

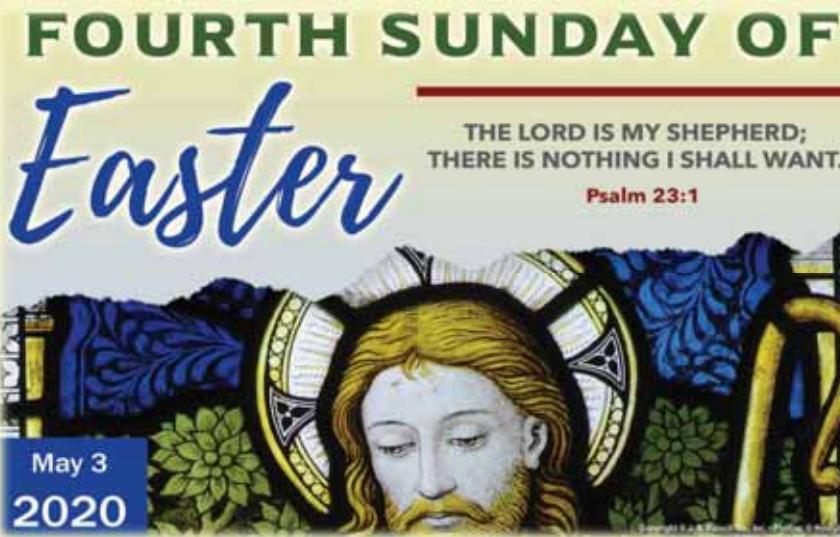
St. Mary, Mother of God Church

Roman Catholic Church

608 High Street ~ Freeport, PA 16229

A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg

A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust



Father Ronald Maquiñana—*Pastor*
rmaquinana@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Parish Information

Saturday (Vigil): Suspended until further notice

Sunday: Suspended until further notice

Weekday Masses: Suspended until further notice

Holy Day of Obligation: Suspended until further notice

Reconciliation: By appointment only—please call the Administrative Office at 724-295-2281

Baptism: Sundays (by appointment)

Marriage: Contact the Administrative Office nine months in advance—724-295-2281

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: Suspended until further notice—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.

Established 1826

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

Ed & Jeannie Lepkowski
Parish Custodians

Judy Bergstrom, Cemetery Sales Coordinator
724-316-5352

Jeff Jones, Groundskeeper—724-448-9250

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

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.

Please Note

During this time when all weekday and weekend public masses have been suspended until further notice, please know that Fr. Ron is privately celebrating mass and fulfilling all of your requested mass intentions.

Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK

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

MASSES FOR THE 4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

SATURDAY: May 2nd
†Richard Fearing (Posney Family)

SUNDAY: May 3rd
†Harold Wyant (Family)
♥St. Mary Parishioners

MONDAY: May 4th
†Edna Barr (Bob & Diane Grant)

TUESDAY: May 5th
†Mary Pesci Ranieri (David & Cleatus Burk)

WEDNESDAY: May 6th
†William Bale (Wife & Family)

THURSDAY: May 7th
†Ellen Huth (Betty Landstrom)

FRIDAY: May 8th
†Fr. George Alderson (Friends)

MASSES FOR THE 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

SATURDAY: May 9th
♥†All Mother's—Living & Deceased

SUNDAY: May 10th
♥Christian Mothers—Living Members
(Christian Mothers)
♥†All Mothers—Living & Deceased and
♥St. Mary Parishioners



Sunday's Readings

First Reading — All peoples called by God will receive the gift of the Spirit if they repent and are baptized (Acts 2:14a, 36-41).

Psalm — The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want (Psalm 23).

Second Reading — Once we were like straying sheep; but now we have been returned to the shepherd, our guardian (1 Peter 2:20b-25).

Gospel — The shepherd leads the sheep out into pastures of abundant life (John 10:1-10).

Today's readings invite us to recognize our need for one who ensures our safety, nourishes us, and leads us to peace and security, like sheep who rest in the care of a good shepherd. Such a shepherd will protect and save the sheep, even from the most deadly of predators. Today, we ponder the incredible news that Jesus accepted death on the cross in order to open the gates of eternal life with God for us. Through his resurrection, Jesus protects and saves us from the power of sin and death. We need only accept his love and live as God's people in this life, relying on the Lord who is the door to new life for us and for all. †

Jesus Saves

Be honest with yourself. Have you ever gone astray? Have you ever given in to temptation or weakness? Do you sometimes feel that you need someone to help you get your life on back on track? Most people could answer yes to any of these questions. As people of faith, we know that Jesus understands the struggles we face and gave his life to save us from our human frailty. The Lord knows that we need help in order to live as God's people in the world. There are people and powers that seek to mislead us, who offer a way that may for a time be appealing, even though it does not lead to the true way of life, love, and peace. We can be readily dissuaded and distracted from the ways of holiness. We easily lose our way, lured by the trappings of material possessions, wealth, or social status. Jesus is our only real way, the door that leads to meaning and peace in this earthly time, and to life everlasting. †



Readings for the Week

Monday:	Acts 11:1-18; Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4; Jn 10:11-18
Tuesday:	Acts 11:19-26; Ps 87:1b-7; Jn 10:22-30
Wednesday:	Acts 12:24 — 13:5a; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Jn 12:44-50
Thursday:	Acts 13:13-25; Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25, 27; Jn 13:16-20
Friday:	Acts 13:26-33; Ps 2:6-11ab; Jn 14:1-6
Saturday:	Acts 13:44-52; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 14:7-14
Sunday:	Acts 6:1-7; Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19; 1 Pt 2:4-9; Jn 14:1-12

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday:	Fourth Sunday of Easter; World Day of Prayer for Vocations
Tuesday:	Cinco de Mayo
Thursday:	National Day of Prayer



From the Pastor's Desk

Every Fourth Sunday of Easter is called the *Good Shepherd Sunday*. It is because our readings for this Sunday talks about the Good Shepherd who is ready to give His whole life for His sheep and ready to lay down His life for us. The Good Shepherd is no other than Jesus Christ our Lord and He calls us also to follow in His path as a good shepherd, especially those in a position as parents to their children, as religious leaders to his/her followers or as government officials to his/her constituents.

To be a good shepherd is more than a privilege because it calls for leadership, service and communion. It demands sacrifice, setting a good example and being one with the sheep. He has to have a sense of vision and mission otherwise he will be a hireling, a thief and a robber, who has no concern for the sheep as Jesus describes in the gospel today. Such a shepherd leaves the sheep and runs away.

Communion or being with your children or your constituents for example, are important because through your communion, you are able to establish your presence. You are able to listen and get in touch with the needs, aspirations, hopes and dreams of them.

Proclamation is another trait for a good shepherd. Neither fear nor favor should stop him from proclaiming gospel values. A good shepherd must by his very life and person, more than by his words, be a constant source of strength and inspiration to the flock.

Finally, a good shepherd draws strength from Mary and the Eucharist. Without the rootedness in the divine, a leader can become selfish, proud and abusive. Mary teaches us to be obedient to God's will, and the Eucharist reminds us that a leader's life is one big sacrifice.

To sum it up, here is a thought that we can remember in dealing with others or as we assume the role of a shepherd: "To be tender with the young; to be compassionate with the aged; to be sympathetic with the striving; to be patient with the weak and to be forgiving of sinners. For in our lifetime we were and will be any or all of these."

Today is *World Day of Prayer for Vocations*. Let us pray that God will send more men and women to work in his vineyard. Yes, the harvest is plenty, but the laborers are few. All of us are called not only to be good but also for mission. All of us are called to God's heart, and all of us are called to go home to heaven at the end of our earthly sojourn. So stop being cold, because you are called!



SAINTS PHILIP AND JAMES, APOSTLES—May 3rd

Call Philip the gospel's "Answer Man". "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Nathaniel asked Philip, who had proclaimed Jesus "the one about whom Moses wrote in the law, and also the prophets" (John 1:45). Jesus asked Philip, "Where can we buy enough food for them to eat?" (John 6:5). Greeks brought Philip their request: "We would like to see Jesus" (John 12:21). Philip's answer to each question: bring people to Jesus! At the Last Supper, finally, Philip had a

request of his own: "Show us the Father!" (John 14:8). Jesus had three last questions for Philip: "You still don't know me? How can you ask that? Don't you believe?" And an answer: "I am in the Father and the Father is in me" (John 14:10). Today's James is not John's brother, Zebedee's son, but, tradition says, author of the New Testament Letter of James, who died praying for his murderers in Jesus' words: "Forgive them, for they know not what they do". Few historical details for either saint, but lessons aplenty: Bring every question we have and everybody we meet to Jesus; be, as James' letter challenges, "doers of the word and not hearers only" (James 1:22).

Saint of the Week

TV and Online Mass Options:

<https://www.heartofthenation.org/where-to-watch>

<https://mass-online.org/daily-holy-mass-live-online/>; <http://www.catholictv.org/masses/catholictv-mass>

Calendar of Events/Meetings

Weekday and Weekend Masses—Suspended

First Holy Communion—Suspended—To be re-scheduled

Choir Practice—Suspended; Resurrection Choir Practice—Suspended

Teen Ministry Meetings—Suspended

The Bible Timeline—Postponed

First Friday Adoration—Suspended

Christian Mother's Meeting—Suspended

Confirmation—Suspended—To be re-scheduled

Men's Group Mass/Meeting—Suspended

Cancelled.

Suspended.

Postponed.

We are now Live Streaming our Sunday Mass at 8:30 A.M. on Facebook. If you utilize Facebook and are not a member of St. Mary, Mother of God, Freeport, please join or like our page in order to pull up the page for Sunday Mass and the latest happenings.



Parish Information/Events

The Administrative Office is open Monday through Friday, 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. so that we cannot only conduct the business that is required, but also be able to meet your needs the best we can. During these times, we still have the operations of the parish to run and maintain. We thank those of you who have continued to use your weekly offertory envelopes.

In the past few weeks, some of you may have logged onto the Diocesan website to watch Bishop Malesic celebrate Sunday Mass. Please be advised that if you click the icon to "Donate to your parish", fees are assessed by the credit card company and not 100% of your donation arrives at our parish. The best way to continue to support the parish, if you are able to do so after prayerful consideration, would be one of the following options:

- Mail your envelope in directly
- Drop your envelope off at the Administrative Office or the parish mailbox outside the glass entrance doors
- Set up on-line bill paying with your financial institution by going to their secure website and setting up as a vendor, St. Mary, Mother of God Church, 608 High Street, Freeport, PA 16229. Under the memo line, enter your envelope number and the amount you wish to contribute. Most banks will provide you the opportunity to set up this payment/withdrawal on a weekly or monthly basis, whichever you prefer.

Please know that we continue to pray for you and your family for your safety and health during this pandemic. We also ask that you continue to keep Father Ron and the parish staff in your daily prayers.



Diocesan Target - \$37,826.00

Parish Target - \$55,000.00

Pledges to Date - \$97,470.00

Paid to Date - \$73,340.00

Number of Donors - 222

Diocesan Target has been Achieved!!!

Thank you!

ALL future gifts and/or pledges will now stay directly here at St. Mary's in order that we may complete this year's major projects!



St. MARY CATHOLIC CEMETERY

As a follow-up to last week's bulletin, below are some brief snapshots of those who perished around the time of the Spanish Flu Pandemic and are buried within our cemetery grounds . May we never forget...



News from Our Ministries

Evangelization FORMED PICK OF THE WEEK



THE SEARCH

Augustine Institute Original Series

What is this journey in between the event we call "birth" and the one we call "death"? The questions are there. And, the answers are too.

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Easter – What's in a Name—Already it is the 4th Sunday of Easter, almost halfway through the fifty days of the Easter season. Now is a good time to reflect upon how the date of Easter is determined and why it is even called Easter at all. The dating of Easter Sunday was established by the Council of Nicaea in 325 A.D. as the first Sunday following the new full moon which occurs on or immediately after the spring equinox. The date can vary from March 22nd to April 25th. During the first three centuries of the church, the celebration of Christ's passion and death was referred to as the Pasch, which is the Greek transliteration of the Hebrew/Aramaic form of the word Pesach which means Passover. By the end of the 5th century, the new Passover (pasch or paschal in Latin) encompassed the time from Holy Thursday through Easter Sunday. St. Paul reminds us that "Christ, our Passover (paschal) lamb has been sacrificed" (1 Cor 5:7) So, how does that lead us into naming it Easter? The title seems to have come to us somewhere around the 8th century in English. It derives from an Indo-European word *austron*, which is defined as "the dawn." The root word is *aus* which means "to shine". Saint Bede, around the year 730, even called our month of April *Eostermouth* which simply means "dawn mont", "month of rising" or "month of shining" – to show the longer daylight hours that occur after the spring equinox around March 20th. Why is this significant? Themes such as dawn, light and east should definitely call to mind our Lord's Resurrection, in which Jesus, the Light of the World rose. In fact, the Mass was said facing east, celebrated at dawn. In Luke 1:78, Zechariah prophesizes about the coming of Christ when "through the tender mercy of our God, the day shall dawn upon us from on high". Jesus Himself says, "I am the light of the world" (John 8:12) and "I have come as light to the world, that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness" (John 12:46). On this Good Shepherd Sunday, we hear in Psalm 23 "Even though I walk in the dark valley I fear no evil: for you are at my side". Times seem rather dark and bleak right now as we are eagerly awaiting the light at the end of the quarantine tunnel. Cast our cares and anxieties upon Him who will lead us beside the restful waters and refresh our souls. Soon we will return to the table of the Eucharist which He has prepared, and His goodness and mercy will fill our cups to overflowing. Until then, let the light of Easter shine in our souls. Sing our Alleluias with great joy because Christ is the victor and in the end we will dwell in the house of the Lord forever! **Ressurexit sicut dixit — Christ is risen, as he said!** †

News from Our Diocese



World Day of Prayer for Vocations will be observed on Sunday, May 3rd, also known as "Good Shepherd Sunday". The purpose of this day is to publicly fulfill the Lord's instruction to, "Pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his harvest" (Mt 9:38; Lk 10:2). Will you make that special effort to ask the Lord for more vocations to the priesthood and religious life? Pray for the priests who have ministered to you throughout your life, both living and deceased. Pray, also, for our seminarians: *Deacon Mark Dunmire, Christopher Pujol, Andrew Hamilton, David Slusarick, Craig Alexander, Aidan Kerlin, Jeremy Zawelensky and Zachary Lentz*. Please encourage your children, grandchildren, and other young people to consider a vocation as a priest or religious brother or sister. Pray a rosary for more young men and women in our diocese to respond to God's call. †



If you have any suspicion about the sexual abuse (or any other type of abuse) of a minor child by anyone - please contact PA ChildLine immediately at 1-800-932-0313. If the alleged abuser is functioning in a parish, school or diocesan position as clergy, religious, paid staff or volunteer, you are also requested to contact the Bishop's

Delegate for Matters of Sexual Misconduct after you have called the ChildLine number and made the report. The Bishop's Delegate may be reached at 724-837-0901, Ext. 1221. †

Altar Bread and Wine

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



Sanctuary Lamp

In acknowledging the Real Presence of Christ,
The Sanctuary Lamp (Candle) will burn
this week
in loving memory of
Harold Wyant
By
Family



Collections

Offertory Collection for April 26th, 2020

No. of Envelopes Mailed Out: 598
No. of Envelopes Received: 52
Collection: Offertory - \$3,497.50
Electronic Payments (10) - \$435.00
Loose - \$0.00; Children (-) - \$0.00
Good Friday [Holy land] (1) - \$10.00
Easter (7) - \$505.00

Total Collection - \$4,447.50

THANK YOU!



Saturday—May 2nd, 2020
NO CLEANING ASSIGNMENTS
THIS WEEK

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

Although we are unable to attend Mass at this time, we urge you
to please mail your weekly/monthly contribution or drop it off at
the Administrative office or the mail box outside the office doors.



Something to think about—if you normally give in the offertory basket, now might be the time to think about on-line giving.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF ST. MARY,
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Name: _____

Address: _____

Contact Number: _____

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_____ Please remove me from your census

Please drop this form in the collection basket

****New Membership Registration Forms are located at all of the church entrances****

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- The following persons are not eligible: employees of the company or affiliated companies, immediate family members, previous participants, and LeafGuard Holdings Inc. in-home consultation within the past 12 months and all current and former LeafGuard Holdings Inc. customers. Gift may not be extended, transferred, or substituted except that Company may substitute a gift of equal or greater value if it deems it necessary. Gift card will be mailed to the participant via first class United States Mail within 21 days of receipt of the promotion notice. Not valid in conjunction with any other promotion or discount of any kind. Offer not sponsored or promoted by Lowe's and is subject to change without notice prior to expiration. Expires 3/31/20.

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