spiritual because we are spiritual beings that needs our souls to be nourished and be aware of our calling to care for others as well. Let us admit that sometimes we do not live to the expectations of God because of our weaknesses and self-centeredness. There are times when God would give us opportunities to do something good for others but we would ignore them or let it pass by. If we will just take heed to what He is telling us, we can be an instrument of His hope, love, peace and joy which is the message of the entire Advent Season.

That is why during this season of Advent, we have the Advent Penance Services in our region, to give us an opportunity to recourse to the sacrament of reconciliation. As we realize our sins of omission and commission, we are able to ask God for

His forgiveness and His grace to strengthen us in our weaknesses and help us become better in our way of living out His gospel so we can be a good example for others.

As scheduled, the Advent Penance Services for our region are the following:

December 11th at 7:00 P.M. – St. Lawrence Parish, Cadogan

December 15th at 12:00 Noon – Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Kittanning

December 18th at 7:00 P.M. – St. Mary, Mother of God Parish, Yatesboro

December 20th at 7:00 P.M. – St. Mary, Mother of God Parish, Freeport

December 22nd at 12:00 Noon - Christ Prince of Peace Parish, Ford City

I hope you will find time to attend our Advent Penance Service as we continue to prepare for the coming of the Lord.

Please remember me, too, in your prayers as I celebrate my 12th priestly anniversary this coming December 12th, the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Advent Reconciliation



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

Baptized in Christ

Congratulations to the proud parents, Andrew & Jessica Theys, on the baptism of their daughter, Allana Rae. She is a child of God, heir to the Kingdom!

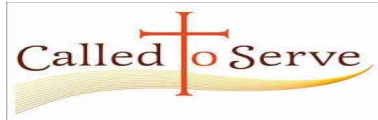


Thank you to the *Christian Mothers* for donating the apples that were given out to the people who attended the Thanksgiving Day Mass. This has been a long time tradition here at our parish and all efforts to continue this tradition are appreciated.

Installation of our new Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion



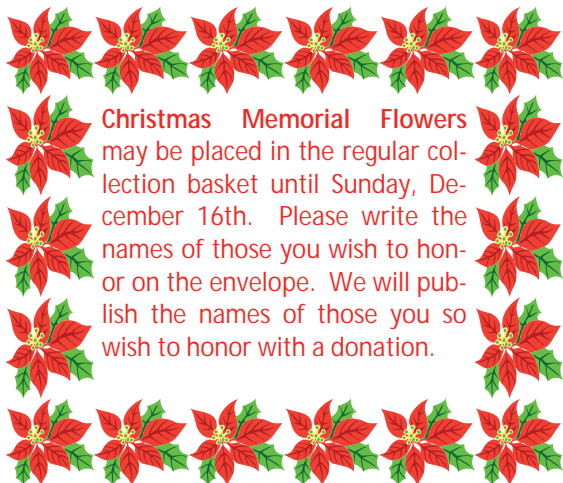
REST IN PEACE—In your charity of prayers, please remember the soul of **Harold V. McGuire** who was recently buried from our parish. Welcome him and all who have gone before us into the joy of everlasting life and bring comfort and peace to his family.



Congratulations to Fr. Ron on the 12th Anniversary of his ordination. May God shower you with his love and continue to shine His people through you.



To understand the importance of the Sacrament of Baptism and your obligation as parents, you are required to attend one baptismal class. The final class for this year will be held on Thursday, December 13th. To register for this class, call Mark and Melissa at 724-230-4450 or the Administrative Office at 724-295-2281.



Christmas Memorial Flowers may be placed in the regular collection basket until Sunday, December 16th. Please write the names of those you wish to honor on the envelope. We will publish the names of those you so wish to honor with a donation.



Today - immediately following all masses. Please take the time to stop in and extend a friendly hello to your fellow parishioners.



Mark Your Calendar for *The Mardi Gras* wine tasting festival which will be held on Saturday, March 2nd. Tickets will be available for Christmas gifts. Please call Bridget Fogarty at 724-294-0089 for tickets and all information

Calendar of Events

December 9th	Religious Education Classes—9:30 - 10:40 A.M.—Security Guard - Christina Kapinskis; 11:00 A.M. Mass—6th Grade Choir Practice—9:45 - 10:45 A.M.; 11:00 A.M. Mass
December 11th	RCIA—6:30 P.M. - John & Betty Lou Nemcek's residence
December 15th	Baptism—"Walker" - 10:45 A.M.
December 16th	Religious Education Christmas Party—9:30 - 10:40 A.M.—Security Guard - Vicki Ostrowski Teen Ministry—9:35 - 10:45 A.M.; Choir Practice—9:45 - 10:45 A.M.; 11:00 A.M. Mass
December 18th	RCIA—6:30 P.M. - Conference Center
December 20th	Advent Penance Service—7:00 P.M.
December 23rd	No Religious Education Classes; No Choir Practice



Come join us for *Theology on Tap*, a program for young adults who want to explore the role of faith in their daily lives. In this casual atmosphere, you'll hear straight talk and honest answers to your deepest questions about faith, love, work and other real life experiences. *Theology on Tap* provides an opportunity to not only learn about your faith but also meet like-minded people, make new friends and enjoy an evening out. *Theology on Tap* is open to all young adults in their 20's, 30's and 40's, singles and couples, regardless of religious affiliation. Speaker Will Smith will start the evening followed by an open discussion. Join us on Thursday, December 13th at 7:00 P.M. at Cooper Station on Route 356 where we will explore "How do I see the face of Christ in the homeless person?" Appetizers will be provided with dinner and drinks available for purchase. Please contact Natalie at: kolishn@gmail.com, Chris at: cmwhite929@gmail.com, or Gen at: gennifersvitek@comcast.net with any questions. We hope to see you there!



A Christmas preparation retreat featuring Benedictine Father Cyprian Constantine will be held

at Mount St. Macrina House of Prayer, Uniontown, on Sunday, December 16th, from 1:15-5:30 P.M. (includes dinner). Offering is \$35.00 and the registration deadline is Wednesday, December 12th. To register, please call 724-438-7149 or email: hpsm@verizon.net.



The diocese is looking for coaches and players for a CYO high school boys' basketball league. The league is open to Diocese of Greensburg parishioners in grades 9-12 who meet eligibility requirements. The season will run from January through the CYO state tournament in March. Games will be played Thursday and Saturday evenings at the Queen of Angels Catholic School gym in North Huntingdon. Contact Jeff Wilkins at: wilkinsjjj@windstream.net for all details. All coaches must comply with diocesan clearance policies.

Parish Mission

Christ, The Light in the Darkness - Everyone is invited to attend a Parish Mission this year which will be held on December 17th, 18th & 19th. Monsignor John Cippel, a native of Ford City, will present an Advent themed mission entitled, "*Christ, The Light Shining in the Darkness*". His message is intended to prepare our hearts for the Christmas season.

- Monday, December 17th at 10:00 A.M.—St. Lawrence Church and 7:00 P.M. at Christ, Christ, Prince of Peace Church
- Tuesday, December 18th at 10:00 A.M. at St. Lawrence Church and 7:00 P.M. at Christ, Prince of Peace Church
- Wednesday, December 19th at 10:00 A.M. at St. Lawrence Church & 7:00 P.M. at Christ, Prince of Peace Church

Each day Monsignor will focus on a different reflection of the Advent season and each session will be approximately one hour long. No reservations are required and everyone is invited to attend.

lifechoices

St Mary mother of God Church,
Thank you so much for your participation in Life Choices Change for Life campaign! Your church's raising of \$ 3,154.91 will help so many lives be saved + transformed! You are so appreciated + we are excited to partner with you again in the future!
God bless,
Life Choices



Fr. Aaron Kriss, Senior Parochial Vicar at Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament Parish, Natrona Heights, our neighbor, who was the Speaker for the *Theology on Tap* program last month, has completed his third book of poems entitled *ONE A DAY REFLECTIONS* - 365 very short poems (plus one for Leap Year) - one for each day of the year. If you are interested in purchasing one of these books, please contact the parish office at 724-295-2281 or email Fr. Aaron at: akriss@diopitt.org. The suggested donation is \$14.00/book. This may be a good gift to give someone for Christmas. If you are interested in getting a copy of Fr. Aaron's first book of poems *CELESTIAL THOUGHTS* or his second book *SPIRITUAL INSPIRATIONS*, contact him at his email address or his office at 724-226-4900, Ext. 20.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 15TH & 16TH, 2018

Altar Servers	Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Lector	Greeters	Organist	Cantor
Saturday - 4:00 P.M.					
Fred Walker Lauren & Leah Clark	Mary Williams; Dave Valencic Jackie DeFelice	Dave Brestensky	Dave Posney Lois Posney	Diane Pleva	Alex Smith
Sunday—8:30 A.M.					
Luke & Emily Boylan Katie & Mary Huth Olivia Brestensky	Tom Brestensky Lisa Boylan Carol Carson	Annette Domachowski	John Nemcek Betty Lou Nemcek	Tom Koharchik	Tom Koharchik
Sunday—11:00 A.M.					
Celeste Beacom Victor & Olivia Svitek Jackson Ringer	Debbie Baustert Bill Cogley Lisa Isenberg	Rob Svitek	Jill Zalewski	Dave Wesolosky	Choir

Mass Intentions

FOR THE WEEK

MASSES FOR THE 2ND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

SATURDAY: 4:00 P.M.	December 8th ✦Edna Barr (Mary Fullerton)
SUNDAY: 8:30 A.M. 11:00 A.M.	December 9th ✦Walter Sliviak (Grant Family) St. Mary Parishioners
MONDAY: 8:00 A.M.	December 10th ✦Leonard Stanoski (Wife—Norma Jane)
TUESDAY: 8:00 A.M.	December 11th ✦Loretta McCullough (Family)
WEDNESDAY: 8:00 A.M.	December 12th ✦Ronald Novosat (Friend)
THURSDAY: 8:00 A.M.	December 13th ✦Edith Pesci (Estate)
FRIDAY: 8:00 A.M.	December 14th ✦John Bono (Debbie & Tom Basile)

MASSES FOR THE 3RD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

SATURDAY: 4:00 P.M.	December 15th Special Intention
SUNDAY: 8:30 A.M. 11:00 A.M.	December 16th ✦Floral Trettel (Family) St. Mary Parishioners



The Altar Bread and Wine
were donated for this week
in loving memory of
FRANK & GERTRUDE HAGER
ROBERT LEPKOWSKI
By
Ed & Jeannie Lepkowski
Children & Grandchildren



In acknowledging the Real Presence of Christ,
The Sanctuary Lamp (Candle) will burn this week
in loving memory of
DUSTIN & ROSEMARY MILLER
By
Gary & Arlene Miller

Collections

Offertory Collection for December 2nd, 2018

No. of Envelopes Mailed Out: 613
No. of Envelopes Received: 203
Collection: Offertory - \$6,404.00
Electronic Payments (0) - \$0.00
Loose - \$347.50; Children - \$20.11
Total Collection - \$6,771.61

THANK YOU!



Saturday, December 15th, 2018
Cindy Kaminski & Christine Bender

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Christmas is a wonderful time for us. In addition to the very special meaning of the liturgical celebration, there are many parishioners whose schedules may not allow them to attend Mass at this wonderful time. If you are one of those parishioners, you might want to check into electronic giving, which allows you to continue to support the parish even when you are out-of-town during the holiday, too busy to remember an envelope, working weekends, or attending Mass at another parish. When you sign up, remember to provide your envelope number.

21



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