



St. Mary, Mother of God Church

A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg
A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust
Roman Catholic Church
608 High Street ~ Freeport, PA 16229



Established 1826

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

March 10th, 2019

TEMPTATION OF JESUS

Luke 4:1-15

Father Ronald Maquiñana—*Pastor*
rmaquinana@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Parish Staff

William Girardi, *Pastoral Associate*—412-719-7085
Claudia Vertosick, *Business Manager/Parish Secretary*
Helen James, *Religious Education Director*
Thomas Koharchik, *Choir Director*
Cindy Harbison, *Social Hall Coordinator*—724-272-7744
David Valencic, *Parish Custodian*
Richard Bertino, *Cemetery Caretaker*

Ministries

Kristen Marhefka/Julie Polana Gardone—*Teen Ministry*
Melissa Kristine/Beth Macurdy—*Evangelization*
John Nemcek—*Homebound Ministry*

Organizations

Diane Grant—*Christian Mothers*
Ray Smetana/Mary Ellen Gray—*St. Vincent de Paul Society*
Gina Jones—*Helping Hands*—724-448-9251;
ginaj1904@gmail.com

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

Parish Information

Saturday (Vigil): 4:00 P.M.

Sunday: 8:30 & 11:00 A.M.

Weekday Masses: Monday through Friday—8:00 A.M.

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

Reconciliation: Saturday - 3:00—3:45 P.M.

Baptism: Sundays within the 11:00 A.M. Mass (by appointment)

Marriage: Contact the Parish nine months in advance.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults: RCIA helps you to learn more about the Catholic faith. Pre-registration is required. Contact Fr. Ron 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, please call Fr. Ron at 724-295-2281.

Anointing of the Sick: Contact Fr. Ron 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.

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.*

From the Pastor's Desk



Echoing the positive feedback and experience of those who attended the Mardi Gras in our parish last Saturday, I would like to thank our Parish Pastoral and Finance Councils for making our Mardi Gras not only successful, but also enjoyable. Special thanks to Bridget Fogarty for all of her hard work and Judy Bergstrom for inviting Nick Fiasco who provided entertainment and made the night full of fun as he sang songs from Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Tony Bennett and Bobby Darin. He touched many hearts and some were even moved to sing and dance with him. It was a great night. Everybody enjoyed the food, wine, music and company. Thanks to all of the sponsors, also. Till next year Mardi Gras!

From feasting, we come to the season of Lent. We began our observance of Lent last Wednesday when we celebrated Ash Wednesday and it will last until forty days before Easter Sunday. Traditionally, it is marked by praying, fasting, abstinence and other acts of penance.

The purpose of this is to prepare ourselves for the celebration of Easter in a more spiritual and meaningful way. Even Jesus observed these pious acts of prayer, fasting and abstinence when he went into the desert for forty days before he started his public ministry, which is our gospel this Sunday. There he encountered the devil who offered him three temptations: to change stone into bread, to fall down and worship the devil, and to jump down from the pinnacle of the Temple. In each of these three temptations, what the devil says to Jesus is, "Come on; use what you have to get what you want." And in each case Jesus overcomes the temptation by replying, "No, we can only use godly means to satisfy our God-given needs or to pursue our goals in life."

This is clear that if Jesus encountered temptations, how much more are we? Every day we encounter temptations, especially in those areas in which we are weak. The devil is telling us, go and try it. Why deprive yourself? It is good. Sometimes there is that inner battle occurring in us because our heart says go, but our mind or conscience says no. To be strengthened, Jesus gave us an example that through prayer, fasting and abstinence, we will be aided to do what is right and good, especially during this season of Lent.

This Sunday, I would like you also to remember in your prayers our three candidates who will be sent to Blessed Sacrament Cathedral for the Rite of Election. They are *Heather Heckman*, *Jeffrey Lowers* and *Michael Snyder*.



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Diocesan Lenten Appeal
 Diocesan Target - \$37,826.00
 Parish Target - \$32,174.00
 Combined Target - \$70,000.00

If you want your Christmas wreaths/decorations, please remove them by March 31st. If you don't, the caretaker will remove and destroy them. Thank you for your cooperation.

Diocesan Collection - Today our second collection will be for the Catholic Home Missions Appeal. Please be generous!



**St. Mary, Mother of God Parish Men's Group
Invites YOU!**

All men of the Parish are encouraged to become a member of the St. Mary, Mother of God Men's Group

If you have questions, please email or call Tim Fogarty at: tpfogarty618@gmail.com; 724-294-0089.

Complete the section below and drop it in the collection basket.

I am interested in becoming a member of the St. Mary, Mother of God Men's Group:

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

And/or E-Mail: _____

The next *Theology on Tap* meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, March 21st. Watch for details in upcoming bulletins.

Calendar of Events

March 9th/10th Donut & Beverage Social—Immediately following weekend masses

March 10th Religious Education Classes—9:30 - 10:40 A.M.— Security Guard - “Jake Heasley”
 Choir Practice—9:45 - 10:45 A.M.; 11:00 A.M. Mass

March 11th The Mass—9:00 A.M. - Fellowship Hall

March 13th Evening Mass at 7:00 P.M.

March 14th The Mass—6:30 P.M. - Fellowship Hall

March 15th Lenten Adoration of the Cross all day immediately following the 8:00 A.M. Mass;
 Benediction at 6:30 P.M.; Stations of the Cross—7:00 P.M.

March 17th Religious Education Classes—9:30 - 10:40 A.M.— Security Guard - “Jake Heasley”
 Teen Ministry Meeting—9:35 - 10:45 A.M.
 Choir Practice—9:45 - 10:45 A.M.; 11:00 A.M. Mass

Burning the palms from 2018 for the ashes that were used on Ash Wednesday

Mardi Gras



A special thank you to the Parish Council, all of our donors and sponsors, those who purchased tickets to attend our Mardi Gras Wine Tasting Event, and the many volunteers who helped out in one way or another. It would not have been such a great success without all of your help and support.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR MARCH 16TH & 17TH, 2019

Altar Servers	Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Lector	Greeters	Organist	Cantor
Saturday - 4:00 P.M.					
Fred Walker Lauren & Leah Clark	Andrea Camerlo Arlene Miller; Bridget Fogarty	Jackie DeFelice	Jim Talotta Diana Talotta	Diane Pleva	Alex Smith
Sunday—8:30 A.M.					
Brianna/Olivia/Ryan Sutara Ali & Ben Brestensky Nicolette Zollinger	Rose Check Patty Hughes Cindy Harbison	Judy Bergstrom	Karen Nigra	Tom Koharchik	Tom Koharchik
Sunday—11:00 A.M.					
Jacob & Erin Schaeffer Evan Giori Paige Liti	Helen James Andre Volek Melissa Schaeffer	Rob Svitek	Karen Fennell	Dave Wesolosky	Choir

Mass Intentions

FOR THE WEEK

MASSES FOR THE 1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

SATURDAY: 4:00 P.M.	March 9th ✦Edna Barr (John & Brenda DeMeno)	
SUNDAY: 8:30 A.M. 11:00 A.M.	March 10th St. Mary Parishioners ✦Stella Trygar (Paul & Charlene Mahu)	
MONDAY: 8:00 A.M.	March 11th ✦Julie Walter (Family)	
TUESDAY: 8:00 A.M.	March 12th ✦Andrew Sliwiak (Kymer Family)	
WEDNESDAY: 7:00 P.M.	March 13th ✦Dolores Walker (Betty Canterna)	
THURSDAY: 8:00 A.M.	March 14th ✦Robert Bergstrom, Sr. (Patty Hughes)	
FRIDAY: 8:00 A.M. 7:00 P.M.	March 15th ✦Helen Mosse (John Yanik) Stations of the Cross	

MASSES FOR THE 2ND SUNDAY OF LENT

SATURDAY: 4:00 P.M.	March 16th St. Mary Parishioners	
SUNDAY: 8:30 A.M. 11:00 A.M.	March 17th ✦David Robert Shipe (The Pollicchio's) ✦Ken Hughes (Patty & Family)	

The Altar Bread and Wine were donated for this week in loving memory of **SAMUEL, CATHERINE & NANCY PILLITTERI**
By **Joe & JoAnn Pillitteri**

In acknowledging the Real Presence of Christ, The Sanctuary Lamp (Candle) will burn this week in loving memory of **KENNITH AGEE**
By **Kim & Bob Holbein**

Collections

Offertory Collection for March 3rd, 2019

No. of Envelopes Mailed Out: 598
No. of Envelopes Received: 210
Collection: Offertory - \$6,313.00
Electronic Payments (16) - \$1,560.00
Loose - \$382.00; Children - \$19.50
Catholic Accent - \$10.00

Total Collection - \$8,284.50

THANK YOU!

Saturday, March 16th, 2019
Donna Smith and Deb Showers

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ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK

"LeafGuard"

Winter weather is here and that means ice and snow may make it difficult for some people to get to church. But parish bills keep growing during the winter, including increased heating costs and snow removal expenses. You can make sure your parish support doesn't stop just when we need it the most. Why not check out the simple, safe and secure online giving option with your bank. We are most grateful to all those who make every effort to give consistently whether electronically or through the weekly offering basket. It really helps us plan and meet our budget.

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