



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

August 26th, 2018

JOHN 6:60-69



21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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.

From the Pastor's Desk



Reflecting on the gospel this Sunday, two questions immediately caught my attention. Does this shock you? Do you also want to leave?

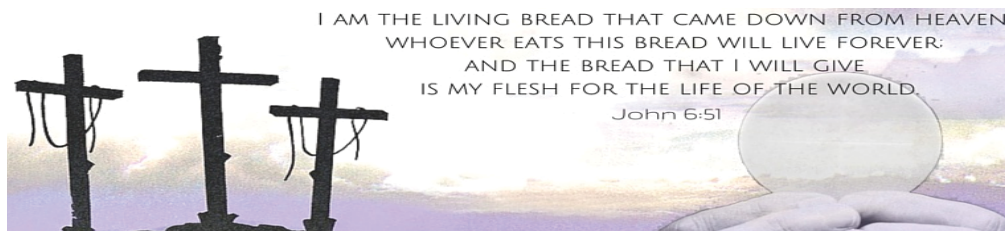
Jesus asked these two questions to his disciples not because of a scandal in the Church nor among his disciples, but because of His teaching about the bread of life which people had the difficulty of accepting because it refers to Him. He said, *"I am the bread of life that comes down from heaven, whoever eats this bread will live forever and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world."* People could not understand this. In fact, many of his followers returned to their former way of life. And so Jesus asked his twelve disciples, "do you also want to leave?" Peter answered him, "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God."

Hearing Peter's response, maybe we can relate to it after dealing with a tough week because of the release of the grand jury report. Some of you probably heard it on the news, read it in the newspaper or on the computer - information that shocked you and shook your faith. Maybe negative thoughts now run through your minds about the priests and the church. But should this be a reason for us to leave the church where we go for our worship and stop practicing our faith?

In his homily last Sunday, Bishop Malesic said that the Church in the Diocese of Greensburg has evolved far beyond the Church described in the grand jury report. Yes, our Church today is different from the past in a sense that procedures have been implemented for everyone's protection and safety. The Church wants to make sure that no one is abused and are being taken care of whether young, adults or vulnerable adults.

Bishop Malesic added that our Church today is committed in providing a place where individuals and families can grow in holiness and find spiritual comfort through the celebration of the sacraments.

As a parish, we are also faithful to this commitment and provide an avenue where every individual and families feel safe and protected when they come for worship and fellowship.



I AM THE LIVING BREAD THAT CAME DOWN FROM HEAVEN:
WHOEVER EATS THIS BREAD WILL LIVE FOREVER:
AND THE BREAD THAT I WILL GIVE
IS MY FLESH FOR THE LIFE OF THE WORLD.
John 6:51

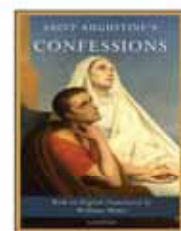
FORMED PICK OF THE WEEK

Saint Augustine's Confessions

A Must Read Christian Classic

This fourth century prodigal turned influential Catholic bishop has inspired millions of people across time with his poetic and passionate autobiography. Saint Augustine's powerful proclamation of God's Truth and Mercy through the lens of his own conversion has made this book one of the greatest Christian classics of all time.

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—Joseph B. Lincoln, NE



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Baptized in Christ

Congratulations to the proud parents, **Robert and Jennifer Hohman**,
on the baptism of their daughter, **Elizabeth Anne**.
She is a child of God, heir to the Kingdom!



Calendar of Events

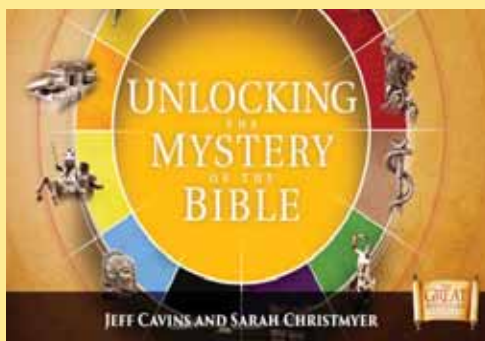
| | |
|----------------|--|
| August 26th | Geno & Lillian Pernazza 70th Wedding Anniversary Celebration—Immediately following the 11:00 A.M. Mass - Fellowship Hall |
| September 1st | Christian Mother's Picnic—1:00 P.M. - Kim and Bob Holbein's house |
| September 3rd | Baptism "Mills" - 4:00 P.M. |
| September 7th | Labor Day—Mass will be celebrated at 9:00 A.M.; Parish Office Closed |
| September 9th | First Friday—6:30 P.M. - Benediction |
| September 9th | Parish Appreciation Picnic—11:00 A.M. - Outside Mass |
| September 10th | Christian Mothers Meeting—7:00 P.M. - Christian Mother's Room |



To understand the importance of the *Sacrament of Baptism* and your obligation as parents, you are **required** to attend one baptismal class. The next class scheduled for this year will be held Thursday, August 30th. The final class for 2018 will be held sometime in December. If you would like to register, please call Mark or Melissa at 724-230-4450 or the Administrative Office at 724-295-2281.



If you have a child that will be attending pre-school or kindergarten in 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!**



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.

ST. MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

PARISH APPRECIATION PICNIC

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH—12:00 Noon-4:00 P.M.
RENSHAW FARM

11:00 A.M. Mass will be held outside



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, September 2nd!



Life Choices will be hosting their very first Fund-raising Banquet in Westmoreland County in anticipation of opening their 4th My Choice Medical Clinic There. The Banquet will be held on Thursday, August 30th, at the Ramada Inn in Greensburg. They need your help to fill this room as they move into this new territory! If you're interested in attending this Banquet, please contact Gina to reserve your seat or get table hosting instructions...gina@yourlifechoicesinfo.com.



St. Agnes Parish, North Huntingdon, will host "That Man is You!" beginning September 8th at 8:30 A.M., in Resurrection Hall at the parish. The event combines Scripture, research and fun to address the pressures and temptations facing men in the modern culture. For questions or to register, please call Ken Glick at 724-858-5598; Ray Takacs at 724-864-3554.



Allegheny Valley Hospital is seeking volunteers to join the lobby escort team. This position offers significant opportunity to work directly with patients and their families. Lobby escorts greet outpatients and visitors and help them find their destination in the hospital. Interested volunteers are asked to make a weekly commitment for a 4 hour shift. Morning shifts start at 8:00 A.M.; afternoon shifts start at 12:00 Noon. Current openings are available on Monday morning; Tuesday or Friday morning and afternoon. Volunteers are the heart of the team at AVH. Interested individuals age 16 or older are encouraged to apply on-line at: www.ahn.org/volunteer or contact Kimberly Giovannelli via email: avhvol@ahn.org or call her at 724-226-7370.



Today's Diocesan Collection will be for the combined Annual Collection for The Catholic University of America, Washington, DC (the national university of the Catholic Church in the United States), and Catholic Schools in the Diocese. Please be generous!



Freeport Theater Festival, celebrating their 29th Summer Season, has been presenting *Rivertown Firemen's Jubilee*. The remaining performance dates are August 25th and 26th. Curtain time is 7:00 P.M. Ticket prices are \$15.00/General; \$12.00/Senior; \$10.00/Student. Theater is located on The Steele Farm in Allegheny Township. For tickets/information/directions, please call Marushka Steele at 724-295-1934.



A book of the history of Freeport has been written by parishioner Steve Gardner. "History of an Allegheny River Town: Freeport, Pennsylvania" is a comprehensive overview of the settlement of western Pennsylvania, with a focus on the evolution of the Borough of Freeport over the past 225 years, from its founding in 1797 to today. Included is a brief summary of the influences of the Native American Indians, founders William and David Todd, transportation including the Pennsylvania Canal and the Railroad systems, business and industry development from early settlement to current services, newspapers, military units, churches, and much more. The 580 page book with hundreds of photos is for sale at the Freeport Area Library and will be available on August 11th. A copy is on display at the Library. Cost of the book—\$42.35 including tax. Proceeds benefit the Library.



The PA Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program (EITC) makes financial assistance available for qualifying Catholic school students and their families. For information on how to make funds available to help Greensburg Central Catholic students and families, please call 724-834-0310 or visit the school at 911 Armory Dr. in the Carbon section of Hempfield Township.



The diocese's Office of Communications and Evangelization seeks a Multimedia Content Manager who can serve as the daily producer of content for the various forms of diocesan communications. Application deadline is August 31st. The full job description and requirements are in the Employment Opportunities section of the diocesan website: www.dioceseofgreensburg.org.



Retrouvaille offers help to couples experiencing trouble in their marriage. This program has helped countless couples experiencing marital difficulty at all levels including disillusionment and deep misery. The weekend and post sessions focus on rebuilding marriage through better communication, listening, and understanding. Call today to begin the healing process, beginning with a weekend on September 7th. Contact Retrouvaille at 412-277-3434. More information is available at: <http://www.retrouvailleofpittsburghinc.org/>.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR SEPTEMBER 1ST & 2ND, 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; Fred Walker Andrea Camerlo | Janice Meola | Doug Scholl Mary Scholl | Diane Pleva | Alex Smith |
| Sunday—8:30 A.M. | | | | | |
| Evan McCrea Sarah & Hannah Shepherd Abby Koharchik | Carol Carson Judy Bergstrom John Nemcek | Lisa Boylan | Don Miller Jean Miller | Tom Koharchik | Tom Koharchik |
| Sunday—11:00 A.M. | | | | | |
| Marie Pelliccione Mason DeMeno Paige Liti; Evan Giori | Lisa Isenberg Debbie Baustert Melissa Schaeffer | Jeff Jones | Jill Zalewski | Dave Wesolosky | Joel Schaeffer |

Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK

MASSES FOR THE 21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SATURDAY: August 25th
4:00 P.M. ✦ Joseph Klaput, Sr. (Nannie Klaput & Family)

SUNDAY: August 26th
8:30 A.M. ✦ Deceased of the Ballina Family (Jamie Phillips)
11:00 A.M. St. Mary Parishioners

MONDAY: August 27th
8:00 A.M. ✦ Joe & Millie Rezak (Posney Family)

TUESDAY: August 28th
8:00 A.M. ✦ Maurice Heinritz Family (Estate)

WEDNESDAY: August 29th
8:00 A.M. ✦ John Bono (Bill Harrold)

THURSDAY: August 30th
8:00 A.M. ✦ Mary D'Amico (Dave & Janis Harbison)

FRIDAY: August 31st
8:00 A.M. ✦ Martin Hoffman (Jeananne Postle)

MASSES FOR THE 22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SATURDAY: September 1st
4:00 P.M. ✦ Helen Murphy (Eugene & Karol Mennow)

SUNDAY: September 2nd
8:30 A.M. St. Mary Parishioners
11:00 A.M. ✦ Berness Cribbs (Shari Ramsey)



Saturday, September 1st, 2018
Debbie Baustert and Susan Zingaro

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In acknowledging the Real Presence of Christ,
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loving memory of
LORNA LOMACK
By
Ken Peth



Collections

Offertory Collection for August 19th, 2018

No. of Envelopes Mailed Out: 611
No. of Envelopes Received: 204
Collection: Offertory - \$3,995.81
Electronic Payments (14) - \$583.00
Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary - \$912.00
Loose - \$164.00; Children - \$33.00

Total Collection - \$5,687.81
THANK YOU!



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"Summertime and the living is easy." That's what the favorite old song says. The living may be easy, but often the giving is not. Summer collections often drop significantly because of vacation travel, sports schedules and other activities that cause parishioners to attend Mass in other parishes. If you would like to make your giving easy and consistent this summer, please consider on-line Banking. Currently, twenty parish families are using this simple and secure way to make and track their parish giving. It's simple and safe! Please remember to provide your envelope number.

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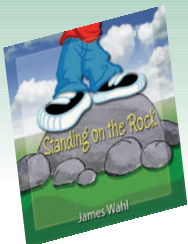
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