



# 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



## SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

January 20th, 2019

# Water to Wine

## John 2:1-11

**Father Ronald Maquiñana—Pastor**  
[rmaquinana@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto: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*  
Gina Jones—*Helping Hands*

### 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](http://www.stmaryfreeport.com)

Parish Email Address: [thechurch@stmaryfreeport.com](mailto: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, declared as **Pro-life Sunday**, is a way of focusing on the value of each and every human life since the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court decisions *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton*, which legalized abortion in every state for any reason through all nine months of pregnancy. It was a turning point in women's reproductive rights and has remained a hot-button issue within United States politics since its legalization.

The *Roe v. Wade* decision held that a woman, with her doctor, could choose abortion in earlier months of pregnancy without legal restriction, based primarily on the right to privacy. The case originated in 1970 as a suit by Jane Doe, a single, pregnant Texan, against Henry Wade, a Texas state official who enforced anti-abortion laws. The Court found for Doe, primarily based on privacy rights as outlined in the 9th and 14th Amendments. The decision was 7–2, with the majority opinion written by Justice Harry A. Blackmun.

This decision became so historic that the pro-life advocates started the March for Life movement. Since then, every year, many pilgrims and pro-lifers across the United States travel to Washington, DC to rally, pray and give witness to the truth concerning the greatest human rights violation of our time.

During the time of President Ronald Reagan, a proclamation was issued creating the first National Sanctity of Human Life Day in January 1984, and it included these words:

*"We have been given the precious gift of human life, made more precious still by our births in or pilgrimages to a land of freedom. It is fitting, then, on the anniversary of the Supreme Court decision in *Roe v. Wade* that struck down State anti-abortion laws, that we reflect anew on these blessings, and on our corresponding responsibility to guard with care the lives and freedoms of even the weakest of our fellow human beings."*

As we commemorate this historic event, let us be promoters and defenders of life. Let us value the dignity and sanctity of every human life.

January 22nd has been declared as a *day of prayer* for the legal protection of unborn children. Let us offer this prayer:

***God our Creator, we give thanks to you, who alone have the power to impart the breath of life as you form each of us in our mother's womb; grant, we pray, that we, whom you have made stewards of creation, may remain faithful to this sacred trust and constant in safeguarding the dignity of every human life. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen***

# PRO-LIFE

*every life deserves a lifetime*

FORMED PICK



### Feminism Misunderstood By Jane Brennan

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Jane Brennan shares her powerful story of abortion and her final conversion to the Catholic Church. Men and women alike will be moved as they listen to the reconciliation, healing, and hope Jane found in Christ and his Church.

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## Christian Mother's Christmas Party—Monday, January 7th, 2019—Evolution Grille



### *Calendar of Events*

**January 20th**

*Religious Education Classes—9:30 - 10:40 A.M.— Security Guard - “Sam O’Donnell”*

**January 27th**

*Teen Ministry Meeting—9:35 - 10:45 A.M.; Choir Practice—9:45 - 10:45 A.M.; 11:00 A.M. Mass*

*Religious Education Classes—9:30 - 10:40 A.M.— Security Guard - “Sam O’Donnell”*

*Choir Practice—9:45 - 10:45 A.M.; 11:00 A.M. Mass*

**February 1st**

*First Friday—6:30 P.M. - Benediction; Deadline for names and addresses for College Care Packages*

**February 3rd**

*Religious Education Classes—9:30 - 10:40 A.M.— Security Guard - “Sam O’Donnell”*

*Teen Ministry Meeting—9:35 - 10:45 A.M.; Choir Practice—9:45 - 10:45 A.M.; 11:00 A.M. Mass*

*Baptism - “Lepkowski”—12:15 P.M.*

St. Mary's is now on facebook. Check us out! If you would like something posted on our page, please direct all information and/or pictures to: [stmarysocialmedia@yahoo.com](mailto:stmarysocialmedia@yahoo.com).



**Mardi Gras Wine Tasting Festival** will be held on Saturday, March 2nd, 6:00 to 10:00 P.M., in our Fellowship Hall. Tickets are \$30.00 each and includes wine tasting and a lite fare. To purchase your tickets, please call Bridget at 724-294-0089. Event is sponsored by our Parish Council. Proceeds will benefit the restroom upgrade in our Fellowship Hall.

### **Sponsor / Donate**

Have you considered sponsoring our Mardi Gras Wine Tasting Event? Sponsor forms are located at all of the church entrances. You can fill one out and return it to our Parish Office. **Deadline for sponsor forms is Sunday, February 24th.** If you would rather help out in another way, donations are being accepted for theme baskets. If you would like to donate one or several items, please call Judy Bergstrom at 724-316-5352. **Deadline for donations is Sunday, February 17th.**

### **College Care Packages**

The Teen Ministry will be sending care packages to college students from our parish!

Please submit names and addresses by Friday February 1st



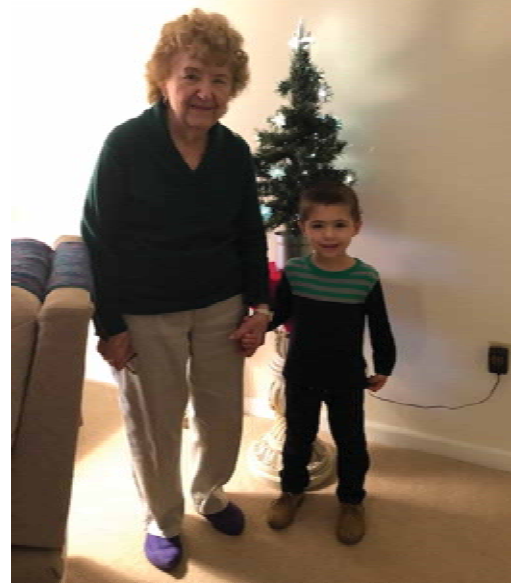


take to St. Mary's shut-ins.

Three of our Homebound Ministers, Sharon Mihalich, Nancy Forbeck, and Patty Hughes, being given a *Going out Blessing* from Fr. Ron. They have the consecrated Eucharist that they will



Dorothy Walker had a nice visit with Cameron White who delivered her a Christmas present. Christmas presents were delivered to St. Mary parishioners who are residents at Concordia.



"In our society, human life is under direct attack from abortion, which some political actors mischaracterize as an issue of women's health."

**Holy Name Society**—St. Mary, Mother of God Church is in the process of forming a Parish Chapter of *The Holy Name Society*. All male members of the parish who are 18 years of age or older are eligible to become members. An initial membership meeting will be held sometime this January. At this time, if you are interested in becoming a member, please e-mail or call Tim Fogarty at: [tpfogarty618@gmail.com](mailto:tpfogarty618@gmail.com); 724-294-0089.

**Stella Edmonds and John Miller received gifts from the seventh grade!**



 Thank you Helen James, CCD teachers and students for another successful Christmas gift and card program for our homebound shut-ins. It was so evident that much love went into buying and wrapping the gifts and the writing of messages in the cards by the students. The shut-ins were so happy, gracious, and appreciative to receive the gifts and cards. It was quite the memorable event. Thank you again!

*Homebound Ministry Volunteers*



#### How Can We Help You?

Did you just have a baby and could use a little help with cooking or housekeeping while you adjust to being a new parent? Are you or a family member experiencing a health issue and could use help with yard work, odd jobs around the house, or errands? Do you have a loved one in the hospital or nursing home and need help getting there to visit?

*Helping Hands Ministry* is a group of compassionate St. Mary "family members" ready and willing to help you during your time of need. So if you or your loved one is in need of some short-term assistance, don't hesitate to ask. Families help each other!!!

For help, additional information, or to become a volunteer, please contact Gina Jones at 724-448-9251 or email her at: [ginaj1904@gmail.com](mailto:ginaj1904@gmail.com). All help is arranged with complete confidentiality and to your specifications.

## MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY 26TH & 27TH, 2019

<i>Altar Servers</i>	<i>Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion</i>	<i>Lector</i>	<i>Greeters</i>	<i>Organist</i>	<i>Cantor</i>
<b>Saturday - 4:00 P.M.</b>					
Fred Walker Lauren & Leah Clark	Deb Showers; Bridget Fogarty Sharon Mihalic	Jackie DeFelice	Sharon Mihalich	Diane Pleva	Stephanie Bragiel
<b>Sunday—8:30 A.M.</b>					
Sam & Jacob Kristine David Kristine Madison & Austin Bachar	Betty Lou Nemcek John Nemcek Kim Holbein	Judy Bergstrom	Carol Carson Dave Kradel	Tom Koharchik	Tom Koharchik
<b>Sunday—11:00 A.M.</b>					
Celeste Beacom Victor & Olivia Svitek Jackson Ringler	Debbie Baustert Bill Cogley Lisa Isenberg	Marushka Steele	Jenn Liti	Dave Wesolosky	Choir

### Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK

#### MASSES FOR THE 2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**SATURDAY:** January 19th  
4:00 P.M. ✦ Steve Bono (Gene Forish)

**SUNDAY:** January 20th  
8:30 A.M. ✦ Robert Gray (Lillian & Geno Pernazza)  
11:00 A.M. St. Mary Parishioners

**MONDAY:** January 21st  
8:00 A.M. ✦ Walter Sliviak (Bob & Diane Grant)

**TUESDAY:** January 22nd  
8:00 A.M. ✦ Richard Brestensky (Mom & Dad)

**WEDNESDAY:** January 23rd  
8:00 A.M. ✦ Ronald Novosat (Friend)

**THURSDAY:** January 24th  
8:00 A.M. ✦ Robert Hughes (Joseph & Olivia Leslie)

**FRIDAY:** January 25th  
8:00 A.M. ✦ Stella Trygar (Patty Hughes & Family)

#### MASSES FOR THE 3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**SATURDAY:** January 26th  
4:00 P.M. ✦ William Fullerton (DeMeno Family)

**SUNDAY:** January 27th  
8:30 A.M. St. Mary Parishioners  
11:00 A.M. ✦ Martin Sikora (Anthony Bocchi)



Saturday, January 26th, 2019  
*Diane Grant*

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By  
*Mom and Dad*



In acknowledging the Real Presence of Christ,  
The Sanctuary Lamp (Candle) will burn this week in  
loving memory of  
**MARTIN SIKORA**  
By  
*Wife—Silvia Sikora*

### Collections

#### **Offertory Collection for January 13th, 2019**

No. of Envelopes Mailed Out: 614

No. of Envelopes Received: 177

Collection: Offertory - \$3,605.50

Electronic Payments (10) - \$485.00

Loose - \$501.00; Children - \$26.00

**Total Collection - \$4,617.50**

**THANK YOU!**



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. 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.



**21**



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