St. Mary, Mother of God Church

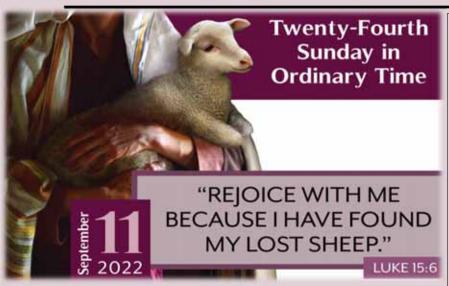


Roman Catholic Church 608 High Street ~ Freeport, PA 16229

A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg
A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust



Established 1826



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

Parish Information

Saturday (Vigil): 4:00 P.M. **Sunday:** 8:30 & 11:00 A.M.

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

Wednesday—7:00 P.M.

Holy Day of Obligation: 8:00 A.M. & 7:00 P.M.

Reconciliation: Saturday - 3:00—3:30 P.M.

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 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. 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

Jerome (J.T.) Tuskan

Deacon Candidate

William Girardi

Pastoral Associate—412-719-7085

Claudia Vertosick

Business Manager/Parish Secretary Helen James, Religious Education Director

Thomas Koharchik, Main Organist

Ed & Jeannie Lepkowski

Parish Custodians

Judy Bergstrom, Cemetery Sales Coordinator

724-316-5352

Jeff Jones, *Groundskeeper—724-448-9250* Chris Bender, *Fellowship Hall Coordinator* 724-272-1995

Ministries

Laura Huth—Teen Ministry

John Nemcek—Homebound Ministry

Gina Jones—Helping Hands

724-448-9251; ginaj1904@gmail.com

Brenda DeMeno—The Caring Tree

Organizations

Diane Grant—Christian Mothers

Bill Cogley—St. Vincent de Paul Society

724-596-2942

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

Mass Intentions

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

MASSES FOR THE 24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SATURDAY: September 10th

4:00 P.M. †Edward Varshine (Ernie & Diane Bragiel)

SUNDAY: September 11th

8:30 A.M. †Bernard & Ann Kort (Kort Kids)

11:00 A.M. ♥St. Mary Parishioners

MONDAY: September 12th

8:00 A.M. †Brian Welsh (Ron & Renea Ehrlich)

TUESDAY: September 13th

8:00 A.M. †Denise Zabinski (Mary Fullerton)

WEDNESDAY: September 14th

7:00 P.M. †Geno Pernazza

(Wife, Children, Grandchildren)

THURSDAY: September 15th

8:00 A.M. †Dorothy Wyant (Shipe Family)

FRIDAY: September 16th

8:00 A.M. †Joseph Mollica (Gerry Clark/Janis Harbison)

MASSES FOR THE 25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SATURDAY: September 17th

4:00 P.M. †Mary & John Lucovich

(Dan & Karen Lucovich)

SUNDAY: September 18th

8:30 A.M. †Andrew Sliwiak (Kymer Family)

11:00 A.M. ♥St. Mary Parishioners

Readings for the Week

Monday: 1 Cor 11:17-26, 33; Ps 40:7-10, 17;

Lk 7:1-10

Tuesday: 1 Cor 12:12-14, 27-31a; Ps 100:1-5;

Lk 7:11-17

Wednesday: Nm 21:4b-9; Ps 78:1bc-2, 34-38;

Phil 2:6-11; Jn 3:13-17

Thursday: 1 Cor 15:1-11; Ps 118:1b-2, 16ab-17,

28; Jn 19:25-27 or Lk 2:33-35

Friday: 1 Cor 15:12-20; Ps 17:1bcd, 6-8b, 15;

Lk 8:1-3

Saturday: 1 Cor 15:35-37, 42-49; Ps 56:10c-14;

Lk 8:4-15

Sunday: Am 8:4-7; Ps 113:1-2, 4-8; 1 Tm 2:1-8;

Lk 16:1-13 [10-13]



Altar Memorials



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

Geno Pernazza

by Wife, Children, Grandchildren

~~~~~~~



The Sanctuary Lamp (Candle) will burn this week in loving memory and honor of

The Parents of Tim & Bridget,
requested by

Tim & Bridget Fogarty

## Ministry Schedule September 17th & 18th, 2022

**ALTAR SERVERS:** 

Saturday, 4:00 P.M. Dawson Gaillot

Sunday, 8:30 A.M. Kristine Family; Emily Boylan;

Harper O'Donnell

Sunday, 11:00 A.M. Mason DeMeno; Evan Giori

**EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION:** 

Saturday, 4:00 P.M. Dave Brestensky Sunday, 8:30 A.M. Judy Bergstrom Sunday, 11:00 A.M. Andre Volek

LECTORS:

Saturday, 4:00 P.M. Ernie Bragiel Sunday, 8:30 A.M. Jeff Jones

Sunday, 11:00 A.M. Brigette Kennedy

**ORGANIST:** 

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

CANTOR:

Saturday, 4:00 P.M. Alex Smith Sunday, 8:30 A.M. Tom Koharchik Sunday, 11:00 A.M. TBA



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

Note—All liturgical ministers must have their clearances up to date!

Thank you!



Visitors If you are new to the area, we invite you to share fully in our parish life. Your presence brings COMO vitality and new gifts to the community. Please take a moment to register. Forms are available OUR CHURCH 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. Confessions—Saturday - 3:00 to 3:30 P.M. Weekend Masses—Saturday (Vigil): 4:00 P.M.; Sunday: 8:30 & 11:00 A.M.

September 11th Parish Picnic—11:00 A.M. mass and picnic (12:00 Noon-3:00 P.M.) at Renshaw Farms

September 12th Christian Mother's Meeting—7:00 P.M - Christian Mother's Room

September 13th ALPHA—6:30 P.M. - Fellowship Hall FORGED—7:00 P.M. - Fellowship Hall September 14th

Baptismal Preparation Class—6:30 P.M. - Fellowship Hall September 16th

September 18th Catechetical Sunday; Religious Education Classes Begin—9:30 to 10:40 A.M.;

Parent Meeting for Confirmation—9:30 A.M. - Fellowship Hall

September 20th ALPHA—6:30 P.M. - Fellowship Hall

Confessions/Adoration/Rosary/Divine Mercy—Following the 8:00 A.M. mass September 23rd

Wedding Rehearsal (Brestensky/Linsenbigler)—6:00 P.M.

\*\*\*Please note that we will live stream the Sunday Mass at 8:30 A.M.



## Parish Information/Events

If This Actor Can Spread the Good News, Why Not You? Are you familiar with Candidates Corner the word stigmata? For Roman Catholics, it describes the appearance of bodily lacerations, scars and pain in locations corresponding to the wounds (for example on his hands, wrists, and feet) that Jesus suffered from his crucifixion. A few great Catholic saints, such as Francis of Assisi and Padre Pio, bore the stigmata on their bodies and suffered pain for years. A new movie has just been released about the early life of Saint Padre Pio, and the film stars Shia LeBeouf, who seems an unlikely candidate to play the great saint. LeBeouf had a reputation as a Hollywood bad boy for issues with drugs, alcohol and alleged abusive behavior. With his world spinning out of control, he even considered taking his own life. So how could a person like that portray Saint Pio? With God anything is possible, and He can use anyone to lead people to Christ. As Bishop Robert Barron, the well-known Catholic cleric and theologian, recently interviewed LeBeouf, (Bishop Barron Presents | Shia LaBeouf - Padre Pio and the Friars - YouTube), and the content is enormously interesting, entertaining and informative. Strikingly, it is a real-life demonstration of what God can do in a person's life no matter how far away from the Lord they have been or how much they have lived in the world and for themselves. Amazingly, Shia LeBeouf is now a practicing Roman Catholic after previously having little faith and believing everything in life was up to him. Consider watching the interview. It takes about ninety minutes. You, too, can hear LeBeouf's sincerity and passion as he tells Bishop Barron about the Capuchin priests and sisters who helped him turn his life around and helped his spiritual journey to Christ and the Catholic faith through their love and kindness. Our baptism calls us to be like the Capuchins and LeBeouf. Tell others about Jesus and how He died for us because of His great love. If Shia LeBeouf can now proclaim his love of God, you, too, can lead people to Christ and Catholicism with your words and actions. Take the leap and answer this casting call. Maybe even consider the next Alpha! —J.T. Tuscan «



In your charity, please remember the souls of those who passed away, especially Roy A. Geer. A blessing service for Roy was celebrated by Msgr. Gilbert at the Dennis Daugherty Funeral Home on Thursday, September 1st. We ask God to welcome Roy and all who have gone before us into the joy of everlasting life and bring comfort and peace to their families. †

## St. Mary, Mother of God Church

DATE: Wednesday, September 28th

TIME: 12:00 Noon—5:00 P.M. LOCATION: 608 High Street

Freeport

(Fellowship Hall)



# BLOOD DRIVE

Registration is open for our next Blood Drive on Wednesday September 28th, from 12:00 Noon to 5:00 P.M. There is a desperate need for blood. Please consider donating to help save lives! «

## ST. MARY'S FALL FESTIVAL



## Wine & Beer Tasting with Lite Fare



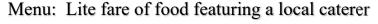
Saturday, September 24th, 2022 6:00 – 10:00 P.M.—St. Mary Fellowship Hall



### **Entertainment:**

## Murphy's 56 East Band

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Tickets are \$30.00/each; Table of 8/\$210.00 (discounted price)

Tickets—call Bridget at 724-294-0089; Jeff at 724-596-0503

~~All proceeds benefit the Maintenance Fund for the Administrative Center of St. Mary, Mother of God Church~~



**RCIA**—The acronym RCIA is often confusing for Catholics. This information is intended to explain RCIA and to invite you to participate... by inviting someone to attend, by attending yourself, or by joining the RCIA team.

RCIA—The letters stand for the RITE of CHRISTIAN INITIATION for ADULTS.

We welcome you... those that are not Catholic who come to Mass frequently with a Catholic friend, spouse, or family member; those that remain at home when other family members come to Mass; those that are Catholic but no longer active in practicing their faith; those who have an interest in the faith; and those Catholics hungry to learn more about the teachings of their faith. The first several weeks in the RCIA program is called INQUIRY... If you or someone has an interest, you are invited to attend the INQUIRY sessions to determine if you wish to continue. There is no fee, no books to buy, no commitment to finish the journey, no promise to become Catholic. Just come with a heart open to the Holy Spirit and allow the Holy Spirit to guide you henceforth. Consider asking someone you know to give RCIA a chance—in so many cases we have learned that the invitation or suggestion was all that someone was waiting for—to be asked—to be invited! Be that person that plants the seed... be that person that invites! In addition, we welcome new team members... you don't have to be an expert in theology or Catholic doctrine... all you need is the desire to share your faith journey with others, and to help participants in their faith journey... the Holy Spirit takes care of the rest.  $\sim$ 



The Diocese of Greensburg and Pennsylvania Law requires that you have all of your trainings/ clearances updated every five years in order to volunteer here at St. Mary, Mother of God Church. To obtain or update your clearances, please go to: <a href="www.dioceseofgreensburg.org">www.dioceseofgreensburg.org</a> and scroll down to the bottom of the page. On the right side you will see "obtain your clearances". Click on that and you will be directed to all of the clearances/trainings needed. When you click on any one of them, you will be directed to the link. If you need help in obtaining any of the above, please call

the Administrative Office at 724-295-2281. If computer assistance is required, please call Claudia and she will set-up an appointment for you in the office. There are significant penalties involved for not following the law. In order to protect the children, you, the Church and our staff and the diocese, it is of the utmost importance that this task be accomplished.  $\ll$ 



#### Congratulations to Catherine Federline,

daughter of Raissa and David Federline (niece of Rev. Thomas Federline),
who is participating in her aspirancy with the Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus in Cresson.
She will spend the next six months becoming accustomed to the life in the convent. «

# **FORMED**

## PICK OF THE WEEK

Sept 11, 2022

### WATCH

#### THE RELUCTANT SAINT: THE STORY OF ST. JOSEPH OF CUPERTINO

Maximilian Schell stars as "the flying friar," St. Joseph of Cupertino, in this story of the humble Franciscan friar. In Cupertino, Italy, Joseph's peasant mother convinces the reluctant Abbott to accept her son into the monastery. With the support of the kindly local Bishop who sees in him a great deal more than others do, and by a series of miraculous incidents, the simple but pious Joseph is ordained a priest.



#### DRAWING STRENGTH FROM OUR LADY OF SORROWS BY KIMBERLY HAHNE

Speaker and author Kimberly Hahn, wife of Dr. Scott Hahn and mother of six, is a convert to the Catholic Faith. Although honoring Mary was difficult for her to understand initially, she began to encounter Mary's loving guidance in little ways on a daily basis. In this presentation, Kimberly reflects on the joys and sorrows that Mary prayerfully experienced during her time on earth, and shares how her example leads us closer to



#### LEARN **BIBLE STUDY: GALATIANS**



Join Dr. Michael Barber and Dr. James Prothro as they dive into St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians. This new multipart series walks through this pivotal book and how it fits in with the rest of the New Testament, as well as how Paul's writings can help us grow in relationship with Jesus.

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. ≪



Not willing to let go of your marriage? Many couples continue to struggle in a marriage but are not willing to give up on each other. There is hope. Retrouvaille is a program designed to help struggling marriages regain their health. It helps a husband and a wife rediscover or re-awaken the love, trust and commitment that originally brought them together. The program is highly successful in saving hurting marriages, even bringing reconciliation FOR MARRIED COUPLES to couples who have already separated or divorced. Retrouvaille is a peer

ministry of volunteer couples that can help you learn the tools of healthy communication, build intimacy and heal, just as they have done in their own marriages. For confidential information about or to register for the program beginning with a weekend on September 30th, please contact Retrouvaille at 412-277-3434 or e-mail: 3041R@retrouvaille.org. Additional information is available at: helpourmarriage.org. «

## 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 remaining schedule for 2022 is as follows: Friday, September 16th and Friday, December 9th. Classes will begin between 6:30 and 7:00 P.M., depending on everyone's availability. 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, September 12th, at 7:00 P.M., in the Christian Mother's Room. The rosary will be prayed at 6:30 P.M. Since this is the first meeting since the summer break, all members are encouraged to attend. All

members are reminded that their clearances must be up to date! «



The monthly meetings have resumed and the September meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 14th at 7:00 P.M. in the Fellowship Hall. All men of the parish are invited to attend. If you are interested in knowing more about this organization, please contact Tim Fogarty at: tpfogarty618@gmail.com. Please note that all members must have their clearances up to date. 🧇





When we pray "Thy kingdom come", we acknowledge God's reign over all mankind. Jesus represents His kingdom on earth. We ask to be drawn into His kingdom in heaven at the end of time as we work toward heaven by living our lives as He wishes us to live them. "Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven" - with these words we petition God that we may know and carry out His will in this life and for all mankind to do so as well. We need to prepare, to be ready for the kingdom of God. ≪



Religious Education classes will begin on Sunday, September 18th, 9:30 to 10:40 A.M. If you did not attend Religious Education classes last year or if you are a new member, please register by calling Helen James at 724-295-4758. If you did attend classes last year, there is no need to register again this year. Teachers and Helpers (18 and older) please remember that all of your clearances must be up to date!



Please think about joining our Religious Education Ministry as a Substitute teacher YOU ARE NEEDED! (Clearances are required). Please do not feel like, "I can't teach religion". You can, and beginning as a substitute is the perfect way to begin! If you would like to know more about becoming involved, please call Helen at 724-295-4758. Remember, our program only works with the assistance of all of our volunteers. «

## Diocesan News/Events



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 800-932-0313. If the alleged abuser is  ${\sf T}$  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. «



The Diocese of Greensburg Men's Ministry Team is planning a Catholic Men's Retreat from 7:00 P.M. Friday, September 30th, until 5:00 P.M. Saturday, October 1st at Christ Our MEN'S RETREAT Shepherd Center, Greensburg. Speaker will be *Mark Joseph*, President of Outreach and Evangelization at Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio, who left a successful business

career ten years ago to serve the Catholic Church. Bishop Larry J. Kulick will celebrate a closing Mass for all participants. For those staying both days, the cost is \$100.00/single room, \$80.00/double room, with all meals included. There are also options for those not staying overnight or only attending one day. High school and college students receive a registration discount and financial assistance is available. For additional information, please contact Jim Pencola at 724-726-5315 or Dan Lieberum at 724-787-1797. Registration is due by Thursday, September 15th. «



The Greensburg Diocesan Council of the National Council of Catholic Women will sponsor the annual Interfaith Pro-Life Prayer Breakfast Saturday, October 1st at Rizzo's Malabar Inn with registration beginning at 9:30 A.M. Keynote speaker will be Reverend Daniel E. Carr, the Director of Pro-Life Activities, BREAKFAST Marriage Preparation and Adult Education for Formation for the Diocese of Greensburg. Father Carr will speak about "What is Life For?". Cost is \$25.00/adults and \$10.00/Students. Registration deadline is

September 23<sup>rd</sup>. Questions? Call Betty at 724-668-7436 or Millie at 724-537-2064. Anyone is welcome attend. «

## Around Our Diocese



Our Lady, Queen of Peace Parish, East Vandergrift, will hold bingo in their social hall on the following Sundays: September 11th and 18th and October 2nd and 17th. Doors will open at 5:30 P.M. and bingo begins at 6:30.



Our Lady, Queen of Peace Parish, East Vandergrift, will hold a 21-and-over Cash Bash Saturday, September 17th. Doors open at 5:00 P.M. The \$25.00 donation includes food, beverages and chances to win a total of \$3,000 in cash prizes. They will have pull tabs, 50/50's, and chances on a scratch-off lottery board. Theme baskets will also be available. Tickets may be purchased at their parish office in Apollo or by calling 724-882-9212. «

## Outside Our Diocese



The Seton Hill University National Catholic Center for Holocaust **Education** is hosting the greater Pittsburgh premiere of "From Darkness to Light: Mosaics Inspired by Tragedy," inspired by the Tree of Life synagogue shooting, through Friday, September 30th, in the Jodee Harris Gallery of the Seton Hill University Arts' Center. The Holocaust center is commemorating the 35th anniversary of its

founding. Gallery hours are Monday through Thursday, 1:00-8:00 P.M.; Friday, 1:00-3:00 P.M.; Sunday, 1:00-4:00 P.M. To arrange a private group tour, please email: ncche@setonhill.edu. «



The Knights of Columbus is pleased to announce that their monthly pancake and sausage breakfasts will resume on Sunday, September 11th. Stop down from 9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. at their council home located at 28 Garfield Street, Natrona and enjoy a delicious pancake and sausage breakfast and socialize with others who attend. Take your family and friends to this council fundraiser. Cost is \$6.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children under 6. Everyone is welcome! «

## Pray for Vocations

### **Prayer for Religious Vocations**

Pray for

**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 September 4th, 2022

No. of Envelopes Mailed Out: 587 No. of Envelopes Received: 156 Collection: Offertory - \$5,747.00 **Electronic Payments (16) - \$1,005.00** Loose - \$184.00; Children (6) - \$8.00 Combined Catholic University/Schools (2) - \$20.00

## Total Collection - \$6,964.00

Month of August On-Line Donations (17) - \$809.79 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!

## give online

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!

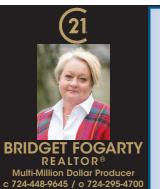
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| Address:                                          |                                   |
| Contact Number:                                   |                                   |
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