

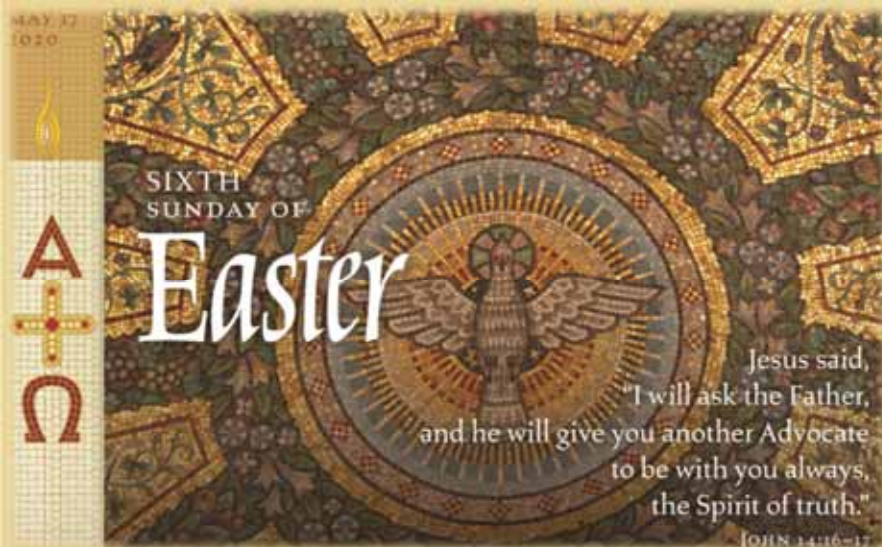
St. Mary, Mother of God Church



Roman Catholic Church
608 High Street ~ Freeport, PA 16229
A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg
A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust



Established 1826



Father Ronald Maquignana—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.

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 6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

SATURDAY:	May 16th ♥St. Mary Parishioners
SUNDAY:	May 17th †Russell Stewart (Family) †Donna Crabill (Mildred Phillippi)
MONDAY:	May 18th †Kathy Dudek (Family)
TUESDAY:	May 19th †Ambrose & Helen Gallagher (Ronald & Linda Gallagher)
WEDNESDAY:	May 20th †Louis & Dena Poretti (Daughter)
THURSDAY:	May 21st—Ascension of the Lord ♥St. Mary Parishioners †Bill & Kathryn Krchnak (The Posney Family)
FRIDAY:	May 22nd †Geno Pernazza (Michael Huth)

MASSES FOR THE 7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

SATURDAY:	May 23rd †Margaret Shipe (Shipe Family)
SUNDAY:	May 24th ♥St. Mary Parishioners †Charles Huth (Family)



Sunday's Readings

First Reading — The people of Samaria accepted the word of God preached by Philip; they received the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:5-8, 14-17).

Psalms — Let all the earth cry out to God with joy (Psalm 66).

Second Reading — Act with gentleness and reverence toward all, so that when you are maligned those who defame you will be the ones put to shame (1 Peter 3:15-18) or 1 Peter 4:13-16.

Gospel — I will not leave you orphans, but will come to you (John 14:15-21) or Jn 17:1-11a.

As Jesus prepared the apostles for the time when he would no longer be with them physically, and knowing that they would face hardship, trials, and persecution in the future, he promised them an Advocate, the Holy Spirit. Through baptism, that same Spirit dwells within us, always with us to guide us in the truth of God's love and strengthen us so that we may know Christ and live as Christ's people. Now, as in every time, God knows it is not always easy to live as a Christian. With the assurance of the Holy Spirit's presence, we find the grace to love Jesus and to keep the Lord's commandments. †

THE REASON FOR OUR HOPE

"What is the reason for your hope?" Imagine somebody coming up to you and asking you that question. Not "What are you hoping for?" or "What are you hoping to do?" No, this isn't about our desires for possessions or aspirations for life, it's "Why do you hope?" Today Peter tells us that we ought to be ready to give an answer to this question. Truth be told, few of us spend much time thinking about why we hope. Luckily, the scriptures today give us our answers. We hope because Christ suffered for us, in order that we might come to God. We hope because we know that, in the Spirit, God grants us another Advocate through Christ to remain with us always. No matter what we might hope for, whatever we might hope to do, we must always first know and proclaim the reason for our hope: the presence of God in Christ, with us through the power of the Spirit. †



Readings for the Week

Monday:	Acts 16:11-15; Ps 149:1b-6a, 9b; Jn 15:26 — 16:4a
Tuesday:	Acts 16:22-34; Ps 138:1-3, 7c-8; Jn 16:5-11
Wednesday:	Acts 17:15, 22 — 18:1; Ps 148:1-2, 11-14; Jn 16:12-15
Thursday:	Acts 1:1-11; Ps 47:2-3, 6-9; Eph 1:17-23; Mt 28:16-20 (for Ascension); otherwise Acts 18:1-8; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 16:16-20
Friday:	Acts 18:9-18; Ps 47:2-7; Jn 16:20-23
Saturday:	Acts 18:23-28; Ps 47:2-3, 8-10; Jn 16:23b-28
Sunday:	Acts 1:12-14; Ps 27:1, 4, 7-8; 1 Pt 4:13-16; Jn 17:1-11a; or (for Ascension) Acts 1:1-11; Ps 47:2-3, 6-9; Eph 1:17-23; Mt 28:16-20

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday:	Sixth Sunday of Easter
Monday:	St. John I
Wednesday:	St. Bernardine of Siena
Thursday:	The Ascension of the Lord (unless transferred to Sunday); St. Christopher Magallanes and Companions
Friday:	St. Rita of Cascia



From the Pastor's Desk

You probably have been following the news and updates from Governor Tom Wolf and Dr. Rachel Levine concerning COVID-19. You must have felt a sense of relief and gratitude when they announced that our county is moving from the red to yellow coding and easing some restrictions on work, congregate settings and social interactions.

The Diocese of Greensburg is one who is happy for such a development but will continue to adhere with the guidelines from the State of Pennsylvania. At the same time, the diocese has been trying to provide spiritual support and connectivity to all the faithful across the diocese through virtual and live streaming of liturgical services.

Following the diocesan directives that were presented last Friday, May 15th, we reopened our church for private prayer from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. daily, except on Sunday. This is a good start for us which I am sure you are appreciating much after the church has been temporary closed.

With the reopening of the church for private prayers, the Diocese of Greensburg strongly encouraged the following guidelines to be observed for our safety:

- Wearing of mask upon entrance to the church.
- Social distancing must be observed - six feet apart from the next person.
- Only designated pews will be used for private prayer.
- There will be sanitizers and wipes that can be used as you enter the church.
- The identified pews and other high contact areas like doorknobs, handles and tables will be sanitized and disinfected towards the end of each day.
- Weekly, each church's high contact areas will be cleaned with soap and water and then sanitized.
- Hymnals and missalettes will be taken out from the pews.

Let us pray that the situation within our region will continue to improve so we can go back to our normal routine, especially with the celebration of the mass, as most of you are missing it already. For now, we abide at the wisdom of our government and church authorities. Jesus said in the gospel this Sunday, *if you love me, you will keep my commandments* (Jn. 14:15-21). His commandments can be viewed as those guidelines given to us by both the government and the church authorities. Jesus promised that He would not leave us orphans. An Advocate, the Spirit of truth will remain always with us.

**"If you love me, you will
keep my
commandments" (John 14:15)**

SAINT RITA OF CASCIA (1381-1457) - May 22

If you're ever in Philadelphia on May 22nd, forget parking anywhere near Saint Rita's shrine. Cars line streets and fill medians as throngs pack a candlelight vigil and six Masses, honoring this patroness of lost causes, hopeless situations, and—as her statue in countless churches built by twentieth-century immigrants testifies—difficult marriages, troubled homes, and alienated children.

Wise people warn, be careful what you pray for. "Divine Savior," Rita prayed, "let me suffer like you!" Obedient to parents who refused her wish to become a nun, Rita married a man who returned her devotion with twenty years of abuse. When enemies murdered him, Rita's two sons swore revenge. Paintings depict her pointing the angry boys toward Christ crucified, whom she begged to restrain them. Within the year, both sons died. Alone now, Rita went to the convent but was refused. The nuns feared violence, since one of them was related to the murderer. Rita arranged peace between the families, made vows, and became much sought after as a counselor and intercessor for forty years on earth—and ever since in heaven.



TV and Online Mass Options:
<https://www.heartofthenation.org/where-to-watch>
<https://mass-online.org/daily-holy-mass-live-online/>; <http://www.catholicv.org/masses/catholicv-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.

We have reopened our church for private prayer from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. daily, except on Sundays. Please refer to Father Ron's weekly article for the guidelines that are to be followed when visiting our church.

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. †



PLEASE NOTE

The Administrative Office will be closed on Thursday, May 21st in observance of the Ascension of the Lord. †



Diocesan Target - \$37,826.00
Parish Target - \$55,000.00
Pledges to Date - \$104,900.00
Paid to Date - \$81,544.50
Number of Donors - 248

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!

Refurbishing complete! Assembling the antique high altar in preparation for Mother's Day—our gift to the Blessed Mother as we are *St. Mary, Mother of God*. What a fitting gift for our Blessed Mother as we honor her Son.



Fr. Ron burying the time capsule containing the documents from Holy Cross Parish, Rasselas, Elk County, PA, including those who worked in refurbishing and underwriting the project.



**The
Crowning
Piece**





News/Activities from Our Ministries

Evangelization FORMED PICK OF THE WEEK



SHADE: THE SERIES

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This new acoustic series offers simple and uncut prayers from the heart to experience the Lord's accompanying presence and refreshment in the midst of your day-to-day journey.

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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.

Mary's Month — Here we are amid the middle of May and the temperatures are finally reflecting this truth. Spring is in the height of its beauty and all around us we see signs of renewal, growth, and new life; a perfect time of the year to continue to reflect upon Mary and her role in the life of Christ and in our lives. Last week we looked at the first part of the Hail Mary prayer and richness of scripture in just those few lines. Today, let us consider the last half of the prayer and why we need not be timid or afraid to let these words fall from our lips. Holy Mary, Mother of God. Saint John wrote, "The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us." (John 1:14) The first dwelling of God made flesh was within the womb of the Virgin Mary. Saint Paul reminds us that "when the time had fully come, God sent forth his Son, born of a woman." Galatians 4:4 says that Jesus is God from God, Light from Light, True God from True God! Mary did not just give birth to part of Jesus, his human nature, but physically delivered into the world the divine nature as well. Pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Here we ask for Mary's intercession to help us in our journey "now" throughout the joys and adversities of everyday life. Mary is the most excellent prayer partner that we could ask for. If we prayerfully read John 2:1-12 about the wedding feast at Cana, then we see the role of Mary most perfectly explained to us. Mary prayerfully discerns the problem, goes directly to her Son for the need, but in humble confidence, trust, and hope leaves the resolution to Jesus who knows what is best for us. Not only does Mary intercede for us, but she teaches us how to pray. At Cana as well as in our own lives, Mary does not hover and dominate over the outcome. She simply goes to Jesus and leaves it all in His most sacred and merciful hands. And her words to us are "do whatever He tells you." Saint Maximilian Kolbe puts it best when he said, "Never be afraid of loving the Blessed Virgin too much. You can never love her more than Jesus did!" †

Altar Bread and Wine

The Altar Bread and Wine were donated
for this week in
loving memory of



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By
Wife & Children

Sanctuary Lamp

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



Geno Pernazza

By
Family

Collections

Offertory Collection for May 10th, 2020

No. of Envelopes Mailed Out: 598

No. of Envelopes Received: 79

Collection: Offertory - \$4,090.00

Electronic Payments (19) - \$1,040.00

Loose - \$0.00; Children (-) - \$0.00

Holy Thursday (1) - \$20.00

Holy Land (1) - \$20.00

Easter (1) - \$20.00

Total Collection - \$5,191.00

THANK YOU!

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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**Saturday—May 24th, 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.*

St. Mary, Mother of God Membership Request/Change

Name: _____

Address: _____

Contact Number: _____

____ Address/Phone Change

____ 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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