St. Mary, Mother of God Church

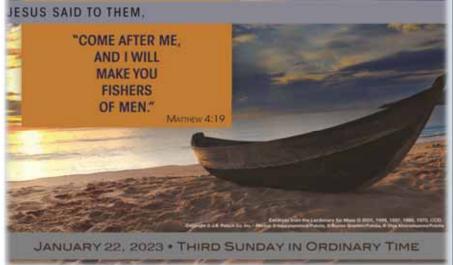


Roman Catholic Church 608 High Street ~ Freeport, PA 16229

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—6:00 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

Francine Corsi, MMC Director

Thomas Koharchik, Main Organist

Ed & Jeannie Lepkowski

Parish Custodians

 ${\bf Judy\ Bergstrom},\ {\it Cemetery\ Sales\ Coordinator}$

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 3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SATURDAY: January 21st

4:00 P.M. †Lydia Detman (Elaine & Neal Macurdy)

SUNDAY: January 22nd

8:30 A.M. †Richard Brestensky, Jr. (Mom & Dad)

11:00 A.M. ♥St. Mary Parishioners

MONDAY: January 23rd

8:00 A.M. †Alice Sypolt (John & Betty Lou Nemcek)

TUESDAY: January 24th

8:00 A.M. †Hughes & Vidas Families (Olivia Runco Leslie)

WEDNESDAY: January 25th

6:00 P.M. †Cindy Harbison (Rich & Angela Torrence)

THURSDAY: January 26th

8:00 A.M. †Bernard Ostrowski (Mrs. Dolores Bertuzzi)

FRIDAY: January 27th

8:00 A.M. †Eleanor Huth (The Lenny Palyzeski "Girls")

MASSES FOR THE 4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SATURDAY: January 28th

4:00 P.M. †Pauline Sliviak (Bob & Diane Grant)

SUNDAY: January 29th

8:30 A.M. †Corandina Policicchio (The Policicchio's)

11:00 A.M. ♥St. Mary Parishioners

Readings for the Week

Monday: Heb 9:15, 24-28; Ps 98:1-6; Mk 3:22-

30, or any of a number of readings

for the Day of Prayer

Tuesday: Heb 10:1-10; Ps 40:2, 4ab, 7-8a, 10,

11; Mk 3:31-35

Wednesday: Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22; Ps

117:1bc, 2; Mk 16:15-18

Thursday: 2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5; Ps 96:1-3, 7-8a,

10; Mk 4:21-35

Friday: Heb 10:32-39; Ps 37:3-6, 23-24, 39-40;

Mk 4:26-34

Saturday: Heb 11:1-2, 8-19; Lk 1:69-75; Mk 4:35-

41

Sunday: Zep 2:3; 3:12-13; Ps 146:6-10;

1 Cor 1:26-31; Mt 5:1-12a



Altar Memorials



The Altar Bread and Wine were donated for this week in loving memory of Robert Hughes, Dolly Hughes; Matthew & Anna Vidas by Olivia Runco Leslie



The Sanctuary Lamp (Candle) will burn this week in loving memory of Helen Arvay Zorn, requested by The Lipniskis Family

Ministry Schedule

January 28th & 29th, 2023

ALTAR SERVERS:

Saturday, 4:00 P.M. TBA

Sunday, 8:30 A.M. Shephard Family; Lasko Family;

Margaret McKernan;

A.J. Jonzcak

Sunday, 11:00 A.M. Jacob Schaeffer; Chloe Liti;

Tom Brestensky

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION:

Saturday, 4:00 P.M. Arlene Miller Sunday, 8:30 A.M. Kim Holbein Sunday, 11:00 A.M. Melissa Schaeffer

LECTORS:

Saturday, 4:00 P.M. Janice Meola Sunday, 8:30 A.M. Lisa Boylan Sunday, 11:00 A.M. Marushka Steele

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. MMC

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 ecconnervitality 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. - Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday; Wednesday - 6:00 P.M. Confessions—Saturday - 3:00 to 3:30 P.M.

Weekend Masses—Saturday: 4:00 P.M.; Sunday: 8:30 & 11:00 A.M.

Remember that the rosary is prayed on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, immediately following the 8:00 A.M. mass and at 5:30 P.M. on Wednesday, prior to the 6:00 Mass. On weekends, the rosary is recited before each weekend mass.

January 22nd Religious Education Classes —9:30 to 10:40 A.M. January 23rd "Let us Pray" Study—9:00 A.M. - Fellowship Hall

"Let us Pray" Study—6:30 P.M. - Fellowship Hall; MMC Practice—6:45 P.M. - MMC Room January 25th

Confessions/Adoration/Rosary/Divine Mercy—Following the 8:00 A.M. mass January 27th

Religious Education Classes —9:30 to 10:40 A.M.; Grief Share Meeting—6:00 to 7:30 P.M. - Fellowship Hall January 29th

January 30th "Let us Pray" Study—9:00 A.M. - Fellowship Hall January 31st Parish Council Meeting—7:00 P.M. - Fellowship Hall

February 1st Resurrection Choir Practice—10:00 A.M. - MMC Room; "Let us Pray" Study—6:30 P.M. - Fellowship Hall;

MMC Practice—6:45 P.M. - MMC Room

February 2nd St. Vincent de Paul Meeting—9:00 A.M - Fellowship Hall February 3rd First Friday—All Day Adoration; 6:00 P.M.—Benediction

Teen Ministry/Religious Education Classes —9:30 to 10:40 A.M.; February 5th

VBC Planning Meeting—1:00 P.M. - Conference Room; Grief Share Meeting—6:00 -7:30 P.M. - Fellowship Hall

"Let us Pray" Study—9:00 A.M. - Fellowship Hall; Christian Mother's Meeting—7:00 P.M. - CM Room February 6th

BLOOD DRIVE—12:00 Noon - 5:00 P.M.; "Let us Pray" Study—6:30 P.M. - Fellowship Hall; February 8th

MMC Practice—6:45 P.M.—MMC Room

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



Parish Information/Events

Candidates Corner Practice Gratitude for a Healthy Spirituality and Life. This past Christmas, I gave stocking stuffer gratitude journals to my family. That's because I started keeping one several years ago after hearing a homily suggesting one as a reminder of God's gifts. Remember that gratitude (or thanksgiving) is a response to a gift, and all of our gifts come from God. Importantly, Eucharist (from the Greek) means thanksgiving, our Sunday liturgy expresses great gratitude to God, and Sacred Scripture is full of examples in both the Old and New Testament. Here's my experience with the journal. Each night before bed, I write down ten things from that day for which I am grateful in a notebook. They could be big items, like living through two heart catheterizations a few years ago, or small things like playing with my granddaughters. While my journal didn't start with ten items, my daily gratitude writings have helped to make me a more joyful, calmer and healthier person while also drawing me closer to Christ, the giver of all good gifts. But the benefits are not just my opinion. For example, psychology studies have shown that grateful people sleep better, have fewer aches and pains and deal with stress more effectively. They are also happier, more optimistic and have a widening circle of friends. Catholic author and Dynamic Catholic CEO Matthew Kelly says that gratitude is a beautiful way of expressing generosity and that generous people can help themselves and the world flourish. What do some well-known Catholic saints say about gratitude? St. Therèse of Lisieux wrote that "Jesus does not demand great action from us but simply surrender and gratitude". Saint Teresa of Calcutta said that "The best way to show my gratitude is to accept everything, even my problems, with joy". And Saint Vincent de Paul said, "We should spend as much time thanking God for His benefits as we do asking Him for them." So, why not consider beginning your own gratitude journal? Begin with three items, move to five and eventually to ten. It could make for a wonderful 2023 and/or a great Lenten activity to continue throughout the year. —J.T. Tuskan «



PROTECTION OF THE UNBORN

Monday, January 23rd is a Day of Prayer for the Protection of the Unborn. We are called to observe this day through the penitential practices of prayer, fasting and/or giving alms. The following is a prayer that can be said:

> We praise and thank God for His goodness in creation, especially for the gift of life. We know that each life is precious and created in His image. We ask for protection for each sacred human life that He creates.

Amen.



Grief Support Group — Help and encouragement after the death of a loved one — GriefShare is a special weekly seminar and support group designed to help you rebuild your life. We know it hurts and we want to help! Please join us on Sunday evenings from 6:00 to 7:30 P.M. beginning January 29th, here in our Fellowship Hall. To register, please call our Administrative Office at 724-295-2281. ≪



First Friday Adoration—Looking to escape the distractions of daily life and spend some quiet time with the Lord? Then join us the first Friday of every month as we adore Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament. For the month of February, First Friday will fall on February 3rd. There will be all day adoration beginning at 9:00 A.M. Benediction will be at 6:00 P.M. If you are able to come and give an hour of your time to spend with our Lord, please sign up after Mass today on the sign-up sheet at the church entrance. Please remember that if we do not get enough parishioners to commit their time, we will have to discontinue this Catholic tradition at our parish. Join us as we adore our Lord Jesus!

"I look at Him and He looks at me." —~St. John Vianney &



There will be a planning meeting for this summer's Vacation Bible Camp on Sunday, February 5th at 1:00 P.M. in the Conference Center. We are planning for a week chock full of Jesus and fun for the children of our parish. This year's theme is Jesus our Superhero! It will be a week to be remembered. Anyone 18 and over who will be helping out with VBC will need all of their clearances. ≪



Are you asking yourself, what is ALPHA? ALPHA is a series of twelve sessions that explore life, faith, and meaning. The format is basic: eat a meal, watch an energetic video presentation, and participate in a small group discussion. There is no charge. There is no pressure. There is no follow-up. And there is no required knowledge of what it means to be a Christian or to be Catholic. ALPHA is meant for you if you have sat at mass and silently worried about a friend, or relative, or spouse who has fallen away from the church. Maybe you know someone who feels lost. Or you, a family member or friend is hurting. If any of these scenarios resonate with you, come, and join us this spring for ALPHA. Each ALPHA session explores an aspect of the Christian faith

and they are delivered from young, engaging speakers in high energy videos. Each discussion is intended to be a conversation that seeks to unpack the issues raised in the talk. There is no obligation to say anything, and there is nothing that cannot be said. So, come and see, come and share, come and explore. Lives will be transformed. ALPHA is going to be on Thursday Nights beginning March 2nd at 6:30 P.M. The sessions will take place in the Fellowship Hall. Come and explore ALPHA. Learn what others think about life's big issues. And enjoy some great food and fellowship! To register, please visit: www.stmaryfreeport.com. «

St. Mary, Mother of God Church

DATE: Wednesday, February 8th TIME: 12:00 Noon—5:00 P.M. LOCATION: Fellowship Hall

608 High Street Freeport





For additional information or to schedule your lifesaving appointment, please visit: https://donateblood.centralbloodbank.org. You can also call 412-209-7000



Mass Intention Requests are 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. 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! 🤝



We have a couple of envelopes available for your weekly intentions for The Sanctuary Candle and the Altar Bread & Wine. 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 WEEK be given at the time of your request. Thank you! so



Pancake Breakfast - The Men's Group, FORGED, will be holding a pancake breakfast on Sunday March 19th (St. Joseph's Day). Information on times and ticket cost will be in an upcoming bulletin.

Balptized in Christ



Baptized into our Faith—Congratulations to *Jack Apollo Pijanowski*, child of Robert and Victoria Pijanowski, who was baptized on Sunday, January 8th. May our Lord, Jesus Christ, grant that *Jack* may receive the fullness of His grace. «





Christian Mother's Christmas Party—Tuesday, January 10th, 2023—Evolution Grille









The Christian Mothers welcome their newest member, Michelle Craig.



FORMED Week of January 22, 2023

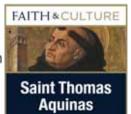


True Reformers Saint Francis de Sales: Pastor of Souls

St. Francis de Sales became a hero during the Catholic Reformation for his pastoral care and spiritual writings. Join Dr. Chris Blum as he walks through the life of this great saint, who is celebrated on January 24th!

Saint Thomas Aquinas with Randall Smith

The Angelic Doctor is often associated with his Summa Theologica among his other great works. Join Drs Christopher Blum and Randall B. Smith as they explore some of the lesser known works of St. Thomas Aquinas.



Learn and enjoy your faith at home and on the go, from any device. Sign-up for free at: <u>formed.org/signup</u>. 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. «

The Catholic Church has *Fathers of the Church*! They are called *Fathers* because they "fathered" the early church. They were leaders in the early church who taught, defended and developed Catholic doctrines. There are only about one hundred *Fathers* in all. To be a *Father of the Church*, they had to have antiquity (meaning they lived within the first 800 years of the Church, referred to as the Patristic Era.) doctrinal orthodoxy, personal

holiness, and approval by the Church. Doctrinal Orthodoxy refers to "right teachings"; they preserved for us the teachings of the Apostles who received their teaching from Christ. Some of them were cranky old men, hotheads, pacifists, monks, and poets. They protected the church against heretics and preserved the truth. This seems like ancient history, but they are still relevant today. «



A Dating Retreat and Study Series for single Catholics! NCSC is hosting a FREE online Dating Retreat with guest speaker Fr. Robert Spitzer January 27th & 28th. Currently, over 400 single Catholics from around the world are registered and we're expecting 500+. Don't miss the opportunity to meet other like-minded singles and go deeper in your faith!

Beginning the week of February 6th, NCSC will also be hosting a 6-week study series - "Relationship Ready: A Single Catholic's Roadmap to Marriage" that will cover topics such as the meaning of love, communication, conflict resolution, male/female complementarity and much more. To sign up for these programs, please visit: NationalCatholicSingles.com. &

Around Our Diocese



Our Lady, Queen of Peace Parish, East Vandergrift, will hold a cash bash (21 and over) Saturday, February 11th, in their social hall. Doors open at 5:00 P.M. and the first number will be drawn at 7:00 P.M. The \$25.00 donation includes food, beverages and chances to win \$3,000. Pull tabs, 50/50's, and chances on a scratch-off lottery board and theme baskets will also be available. Tickets are at their parish office in Apollo or by calling 724-882-9212. ❖

Outside Our Diocese

A community Cash Bash is being held on Saturday, February 18th at 6:00 P.M. in Patterson Hall, Guardian Angels Parish (Blessed Sacrament Worship Site), 800 Montana Avenue, Natrona Heights, PA. Tickets are \$10.00/each. Winner does not have to be present. Ticket includes admission, lottery, dinner and drinks. Cash and other prizes will be awarded. Call Patricia Carman from St. Joseph High School at 724-226-7877 to purchase your ticket. All are welcome! «

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 15th, 2023

No. of Envelopes Mailed Out: 593 No. of Envelopes Received: 153 Collection: Offertory - \$5,695.29 Electronic Payments (23) - \$1,445.00 Loose - \$383.00; Children (12) - \$22.00

Total Collection - \$7,545.29

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 OFFERINGS

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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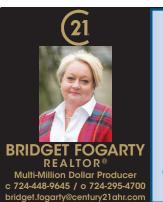
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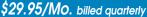
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