St. Mary, Mother of God Church



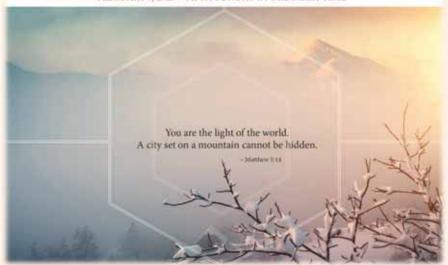
Roman Catholic Church 608 High Street ~ Freeport, PA 16229

A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust



Established 1826

FEBRUARY 5, 2023 • FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



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, *Director of Music Ministry*

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 5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SATURDAY: February 4th
4:00 P.M. †Bernadette Bayne

(Bob & Judy Bergstrom)

SUNDAY: February 5th

8:30 A.M. †DeAnna Dickey (Ed & Jeannie Lepkowski)

11:00 A.M. ♥St. Mary Parishioners

MONDAY: February 6th

8:00 A.M. †Steve Vacula (Family)

TUESDAY: February 7th

8:00 A.M. †Chris Reed (Wyant Family)

WEDNESDAY: February 8th

6:00 P.M. †Walter C. Sliviak (Bob & Diane Grant)

THURSDAY: February 9th

8:00 A.M. †Robert Camerlo (John & Brenda DeMeno)

FRIDAY: February 10th 8:00 A.M. †Clarence Moore

(Thomas and Rosalie Sustak)

MASSES FOR THE 6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SATURDAY: February 11th

4:00 P.M. †Rosemary (Lala) Aiello (Lisa Speer)

SUNDAY: February 12th

8:30 A.M. †Elva Berry (Mary Fullerton)
11:00 A.M. ♥St. Mary Parishioners

Readings for the Week

Monday: Gn 1:1-19; Ps 104:1-2a, 5-6, 10, 12,

24, 35c; Mk 6:53-56

Tuesday: Gn 1:20 — 2:4a; Ps 8:4-9; Mk 7:1-13

Wednesday: Gn 2:4b-9, 15-17; Ps 104:1-2a, 27-

28, 29bc-30; Mk 7:14-23

Thursday: Gn 2:18-25; Ps 128:1-5; Mk 7:24-30

Friday: Gn 3:1-8; Ps 32:1-2, 5-7; Mk 7:31-37

Saturday: Gn 3:9-24; Ps 90:2-6, 12-13;

Mk 8:1-10

Sunday: Sir 15:15-20; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18,

33-34; 1 Cor 2:6-10; Mt 5:17-37 [20-

22a, 27-28, 33-34a, 37]



Altar Memorials



The Altar Bread and Wine were donated for this week in loving memory of **Lydia Detman** by *Elaine & Neal Macurdy*

Th.

The Sanctuary Lamp (Candle) will burn this week in loving memory of Florence Rager, requested by The Michelini Family

Ministry Schedule February 11th & 12th, 2023

ALTAR SERVERS:

Saturday, 4:00 P.M. TBA

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

Harper O'Donnell

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

Tom Brestensky

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION:

Saturday, 4:00 P.M. Sharon Mihalich Sunday, 8:30 A.M. Betty Lou Nemcek

Sunday, 11:00 A.M. Bill Cogley

LECTORS:

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

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

VBC Planning Meeting—1:00 P.M. - Conference Room; Grief Share Meeting—6:00 P.M. - Christian Mothers Room

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

Homebound Volunteers Meeting—10:30 A.M. - Conference Room February 7th

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

MMC Practice—6:45 P.M.—MMC Room

February 10th Confessions/Adoration/Rosary/Divine Mercy—Following the 8:00 A.M. mass

Donut Sunday immediately following Sunday morning masses; Religious Education Classes/Teen Alpha —9:30 to February 12th

10:40 A.M. (1st Grade Open House); Grief Share Meeting—6:00 P.M. - Christian Mothers Room

"Let us Pray" Study—9:00 A.M. - Fellowship Hall; Leadership Meeting—6:30 P.M. - Fellowship Hall "Let us Pray" Study—6:30 P.M. - Fellowship Hall; MMC Practice—6:45 P.M.—MMC Room Alpha Team Training—6:30 P.M. - Fellowship Hall Religious Education Classes/Teen Ministry —9:30 to 10:40 A.M. (7th Grade Open House); February 13th

February 15th

February 16th

February 19th

Baptism "Delano"—12:15 P.M.; Grief Share Meeting—6:00 to 7:30 P.M. - Christian Mothers Room

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



Parish Information/Events

Candidate's corner Preacher to Who...??? When you are experienced, skilled and knowledgeable, your employer often wants you to keep working well after retirement age. It makes good business sense, but it's also logical in the Church as well. That's why a cardinal in Rome has performed his job since 1980. The cardinal is Raniero Cantalamessa and his job is Preacher to the Pope. Did you know that such a position existed? It has since 1555, and the typical preacher does this job for about five years. Amazingly, Father Cantalamessa has served three different popes - Pope Saint John Paul II, the late Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis - operating for 43 years! Moreover, he is the longest standing papal preacher in 468 years! Why does the Pope need a papal preacher? Simply stated, the spiritual journey of a Pope requires continued growth even after his inauguration. I first saw this Capuchin friar in an Alpha video, where he endorsed Alpha and its focus on Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. While he speaks with a thick Italian accent that often requires closed captioning, the movie camera captures his robust love of Jesus and the joy of the Gospel that the cardinal radiates. In fact, he is now the subject of a feature documentary, entitled *Preacher to the Popes*. However, the point of the documentary is not to praise the modest and humble charismatic cardinal but rather to bring together Christians from different faith backgrounds. The film's executive producer, Deacon Darrell Wentworth, explains that the cardinal "is the only person in the world that is commonly recognized as authentically authoritative in every Christian tradition". In addition, Wentworth exclaims that "Everybody loves this guy because he's just a humble man who has a grounded, authentic understanding of Patristics (writings of the early Church fathers)". You have an opportunity to see this lovable and joy-filled cardinal by taking part in the next Alpha sessions at Saint Mary's that begin on Thursday, March 2nd. Register on the parish website by clicking on the Alpha link on the homepage. You can view the documentary with a subscription to Cmax.tv, which offers Christ-centered content. —J.T. Tuskan «

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



College Care Packages



St. Mary's Teen Ministry is preparing to send care packages to our alumni and to the seminarians of the Diocese of Greenburg!

If you have a student in college and would like us to send a care package, please submit his or her name and address to the Administrative Office no later than Wednesday, February 15th 724-295-2281;

email: thechurch@stmaryfreeport.com.

We will also happily accept donations if anyone would like to contribute candy, snacks, office supplies, or money for shipping. Donations may be dropped off at the Administrative Office during normal office hours—Monday through Thursday —9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.;

Fridays—9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.

Thank you!

Attention Alpha Team

Training Session

Thursday, February 16

6:30 P.M. in the Fellowship Hall



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! 900

INTENTIONS FORTHE WEEK

We have a couple of envelopes available for your weekly intentions for *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 be given at the time of your request. Thank you! \$\infty\$

Newly painted Pre-school religious education classroom (formally the Principal's office when St. Mary Academy was opened).

Before



















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.

Please mark your calendar! «



FORMED Week of February 05, 2023



How and Why to Pray the Rosary

As we celebrate Our Lady of Lourdes this week, we invite you to learn more about the Rosary! Join Dr. Tim Gray and Dr. John Sehorn as they discuss how they pray the Rosary and how it has changed their lives!

Bakhita: From Slave to Saint



Bahkita: From Slave to Saint tells the incredible story of St. Josephine Bakhita. Originally born in Sudan, Josephine was kidnapped by slavers and was eventually sold to a merchant in Italy. By the grace of God, she lived a heroic life of forgiveness and mercy which led her to become a saint.



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. «



Next Saturday, February 11th, is the feast day of *Our Lady of Lourdes*. The Virgin Mary appeared to a young girl, Bernadette Soubirous, in a grotto in Lourdes, France while she was gathering firewood with her sister and a neighbor. Our Lady appeared to her seventeen more times and asked for prayer and penitence for the conversion of sinners. On one occasion, Mary asked her to drink from the muddy water of the spring in the grotto. While she

drank, the water became increasingly clear. This grotto is now a Shrine, and the water is said to have healing properties. This site is visited by millions of people each year. «

Diocesan News/Events



Today's Second Collection is for the *Church in Central and Eastern Europe*. This collection supports the Church in over twenty countries, many of which are still struggling to recover in the aftermath of Soviet rule. Your support restores the Church and builds the future in this region. Please prayerfully consider supporting this collection. \ll



Registration is now open for KNOW HIM: The Last Supper and the Gift of the Eucharist, set for Thursday, March 9th, at 2:00 and 6:00 P.M. at Christ Our Shepherd Center, Greensburg. This experiential event, part of the Diocese of Greensburg Eucharistic Revival efforts, begins with a prayer service led by Bishop Larry J. Kulick followed by a keynote address regarding the gift of the Eucharist from Monsignor Raymond E. Riffle, Vicar General of the Diocese of Greensburg and Rector of Blessed Sacrament Cathedral, Greensburg. Afterward, attendees will make their way through the rooms at

Christ Our Shepherd Center for an unforgettable Eucharistic journey. One room will feature a life-sized print of The Last Supper mural created by Italian Renaissance artist Leonardo da Vinci, along with an explanation of its scriptural nuances from art historian Liz Lev, a former didactic consultant for the Vatican Museums. Another room will feature Monsignor Michael J. Begolly, Pastor of Mother of Sorrows Parish, Murrysville, discussing his recent pilgrimage to the Holy Land and preparing to receive the Eucharist. Father Christopher J. Pujol, Parochial Vicar of Blessed Sacrament Cathedral Parish, will lead a discussion and demonstration in another room about the significance of washing feet. Bishop Kulick himself will discuss the bread of life and the symbolism of Easter bread while guests sample paska bread. This event is free of charge as part of the Diocese of Greensburg's Eucharistic Revival efforts. Seating is limited. The public is welcome. Please visit: DioceseofGreensburg.org/EucharisticRevival to register. Powerset



Men in the Diocese of Greensburg are invited to get out of their comfort zone and make Catholicism a way of life at "THE WELL – BE NOT AFRAID", the Diocesan Men's Conference, Saturday, March 25th, at Christ Our Shepherd Center, Greensburg. It will be a day of inspiring speakers, Eucharistic Adoration, Reconciliation and Mass celebrated by *Bishop Larry J. Kulick*. Cost is \$50.00 and includes lunch. Scholarships are available through the Diocesan Francis Fund. Register now at: DioceseofGreensburg.org/TheWell. ≪



February Faithful Challenge: FORGIVENESS

"Forgiveness is the essence of love which can understand mistakes and mend them." – Pope Francis

Throughout the month of February, Bishop Kulick is challenging the faithful of the Diocese of Greensburg to offer and seek forgiveness.

"What I'm asking you to do is reflect upon how you have harmed or even how you have been harmed by somebody, and make an outreach for reconciliation and forgiveness," Bishop Kulick said. "It may be as simple as making a phone call, sending a text or writing a letter. Or maybe just performing a kind deed

of charity in reparation for sins you have committed."

Each month throughout
2023, Bishop Kulick will issue
"Faithful Challenges"
as part of the
National
Eucharistic

Revival.

Challenge yourself to reach out by:

- · Writing a letter
- · Sending a text
- · Making a phone call
- · Performing a kind deed



Eucharistic Revival is a three-year process initiated by the USCCB to invite the faithful to reflect upon the mystery and meaning of the sacrament of the Eucharist in our lives. While much of year one involves providing devotional and formational opportunities for parish and Diocesan staff, you, too, can be a part of Eucharistic Revival right now! Visit the Diocese of Greensburg Facebook page every Thursday to participate in a Faithful Challenge, and hopefully you will feel yourself growing in a relationship with Christ. Visit the Eucharistic Revival resource page at DioceseofGreensburg.org/EucharisticRevival for videos, prayers and gathering dates. Consider Bishop Kulick's invitation to be come an intentional disciple this year!

Outside Our Diocese

CASH

A Community Cash Bash will be held on Saturday, February 18th at 6:00 P.M. in Patterson Hall, Most Blessed Sacrament Worship Site, 800 Montana Avenue, Natrona Heights. 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. Contact Patricia Carman—St. Joseph High School at 724- 226-7877 to purchase tickets. <

Community Information/Activities

A Spaghetti Dinner will be held at the United Methodist Church—4th Street, Freeport on Saturday, February 18th, 4:00 to 7:00 P.M. Adults—\$10.00; Children under 10—\$5.00. Take-outs will be available. Proceeds supports the Freeport Kiwanis Scholarship Fund. ≪

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 29th, 2023

No. of Envelopes Mailed Out: 593 No. of Envelopes Received: 170 Collection: Offertory - \$6,108.00 Electronic Payments (13) - \$795.00 Loose - \$330.00; Children (4) - \$11.50 Candle Money - \$155.00

Total Collection - \$7,399.50

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!

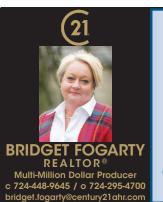
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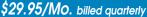
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