



A PARISH OF THE DIOCESE OF GREENSBURG

St. Mary, Mother of God

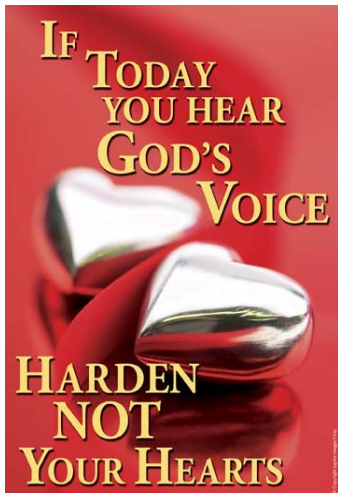
Roman Catholic Church
608 High Street, Freeport, PA 16229



FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME FEBRUARY 1ST, 2009

"Come, let us bow down in worship; let us kneel before the LORD who made us."

— Psalm 95:6



In Deuteronomy today, we hear that God's very words will fill the mouth of a true prophet, but a false prophet will, in a manner of speaking, put mere mortal words into God's mouth. In Mark's Gospel, we see Jesus teaching and healing as a true prophet, one filled with the authority of God's own voice, the Holy One of God. There are, no doubt, both false and true prophets around us today. The whole history of our church is filled with both. Some false prophets were extremely popular and quite well-versed in scripture, and even held positions of church authority. But in today's Gospel we learn that Jesus' fame spread because he taught with authority; he wasn't an authority because he was popular or famous. Elsewhere, we also learn from him, in his desert temptation confrontations with Satan, that anyone can quote scripture, even against God's purposes. And today, we hear that his authority was not like that of the scribes, who held the official positions of religious authority in his day. Our work is to do our best to discern the true prophets in our midst, and to be true prophets as well. The psalmist tells us how to do this: by not hardening our hearts when God speaks. If we truly listen to God, it will be God's very words filling our mouths.

Today's Readings: Dt 18:15-20; Ps 95:1-2, 6-9; 1 Cor 7:32-35; Mk 1:21-28

Rev. Edward Volz, Pastor

Office/Parish House—724-295-2281

Fax—724-295-3090

Parish Website

www.stmaryfreeport.com

Parish Email Address

thechurch@stmaryfreeport.com

Religious Education - Helen James, Director

724-295-4758

St. Mary Church Hall

724-295-3003

Teen Ministry

First & Third Sundays, 9:25 to 10:35 A.M.

Mass Schedule

Saturday (Vigil) 4:00 P.M.

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

Weekday Masses

Monday - Saturday 8:00 A.M.

Confession

Saturday - 11:00 A.M. - 12 Noon

Baptism

Sundays at 12:15 P.M. (by appointment)

Weddings

Notify the Parish six months in advance

Mass Schedule

MASSES FOR THE 4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SATURDAY: January 31
4:00 P.M. +George Seitam (Pat and Bill Davis)

SUNDAY: February 1
8:30 A.M. St. Mary Parishioners
11:00 A.M. +Toni Severin (Tom and Jamie Phillips)

MONDAY: February 2 - The Presentation of the Lord
8:00 A.M. +Eunice Bergstrom (Dennis & Debbie Baustert)



TUESDAY: February 3 - Blaise, Bishop, Martyr; Ansgar, Bishop
8:00 A.M. +Nick Canterna (Wife & Children)
7:00 P.M. Special Intention



WEDNESDAY: February 4
8:00 A.M. +Catherine Kaib (Jim & Nancy Laux)

THURSDAY: February 5 - Agatha, Virgin, Martyr
8:00 A.M. +Domenica Seitam (Pat and Bill)



FRIDAY: February 6 - Paul Miki, Martyr, and his companions, Martyrs
8:00 A.M. + Roy Buterbaugh (Blanche Buterbaugh)

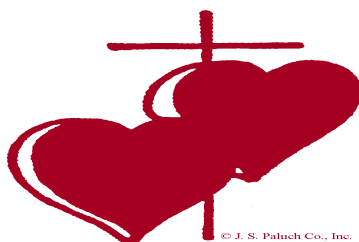


SATURDAY: February 7
8:00 A.M. +Freda Canterna (Lena and Margaret Rizzo)

MASSES FOR THE 5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SATURDAY: February 7
4:00 P.M. +Louise Campbell (Mike Huth)

SUNDAY: February 8
8:30 A.M. +St. Mary Parishioners
11:00 A.M. +Ronald Rakowski (Fr. Dom & Betty Labiaux)



devote yourself to the Lord

Today's Readings:
Deuteronomy 18:15-20
1 Corinthians 7:32-35
Mark 1:21-28

Next Sunday's Readings:
Job 7:1-4, 6-7
1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23
Mark 1:29-39

Christian Mothers' Cleaning Assignments - Charlene Becker and Mary Ann Miller

Liturgical Roles

February 7th & 8th, 2009

Acolytes/Altar Servers:

Sat., 4:00 P.M. S. & E. Posney, B. Kolek, A. Brestensky
Tues., 7:00 P.M. J., N. & R. Kolish, J. Kristine
Sun., 8:30 A.M. G. Carson, D. Policicchio, J. Kristine, R. Giori
Sun., 11:00 A.M. L. Kriger, T. Goldinger, N. McCrea, B. McBride

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

Sat., 4:00 P.M. C. Higgins, F. Walker, D. Watt
Tues., 7:00 P.M. B. Girardi, G. Cooper, M. Bale
Sun., 8:30 A.M. B. Nemcek, J. Bergstrom, G. Cooper
Sun., 11:00 A.M. L. Isenberg, B. Cogley, M. Schaeffer

Lectors:

Sat., 4:00 P.M. Diane Zadnik
Tues., 7:00 P.M. Jerry Aul
Sun., 8:30 A.M. Geno Pernazza
Sun., 11:00 A.M. CCD - 7th Grade

Cantors:

Sat., 4:00 P.M. Jamie Phillips
Tues., 7:00 P.M. Tom Koharchik
Sun., 8:30 A.M. Sue Myford
Sun., 11:00 A.M. Choir

Organists:

Sat., 4:00 P.M. Tom Misutka
Tues., 7:00 P.M. Tom Koharchik
Sun., 8:30 A.M. Sue Myford
Sun., 11:00 A.M. Dave Wesolosky



St. Blaise
Tuesday, February 3rd
In honor of St. Blaise, throats will be blessed Tuesday following the 8:00 A.M. and 7:00 P.M. Mass.

First Friday Adoration - February 6th - Adoration begins at 8:30 A.M. and will conclude with Benediction at 6:10 P.M.

Babysitting Night! - Freeport Senior High Key Club will provide babysitting services for 4 year old children to children in 4th grade, on Saturday, February 7th, from 5:00-8:00 P.M., at the Freeport Senior High Cafeteria. This will be a great chance for parents to go out for Valentine's Day or get things done around the house. Children will have a wide variety of activities to choose from, including games, crafts, music, and food. Cost is \$10.00/child and \$5.00 for each additional child. Key Club advisors and Kiwanis Chaperones will be present the entire evening to aide Key Club members. To register, please call Doug Feil at 724-353-2272 or Miranda Boring at 724-295-5143.

Thank you to everyone who returned their baby bottles this week. If you haven't done so yet, please remember to return them by Sunday, February 8th.

Sexual Abuse - If you have a concern about sexual abuse of a child or young person by anyone in a parish or diocesan position (clergy, volunteer, or paid staff), please contact Bishop Brandt's delegate for matters of sexual misconduct. He may be reached at 724-837-0901, Ext. 221.

Going Away on Vacation or a Business Trip? Free Ministry to traveling Catholics. For nationwide Mass times and locations, you may call 1-410-676-6000. You can also visit their website at: www.Masstimes.org.



The 7th Grade CCD Class will assist at the 11:00 A.M. Mass next Sunday, February 8th.



Souper Bowl Sunday - Sunday, February 1st, is Souper Bowl Sunday. Today, our youth will hold soup pots at the church entrances. They are joining young people from churches all across the country to collect money for those who are hungry and hurting. Please consider dropping \$1 (or more) in the soup pot as you leave Mass. All monies collected will be donated to one of our local charities.



Choir Practice will be held in church on **Wednesday, February 4th, at 7:00 P.M.** If you are interested in joining, call Tom Koharchik at 724-889-3862, or simply show up at practice. **Remember, when you sing, you are praying, twice.**



The Christian Mothers monthly meeting will be held Monday, February 2nd, at 7:00 P.M., in the Rectory (prayer service at 6:30 P.M.). All members are encouraged to attend. Any woman of St. Mary's parish interested in finding out more about the Christian Mothers is welcome to attend. If you need a ride, please call Helen Murphy at 724-295-2701 and she will arrange transportation.



Are You Getting Married? If you desire a loving, faithful, permanent and life-giving marriage, consider attending a Catholic Engaged Encounter weekend. This excellent marriage preparation program presents a comprehensive, up-close and personal look at marriage. Promising to love on your wedding day is not as difficult as living out that promise throughout your marriage. Catholic Engaged Encounter has provided engaged couples with the skills and tools to help them keep their promise to love. After a brief self-assessment, couples discover the stages of a love relationship and learn how to get out of a disillusionment stage. Communication skills are presented and practiced throughout the weekend. Many participants say the tools for constructive arguments, decision-making and setting priorities were extremely helpful to them. Other topics presented include family values and traditions, sexual intimacy, unity and forgiveness. To register or if you would like additional information, please call George and Pat Ziringer - 724-335-4966. The next scheduled weekend will be held in Greensburg on March 6th-8th, 2009.

natural family planning



healthy choice

Natural Family Planning - CM-BBT is a medically based, highly effective NFP method that can be used to postpone or plan pregnancy. Next CM-BBT Method of Family Planning Session is scheduled Monday, February 2nd, at 6:00 P.M., at the Catholic Charities office in Greensburg. Participants are required to attend only ONE session. The instruction, continued support and follow-up are provided by a medically certified CM-BBT Professional. PRE registration required. Call Mary Ann Newhouse, Catholic Charities, at 724-837-1840, ext. 658.



Women's Retreat will be held on Saturday, February 7th, at Mount Alvernia. The theme will be "Franciscan Solitude". Cost is \$50.00/person and will include lunch, supper, exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Reconciliation, and Sunday's Liturgy. If you would like additional information or to register, you may call 412-215-7708 or email: guidance@nauticom.net.



Catholic Charities is hosting a Women's Anger Management group which will be held on consecutive Mondays, beginning March 2nd through April 6th, 6:00 to 8:00 P.M. The group will be facilitated by a therapist from Catholic Charities. Space is limited. **Pre-registration is a must.** To register or for additional information, please contact Catholic Charities at 724-837-1840.



Following is the Offertory Collection for January 25th, 2009

No. of Envelopes Mailed Out: 616

No. of Envelopes Received: 257

Sunday Collection: Offertory - \$5,921.25

Children's Collection - \$6.00

THANK YOU!

2008 Financial Statements - Contribution records for 2008 are now available **by request only**. To make arrangements to pick up your records, call the parish office at 724-295-2281 between 9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M., Monday thru Thursday, and on Fridays between 9:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M. You may also fax your request to 724-295-3090 or email: thechurch@stmaryfreeport.com. **Please remember to give your envelope number.** Thank you!



Diocesan Collection - Today, the Diocesan collection will go to aid the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. Proceeds go directly to help to continue to revitalize and to foster the Spirit of Love in its parishes and communities. **Please be generous!**



Cemetery Lot Promotion - At this time, we are promoting and encouraging the purchase of lots in our beautiful St. Mary's Cemetery. We recently put in a new water line and have purchased a new tractor. To keep pace with our expenses, we thought this promotional opportunity would be timely. In the spring, the purchase amount for a lot will be raised to \$500.00 for parishioners and \$600.00 for Catholics who are not parishioners. **You may purchase a lot from now until March 1st, 2009, at the current price of \$400.00 (\$500.00 for Catholics of another parish).** Act now to secure a space. Lots may be paid off in monthly installments, up to six months. No tombstones or interments will be permitted if the lot is not paid off. To purchase a lot, please call Richard at 724-295-3632 for a purchase agreement.



The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania enacted a law that pays a small bonus for vets who served in Desert Storm or Desert Shield. The PA Department of Military and Veterans Affairs of the Commonwealth is requesting your assistance. The PA DMVA does not have a list of residents of PA who served in Desert Storm or Desert Shield between August 2nd, 1990 through August 31st, 1991 to be able to identify persons in this group. If you are or know of an eligible veteran, the Persian Gulf Conflict Veterans Benefit Program Office has information to share pertaining to Act 29 of 2006. The Persian Gulf Conflict Veterans Benefit Program Office can be reached at 1-866-458-9182, or you can visit: www.persiangulfbonus.state.pa.us.



The Cardinal Maida Academy (CMA) - 315 Franklin Avenue, Vandergrift, would like to begin a Pre-School program. Classes would be held on Tuesday's, beginning February 10th, from 9:00 to 11:30 A.M. The cost is \$30.00 a month. To attend, children must be 3 years old. A minimum of nine students is needed to initiate this program. If you are interested, please contact the school office at 724-568-3304 for an application.



Registration for Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament for 2009-2010 school year is in progress. 3 year old Pre-school thru 8th grade. Call Mr. Heasley, Principal, - 724-226-2345.



Stay Warm Hot Line - If you or anyone that you know are in need of assistance with their heating bills, please visit: www.StayWarmPA.com or call 1-866-550-4355.