



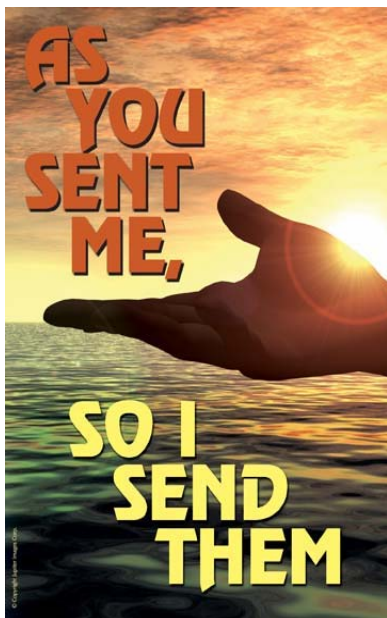
St. Mary, Mother of God

A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg

A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust

Roman Catholic Church

608 High Street
Freeport, PA 16229



SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 24TH, 2009

"If God so loved us, we also must love one another." — 1 John 4:11

THE MISSION CONTINUES

Three things are important to Peter in today's first reading, all of which are connected to the Gospel. There is a need for the unity of the twelve to be preserved, and the prayer that Jesus offers today is frequently called the "Great Prayer of Unity." It is important for whomever is elected to fill the place left vacant by Judas' betrayal to be a "witness" (our word "martyr" comes from the Greek word for "witness") to the entire life of Jesus, in his company from the start of his mission through the appearance of the risen Christ; there must be an integrity, a unity, a "consecration in truth" that will be essential as they are sent from Jerusalem into the world. Finally, following the example of their master, Peter does not enter into this crucial moment in the spreading of the good news without turning his own voice and the voice of the community to God in prayer. The strong resonance between these two scripture passages would serve as an effective guide for us as we continue to pray and discern our own role in the ongoing spread of the good news of salvation.

Today's Readings: Acts 1:15-17, 20a, 20c-26; Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20; 1 Jn 4:11-16; Jn 17:11b-19

Rev. Edward Volz, OSPPE—*Pastor*

***Administrative Center* - 724-295-2281**

Monday thru Thursday - 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

Friday - 9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.

Fax—724-295-3090

Parish Website

www.stmaryfreeport.com

Parish Email Address

thechurch@stmaryfreeport.com

Religious Education - Helen James, Director

724-295-4758

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. - 12:00 Noon

Baptism

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

Weddings

Notify the Parish six months in advance

Mass Schedule

MASSES FOR THE 7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

SATURDAY: May 23
4:00 P.M. +Gene T. Showers (Tom Showers Family)

SUNDAY: May 24
8:30 A.M. St. Mary Parishioners
11:00 A.M. +Louis and Dena Poretti (Son and Daughter)

MONDAY: May 25 - *Bede the Venerable, Priest, Doctor; Gregory VII, Pope; Mary Magdalene de'Pazzi, Virgin*
9:00 A.M. All Veterans - Living and Deceased

TUESDAY: May 26 - *Philip Neri, Priest*
8:00 A.M. +Dom Canterna (Warren and Shirley Marckioni)

WEDNESDAY: May 27 - *Augustine of Canterbury, Bishop*
8:00 A.M. +Dorothy Laux (Jack and Mary Ann Laux)

THURSDAY: May 28
NO MASS **8:00 A.M. - Communion Service**

FRIDAY: May 29
NO MASS **8:00 A.M. - Communion Service**

SATURDAY: May 30
NO MASS **8:00 A.M. - Communion Service**



Liturgical Roles*

May 30th & May 31st, 2009

Acolytes/Altar Servers:
Sat., 4:00 P.M. **A. Isenberg**, G. & K. Huth, R. Giori
Sun., 8:30 A.M. **G. Carson**, J. Kristine, D. Policicchio, B. Kolek
Sun., 11:00 A.M. **L. Kriger**, T. Goldinger, B. McBride, A. Brestensky

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:
Sat., 4:00 P.M. D. Showers, R. Carli, G. Cooper
Sun., 8:30 A.M. B. Cogley, H. Murphy, G. Pernazza
Sun., 11:00 A.M. P. Hughes, P. Ralston, D. Rossey

Lectors:
Sat., 4:00 P.M. Jackie DeFelice
Sun., 8:30 A.M. Janice Meola
Sun., 11:00 A.M. Diane Zadnik

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



REMEMBER THOSE WHO SERVED



ALL GAVE SOME, SOME GAVE ALL

Please remember that Memorial Day is a special day — a day to remember those who served their country and gave their lives for our freedom that we enjoy today. On Monday, we urge **everyone** to take part in this Memorial Day observance. **Mass will be celebrated at St. Mary's at 9:00 A.M.**



There will be a Communion Service for those who would like to receive on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, at 8:00 A.M.

MASSES FOR PENTECOST SUNDAY

SATURDAY: May 30
4:00 P.M. Jim and Mary Huth [60th Wedding Anniversary] (Family)

SUNDAY: May 31
8:30 A.M. +Tom Gordon (The Policicchio's)
11:00 A.M. St. Mary Parishioners

GOD'S WORD
is TRUTH



Today's Readings:
Acts 1:15-17, 20a, 20c-26
1 John 4:11-16
John 17:11b-19

Next Sunday's Readings:
Acts 2:1-11
1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13
John 20:19-23

Christian Mothers' Cleaning Assignments - Loretta Ravotti and Jenne DiGiacobbe

GRADUATES Attention - All St. Mary parishioners who are graduating from High School this year are invited to attend the 8:30 A.M. graduation recognition Mass on Sunday, May 31st. **Graduates are to attend mass in their cap and gown.** A breakfast (sponsored by the Christian Mothers) will follow immediately after mass in the church hall. Please call Bridget at 724-294-0089 to make your reservations. **Deadline to call is Sunday, May 24th.**



Red Geranium forms are located at the entrance by the confessional. Flowers may be taken home immediately following the 11:00 A.M. Mass on Sunday, May 31st. Completed forms and money may be put in a marked envelope (Geraniums) and placed in the collection basket or dropped off at the Administrative Center **no later than Tuesday, May 26th.**



Pentecost is referred to as the celebration of the birth of the church. This was the day when the Holy Spirit descended upon the first disciples. Because the Holy Spirit is symbolized by the tongues of fire, the liturgical color for Pentecost is "red". In honor of this celebration, we invite all parishioners to wear their "red" next weekend.



Anyone who ordered flats and potted plants from the teen ministry may pick them up in the garage behind the Retreat Center today after Mass.



Choir Practice will be held on Wednesday, May 27th, at 7:00 P.M. After the choir sings for Pentecost Sunday, they will break for the summer and practice will resume sometime during the end of August. We would like to take this opportunity to thank them for the time they donate each week—practicing and singing at mass throughout the year.



A Family Brunch will be held on Sunday, June 7th, immediately following the 8:30 A.M. Mass, in the parish hall. Everyone is invited to attend. Meat and rolls will be provided by the Christian Mothers. Each family is asked to bring their favorite brunch item or dessert to share. There is no cost. Reservations must be made by calling Joanne Colpo at 724-295-4379 no later than Tuesday, June 2nd.



Freeport's Annual Memorial Day Observance will be held Monday, May 25th. This year's guest speaker is Freeport High School Choir Director, (and also St. Mary's Choir Director), **SSGT Thomas Koharchik, US Army**. VFW Post 6648 would like to honor our hometown heroes and invite any and all members of the community who has had military service—active, reserve, guard, retired—to march with the VFW as a participant in the parade. If you are interested, please be at the Junior High School at 9:15 A.M. for the line-up! In the event of rain, services will be held in the Junior High Auditorium. Collection bins will be available at the Memorial Day Service for worn/used flags that will be disposed of at the "Retirement of the Flag" Ceremony on June 14th. ****Non-perishable food items are requested in support of the Freeport Area Food Bank. Containers for donations will be located at the Riverside Park gazebo during Freeport's Memorial Day Service.**



The St. Luke Society of the Diocese of Greensburg will have Dr. Bob Conte speak on "Moral Challenges Facing Roman Catholics regarding the Respect for Human Life", on Thursday, May 28th, at 7:00 P.M., in The Bishop William G. Connare Center, Route 30 East, Greensburg. No pre-registration necessary. All Health Care Personnel are welcome and encouraged to attend.



Pancake & Sausage Breakfast - Sponsored by Cardinal Maida Academy, (in St. Gertrude's Church Hall), Sunday, May 31st, - 8:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. Adults/\$4.50, Children (6 to 12 yrs.)/\$2.50, 5 and Under/Free. Tickets may be purchased at the door.



Spaghetti Dinner at The White Star on Sunday, May 31st, from 3:00 to 7:00 P.M. Menu will consist of spaghetti and a salad. Large/\$7.00—Small/\$5.00. Take-outs will be available.



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



Following is the Offertory Collection for May 17th, 2009

No. of Envelopes Mailed Out: 630
 No. of Envelopes Received: 248
 Sunday Collection: Offertory - \$4,395.75
 Catholic Communication Campaign - \$253.00
 Children - \$21.75
THANK YOU!



DLA - We will be bringing this year's campaign to a close within the next week. If you have not sent in your pledge yet, please do so today. **Please wait until you receive your statement from the Diocese before sending in your next payment. Payments are to be sent in directly to the Diocese.**



Buffalo Township Community Day - Sunday, May 31st, 10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., at Lernerville Speedway Grounds, Sarver. Annual crafters, business displays, food booths, children's games, rides, nature display, and much more! New this year—Geocaching along the Butler-Freeport Trail. Join in the fellowship and meet your township neighbors and friends.



The Benedictine Nuns of St. Emma Monastery & Retreat House will have an Evening of Recollection on Wednesday, May 27th, from 3:45 to 9:00 P.M. Retreat master for the evening will be Rev. Leon Hont, OSB, Pastor of St. Bartholomew Church, Crabtree. The evening's theme will be *www.God*. Included will be Eucharistic adoration, opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, several conferences, dinner and Mass. Cost for the evening is \$20. For information or reservations, call 724-834-3060, ext. 139. You may also email: reservations@stemma.org.



A Special "thank you" to all the parishioners who baked and donated the many *goodies* for the reception that we had on the final day of our parish mission. We couldn't have done it without you!



Natural Family Planning - CM-BBT is a medically based, highly effective NFP method that can be used to postpone or plan pregnancy. The next CM-BBT Method of Family Planning Session will be held Monday, June 1st, 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 is required. Contact Mary Ann Newhouse, Catholic Charities, at 724-837-1840, ext. 658.



Life Choices - 1st Annual Charity Yard Sale and Vendor Show (105 South Pike Road) will be held Saturday, May 30th - 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Food—Bake Sale—Drawings! Vendors welcome! For all information or to donate items/bake sale goodies, call 724-295-1904.



The Parish Office will be closed on Monday, May 25th, in observance of Memorial Day.