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, 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; <u>ginaj1904@gmail.com</u> 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: <u>www.stmaryfreeport.com</u>

Parish Email Address: thechurch@stmaryfreeport.com

Facebook: Saint Mary, Mother of God - Freeport

Send Information to share: stmarysocialmedia@yahoo.com

MISSION STATEMENT—St. Mary's is a caring and welcoming family committed to building and strengthening a community of God, reaching out as disciples of Jesus Christ to Freeport and beyond.

Mass Intentions

t=(in memory of) ♥=(IHO/special intention/parishioners) MASSES FOR THE 7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SATURDAY:	February 18th
4:00 P.M.	†Dorothy Wyant (Shipe Family)
SUNDAY:	February 19th
8:30 A.M.	TRinaldo Policicchio (The Policicchio's)
11:00 A.M.	♥St. Mary Parishioners
12:15 P.M.	Baptism "Delano"
MONDAY:	February 20th
8:00 A.M.	†Shipe Family (Wyant Family)
TUESDAY:	February 21st
8:00 A.M.	†William Bale (Family)
WEDNESDAY:	February 22nd— <i>Ash Wednesday</i>
8:00 A.M.	†James & Alma Ebig (Bob & Judy Bergstrom)
7:00 P.M.	†Rev. Thomas A. Federline (Family)
THURSDAY:	February 23rd
8:00 A.M.	†Dorothy Wyant (Rose Check)
	F. I

FRIDAY:February 24th8:00 A.M.†Cindy Harbison (Tom McCulloch)7:00 P.M.Stations of the Cross

MASSES FOR THE 1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

SATURDAY:February 25th4:00 P.M.♥St. Mary Parishioners

SUNDAY: February 26th

8:30 A.M. †Deceased Children of the Krumenacker Families (John Krumenacker)

Readings for the Week

Monday: Sir 1:1-10; Ps 93:1-2, 5; Mk 9:14-29 Tuesday: Sir 2:1-11; Ps 37:3-4, 18-19, 27-28, 39-40; Mk 9:30-37 Wednesday: JI 2:12-18; Ps 51:3-6ab, 12-14, 17; 2 Cor 5:20 — 6:2; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18 Dt 30:15-20; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 9:22-25 Thursday: Friday: Is 58:1-9a; Ps 51:3-6ab, 18-19; Mt 9:14-15 Is 58:9b-14; Ps 86:1-6; Lk 5:27-32 Saturday: Sunday: Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7; Ps 51:3-6, 12-13, 17; Rom 5:12-19 [12, 17-19]; Mt 4:1-11



Altar Memorials



The Altar Bread and Wine were donated for this week in loving memory of **All Deceased of the Walker Family** by *Fred Walker*

The Sanctuary Lamp (Candle) will burn this week in loving memory of **Edward & Helen Kengor**, requested by *Gary & Arlene Miller*

Ministry Schedule

February 25th & 26th, 2023

TBA

ALTAR SERVERS: Saturday, 4:00 P.M. Sunday, 8:30 A.M.

Sunday, 11:00 A.M.

Shepherd Family; Lasko Family; Margaret McKernan; AJ Jonzcak Jacob Schaeffer; Chloe Liti; Tom Brestensky

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION:

Saturday, 4:00 P.M. Sunday, 8:30 A.M. Sunday, 11:00 A.M. Fred Walker Carol Carson Andre Volek

LECTORS:

Saturday, 4:00 P.M. Sunday, 8:30 A.M. Sunday, 11:00 A.M. Brian Welsh Ali Brestensky Marushka Steele

ORGANIST:

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

CANTOR: Saturday, 4:00 P.M. Sunday, 8:30 A.M. Sunday, 11:00 A.M.

MMC Tom Koharchik 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 COME 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 19th	th Religious Education Classes/Teen Ministry —9:30 to 10:40 A.M. (7th Grade Open House);	
	Baptism "Delano"—12:15 P.M.; Grief Share Meeting—6:00 to 7:30 P.M Christian Mothers Room	
February 20th	Parish Office Closed; "Let us Pray" Study—9:00 A.M Fellowship Hall; Forged—7:00 P.M Fellowship Hall	
February 22nd	A Ash Wednesday—8:00 A.M. & 7:00 P.M Mass/Ashes; "Let us Pray" Study—6:30 P.M Fellowship Hall	
February 24th	Confessions/Adoration/Rosary/Divine Mercy—Following the 8:00 A.M. mass; Stations of the Cross—7:00 P.M.	
February 26th	Religious Education Classes/Teen Alpha —9:30 to 10:40 A.M. (4th Grade Open House);	
	Grief Share Meeting—6:00 P.M Christian Mothers' Room	
February 27th	"Let us Pray" Study—9:00 A.M Fellowship Hall	
March 1st	Resurrection Choir Practice—10:00 A.M Conference Room; MMC Practice—6:45 P.M.—Fellowship Hall	
March 2nd	St. Vincent de Paul Meeting—9:00 A.M Fellowship Hall; Alpha—6:30 P.M Fellowship Hall	
March 3rd	h 3rd First Friday—All Day Adoration; Benediction—6:00 P.M.; Stations of the Cross—700 P.M.	
March 4th	New Member's Dinner—5:00 P.M Fellowship Hall	
March 5th	Religious Education Classes/Teen Ministry -9:30 to 10:40 A.M. (6th Grade Open House);	
	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

Mercy and Forgiveness Through Jesus-Have you seen or heard of Cardinal **Candidate's Corner** Invercy and Forgiveness Through Jesus—Have you seen or heard of Cardinal Timothy Dolan? The New York-based Cardinal has an earthiness and realistic nature that makes him seem like an everyday individual. In his book entitled

Who Do You Say that I Am?, he wrote the following, "God loves you where you're at, but He loves you so much that He doesn't want you to stay there!" Obviously, that means we need spiritual growth. Cardinal Dolan explains that one of the Church's problems today is that many people feel they don't need God's mercy. He suggests remembering that the all-merciful God is also the God who gave us the Ten Commandments to help us avoid sin. Cardinal Dolan speaks sadly of many believers who think that we are without sin. In response, the Cardinal says, "If we think we are without sin, we reject Jesus who came to save us from our sins". He continues, "To claim to be without sin is to make our Lord's death on the cross useless". The Church tells us if we are in sin, we need the sacrament of reconciliation. If God is calling you back to the sacrament and you have been away for a while, remember that coming to confession itself is turning back to Jesus. Sacred Scripture offers strong examples of God's compassion and forgiveness. Recall in Luke's Gospel the embrace of the Father to the prodigal son and know that Jesus is doing the same for you and me. In another example, Jesus tells the woman accused of adultery in John's Gospel, "Has no one condemned you? Neither will I condemn you." Or Psalm 51 says, "Have mercy on me God in your kindness. With your compassion blot out my offense. O wash me more and more from my guilt. And cleanse me from my sin". Lent begins on Ash Wednesday of this week. It's a time to review how we stand before God. It would be a blessing for our parish for all of us to experience God's mercy, love and kindness in the sacrament of reconciliation. Give it a try! -J.T. Tuskan 🛩



Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. It always falls six and half weeks before Easter, beginning the Lenten season of preparation for Christ's Resurrection on Easter Sunday. As the first day of Lent, Ash Wednesday awakens us to Jesus' entry into the desert preceding his death. Before Easter, however, we must prepare our hearts for His Resurrection. We begin our season of preparing our hearts for Easter by recognizing our brokenness

and need for conversion, a turning of our hearts to God. Mass and the distribution of ashes will be at 8:00 A.M. and 7:00 P.M. Please remember that Ash Wednesday is a day of fast and abstinence. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return. —Genesis 3:19 🛩

First Friday Adoration-For the month of March, First Friday will fall on March 3rd. There will be all day adoration ST 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, there are sign-up sheets located at our church entrances. Join us as we adore our Lord Jesus! 🛩



I would like to thank you for all the phone calls, prayers, cards and good wishes. I appreciate all of the support in so many ways. My surgery was a success and I am feeling better each day! You found ways for me to stay positive, happy, and satisfied. I cannot express how grateful I am to you in writing, but my heart is full of appreciation for your love and support. It is a blessing from God to have such a wonderful "parish family"! Thank you again for everything. —Mary Fullerton ≪



The Pastoral Council met on January 31st and we would like to share some information with you and provide some insight to our events and projects here at St. Mary's. John Zurisko is our Volunteer Physical Plant Coordinator so he is always working hard for the parish and we want to express our gratitude two-fold to him. The bathroom located in the school building on the 2nd floor is renovated and shiny. The flag pole in front of the school that displays the American flag is now illuminated. Windows for the school building (the squared windows in classrooms

and kitchen area) are being addressed and is one of our DLA projects. Our Stained Glass Window project is moving along. The chapel at the cemetery had an inside facelift and we should thank the cemetery committee. DLA 2023 is in "full swing"! The information regarding the DLA is best announced from the ambo and the parish letters. Monsignor Gilbert addressed the upcoming *Lenten Season*. Please remember to pick-up our Ash Wednesday flier and read the weekly bulletin for he and the liturgical team have put a lot of effort into this Holy time of year. The ministries that are new to our parish such as *The Bereavement Ministry* have met and are in full this session. Hopefully, by the time you read this you will have had the opportunity to hear our new *Music Ministry Choir*. The *Music Ministry Choir* rotates masses and adds beauty to our mass. Our weekend masses display talent and prayerful songs. The *Teen Ministry* voted to meet weekly and every other week they are participating in a version of *Teen Alpha* with J.T. Tuscan and Bill Girardi as sponsors. If you ever have a concern or question, please feel free to reach out to any Pastoral Council member and know we are all working together to better St. Mary, Mother of God Parish. Respectfully Submitted—Bridget Fogarty

Upstairs bathroom in the School Building is now complete and looks beautiful!





ALPHA Begins Soon Have you signed up? Sessions are meant to help answer the following questions: •What's my purpose in life? •What has God created me to do? •Why am I here? •Isn't there more to life than how I live it today? Come and explore ALPHA. Learn what others think about life's big issues. And enjoy some great food and fellowship! For additional information and to sign up, please visit: www.stmaryfreeport.com 🛩



Beginning Sunday, February 26th, we will be having *Teen Alpha*! This new program is intended to bring

teens closer to God, provide a welcoming environment for teens to talk about faith, and answer questions teens have regarding faith. This is NOT a program that will push teens to convert to Catholicism. Teens participating in Teen Alpha can be Catholic, Protestant, or have no faith background at all. All are welcome! If you know of a teenager who has questions about faith or is interested in developing a deeper connection to God, please let them know about this program. We will meet the following Sundays: February 26th, March 12th, March 19th, and March 26th. 🛷



This Lent, join us for Friday Night Stations of the Cross. All are invited to join us on Friday nights during Lent as Msgr. Gilbert leads us through the Stations of the Cross. The Stations will take place on: February 24th, March 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th and 31st. Stations will begin at 7:00 P.M.



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! 🗠

THIS WEEK ON RMED Week of February 19, 2023



Whole 40: Making a Spiritual Plan for Lent

Sit down with Dr. Ben Akers and Dr. Elizabeth Klein to discuss the purpose of the season of Lent, how to prepare for it, and why it is such a fruitful season in our life of faith.

Love-Sacrifice-Trust: He Showed Us the Way by Fr. Mike Schmitz In this talk, Fr. Mike Schmitz shares with us the need to pick up our crosses and embrace Christ in our own suffering. He reminds us that love often means



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. 🛩



FOR

D

This week we celebrate Ash Wednesday. This marks the beginning of the Lenten Season. This season is more than "Fish Fry Fridays"! This is a time for personal reflection, a time for penance, asking forgiveness from God, a time to correct our faults and purify our hearts to prepare for Easter joy. So how do you plan to prepare? <

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 schedule for 2023 is as follows: Thursday, March 9th; Friday, June 9th; Friday, September 8th and Friday, December 8th. Classes begin between 6:30 and 7:00 P.M., depending on everyone's availability. To register, call Mark or Melissa at 724-230-4450 or the Administrative Office at 724-295-2281. 🛩

Diocesan News/Events



Next week we will take up the Catholic Home Missions Appeal. Today, nearly forty percent of dioceses in the United States and its territories are unable to fund the essential pastoral work their communities need. Your support of this appeal helps them meet these faith formation and sacramental needs. Please prayerfully consider how you can support this appeal. Additional information may be found at: www.usccb.org/home-missions.

Strengthening the Church at Home



sacrifice



The much anticipated "Faith and Food" edition of The Catholic Accent television program premiers on WPXI, Channel 11, on Sunday, February 19th, at 11:30 A.M. The program will also air on Channel 11

on Sunday, February 26th, and a half dozen more times on MeTV. In this episode, Bishop Larry J. Kulick talks about renewing our commitment to Christ during Lent. He invites the faithful to join him at a series of Lenten Reflections at parishes throughout the Diocese. The episode also features the popular Diocese of Greensburg Fish Fry Guide (all Lenten fish fry locations, dates and times are available at: theaccentonline.org); Father Christopher J. Pujol making his recipe for Frutti di Mare; and Father Anthony Onoko, a Nigerian soccer player who traded his cleats for a collar and became what he says is "a superstar for Christ", now serving the faithful of the Diocese as Pastor of St. Raymond of the Mountains Parish in Donegal. The Catholic Accent is always on at: TheAccentOnline.org. 🛩





You can protect mothers and children by joining this worldwide mobilization! Through prayer and fasting, peaceful vigils and community outreach, 40 Days for Life has inspired 1,000,000+ volunteers

Here's how to take part:

- Vigil location: Outside Planned Parenthood, 933 Liberty Ave Pittsburgh
- Vigil hours: 7 am to 7 pm daily
- Local contact: Nikki Bruni, nbruni@40daysforlifepgh.com

Learn more and get involved by visiting our campaign:

40daysforlife.com/Pittsburgh Visit our blog site at 40daysforlifepittsburgh.com

Join us for our KICK OFF EVENT on Tuesday, Feb. 21st: 6:30pm Mass at Divine Mercy Parish, Epiphany Church, followed by a candle-lit Eucharistic Procession to Planned Parenthood!

Join Bishop Larry J. Kulick for

A Lenten Evening of Reflection

Tuesday, February 28 - 6:00 PM Saint Mary, Mother of God Parish, Yatesboro Topic: Called to Confidence in Faith: The Temptation of "Now"

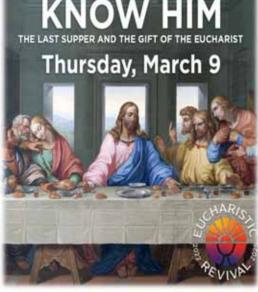
Join Bishop Larry J. Kulick for Stations of the Cross

Friday, March 31 - 1:45 PM

Location: Divine Redeemer School Ford City (at Christ Prince of Peace Church)

Diocese of Greensburg

Intention: For the Youth



cese of Greensbur

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 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, who recorded a special talk on the subject for the Diocese of Greensburg from Rome. 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. Register at: DioceseofGreensburg.org/EucharisticRevival. 🛩



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. 🛩

Outside Our Diocese



St. Joseph High School will host its Spring Open House on Saturday, March 4th, from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon. Register online to schedule a time at: SaintJosephHS.com to receive a private tour. Learn about clubs, activities, classes and sports. Meet teachers, coaches, administration, current students, and parents. Questions? Contact Admissions Director Mrs. Shane Palumbo '92 at 724-226-4932 or email: admissions@SaintJosephHS.com. 🛩

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 February 12th, 2023 No. of Envelopes Mailed Out: 594

No. of Envelopes Received: 138 Collection: Offertory - \$3,860.92 Electronic Payments (3) - \$1,440.00 Loose - \$371.00; Children (15) - \$23.50 Catholic Accent (40) - \$479.00

Total Collection - \$6,174.42

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!

Thanks to our advertisers who sponsor this bulletin. Please support them with your business. ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK

"Keddie Chevrolet"

If you would like to advertise in our weekly bulletin, please contact J.S. Paluch Company, Inc. at 1-800-945-6629

St. Mary, Mother of God Membership Request/Change

Name:	
Address:	
Contact Number:	
Address/Phone Change	Please remove me from your census
	form in the collection basket
New Membership Registration Fo	orms are located at all of the church entrances



510139 St Mary Church

www.jspaluch.com

For Ads: J.S. Paluch Co., Inc. 1-800-945-6629