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



JANUARY 17, 2021

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

AS JOHN THE BAPTIST
WATCHED JESUS
WALK BY,
HE SAID,
"BEHOLD, THE
LAMB OF GOD."

JOHN 130

Monsignor Gilbert C. Gente—Pastor ggente@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Parish Information

Saturday (Vigil): 4:00 & 6:00 P.M. (with guidelines) **Sunday:** 7:00, 8:30 & 11:00 A.M. (with guidelines)

Weekday Masses: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday—8:00 A.M.;

Wednesday—7:00 P.M. (with guidelines) **Holy Day of Obligation:** 8:00 A.M. & 7:00 P.M. (with guidelines)

Reconciliation: Saturday - 3:00—3:30 P.M.. (with guidelines)

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Baptism: Sundays (by appointment and with guidelines)

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 Msgr. Gilbert 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, call Msgr. Gilbert at 724-295-2281.

Anointing of the Sick: Contact Msgr. Gilbert at 724-295-2281

Holy Communion: Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are available to bring the Eucharist to the sick and homebound (with guidelines). 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, *Main Organist* 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, Teen Ministry Melissa Kristine/Beth Macurdy Evangelization John Nemcek—Homebound Ministry Gina Jones—Helping Hands

724-448-9251; <u>ginaj1904@gmail.com</u>

Organizations

Diane Grant—Christian Mothers Brenda DeMeno/Mary Ellen Gray/ Stella Aul/Barbara Bly—St. Vincent de Paul Society

Tim Fogarty—FORGED (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



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

MASSES FOR THE 2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SATURDAY: January 16th

4:00 P.M. ♥St. Mary Parishioners
6:00 P.M. †J. Easley Family (Estate)

SUNDAY: January 17th

7:00 A.M. †Maurice Heinritz Family (Estate) 8:30 A.M. †Deceased of the Policicchio & Stewart

Families (The Policicchio's)

11:00 A.M. ▼†Beach Family—Living & Deceased (Family)

MONDAY: January 18th 8:00 A.M. †Victor Zadnik (Wife)

TUESDAY: January 19th

8:00 A.M. †Russ & Louise Campbell Family (Mike Huth)

WEDNESDAY: January 20th

7:00 P.M. †Walter Sliviak (Robert & Diane Grant)

THURSDAY: January 21st

8:00 A.M. †Harold Macurdy (Ron & Linda Gallagher)

FRIDAY: January 22nd

8:00 A.M. †Richard Brestensky (Mom & Dad)

MASSES FOR THE 3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SATURDAY: January 23rd

4:00 P.M. †Eleanor Huth (Joan Huth)
6:00 P.M. ♥Special Intention (Cathy Singer)

SUNDAY: January 24th

7:00 A.M. ♥St. Mary Parishioners

8:30 A.M. †Dolores Watt (Timothy Watt)

11:00 A.M. †Ken Hughes (Family)



Readings for the Week



Monday: Heb 5:1-10; Ps 110:1-4; Mk 2:18-22

Tuesday: Heb 6:10-20; Ps 111:1-2, 4-5, 9,

10c; Mk 2:23-28

Wednesday: Heb 7:1-3, 15-17; Ps 110:1-4; Mk

3:1-6

Thursday: Heb 7:25 — 8:6; Ps 40:7-10, 17;

Mk 3:7-12

• Friday: Heb 8:6-13; Ps 85:8, 10-14; Mk

3:13-19, or any of a number of readings for the Day of Prayer

Saturday: Heb 9:2-3, 11-14; Ps 47:2-3, 6-9;

Mk 3:20-21

Sunday: Jon 3:1-5, 10; Ps 25:4-9; 1 Cor 7:29

-31; Mk 1:14-20

Altar Memorials



The Altar Bread and Wine is presented for this week **In Thanksgiving** by *Sharon Mihalich*



The Sanctuary Lamp (Candle) will burn this week **In Thanksgiving**, requested by *Sharon Mihalich*

Ministry Schedule January 23rd & 24th, 2021

ALTAR SERVERS:

Saturday, 4:00 P.M. TBA Saturday, 6:00 P.M. TBA Sunday, 7:00 A.M. None

Sunday, 8:30 A.M. Sarah Shepherd Sunday, 11:00 A.M. Mason DeMeno

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION:

Saturday, 4:00 P.M. Bridget Fogarty

Saturday, 6:00 P.M. TBA Sunday, 7:00 A.M. TBA

Sunday, 8:30 A.M. Kim Holbein Sunday, 11:00 A.M. Marushka Steele

LECTORS:

Saturday, 4:00 P.M. Janice Meola Saturday, 6:00 P.M. TBA

Sunday, 7:00 A.M. TBA

Sunday, 8:30 A.M. Judy Bergstrom Sunday, 11:00 A.M. Bill Cogley

ORGANIST:

Saturday, 4:00 P.M.

Saturday, 6:00 P.M.

Sunday, 7:00 A.M.

Sunday, 8:30 A.M.

Sunday, 11:00 A.M.

Diane Pleva

Quiet Mass

Tom Koharchik

Dave Wesolosky

CANTOR:

Saturday, 4:00 P.M. Alex Smith
Saturday, 6:00 P.M. Quiet Mass
Sunday, 7:00 A.M. Quiet Mass
Tom Koharchik
Sunday, 11:00 A.M. TBA



<u>Please Note</u>: If any ministers attend the temporary new masses at 6:00 P.M. on Saturday or 7:00 A.M. on Sunday, could you please come to the sacristy to offer your services in your respective ministry. Thank you!



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

Weekday Mass—8:00 A.M. - Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday; Wednesday - 7:00 P.M. (with guidelines)

Confessions—Saturday - 3:00 to 3:30 P.M. (with guidelines)

Weekend Masses—Saturday (Vigil): 4:00 & 6:00 P.M. (with guidelines)

Sunday: 7:00, 8:30 & 11:00 A.M. (with guidelines)

Remember that the rosary is prayed on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, immediately following the 8:00 A.M. mass and at 6:30 P.M. on Wednesday, prior to the 7:00 Mass. On weekends, the rosary is recited before each weekend mass.

January 18th Bible Study—9:00 A.M. - Fellowship Hall

January 19th Leadership Meeting—6:30 P.M. - Fellowship Hall

January 21st
January 25th
January 26th
January 28th

***Until further notice, we will only be live streaming the Sunday Mass at 8:30 A.M.



Parish Information/Events

The Administrative Office—During this pandemic, the office continues to be open the normal hours of Monday through Thursday, 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M., and Friday, 9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. St. Mary's will continue to be open for private prayer from 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. daily and 12:00 Noon to 3:00 P.M. on Sundays. We are following and adhering to all CDC and diocesan guidelines. Signs are posted in church and we ask that you follow these instructions/guidelines. We continue to clean and sanitize after each service and deep clean on a weekly basis. †

Regional Mass

A regional Mass is celebrated every Sunday at 7:00 P.M. at St. Lawrence Church First Street—Cadogan, PA 16212



In order to meet our weekly deadline, please note that all bulletin announcements/information must be received in writing or by email no

later than 10:00 A.M. on Mondays.

Thank you!



Mass Intention Requests are being accepted for the year 2021. Mass requests will be received at the Administrative Office during normal office hours and your donation is to be made at the time of your request. If you have already made your requests and would like to do additional masses, please stop in at the Administrative Office during normal office hours. Please note that if a mass is requested and a Communion Service needs to be scheduled, Msgr. Gilbert will take the mass intention with him. Also, please note that we are currently accepting mass requests for the

6:00 P.M. Saturday Mass and the 7:00 A.M. Sunday mass for the months of January and February, 2021. Thank you! †



We still have some envelopes available for your weekly intentions for *The Sanctuary Candle* and the *Altar Bread & Wine*. For the month of February, The Altar Bread & Wine is available for the week of February 28th. For the month of March, the Altar Bread & Wine is available for the week of March 7th and the week of March 28th. This is a very special way to remember a deceased family member or to celebrate a special event. The remembrance begins on Sunday and ends on Saturday of that week. *Please note that your donation (\$20.00/ea.) must be given at the time*

of your request. Thank you! †



In your charity, please remember the souls of those who passed away, especially *Jean Rupert* and *Robert Ziemkiewicz*. We ask God to welcome *Jean* and *Robert* and to bring comfort and peace to their families. May the souls of our deceased parish members and the souls of all the faithfully departed, through the mercy of God, continue their journey to eternal life in the heavenly kingdom. †



Children's offertory envelopes are located on the table in back of the church for those families that would like to take a box home. †



Baptized in Christ

Baptized into our Faith - Congratulations to Bowen James Ladie, child of Samantha and Nicholas Ladie, who was baptized on Sunday, December 20th. May our Lord, Jesus Christ grant that Bowen may receive the fullness of His grace.









News/Activities from Our Ministries/Organizations

Baptism Preparation Class

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 2021 is as follows: Friday, March 12th; Friday, June 11th; Friday, September 10th and Friday, 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, February 1st, at 7:00 P.M., in the Fellowship Hall. The rosary will be prayed at 6:30 P.M. All members are encouraged to attend.

Our beautiful prayer garden behind the church is a wonderful place to honor a loved one. There are several Hail Mary stones available for purchase at \$300.00 each. If you are interested, please contact the Administrative Office at 724-295-2281 or Judy Bergstrom at 724-316-5352. †

The Pastoral Council will meet on Tuesday, January 26th at 6:30 P.M. in the Fellowship Hall. All members are ncouraged to attend. †

Evangelization

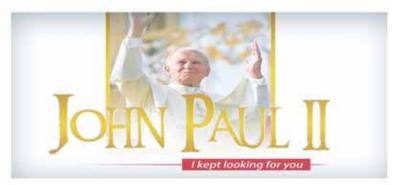
FORMED°

PICK OF THE WEEK

January 17, 2021

JOHN PAUL II: I KEPT LOOKING FOR YOU

This incredible documentary traces Pope St. John Paul II's impact on the Church and the world. This film is a wonderful tribute to a man who inspired millions of people to deeper faith in Jesus Christ.



MISERY MEETS MERCY FORMED

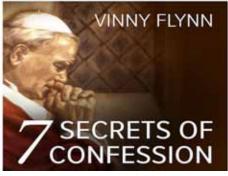
FORMED NOW! MISERY MEETS MERCY: SAINT FAUSTINA **KOWALSKA**

St. Faustina is known as the "secretary of Divine Mercy" because of the revelations of the Lord to her about His incredible mercy. Join Dr. Ben Akers and Fr. Mateusz as they discuss her proclamation of the message of Divine Mercy.

LISTEN

7 SECRETS OF CONFESSION BY VINNY FLYNN

The Sacrament of Confession is the place where we get to encounter the Lord's mercy in a tangible way. In this talk, best selling author and Catholic speaker Vinny Flynn explores the incredible gift of mercy we encounter in Confession.



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.



Beginning the week of February 22nd, we will be offering a five week program at our parish that will help you to experience Christ's Passion and Death as you never have before. In No Greater Love: A Biblical Walk Through Christ's Passion, we are going to walk step-by-step with Jesus on his journey from his Agony in the Garden to his Crucifixion on Calvary. Along the way, we will unpack the biblical background to these events, the prophecies, and most especially, the ways Jesus is inviting us to walk more closely with him today. We are offering two in person

sessions: one on Monday mornings at 9:00 and the other on Thursday evenings at 7:00. We are also offering an "at home study" for those who need another option. All information and registration information is on our website at: www.stmaryfreeport. There is also a flyer in today's bulletin with all details. The deadline to register is February 7th.

Yawn.... How ordinary — Last Sunday marked the official closing of the Christmas season with the feast of the Baptism of the Lord and Monday marked the start of the 1st week in Ordinary Time. Although we celebrate the 2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time this week, it is anything but ordinary. The word ordinary comes from a Latin word Ordinalis which means "numbered" and that is exactly what happens. Ordinary time will now last until Ash Wednesday and will pick up again after the feast of Pentecost and then conclude the day before the 1st Sunday of Advent, which is on November 28th, 2021. Ordinary time is a beautiful and rich time of the year in which we have the opportunity to remember and reflect upon the ministry of Jesus. This is the meat and potatoes time of our faith in which we become nourished and fed with the parables and simple teachings of our Lord. Our greatest desire and resolution this year is to become an ordinary disciple of Christ. But we are not to confuse with this term as meaning something that is not special. We are unique in our Father's eyes since He has known us from our mother's wombs. God not only knows us but has loved us "with an everlasting love" (Jeremiah 31:3). In our culture, we are tempted to look at people in the headlines, the influencers and sports stars, as towering mountains and ourselves as something small and insignificant. However, even Abraham Lincoln noted that "God must love the common man...He made so many of them". The greatest battles and wars of all history were not won by a General or King, but by the common soldiers whose determination and sacrifice made the victory possible. Saint Peter reminds us that we are a "chosen race" and "God's own people" being called "out of darkness into His marvelous light" (1 Peter 2:9). Jesus said, "Let your light shine before men" (Matthew 5:16), so others will see the Gospel message in the Faith that I live, the Hope that I proclaim, and the Love that I show my neighbor. After hearing that "The Mass is ended" each Sunday (or daily), we march onto the field of battle as we walk out of the doors of Saint Mary's, for that is when the real struggle begins. The eyes and ears of countless souls are upon each and every one of us because so many in this world are listening, longing, and even aching for a word of hope. In preparation to be an "Everyday Disciple" of the Lord, we can follow these three great tips that this Sunday gives us. First, we must be attentive and "wait patiently for the Lord" (Psalm 40:1). Just as the prophet, Samuel, did in the first reading, we must be open to the voice of God in our lives, even when we slumber in the ordinary time. When God unfolds His plan for us in the circumstances of our lives, we can answer "Speak, for your servant hears" (1 Samuel 3:9). Second, it is in the hearing of the voice of the Father that we can become changed and forged into the disciple He so wants us to be. In the gospel reading, Andrew and John, while listening to John the Baptist, hear and respond to his teaching when he announces "the Lamb of God" is in their midst (John 1:36). God's voice comes to us in many ways, but it is often through another that His message is delivered. Third, just as they responded to John's guidance, we must follow the One they had been seeking. When we make the decision to follow Jesus and respond to His "come and see", we cannot help but desire to draw others in the same direction. We find out how a life, lived in His presence, is extraordinary. If we have an open heart and willing spirit, the Great Craftsman will mold us into a vessel that will carry His word to a soul in need. Our lives can be one that will lead someone irresistibly toward the greatest truth in this world. It is then that we will become not just another ordinary disciple. †

• 18 6 E All men of the parish are asked to consider joining the FORGED (Men's Group). Contact Tim Fogarty at: [Man's Group] tpfogarty618@gmail.com to become a member or to discuss becoming a member.



FORGED also encourages all men of the parish to sign up to attend both the Virtual Diocesan men's conference THE WELL on Saturday March 20th and the in-person Men's Conference now scheduled for September 25th. Following is the information on both events. The virtual seminar on Saturday, March 20th is free to anyone who wishes to attend and will be available on the Diocese of Greensburg website and Facebook Pages. The event theme is "Jesus is Knocking, Open the Door!" and will run from 9:00 —11:30 A.M. It will feature two dynamic speakers: Author and speaker Mike Aquilina of Bridgeville, and Fr. Boniface Hicks, O.S.B., Director of Spiritual Formation at St. Vincent Seminary in Latrobe. Interested men are asked to register for this free event so they are able to receive detailed information. Registration can be found at: www.dioceseofgreensburg.org/THEWELL . The in-person Men's Conference is planned for Saturday, September 25th. Men who registered for the 2020 conference and want to remain registered for

the in-person 2021 conference do not need to take any action; those men are automatically registered for both the virtual seminar and the in-person conference on September 25th. Each will be contacted ninety days prior to confirm their attendance. New registrants are encouraged to e-mail: THEWELL@dioceseofgreensburg.org for additional information. †

News from Our Diocese

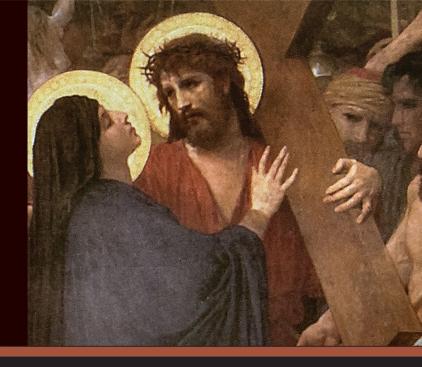


The Ordination and Installation Mass for Bishop-elect Larry J. Kulick, J.C.L., as the Sixth Bishop of the Diocese of Greensburg will be celebrated Thursday, February 11th, at 2:00 P.M., at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral. In an abundance of caution and in order to prioritize the health and safety of the faith community, attendance and in order to prioritize the health and safety of the faith community, attendance

will be extremely limited and by invitation only. However, the entire diocesan community is invited to participate in the celebration, which will be available for viewing on the diocesan website: www.dioceseofgreensburg.org, our Diocesan Facebook page and YouTube Channel. The Mass will also be broadcast by EWTN (Eternal Word Television Network) live at 2:00 P.M. EST. Diocesan coverage of this much-anticipated event will begin at 1:00 P.M., with special coverage by The Catholic Accent. The diocese will also livestream Evening Prayer on the Vigil of the Mass of Episcopal Ordination and Installation of Bishop Kulick, Wednesday, February 10th, at 7:00 P.M. at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral. †

GREATER LOVE

A BIBLICAL WALK THROUGH CHRIST'S PASSION



Dates - Times - Location

Join us for a five week Lenten Reflection at St. Mary, Mother of God, Freeport.

There are two different times to choose from or you can choose an at home study option on Monday mornings at 9:00 A.M. beginning
February 22nd OR
Thursday evenings at 7:00 P.M.
beginning February 25th
or the study at home option
without the group discussion.

In person groups will meet for about one hour.

Cost – Registration

Each participant will receive a workbook as well as the book, *No Greater Love*, and access to the online videos.

The cost is \$25.00 and can be paid at the first session.

For More Information

Register on our website:

www.stmaryfreeport.com - under the Events
tab or you may call Melissa at
724-230-4450.

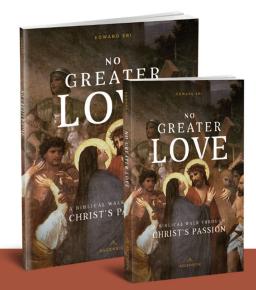
Please register by Sunday, February 7th.

Materials will be available to pick up
February 17th – Ash Wednesday

Thousands sought Jesus during his life. Only a few followed him to Calvary.

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Pray for Vocations

Prayer for Religious Vocations

Pray for Vocations

Heavenly Father

Your loving providence accompanies us on our life's journey. Thank you for the many gifts you have given us.

We ask that you continue to call sons and daughters from our families and parishes to serve as priests, deacons and consecrated men and women

in the Diocese of Greensburg.

Send your Spirit upon us so that many will respond with great love to your call to service and leadership in your Church.

> Give to those you have chosen the faith of the apostle, the vision of the prophet, and the courage of the martyr.

Through the intercession of our Diocesan patroness, Our Lady of the Assumption,

help us to be faithful disciples of your Son by following the example of Mary.

Make us generous in sharing ourselves and our talents for the sake of your Kingdom on earth.

We ask this through Christ the Risen Lord.

Imprimatur The Most Reverend Lawrence E. Brandt, JCD, PhD Bishop of Greensburg August 15th, 2004



Offertory Collection for January 10th, 2020

No. of Envelopes Mailed Out: 574 No. of Envelopes Received: 134

Collection: Offertory - \$6,379.87; Loose - \$257.00 Electronic Payments (26) - \$1,550.00 Additional Solemnity of Mary (6) - \$155.00

Total Collection - \$8,341.87

Although we are now able to attend Mass, we continue to urge those who do not yet feel comfortable in attending to please mail your weekly/monthly contribution or drop it off at the Administrative Office or the mail box outside the office doors.

THANK YOU!

GOD'S TITHES & YOUR OFFERING

Something to think about—If you normally give in the offertory basket, please think about on-line giving. Online giving is a safe and easy way to support our parish. This system enables you to support St. Mary, Mother of God Church by making your weekly, bi-weekly or monthly contribution or by establishing a recurring contribution. Thank you!

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



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