

# *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



*Mary, Mother of God*

## *From the Pastor's Desk*



As we come to an end of the calendar year 2018, we have the feast of the Holy Family this Sunday that provides us an image to reflect on the importance of the human family. It is in and through the family that love is planted and nourished.

The family is the first school of sharing and concern for one another. No wonder God entered the humanity by way of the family. By doing this, He gave dignity to the human family. Through the incarnation of His Son, He sanctified the human family and made it a human model of communion and solidarity. This feast is not only about the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. This feast is also for all Christian families in the world.

The readings this Sunday give us a hint on how to model our families on the family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. Sirach, in the first reading, gave some pointers to children: "Whoever honors his father will live a long life; he who obeys his father brings comfort to his mother" (Sir. 3:6). In short, obedience and respect to parents is tantamount to obedience to God and great blessings awaits them. Then, St. Paul in the second reading mentioned about the relationship of husband and wife, how wife should be subordinate to her husband and husband should love his wife and avoid any bitterness, bearing with one another and forgiving one another. He encourages us to put on the heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience to one another for these are the marks of God's beloved children (Col.3:12-21). Jesus showed all these virtues to His parents and that is where He grew in age, wisdom and grace.

As we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family and enter the New Year in two days, let us heed the call for love and respect in our families, obedience to our parents and kindness to one another. This is where we grow in holiness and find true happiness.

Looking back how we journeyed as a parish for the year 2018, these are the highlights in terms of sacraments, finances and administration.

### **SACRAMENTS:**

*Baptism* – Parishioners: 12 Non- Parishioners: 1 RCIA: 1

*First Holy Communion:* 17

*Confirmation:* 18

*Weddings:* 2 Validation: 1

*Deaths* – Parishioners: 10 Non- Parishioners: 6

***New Families for 2018: 17***

***New Ministries:*** Helping Hands and Theology on Tap

***Liturgical Ministries:*** Commissioning of new Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and new Altar Servers

***Adult Formation:*** Bible Studies

### **FINANCES:**

Total Income	\$475,955.26
Beginning Cash Balance as of July 1st, 2017	<u>26,167.18</u>
<i>Total</i>	\$502,122.44

Total Expenses	\$469,000.39
Ending Cash Balance as of June 30th, 2018	<u>33,122.05</u>
<i>Total</i>	\$502,122.44

### **FACILITIES: These were funded by the DLA**

*Vinyl flooring in the Church*

*Replacement of Church carpet on the aisles and center*

*Replacement of Church pews*

*Children's Liturgy Room*

# 2018



**Holy Name Society** - As announced previously, St. Mary, Mother of God Church is in the process of forming a Parish Chapter of *The Holy Name Society*. All male members of the Parish who are 18 years of age or older are eligible to become members of *The Holy Name Society*. During the Advent Season, we are initiating the process of identifying all parishioners who want to join *The Holy Name Society*. An initial membership meeting will be held in January, 2019. At this time, if you are interested in becoming a member, please e-mail or call Tim Fogarty at: [tpfogarty618@gmail.com](mailto:tpfogarty618@gmail.com); 724-294-0089.



## ALTAR SERVER

Vesting of St. Mary's  
altar server  
Elena Jenkins



## Baptized in Christ

Congratulations to the proud parents, Russell and Isadora Walker, on the baptism of their son, RJ Wayne. He is a child of God, heir to the Kingdom!



**Mardi Gras Wine Tasting Festival** will be held on Saturday, March 2nd, 2019 - 6:00—10:00 P.M., in our Fellowship Hall. Tickets are \$30.00 each and includes wine tasting and a lite fare. For tickets, please call Bridget at 724-294-008. Event sponsored by our Parish Council. Proceeds will benefit the restroom upgrade in our Fellowship Hall.

**Christian Mothers' Christmas Dinner**  
*Monday, January 7th, 2019—Evolution Grille*  
Hors d' oeuvres at 6:00 P.M. (provided)  
Dinner at 6:30 P.M. (self-pay)  
RSVP to Sharon Mihalich at 724-294-3128



**First Friday Adoration** will be January 4th, beginning at 8:30 A.M. Benediction will begin at 6:30 P.M. Sign-up sheets are located at the church entrances. Two people should be represented for each half hour. Please remember that if we do not get enough parishioners to commit their time, we will have to discontinue this Catholic tradition at our parish. Please join us as we adore our Lord, Jesus!



**Holy Day of Obligation**  
*January 1st, 2019*  
**Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**  
**Mass Schedule is as follows:**  
**Monday, December 31st - 5:00 P.M.**  
**Tuesday, January 1st - 10:00 A.M.**



*Decorating our church for Christmas!*



*December 19th  
Advent Penance  
Service at  
Concordia  
Nursing Home*



*The Epiphany  
Experience*

The Epiphany Experience which brings to life the story of the birth of Jesus, featuring sacred music, a costumed cast and live animals, will be held on Sunday, January 6th at St. Joseph Church, New Kensington, 1125 Leishman Avenue, at 6:30 P.M.

*Calendar of Events*

December 30th No Religious Education Classes; No Choir Practice  
 December 31st Vigil Mass (Holyday of Obligation—Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God)—4:00 P.M.  
 January 1st Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God—Mass at 10:00 A.M.; No RCIA; Parish Office Closed  
 January 4th First Friday Adoration  
 January 6th Religious Education Classes—9:30 - 10:40 A.M.—Security Guard is Vicki Ostrowski

# MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 31ST, 2018, JANUARY 1ST, 5TH & 6TH, 2019

<i>Altar Servers</i>	<i>Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion</i>	<i>Lector</i>	<i>Greeters</i>	<i>Organist</i>	<i>Cantor</i>
New Year's Eve—5:00 P.M. TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	Diane Pleva	Alex Smith
New Year's Day—10:00 A.M. TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	Dave Wesolosky	Choir
<b>Saturday - 4:00 P.M.</b>					
Madison & Dawson Gaillot Zach Showers	Stella Aul; Nancy Forbeck Dave Brestensky	Tim Fogarty	Jim Talotta Diana Talotta	Diane Pleva	Alex Smith
<b>Sunday—8:30 A.M.</b>					
Evan McCrea; Abby Koharchik Sarah, Hannah, Emma Shepherd Alexandra Lasko	Judy Bergstrom; Karen Nigra Pat Ralston	Lisa Boylan	Diane Grant Janis Harbison	Tom Koharchik	Tom Koharchik
<b>Sunday—11:00 A.M.</b>					
Celeste Beacom Jackson Ringler Victor & Olivia Svitek	Marushka Steele Bill Cogley Lisa Isenberg	Pat Westerman	Rose Naughton	Dave Wesolosky	Choir

## Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK

### MASSES FOR THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

<b>SATURDAY:</b> 4:00 P.M.	<b>December 29th</b> ✦ Albert Hager (Dick & Mary Bertino; Children/Grandchildren)
<b>SUNDAY:</b> 8:30 A.M. 11:00 A.M.	<b>December 30th</b> St. Mary Parishioners Special Intention (Mike Huth)
<b>MONDAY:</b> 8:00 A.M. 5:00 P.M.	<b>December 31st</b> ✦ Jim Ebig (Mary Fullerton) St. Mary Parishioners
<b>TUESDAY:</b> 10:00 A.M.	<b>January 1st—Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God</b> ✦ Ken Hughes (Patty Hughes & Family)
<b>WEDNESDAY:</b> 8:00 A.M.	<b>January 2nd</b> ✦ Aaron Myers (Myers Family)
<b>THURSDAY:</b> 8:00 A.M.	<b>January 3rd</b> ✦ Francis Laux (Jack Laux)
<b>FRIDAY:</b> 8:00 A.M. 6:30 P.M.	<b>January 4th - First Friday</b> ✦ Martin Sikora (Baustert Family) Benediction
<b>MASSES FOR THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD</b>	
<b>SATURDAY:</b> 4:00 P.M.	<b>January 5th</b> ✦ Michael Echon (Pat & Bill Davis)
<b>SUNDAY:</b> 8:30 A.M. 11:00 A.M.	<b>January 6th</b> ✦ Joan Sliwiak (Kymer Family) St. Mary Parishioners



The Altar Bread and Wine were donated for this week in loving memory of **STEPHEN T. BRESTENSKY**  
By  
*Stephen M. Brestensky and Family*



In acknowledging the Real Presence of Christ, The Sanctuary Lamp (Candle) will burn this week in loving memory of **JOHN & GLORIA JANICIK**  
By  
*Chet & Linda Mientus & Family*

## Collections

### Offertory Collection for December 16th, 2018

No. of Envelopes Mailed Out: 613  
No. of Envelopes Received: 182  
Collection: Offertory - \$3,665.18  
Electronic Payments (28) - \$3,401.00  
Loose - \$341.00; Children - \$16.00; Candle Money - \$381.25  
(Additional) Feast of the Immaculate Conception - \$20.00  
**Total Collection - \$7,824.43**  
**THANK YOU!**

*Due to the early deadline for the submission of the December 30th bulletin, the weekly contribution report for December 23rd was not available. This information will be published in next Sunday's bulletin. Thank you!*



**Saturday, January 5th, 2019**  
*Judy Pollicchio & Joanne Colpo*

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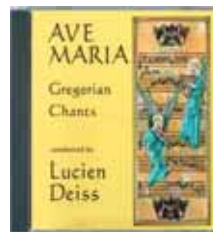
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