



A PARISH OF THE DIOCESE OF GREENSBURG

St. Mary, Mother of God

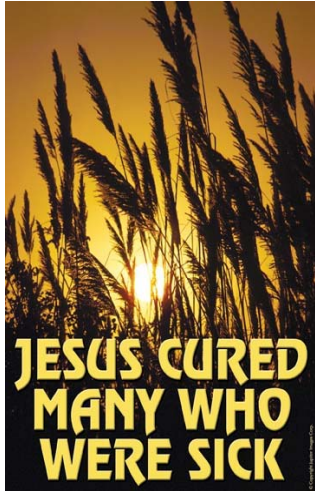
Roman Catholic Church
608 High Street, Freeport, PA 16229



FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME FEBRUARY 8TH, 2009

“[The LORD] tells the number of the stars and calls them by name.”

— Psalm 147:4



JESUS KNOWS OUR SUFFERING AND CALLS US EACH BY NAME

Peter’s mother-in-law was ill, so when Jesus stopped by, “they immediately told him about her” (Mark 1:30). Of course! And the first thing Jesus did? “He approached, grasped her hand, and helped her up. Then the fever left her” (1:31). Of course!

He spent the rest of the day spreading the good news, healing the sick, expelling demons. Mark tells us that he would not permit the demons to speak. So this Jesus could not only expel, but even compel, the evil ones.

Rising early the next morning he went off to pray in solitude, and when his friends urged him to come back he said no. He had to “go on to the neighboring villages” and “preach there also” (Mark 1:38). Jesus, God in the flesh, knows the sufferings of the people—from Job to us. Jesus visits his people, too, and calls each one by name.

Today’s Readings: Job 7:1–4, 6–7; Ps 147:1–6; 1 Cor 9:16–19, 22–23; Mk 1:29–39

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

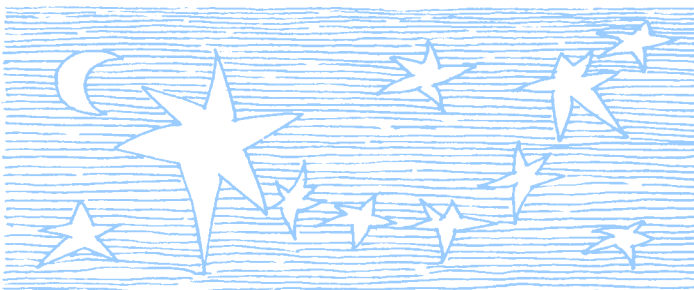
MASSES FOR THE 5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

- 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)
- MONDAY:** February 9
8:00 A.M. +Edith Aggers (John & Lola Bono)
- TUESDAY:** February 10 - *Scholastica, Virgin*
8:00 A.M. +Paul Tokash (Dorothy and Wilma)
- WEDNESDAY:** February 11 - *Our Lady of Lourdes*
8:00 A.M. +Domenic Alvino
(James and Jackie Alvino)
- THURSDAY:** February 12
8:00 A.M. +Regis Barr (Irene Ruffner)
- FRIDAY:** February 13
8:00 A.M. +Domenic Canterna (Bill and Mary Fullerton)
- SATURDAY:** February 14 - *Cyril, Monk, And Methodius, Bishop*
8:00 A.M. +Audrey Edwards
(Jerry & Verne Mansmann)



MASSES FOR THE 6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

- SATURDAY:** February 14
4:00 P.M. In Thanksgiving (Anonymous)
- SUNDAY:** February 15
8:30 A.M. +Rev. James Vasil (St. Mary Parishioners)
11:00 A.M. St. Mary Parishioners



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

Next Sunday's Readings:
Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46
1 Corinthians 10:31—11:1
Mark 1:40-45

**Christian Mothers' Cleaning Assignments -
Loretta Ravotti and Betty Lou Nemcek**

Liturgical Roles

February 14th & 15th, 2009

- Acolytes/Altar Servers:**
Sat., 4:00 P.M. P. & J. D'Amico, B. Kolek, R. Giori
Sun., 8:30 A.M. J., N. & R. Kolish, J. Nigra
Sun., 11:00 A.M. A. Isenberg, G. & K. Huth, A. Brestensky
- Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:**
Sat., 4:00 P.M. B. Girardi, G. Cooper, P. Supik
Sun., 8:30 A.M. J. Bergstrom, P. Hughes, M. Schaeffer
Sun., 11:00 A.M. B. Cogley, P. Ralston, G. Pernazza
- Lectors:**
Sat., 4:00 P.M. Gloria DeMeno
Sun., 8:30 A.M. Helen Murphy
Sun., 11:00 A.M. Jeff Jones
- Cantors:**
Sat., 4:00 P.M. Alex Smith
Sun., 8:30 A.M. Tom Koharchik
Sun., 11:00 A.M. Choir
- Organists:**
Sat., 4:00 P.M. Tom Misutka
Sun., 8:30 A.M. Tom Koharchik
Sun., 11:00 A.M. Dave Wesolosky

Jesus cured many who were sick



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St. Mary's Herald, a newsletter published quarterly which aims to inspire, enlighten, uplift, and inform, needs enthusiastic volunteers. Whatever time you can donate, whatever capacity you wish to help, we need you—writers, creative and practical thinkers, computer techies, and many more agile hands to help with the mailings. If you think you can help, please call Kathy at 724-295-3892. You can also email her at: kathy295@zoominternet.net.



Freeport Community Blood Drive, sponsored by the American Red Cross, will be held at the United Methodist Church, 211 Fourth Street, Thursday, February 19th, 1:00 to 7:00 P.M. Blood donors are needed. **"Make a difference."** PLEASE DONATE BLOOD. Giveaway for all presenting donors. Remember to take some form of ID with you!



Thank you to all who returned their baby bottles or made monetary donations to "Life Choices". Please remember to return your bottle (or envelope marked "Life Choices") **today**. If you forgot your bottle or would like to make a monetary donation, you may drop it off this week at the parish office. "Life Choices" is truly grateful for your generosity and support. God Bless You!




All Acolytes, Altar Servers, Lectors, and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are asked to pick up their new schedules in the Sacristy. **Please remember to find a replacement if you cannot serve your scheduled time.** Acolytes/Altar Servers are reminded to arrive fifteen minutes prior to mass time for proper preparation.



By virtue of the simple fact of existing, every human being must be fully respected. ... discrimination with regard to human dignity based on biological, psychological, or educational development, or based on health-related criteria, must be excluded.

--*Dignitas Personae*, Instruction on Certain Bioethical Questions, Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, Sept. 8, 2008, n. 8.

 **Choir Practice** will be held in church on **Wednesday, February 11th, 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.*



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.



Healing Mass at St. Paul Church, 820 Carbon Road, Greensburg, at 7:00 P.M., on Wednesday, February 11th; praise and worship begins at 6:30 P.M.; individual prayer will be available following the Mass. For additional information, please call their Parish Office at 724-834-6880.



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.



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.



EXPLORE! - Have you ever wondered what it would be like to be a nun? The Sisters of St. Joseph are hosting an **EXPLORE!** gathering for eighth grade and high school girls who would like to learn more about the life of a Sister. **EXPLORE!** will be held on Sunday, March 15th, from 10:00 A.M. until 4:00 P.M., at St. Joseph Convent, Baden, PA. The program will include Liturgy in the Motherhouse Chapel, brunch with the Sisters, a tour of the Motherhouse, sharing stories of the lives, ministries, prayer and community life of the Sisters, practical questions about the formation of a Sister, and time for questions and sharing. Parents and teachers are also welcome to visit the Convent on this day. There is no fee for this program. If you would like additional information or to register, please call Sister Marguerite Kropinak, CSJ, at 724-869-6585. For your convenience, you can also visit their website at: www.stjoseph-baden.org.



Following is the Offertory Collection for February 1st, 2009

No. of Envelopes Mailed Out: 616

No. of Envelopes Received: 269

Sunday Collection: Offertory - \$4,971.50
Central and Eastern Europe Collection - \$531.00

THANK YOU!

Mission Co-op - Sunday, February 9th - Today, Father Earl Henry will be here on behalf of Father Anthony Hahn Pham, Cistercian Community, Mission Representative from St. Joseph Monastery, Victorville, CA. Please give Father Henry your full attention and then prayerfully consider a donation to support the mission work the Cistercians are doing. Envelopes are attached in today's bulletin and will be collected next weekend.



2008 Financial Statements - Contribution reports 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!



On behalf of the Church in Central and Eastern Europe, thank you! Because of your generous gifts, the Church will be able to build, fix, and maintain structures, educate clergy and seminarians, assist children in orphanages, publish Catholic newspapers, provide scholarships, and so much more. Your gifts will allow the Church in Central and Eastern Europe to continue to flourish and to strengthen and share its belief in the power of the Spirit of Love. To see how your gifts are making a difference, please visit: www.usccb.org/nationalcollections.



Cemetery Lot Promotion - For the past few months, we have been promoting and encouraging the purchase of lots in our beautiful St. Mary's Cemetery. Last year, we put in a new water line and 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 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.



Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament Elementary School is now accepting new registrations for the 2009-2010 school year for Pre-School (3 & 4 year olds), Kindergarten, and First through Eighth Grade. For a tour of the School, additional information, or to register your child/ren, please call Mr. Heasley, Principal, at 724-226-2345.