

St. Mary, Mother of God Church

Roman Catholic Church

608 High Street ~ Freeport, PA 16229

A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg

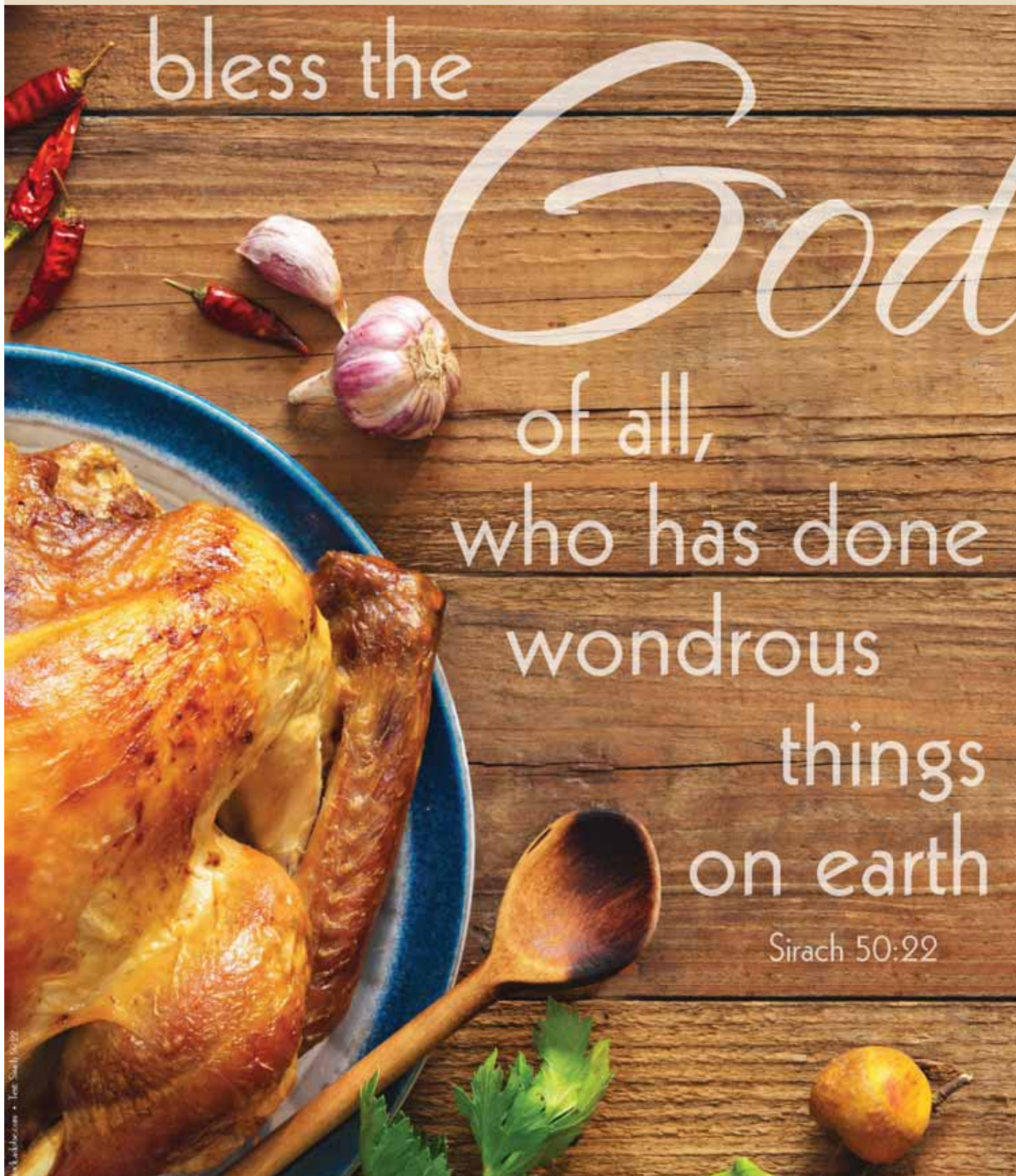
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Established 1826

bless the
God
of all,
who has done
wondrous
things
on earth

Sirach 50:22



Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK

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

MASSES FOR OUR LORD, JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

| | |
|---|---|
| SATURDAY: 4:00 P.M. | November 19th ♥St. Mary Parishioners |
| SUNDAY: 8:30 A.M. 11:00 A.M. | November 20th †Brian Welsh (Wife) †Birdie & Bud Posney (Posney Family) |
| MONDAY: 8:00 A.M. | November 21st †Ellen Huth (Dan & Karen Lucovich) |
| TUESDAY: 8:00 A.M. | November 22nd †Albert (Bud) Seitam (Pat Davis) |
| WEDNESDAY: 6:00 P.M. | November 23rd †William R. Balash, M.D. (Family) |
| THURSDAY: 9:00 A.M. | November 24th ♥In Thanksgiving |
| FRIDAY: 8:00 A.M. | November 25th †Nannie Jean Klaput (Donna & Steven Gardner) |

MASSES FOR THE 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

| | |
|---|--|
| SATURDAY: 4:00 P.M. | November 26th ♥Special Intention (Patty Hughes & Family) |
| SUNDAY: 8:30 A.M. 11:00 A.M. | November 27th †Carol Stewart (The Policicchio's) ♥St. Mary Parishioners |

Readings for the Week

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Monday: | Rv 14:1-3, 4b-5; Ps 24:1bc-4ab, 5-6; Lk 21:1-4 |
| Tuesday: | Rv 14:14-19; Ps 96:10-13; Lk 21:5-11 |
| Wednesday: | Rv 15:1-4; Ps 98:1-3ab, 7-9; Lk 21:12-19 |
| Thursday: | Rv 18:1-2, 21-23; 19:1-3, 9a; Ps 100:1b-5; Lk 21:20-28 Thanksgiving Day (suggested): Sir 50:22-24; Ps 145:2-11; 1 Cor 1:3-9; Lk 17:11-19 |
| Friday: | Rv 20:1-4, 11 — 21:2; Ps 84:3-6a, 8a; Lk 21:29-33 |
| Saturday: | Rv 22:1-7; Ps 95:1-7ab; Lk 21:34-36 |
| Sunday: | Is 2:1-5; Ps 122:1-9; Rom 13:11-14; Mt 24:37-44 |



Altar Memorials



The Altar Bread and Wine were donated
for this week in loving memory of
Richard & Elizabeth Ledoux
by Karen Savage



The Sanctuary Lamp (Candle) will burn this
week in loving memory of **John E. Gaillot, Sr.**,
requested by
*Ed & Jeannie Lepkowski,
Children & Grandchildren*

Ministry Schedule

November 26th & 27th, 2022

ALTAR SERVERS:

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Saturday, 4:00 P.M. | TBA |
| Sunday, 8:30 A.M. | Shepherd Family; Lasko Family; Margaret McKernan; AJ Jonzac |
| Sunday, 11:00 A.M. | Mason DeMeno; Evan Giori |

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION:

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------|
| Saturday, 4:00 P.M. | Arlene Miller |
| Sunday, 8:30 A.M. | Kim Holbein |
| Sunday, 11:00 A.M. | J.T. Tuskan |

LECTORS:

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| Saturday, 4:00 P.M. | Tim Fogarty |
| Sunday, 8:30 A.M. | Lisa Boylan |
| Sunday, 11:00 A.M. | Rob Svitek |

ORGANIST:

| | |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| Saturday, 4:00 P.M. | Dmitri Koval |
| Sunday, 8:30 A.M. | Tom Koharchik |
| Sunday, 11:00 A.M. | Dave Wesolosky |

CANTOR:

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------|
| Saturday, 4:00 P.M. | Choir |
| 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!*



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.; Wednesday—6:00 P.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.

November 20th Religious Education Classes & Teen Ministry —9:30 to 10:40 A.M.;
Baptism “Garrone”—12:15 P.M.
November 21st FORGED “Men’s Group” —7:00 P.M. - Fellowship Hall
November 23rd MMC Practice—6:45 P.M. - Music Ministry Room
November 24th Parish Office Closed; Free Thanksgiving Dinners—11:00 A.M.-2:00 P.M. - Fellowship Hall
November 25th Parish Office Closed; Confessions/Adoration/Rosary/Divine Mercy—Following the 8:00 A.M. mass
November 27th NO CCD; Advent Reflection—7:00 P.M. - Fellowship Hall
November 29th Pilgrimage for the Holy Land begins
November 30th MMC Practice—6:45 P.M. - Music Ministry Room
December 2nd First Friday - All Day Adoration; Benediction—6:00 P.M.
December 4th Religious Education Classes & Teen Ministry —9:30 to 10:40 A.M.;
Advent Reflection—7:00 P.M. - Conference Room

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



Parish Information/Events



This week we celebrate two holidays, one religious and the other – while not quite so religious – carries deep religious significance: *Christ the King* (the last Sunday of the Church year) and *Thanksgiving*. Although Thanksgiving Day is not specifically a Catholic holy day, it certainly goes hand in hand with our life of faith. Thanksgiving Day presents us with the perfect opportunity to look at this particular aspect of our faith—*Gratitude*. If that weren’t enough, our celebration as Jesus Christ as King of Heaven and Earth reminds us of our call to thanksgiving to the One who has given all that we are and have. This week, this is that once-a-year special time when we come together and pause for a moment to say “Thank you” to those around us for the blessings that they have given us: our gifts of family and friends, freedom and security, blessings both material and spiritual. Msgr. Gilbert and the staff would like to wish all our parishioners a very *Happy and Healthy Thanksgiving*. Please note that on Thursday, November 24th, we will celebrate Thanksgiving Day mass at 9:00 A.M. The Administrative Office will be closed Thursday and Friday, November 24th & 25th for the Thanksgiving Holiday. We will reopen Monday, November 28th.

“Give thanks to the Lord for he is good; His love is everlasting”

*Have a blessed
Thanksgiving!*



In your charity, please remember the souls of those who passed away, especially **Clarence E. Moore**. A Funeral Mass was celebrated for Clarence here at St. Mary, Mother of God Church on Tuesday, November 15th, at 10:00 A.M. We ask God to welcome **Clarence** and all who have gone before us into the joy of everlasting life and bring comfort and peace to their families. ☺

Mass Intention Requests

Mass Intention Requests are now being accepted for 2023. What a wonderful way to remember your loved ones. Mass requests will be received at the Administrative Office during normal office hours. **Your mass donation is to be made at the time of your request.** We are asking all parishioners to limit their requests to ten per year—three weekend masses only. You can call or stop in the office after December 1st if you would like to request additional masses. 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. Thank you! ☺



Christmas Basket Raffle - Ticket stubs and money may be put in the envelope provided to you and placed in the collection basket, mailed in, dropped off at the Administrative Office, or given to any Christian Mother. Tickets are only \$1.00/each. This is the only fundraiser that the Christian Mothers have each year. Your participation in this project is needed and appreciated. Proceeds benefit the children and parishioners of St. Mary Church. ☺



Annual "Blessing Bag" Campaign - St. Mary, Mother of God Parish is requesting you and your family be a "Blessing" to those in need by filling a grocery bag with non-perishable food items...and returning your filled bag to the church by **Monday, December 5th**. These bags, with a list of most needed items attached, are located at the Church entrances. Filled grocery bags will be taken to the Freeport Food Bank in time for their Christmas distribution. *Please do not take a bag if you are not participating.* Thank you for sharing your blessings with others! ~

Focus on Christ During this Advent Season

BEST Advent EVER "BEST ADVENT EVER" - Sign up with your email address and join *Dynamic Catholic* for the "BEST ADVENT EVER" email program at: www.dynamiccatholic.com/advent.html. You will receive short, free and inspiring videos via email from Matthew Kelly and the Dynamic Catholic team every morning to help you focus your day on what matters most. We've created not one, but TWO fantastic experiences for you this year. You can choose one or do both. ~

Let's get prepared for Christmas!

"It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas," or, at least that's the assumption based on that familiar holiday song.

But what does that look like at your house? Most of us anticipate the great sales at the mall on the day after Thanksgiving, string lights on the outside of our house, and decorating the inside of our homes.

But how exactly are we preparing our hearts for the greatest gift we've ever been given?

This Formed.org Advent study offers an opportunity to experience the joy of the true meaning of Christmas. We will explore:

*the mystery of the Incarnation
the Virgin Birth
the events surrounding the arrival of Jesus*

We will meet each Sunday of Advent from 7:00 to 8:00 P.M. in the Fellowship Hall to watch something to think about and then chat about it, sing songs about Jesus' birth, and snack on something delicious!

The dates will be:

Nov. 27th, Dec. 4th, Dec. 11th, Dec. 18th

Register today on our website: stmaryfreeport.com or if you'd like, call Melissa at 724-230-4450



How are you preparing for the
Coming of the Little Christ Child?

Freeport Theatre Festival
is delighted to present for one and all

"The Nativity – A Christmas Delight"

Written by Rev. Edward Volz, OSP and Rennick Steele
Friday, Saturday and Sunday—December 16th, 17th 18th
All performances begin at 7:00 P.M.

Pay What You Can

Reservations Necessary – Call 724-295-1934

~~Cookies and Hot Cider Social Afterwards~~



Advent Scripture Reading Reflection and Song

We will have musicians and a guest organist on the fourth Sunday of Advent - December 18th at 2:00 P.M. in St. Mary, Mother of God Church. Will be approximately one hour. Afterwards, we will have a fellowship gathering in the Fellowship Hall—3:00-5:00 P.M. ~

Baptized in Christ



Baptized into our Faith
Congratulations to
Ridge Anthony Samay,
child of **John and Brittany Samay,** who was
baptized on Sunday, October 30th.
May our Lord, Jesus Christ grant that
Ridge may receive the fullness of His grace.



On Tuesday, November 1st, Msgr. Gilbert and several parishioners went on a field trip to visit Pittsburgh Stained Glass Studios — the place where our stained glass restoration DLA project is underway.....



TEEN MINISTRY

The teens are once again collecting money to provide Christmas gifts for families who need a little extra cheer this year! As a congregation, we were able to help families impacted by housing insecurity, women and children escaping abusive households and a family impacted by fire last year. Cans will be located at the church entrances or monetary donations may be dropped off at the Administrative Office throughout the week. Shopping will occur in early December so we can deliver gifts in time for Christmas. Thank you for your support. We are so thankful to be part of such a generous parish! ☺

A Small Town Christmas

Freeport, PA

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2022

Begin your day with.....



9:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon
St. Mary Fellowship Hall
Menu: Waffles/Eggs/Sausage; Beverages—Orange Juice/Coffee
No Reservations Needed—No Charge!
Questions? Contact Sharon at 724-294-3128



Let Us Pray

We hear these words every week at Sunday Liturgy. But do you take them to heart? Ask yourself these questions.

Do you devote time for prayer each day? If not, why not?

How can you improve your prayer life?

How can prayer draw you closer to God?

St. Mary 's Parish will help you answer those questions and more with an eight-part series called *Oremus*, Latin for *Let us Pray*. Start the new year by joining fellow parishioners on Wednesday evenings January 4th through February 22nd from 6:30 to 8:00 P.M. or Monday mornings January 9th through February 27th from 9:00 – 10:30 A.M. in the Fellowship Hall. The Wednesday evening session will be led by our Deacon Candidate, J. T. Tuskan. Using Ascension Press content, including a video presentation from Fr. Mark Touns, and group discussion, the following topics will be covered: 1) What is Prayer? 2) Before You Pray 3) Lectio Divina 4) Relational Prayer 5) Spiritual Senses 6) Discernment in Prayer 7) Distractions 8) Desolation & Consolation. A participant workbook helps with important points from each session, discussion questions and a roadmap for daily prayer between meetings. St. Mary's Parish will subsidize one-half the cost of the participant guide with your cost being \$10.00. Please register by December 14th to enable the parish to order participant books. Contact J. T. Tuskan at 412-848-8027 to sign up or email him at: JTuskan@dioceseofgreensburg.org; register on the parish website: stmaryfreeport.com; call Claudia in the Parish Office; or fill out the short form below and drop it in the collection basket. You can pay the fee at the first session if need be. Please print. Make checks payable to St. Mary, Mother of God Parish.



Name _____

I will attend the

Email Address _____

_____ Wednesday evening sessions—6:30—8:00 P.M.

Phone Number _____

_____ Monday morning sessions—9:00—10:30 A.M.

Number of Workbooks _____



Next Sunday is the First Sunday of Advent. Advent comes from the Latin word 'Adventus' which means 'coming'. It is the beginning of a new liturgical year in western churches and will last for the four Sundays leading up to Christmas. This is a time of waiting and preparation for the Nativity of Christ but also for the return of Christ at the Second Coming. As we bless the advent wreath and light the first violet candle, we should ask ourselves "What am I doing to prepare myself spiritually for the birth of Jesus?". There are many rich traditions—using an advent wreath at your family table, praying a novena, reading the birth of Jesus in your bible (Matthew or Luke), fasting, attending mass more often, receiving reconciliation. Our bulletin will also have suggestions. ☺



Today our Diocesan collection will be for *The Catholic Relief Services Appeal*. Funds from this collection provide food to the hungry, support displaced refugees, and bring Christ's love and mercy to vulnerable people here and abroad. We ask you to please give generously to this collection. ☺

Pray for
Vocations

Prayer for Religious 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

Pray for
Vocations



Offertory Collection for November 13th, 2022

No. of Envelopes Mailed Out: 586

No. of Envelopes Received: 137

Collection: Offertory - \$5,230.61

Electronic Payments (18) - \$1,000.00

Loose - \$271.00; Children (4) - \$6.00

All Saints' Day (1) - \$10.00

Archdiocese for the Military Services (22) - \$423.00

Total Collection - \$6,940.61

Month of October On-Line Donations (18) - \$782.31

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!



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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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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