



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

March 4th, 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



Last Sunday at the 8:30 A.M. mass, we had the Rite of Sending for our one catechumen, Jackson Ringler. And on that same day in the afternoon, he participated in the Rite of Election, performed by Bishop Malesic at the Blessed Sacrament Cathedral, where after recognizing his desire to receive the sacraments, he is no longer a catechumen but elect. He will continue his journey until he receives the sacraments at the Easter Vigil.

Now we may ask, what is this Rite of Sending and the Rite of Election? These two rites are part of the process for those unbaptized adults who express the desire to receive the sacraments and be part of the Catholic Church. They undergo the process called RCIA (The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) to prepare them and allow them to understand the Catholic faith, the sacraments, Scriptures and other aspects of the Catholic faith. After the catechumen becomes elect, he undergoes scrutiny for three Sundays, within the mass, to ascertain his seriousness into the reception of the sacraments of initiation. In a symbolic way, he will receive the copy of the creed on the Third Sunday of Lent and the Lord's Prayer on the Fifth Sunday of Lent to give him the tenets of the articles of Catholic Faith, and he has to live out and profess it in his life's journey.

So we pray for Jackson Ringler as he continues with his preparation to receive the sacrament of initiation at the Easter Vigil.

For us also, as we continue our Lenten observance in preparation for the coming Easter celebration, we have the Stations of the Cross every Friday and an hour of adoration before the Stations of the Cross begins. The Lenten Series, sponsored by the Freeport Ministerium, continues every Thursday at 12:00 Noon. This Thursday, we will host the series in our Fellowship Hall at 12:00 Noon. The speaker will be Pastor Raphael Koikoi from the Freeport United Methodist Church. Also, the Lenten Penance Services in the region begins this week. St. Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Kittanning, will have their Penance Service on Saturday, March 10th, at 12:00 Noon. St. Mary, Mother of God Church, Freeport will have their service on Monday, March 26th, at 7:00 P.M.



A Journey in Faith...

RCIA

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults

FORMED PICK OF THE WEEK

Glimpses Along the Way of the Cross

By Msgr. Shea

Enter More Deeply into the Mystery of Christ's Cross

In these three beautiful talks, Monsignor James Shea guides us along the Stations of the Cross. These powerful meditations take us into the depths of Christ's agony, and back out again into the relief and joy of what His sacrifice means for us.

[Listen on formed.org](https://www.formed.org)



★★★★★

"Fr. Shea knows how to relate to someone in the pew who has felt pain and needs the healing only Christ can give. These talks helped me to meet Jesus again!"

—David, Chicago, IL



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What do you have planned for Lent this year? Grow in faith this Lent! Sign up for daily reflections! This Lent, get daily reflections from Bishop Donald Hying, delivered right to your email, every day. Watch, Read, and Reflect for just 10 Minutes a Day:

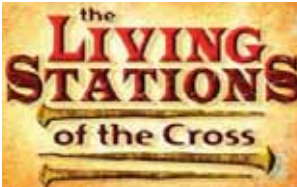
- Watch a beautiful, 5-minute video reflection from Bishop Hying's ECHO series
- Read an inspiring passage from the Catechism of the Catholic Church
- Reflect on how God's truth applies to your daily life

SIGN UP NOW at [formed.org](https://www.formed.org). If you are not a registered user of [formed.org](https://www.formed.org), use our parish code VNX4G6 for a free subscription. After logging into [formed.org](https://www.formed.org), click DAILY LENTEN REFLECTIONS to sign up for daily reflections from Bishop Hying.

Baptized in Christ



Congratulations to the proud parents, Kaleb and Ariel Cypher, on the baptism of their son, Kason Lee. He is a child of God, heir to the Kingdom!



On Sunday, February 18th, the St. Ferdinand Youth Ministry came to our parish and presented the Living Stations. After some nourishment, the teens went into "preparation mode". Next week we will have pictures of their presentation of the stations. It was a great way to begin our Lenten Season!



Calendar of Events

March 4th

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. (Last Session)

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 March 11th

Evening Mass—7:00 P.M.

Baptismal Preparation Class—7:00 P.M. (Kristine Residence)

Stations of the Cross—7:00 P.M.

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

Teen Ministry Meeting—9:25 A.M.; Choir Practice—9:45 - 10:45 A.M.; 11:00 A.M. Mass

Pick-up Popcorn Orders; Evening Mass—7:00 P.M.

March 14th

March 15th

March 16th

March 18th

March 21st

March 23rd

Stations of the Cross—7:00 P.M.

Baptism Preparation

The next class scheduled for this year has been changed to Thursday, March 15th. Please call Mark or Melissa at 724-230-4450 or the Administrative Office at 724-295-2281 to register.



This weekend we hear a special message about the DLA (Diocesan

Lenten Appeal) and our response. Thank you to all who took the opportunity to make their commitment at Mass this weekend. If you were unable to make your commitment at Mass, please consider making it this week. You may do so online at DLA.dioceseofgreensburg.org, by sending your pledge card to the Parish Office, or by sending it to the Diocese of Greensburg—DLA, 723 East Pittsburgh Street, Greensburg, PA 15601.



Diocesan Lenten Appeal

Diocesan Target - \$39,816.68

Parish Target - \$70,816.68

Pledges to Date - \$18,120.00

Number of Donors - 24



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!

Mardi Gras

Income - \$13,495.00

Payment from Sponsors \$ 5,775.00

Ticket Sales 3,810.00

Auction Ticket Sales 3,320.00

50/50 Raffles 590.00

Total \$13,495.00

Expenses - \$1,813.50

Caterer \$ 1,757.50

Miscellaneous Expenses 56.00

Total \$ 1,813.50

Net Profit \$11,681.50

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.

Thank you!

A special thank you to the Pastoral Council, many volunteers, those who donated items for the Chinese Auction and especially all of the sponsors for helping to make our Wine Tasting/ Mardi Gras event another success!

SECOND COLLECTION

Bishop Malesic has called for a second collection to be taken in all parishes of the Diocese of Greensburg the weekend of March 17th-18th to help individuals and families recover from the tornado that hit Uniontown February 15th. The proceeds from the collection will first go to Catholic Charities' relief efforts in that community, and any remaining contributions will be placed in a Diocesan Disaster Fund to help meet future needs. More than 230 homes were damaged and 47 have been declared uninhabitable as a result of the storm. Thank you in advance for your generosity, and please pray for the people who have suffered losses.

Pancake Breakfast



The Knights of Columbus #2602 will sponsor a Pancake & Sausage Breakfast on Sunday, March 11th, from 9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M., at the council home located at 28 Garfield Street, Natrona. Cost is \$6.00/adults and \$3.00/children under 6. Take your family and friends!



St. Margaret Mary Church is currently accepting orders for their Easter nut and apricot roll fundraiser. Rolls are \$12.00/each. Payment is due at time of pickup. Please place orders by calling Maureen at 724-335-6501, Toni at 724-339-0839, Dee at 724-335-0959, the parish office at 724-335-2336 or order online at: www.smmmb.org. Deadline for orders is Monday, March 12th. Extra nut or apricot rolls will not be sold at time of pickup.

I AM

A Community Lenten Journey

March 8	Pastor Raphael Koikoi (Freeport United Methodist Church)	St. Mary's
March 15	Pastor Mike Harvey (Harvest Community Church Freeport Campus)	Freeport UMC
March 22	Rev. Derrick Lumsden (Sower's Chapel)	Trinity Lutheran

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*...opportunity to help and show God's love to others is really an opportunity
...deacon to do the kind of things that are necessary for us as human
...so the deacon benefits as well as the people in the Diocese."*

in Bill Hisker, Associate Director, Office for the Permanent Diaconate

Commitment Weekend

March 3-4, 2018

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dioceseofgreensburg.org



MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR MARCH 10TH & 11TH, 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.					
Bill Girardi; Zach Showers Madison/Dawson Gaillot	Dave Brestensky Andrea Camerlo; Fred Walker	Janice Meola	Doug & Mary Scholl	Verne Bergstrom	Alex Smith
Sunday—8:30 A.M.					
Andrew Nigra; Luke Boylan Madison/Austin Bachar Alexandra Lasko	Judy Bergstrom John Nemcek Rose Check	Susan Shea	Karen Nigra	Tom Koharchik	Tom Koharchik
Sunday—11:00 A.M.					
Celeste Beacom Jacob/Erin Schaeffer Victor/Olivia Svitek	Lisa Isenberg Patty Hughes Melissa Schaeffer	CCD—3rd Grade	Karen Fennell	Dave Wesolosky	Choir

Mass Intentions

MASSES FOR THE 3RD SUNDAY OF LENT

SATURDAY: March 3rd
4:00 P.M. ✠ Phillip Bordonaro (Betty Labiaux)

SUNDAY: March 4th
8:30 A.M. St. Mary Parishioners
11:00 A.M. ✠ Janice Rakowski [80th Birthday] (Family)

MONDAY: March 5th
8:00 A.M. ✠ Jovita Walker (Bob & Judy Bergstrom)

TUESDAY: March 6th
8:00 A.M. ✠ J.D. Easley Family (Estate)

WEDNESDAY: March 7th
7:00 P.M. ✠ Alberta Hager (Dorothy McKinney)

THURSDAY: March 8th
8:00 A.M. ✠ Maurice Heinritz Family (Estate)

FRIDAY: March 9th
8:00 A.M. ✠ Walter & Hannah Konkle (Bill & Mary Fullerton)
7:00 P.M. Stations of the Cross

MASSES FOR THE 4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

SATURDAY: March 10th
4:00 P.M. ✠ Raymond Ravotti (Alfred & Marlene Brown)

SUNDAY: March 11th
8:30 A.M. ✠ Edna Barr (John & Brenda DeMeno)
11:00 A.M. St. Mary Parishioners



The Altar Bread and Wine
were donated for this week
in loving memory of
WILLIAM AIELLO
By
Family

In acknowledging the Real Presence of Christ,
The Sanctuary Lamp (Candle) will burn this week in
loving memory of
THREE ANGELS
By
Grandma



Collections

Offertory Collection for February 25th, 2018

No. of Envelopes Mailed Out: 602
No. of Envelopes Received: 219
Collection: Offertory - \$4,045.00
Electronic Payments (9) - \$1,578.00
Loose - \$312.00; Children - \$37.50
Additional Home Missions Appeal Donations - \$30.00

Total Collection - \$6,002.50

THANK YOU!



Saturday, March 10th, 2018
Judy Policicchio and Joanne Colpo

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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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