St. Mary, Mother of God Church

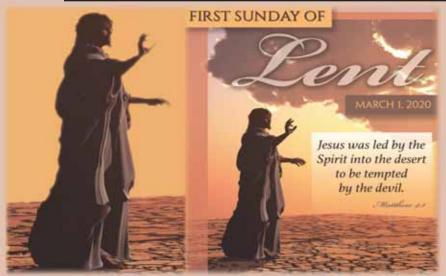


Roman Catholic Church 608 High Street ~ Freeport, PA 16229

A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg
A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust



Established 1826



Father Ronald Maquiñana—Pastor rmaquinana@dioceseofgreensburg.org

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.

Parish Staff

William Girardi,

Pastoral Associate—412-719-7085

Claudia Vertosick

Business Manager/Parish Secretary

Helen James, Religious Education Director

Thomas Koharchik, Choir Director Cindi Harbison

Social Hall Coordinator—724-272-7744

Jennifer Liti/David Valencic

Parish Custodians

Richard Bertino, Cemetery Caretaker 724-295-3632 (home); 724-602-5986 (cell)

Ministries

Kristen Marhefka/Julie Polana Gardone
Teen Ministry

Melissa Kristine/Beth Macurdy Evangelization

John Nemcek—Homebound Ministry

Gina Jones—Helping Hands

724-448-9251; ginaj1904@gmail.com

Organizations

Diane Grant—Christian Mothers
Ray Smetana/Mary Ellen Gray
St. Vincent de Paul Society
Tim Fogarty—Men's Group

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

Facebook: Saint Mary, Mother of God - Freeport

Send Information to share: stmarysocialmedia@yahoo.com



†=(in memory of) ▼=(IHO/special intention/parishioners)

MASSES FOR THE 1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

SATURDAY: February 29th
4:00 P.M. †Alma Ebig (Family)

SUNDAY: March 1st

8:30 A.M. ♥St. Mary Parishioners

11:00 A.M. †Jean Hyatt (Husband & Family)

MONDAY: March 2nd

8:00 A.M. †Jim Huth (John & Betty Lou Nemcek)

TUESDAY: March 3rd

8:00 A.M. †Donna Crabill (Linda McDermott)

WEDNESDAY: March 4th

7:00 P.M. †Violet DeMeno (John & Brenda DeMeno)

THURSDAY: March 5th

8:00 A.M. †Jovita Walker (Bob & Judy Bergstrom)

FRIDAY: March 6th

8:00 A.M. †Baustert Family (Baustert Family)

7:00 P.M. Stations of the Cross

MASSES FOR THE 2ND SUNDAY OF LENT

SATURDAY: March 7th

4:00 P.M. †Bill Fullerton (Wife—Mary)

SUNDAY: March 8th

11:00 A.M. †Janice Rakowski (Fran, Terri & Family)

Readings for the Week

Monday: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18; Ps 19:8-10, 15;

Mt 25:31-46

Tuesday: Is 55:10-11; Ps 34:4-7, 16-19; Mt 6:7

-15

Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10; Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19;

Lk 11:29-32

Thursday: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Ps 138:1-3,

7c-8; Mt 7:7-12

Friday: Ez 18:21-28; Ps 130:1-8; Mt 5:20-26

Saturday: Dt 26:16-19; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8;

Mt 5:43-48

Sunday: Gn 12:1-4a; Ps 33:4-5, 18-20, 22;

2 Tm 1:8b-10; Mt 17:1-9



Ministry Schedule

March 7th & 8th, 2020

ALTAR SERVERS:

Saturday, 4:00 P.M. Fred Walker;

Lauren & Leah Clark

Sunday, 8:30 A.M. Brianna, Olivia & Ryan Sutara;

Ali & Ben Brestensky;

Nicolette & Monica Zollinger

Sunday, 11:00 A.M. Victor & Olivia Svitek;

Michael & William Speers

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION:

Saturday, 4:00 P.M. Sharon Mihalich; Arlene Miller;

Bridget Fogarty

Sunday, 8:30 A.M. Judy Bergstrom; Patty Hughes;

Cindy Harbison

Sunday, 11:00 A.M. Helen James; Dan Lucovich;

Marushka Steele

LECTORS:

Saturday, 4:00 P.M. Dave Brestensky

Sunday, 8:30 A.M. CCD Mass—3rd & 4th Grade Sunday, 11:00 A.M. CCD Mass—3rd & 4th Grade

GREETERS:

Saturday, 4:00 P.M. Jim & Diana Talotta Sunday, 8:30 A.M. John & Betty Lou Nemcek Sunday, 11:00 A.M. Karen Fennell; Jenn Liti

ORGANIST:

Saturday, 4:00 P.M. Diane Pleva Sunday, 8:30 A.M. Tom Koharchik Sunday, 11:00 A.M. Dave Wesolosky

CANTOR:

Saturday, 4:00 P.M. Stephanie Bragiel Sunday, 8:30 A.M. Tom Koharchik Choir



Please contact the parish office if you would like to volunteer for any of these liturgical ministries!

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: First Sunday of Lent

• Monday: Julian Calendar Lent begins

Tuesday: St. Katharine Drexel

Wednesday: St. Casimir

Friday: World Day of Prayer; Abstinence;

First Friday

Saturday: Ss. Perpetua and Felicity; First

Saturday



From the Pastor's Desk

With the celebration of Ash Wednesday last week, we began the observance of the Lenten Season. That day, we received the ashes on our forehead while we heard the words of admonition, "Remember that you are dust and unto dust you shall return or Repent and believe in the Gospel". This was a way of reminding us of who we are and the constant call to repentance because sometimes we are overcome by temptation that leads us to sin and that is what happened to our first parents, Adam and Eve.

The first reading this Sunday from Genesis (Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7) recalls how they fell from the enticement of the serpent to sin by eating the fruit which God had forbidden them to eat. After they had eaten the fruit, they suddenly had the awareness of good and evil. Concupiscence made them aware that they were naked and they hid themselves. The devil succeeded in persuading them to turn away from the truth and from God. As a result, many graces had been lost because of sin and their action had an effect on all humanity and that includes us.

However, the second reading from Romans (Romans 5:12-19) contrasts Adam with Christ. While many things were lost in the wake of disobedience of Adam, through the obedience of Christ a new life has been won. St. Paul says that "For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so, through the obedience of the one, the many will be made righteous". Thus, we have been saved by the obedience of Christ which culminated in Jesus' death on the Cross.

The Gospel (*Matthew 4:1-11*) talks about the temptations of Jesus in the desert. While Jesus prayed and fasted for forty days and forty nights, the devil entered and tempted Jesus not only once, but three times. But Jesus was never overcome by those enticements. He was victorious over the devil.

Now what is the significance of these readings in this Lenten Season?

The Lenten season is a time to rediscover the reality of sin in our lives. It is especially important because now more and more people no longer feel that they are sinning or they no longer have the "sense of sin". Some may still feel the sin, but they tend to rationalize their sins. In fact, for some, if a sin is being committed by many, they do not feel the guilt anymore. We can hear people who say, "Father, almost all of us in the office are doing it. So I don't feel guilty at all". This is dangerous. Sin is a sin and it cannot be rationalize and relativize. We need God's grace and His presence not to be overcome by sin.



PS. To everyone - thank you for once again making our Mardi Gras a huge success this year - our Parish Pastoral Council who hosted it, the sponsors and donors for their contributions, and Nick Fiasco's added fun and entertainment to the evening's event. Till next year.



SAINT KATHARINE DREXEL—March 3rd (1858-1955)



Born into Philadelphia society, Katharine was an infant when she lost her mother. Her father remarried and the couple taught their daughters that their wealth was a "gift on loan" to be shared with the poor, whom they fed and cared for in their home. Invited by priest friends to witness firsthand the destitution on Native American reservations, Katharine resolved to devote her inheritance to this apostolate and enter a con-

templative order. When, however, in private audience, she begged Leo XIII to send missionaries to staff the schools she was building, the pope replied, "My child, why not become a missionary yourself?" Katharine renounced a twenty-million-dollar fortune and founded the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, adoring Christ present in the Eucharist and ministering to Christ suffering in victims of racial discrimination. Her Sisters established over sixty schools nationwide, including Xavier University, New Orleans, the first dedicated to professional education for African Americans. In 2000, John Paul II canonized "Mother Drexel," praising her "excellent example of practical charity and generous solidarity with the less fortunate, long the distinguishing mark of American Catholics."



If you are new to the area, we invite you to share fully in our parish life. Your presence brings vitality and new gifts to the community. Please take a moment to register. Forms are available at all of the church entrances or by calling the Administrative Office at 724-295-2281.

Calendar of Events/Meetings

March 1st	Religious Education—9:30-10:40 A.M - Administrative Building; Teen Ministry—9:35-10:45 A.M.; Choir
	Practice—9:45-10:45 A.M Church & 11:00 A.M. Mass; Baptism "Bichsel"—within 11:00 A.M. Mass
	Evening Lenten Reflection with Speaker Fr. Matthew Palkowski, OFM—6:30 P.M Church
March 2nd	Christian Mother's Meeting 7.00 P.M

Pastoral Council Meeting -7:00 P.M. - Conference Room March 3rd

March 4th The Bible Timeline—9:00-10:30 A.M. - Christian Mothers' Room; RCIA—5:30 P.M. - Conference Center;

Mass—7:00 P.M. March 5th The Bible Timeline—6:30-8:00 P.M. - Christian Mothers' Room

March 6th First Friday - Benediction—6:30 P.M.; Stations of the Cross—7:00 P.M. - Church

March 7th Baptism "Gillis" - Within the 4:00 P.M. Mass

March 8th Donut & Beverage Social—Fellowship Hall; Religious Education—9:30-10:40 A.M - Administrative Building;

Choir Practice—9:45-10:45 A.M. - Church &11:00 A.M. Mass

March 10th Men's Group Meeting—7:00 P.M. - Fellowship Hall

March 11th The Bible Timeline—9:00-10:30 A.M. - Christian Mothers' Room; RCIA—5:30 P.M. - Conference Center;

March 12th The Bible Timeline—6:30-8:00 P.M. - Christian Mothers' Room; Baptismal Preparation Class—6:30 P.M. -

Mark & Melissa Kristine's Residence

March 13th Stations of the Cross—7:00 P.M. - Church

Religious Education—9:30-10:40 A.M - Administrative Building; Teen Ministry—9:35-10:45 A.M.; Choir March 15th

Practice—9:45-10:45 A.M. - Church & 11:00 A.M. Mass; Confirmation Retreat

Parish Information/Events



During Lent, daily mass will be celebrated on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at 8:00 A.M. On Wednesdays, Mass will be celebrated at 7:00 P.M. This will provide an opportunity for the people who work to attend Mass during Lent, in addition to attending on Saturday evening/Sunday morning. †

LENTEN EVENING OF REFLECTION

Sunday, March 1st at 6:30 P.M. — St. Mary, Mother of God Church - All are welcome to attend. Fr. Matthew Palkowski, OFM, a Capuchin Friar, will be the speaker and the theme will be "Lent with Mary", that she is there to accompany us in our Lenten journey. †





Diocesan Lenten Appeal

Diocesan Target - \$37,826.00 Parish Target - \$55,000.00 Combined Target - \$92,826.00



Stations of the Cross will be said on Fridays during Lent. There will be Lenten Adoration of the Cross all day immediately following the 8:00 A.M. Mass. Stations of the Cross will then follow at 7:00 P.M. †



First Friday Adoration is this week beginning at 8:45 A.M. with benediction at 6:30 P.M. Sign-up sheets are located at the church entrances and two people should be represented for each half hour. Please join us as we adore our Lord, Jesus! †



All men of the parish, 18 years of age HEWELL and older, are encouraged to attend the 2nd Annual Diocesan Men's Confer-

ence — The Well — on Saturday, March 21st, at Westmorland Community College. The event includes workshops, discussions, the sacrament of reconciliation and adoration, and will conclude with Mass celebrated by Bishop Malesic at 4:00 P.M. You must register for this Conference. Once registered, you have to let Fr. Ron or Tim Fogarty know you are registered so you are included in the car pool planning. To contact Fr. Ron, please call 724-295-2281. To contact Tim Fogarty, please email tpfogarty618@gmail.com; 724-294-0089. †

MARDI GRAS 2020







































News/Activities from Our Ministries/Organizations



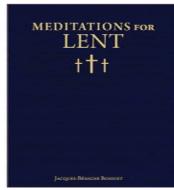
To understand the importance of the Sacrament of Baptism and your obligation as parents, you are required to attend one baptismal class. The schedule for 2020 is as follows: Thursday, March 12th, Thursday, June 11th, Thursday, September 10th and Thursday, December 10th. If you would like to register, please call Mark or Melissa at 724-230-4450 or the Administrative Office at 724-295-2281. †



The monthly meeting will be held on Monday, March 2nd, at 7:00 P.M., in the Christian Mother's Room. Members are asked to arrive at 6:30 P.M. All members are encouraged to attend. †

Evangelization

FORMED PICK OF THE WEEK



Meditations for Lent

by Jacques-Bénigne Bossuet

Dr. Christopher Blum has selected fifty remarkably powerful meditations from Bishop Bossuet's works that complement the daily readings at Mass during the Lenten season, thus offering to us the perfect companion for a thoughtful, fruitful Lent.

READ ON FORMED.ORG

Learn and enjoy your faith at home and on the go, from any device. Sign-up for free at: formed.org/signup. When the "Create a New Account" page comes up, enter the parish zip code (16229) in the "Find your Parish or Organization" box. Select our parish and click the next button. Any issues, please contact Beth Macurdy at: bmacurdy@zoominternet.net.

Stations of the Cross—As we gaze from our pew to look upon the walls to the right and the left of us, there are fourteen traditional Stations of the Cross. We, at St. Mary's, are especially blessed to have such stunning depictions of Christ's final journey to the cross. This beautiful custom goes back hundreds of years, but the spirituality of walking with Jesus in His final moments goes back even further. Tradition has it that Mary, the Mother of God, would trace the steps of her Savior and son in remembrance of the sacrifice He made for us. A few hundred years later, St. Petronius, a bishop of Bologna in Italy, made chapels to represent the events of the Holy Passion. When Muslim invaders seized Jerusalem, pilgrimages became impossible, therefore, the Church brought the locations to us in the form of the Stations of the Cross. Most of us will never be able to travel to Jerusalem to walk this Holy Way, but we can still spiritually join ourselves with Christ and be present. On Fridays during Lent, we can come to St. Mary's and for thirty minutes or so, leave Freeport behind to journey to the Holy Land and experience the tremendous love Jesus has for us through scripture, song, and prayer. Each station depicts a moment that Christ surrendered Himself and walked a way of pain and suffering out of love for us. It is through the redeeming power of the Cross that our Salvation was accomplished. Every trial in our life, physical, mental, or emotional suffering and burdens we carry, our Lord also experienced in His human nature. As each station reminds us of these events in His Passion, we can recall the same type of moment in our personal lives. How many times have we also agonized in prayer, fallen repeatedly under the crushing weight of a cross in our life, or been unjustly condemned by those whom we love? Praying the Stations of the Cross is a gift we can give to the Lord. We pray along with St. Paul when he said he could "rejoice in what I am suffering...and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in Christ's suffering" (Colossians 1:24). What is lacking is my participation with Him by uniting my personal way of the cross with His. He never promised us a life of wine and roses, but in order to follow Him, we must "deny ourselves and take up our cross". Walk the stations each Friday in Lent and transform your burdens into something beautiful for God.

"We adore you O Christ and we praise you! Because by Your holy cross You have redeemed the world." au



Join us for *Theology on Tap* on Thursday, March 12th at 7:00 P.M. at Smokin' Toad's BBQ in Sarver. This month's topic is "Overcoming Evil" with speaker Fr. Jim Holland. Appetizers will be provided with dinner and drinks available for purchase. *Theology on Tap* is a program for young adults in their 20's, 30's, and 40's to explore the role of faith in their daily lives in a casual atmosphere. You'll hear straight talk and honest answers to your deepest questions about faith, love, work and other real life

experiences. Singles, couples, and all religious affiliations are welcome. Please contact Chris at: cmm, or Gen at: gennifersvitek@comcast.net with any questions! We hope to see you there! †

Altar Bread and Wine

The Altar Bread and Wine were donated



for this week in loving memory of Alda Waylonis

Tom Swisher & Cynthia Neff



Offertory Collection for February 23rd, 2020

No. of Envelopes Mailed Out: 596 No. of Envelopes Received: 170 Collection: Offertory - \$3,773.50 Electronic Payments (8) - \$830.00 Loose - \$382.00; Children (15) - \$22.00

Total Collection - \$5,007.50 THANK YOU!



Saturday March 7th, 2020

Cindy Kaminski and Christine Bender

lease call the Administrative Office if you would like to volunteer to be one of the cleaning volunteers—724-295-2281.

Sanctuary Lamp

In acknowledging the Real Presence of Christ, The Sanctuary Lamp (Candle) will burn



this week in loving memory of Clyde & Angie Fullerton Ву Mary Fullerton

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