

ST MARY'S CHURCH



14833 Kutztown Road ▪ Kutztown, PA 19530

www.StMarysKutztown.com

www.facebook.com/stmaryskutztown

Church, Meeting Rooms, Business & Parish Offices:

Phone : 610-683-7443 ▪ Fax : 610-683-7625

Email: Parish@StMarysKutztown.com

Religious Education Center: 610-683-6454

Email: RelEd@StMarysKutztown.com

PASTORAL MINISTRY

Pastor	Fr John Maria
Pastor Emeritus	Rev Msgr Walter T Scheaffer
Transitional Deacon	Rev. Mr. N. Romero Brelinsky
Permanent Deacon	Dcn. Howard Schultz
Coordinator/Religious Educ	Mrs. Ann Pergosky
Director of Music Ministry	Mrs. Anne Sitarik
and Parish Secretary	

PARISH ORGANIZATIONS

Ladies Auxiliary	Theresa Bieak & Deb Massa
Men of St. Mary's	Mr. Tom Cengeri
Pro-Life Committee	Mr. John Tucker, O P
R C I A	Fr. John Maria

DIOCESAN INFORMATION

Diocesan Policies and Procedures on Youth Protection:

www.allentowndioocese.org

Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator:

Wendy S Krisak, Direct Telephone: (800) 791-9209

Office of Safe Environment Secretary, Youth Protection and Catholic Human Services: Pamela Russo, MSW, MS ; PO Box F, Allentown, 181-5-1538 Telephone 610-871-5200 xt 2204

Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service: If you have an allegation of abuse against a bishop, please contact the Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service: www.ReportBishopAbuse.org or 800-276-1562



MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil	4:30 pm
Sunday	8:30, 11:00am
Daily Masses	7:30am (Monday – Friday) 8:00am (First Saturdays)

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT - Every

Wednesday, 7-8 pm *and* First Friday of the Month, 8 until 9am

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM – Baptism is celebrated at various times, often 11a Mass, the 1st Sunday of the month. Baptisms are also scheduled privately upon arrangement with families. Parents must contact the Religious Ed Office to arrange Baptismal Prep sessions and learn all the details.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION - Saturday, 3:30-4:20p, Sundays 8:00-8:20; 10:30-10:50 am, Wednesdays 7:00-8:00p and by appointment

SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK – Those who are dangerously ill or facing serious surgery may receive this healing Sacrament. Please contact Father John Maria to make arrangements

SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY – Congratulations! Couples must contact Father John at least six months in advance of desired date. Marriage Preparation is required for proper celebration of this Sacrament

PROSPECTIVE GODPARENTS/SPONSORS asked to serve as Baptismal Godparents or Confirmation sponsor must request an eligibility certificate from the parish priest. To serve in this special role parishioners must: Be in full communion with the Catholic Church; Attend Mass weekly; have received Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, Reconciliation & Confirmation; Married individuals need be validly married in the Catholic Church.

Please contact the Parish Office and allow 2 weeks to process
HOMEBOUND – Parishioners homebound and unable to attend Mass please contact the Parish Office to arrange visitation, to receive Holy Communion

HOSPITALIZED - Call the Rectory to notify of someone in the hospital so we can pray for and possibly visit them. Each hospital in our Diocesan boundaries is either covered by a local parish or has a priest on call at the hospital

PARISH MEMBERSHIP - Welcome to St. Mary's Parish! Please contact the Parish Office to meet with Father John and become registered. We also ask those who move to notify the parish

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION – Education for parish children occurs September 10 through April. Contact Religious Education office: 610-683-6454 for registration.

Center-based

▪Levels 1 to 5 meet every week, Sundays, 9:40-10:50am

▪Level 6-8 meet the 2nd & 4th Sundays, 6-8pm

▪Youth Group (9-12) Stay tuned for upcoming events.

Home-based Arrangements may be made for select grade levels, contact Ann Pergosky

TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME, SEPTEMBER 10, 2023

We are a welcoming community called to deepen and share our faith

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MASS Intentions

Mon 09-11	7:30a	Nguyen Ngoc My
Tue 09-12	7:30a	Dave Medovich
Wed 09-13	7:30a	George and Valetta Smith
Thu 09-14	7:30a	Raymond Malone
Fri 09-15	7:30a	Ginny and Edward Neary
Sat 09-16	4:30p	Jack Sherman
Sun 09-17	8:30a	People of the Parish
	11:00a	Robert Tutchings

Altar flowers this week are in honor of the Hinkle-Clarke wedding.

READINGS and CELEBRATIONS for the WEEK

Sun 09-10	2 ^{3rd} Sunday Ordinary time- Ez 33:7-9; Ro 13:8-10; Mt 18:15-20
Mon 09-11	Col 1:24—2:3; Lk 6:6-11
Tue 09-12	Col 2:6-15; Lk 6:12-19
Wed 09-13	Col 3:1-11; Lk 6:20-26
Thu 09-14	Exaltation of the Holy Cross-Nm 21:4b-9; Phil 2:6-11; Jn 3:13-17
Fri 09-15	1 Tm 1:1-2, 12-14; Jn 19:25-27 or Lk 2:33-35
Sat 09-16	1 Tm 1:15-17; Lk 6:43-49
Sun 09-17	2 ^{4th} Sunday Ordinary Time- Sir 27:30—28:7; Ro 14:7-9; Mt 18:21-35

MUSIC MINISTRY

	THIS WEEK	NEXT WEEK
4:30p	Sitarik, Anne Moore, Mark	Skoronski, Nathan Casey, Peggy
8:30a	Spanier, Chris Moore, Mark	Talarico, Tim Cebenکو, Steve
11:00a	Sitarik, Anne Moore, Mark	Pirnot, Tom Talarico, Tim

Collection info Online in Church Expenses

Regular Collection	\$4,784.00	\$6,089.00	\$21,693.05
Building Fund	\$10.00	\$1,000.00	
Capital Campaign	\$70.00	\$1,561.00	
Parish Partnership	\$45.00	\$145.00	
Other Regular Income	\$265.00	\$100.00	

HOW DO I SIGN UP FOR ONLINE GIVING?

1. Visit our church website at www.stmaryskutztown.com
2. Click on the Online Giving link
3. Complete the online registration form
It's that simple! For more info or help setting up your account please contact the parish office: 610-683-7443



Please Pray for the Sick, and their loved ones:

Logan Alkons	Lucy Ginsiorsky	Diana Novi
Caleb Bauer	Ken Gorski	Joanne O'Connell
Christopher Bennett	Bijou Greenwood	Benedicta Otchere
Claudia Berg	Muriel Hadnagy	Rick Padilla
Greg Bradford	Devon Hanna	Ed Pilarski
Monica Bradford	Jacqueline Hartz	Pat Regensburger
Bradford family	Linda Haurus	Rosemarie Reimert
Nadia Cahill	Hannah Hayduk	Bill Pettit
Drew Cengeri	Kathy Henry	Megan Roth
Meaghan Clark	Joan Hullinger	Nina Hertzog
Colleen Wolff	Lillian Karch	Rundle
Jerome Costanzo	Michael Karch	Richard Rusconi
Kim Costanzo	Joanne Kear	Mary Rutkosky
Nancy Devlin-Litinsky	Patricia Keeney	Sr. Mary Sapanara, MSC
Dave Ebling	Jane Kern	Tina Scatamacchia
Trent Eidle	Milton Kern	Jim Sherman
Floyd Falcone	Cena Knowles	Barbara Shidisky
Helen Falcone	Edward & Rosemary Law	Tracy Snyder
Patricia Farabaugh	Harry Lewellen	Nicole Sosik
Paula Fehlinger	Julie Lindsey	Todd Tanis
Kathleen Fink	Eva Malanczuk	Ralph Touch
Ruth Fitterling	Dennis Martinsen	Amy Turko
Joey Flecher	Michael Melnyk	Christine VanDoorn
Tammy G.	Barry, Sharon Miller	Phillip Vazquez
Joe Galantino	Elaine O. Miller	Joseph Wawrzak
Michelle Galantino	Marilyn Neider	Bonnie Wessner
Sandra George	Nikolette Nolte	Emily Wickle

Contact office to update list: secretary@stmaryskutztown.com

Please Pray for all those serving our nation

Keenan Albright	Anthony DiPietro	Nick Marakovits
Kyle Albright	Charles Douglass	Melissa Marks
Michael Barron	Joseph Douglass	Laura Miller
Andrew Barthol	Keith Essig	Spencer Morris
Frank M. Bieda	Ryan Flanagan	Heather O'Donnell
John Boyer	Kale Follweiler	Menaka Nayyar & Anthony Pirnot
Matthew Boyer	Michael Allen Haak	Jake Schmeck
Jonathan Cardé	Diane Henry	Phillip Talarico
Ryan Cengeri	Joshua Joseph	Steve Ziegler
Eric Cunningham	Dan King	
Timothy DeVall	James Knight	

Contact office to update list: secretary@stmaryskutztown.com

EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Sun 09.10 23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**
**** Early Mass begins 8:30a ****
2nd Collection-Library/AD Times
SP. DIOCESAN COLLECTION-MAUI RELIEF
Elementary Religious Educ., 9:40a
Parent meeting, K-5, 9:45a
Men of St. Mary's, 10a
Junior High ministry, 6p
Women of Grace, 6p
Junior High Parent mtg., 6:15p
- Mon 09.11 Kitchen help, Potatoes, 9a**
Kitchen help, Make Pierogies, 11a
Home-Based Rel. Ed. Mtg., 6:30p
- Tue 09.12 Faith Sharing, 10a**
Kitchen help, Bake cookies, 12n
- Wed 09.13 Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, 7p**
- Thu 09.14 Music Ministry, 7p**
RCIA Information Night, 7p
- Sat 09.16 Pray the Rosary, 4p**
2nd Collection-Parish Partnership

EVENTS NEXT WEEK

- Sun 09.17 CATECHETICAL SUNDAY**
2nd Collection – Parish Partnership
Breakfast served, 8:30-11:15a
Elementary Religious Education, 9:40a
- Mon 09.18 Kitchen help: Potatoes, 9a**
Kitchen help: Make pierogies, 11a
- Tue 09.19 Faith Sharing, 10a**
Kitchen help, Bake cookies, 12n
- Wed 09.20 Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, 7-8p**
- Thu 09.21 Music Ministry, 7p**
- Sat 09.23 Pray the Rosary, 4p**
2nd Collection – Church in Latin America

BULLETIN DEADLINE: Submit bulletin items by 12n the prior Monday; full-page items two full weeks in advance

PARISH MEMBERSHIP: Welcome! Please register for parish membership. Call 610-683-7443 for an appointment. Learn about all the parish has to offer! *Please inform us if moving.*

BREAKFAST IS SERVED Sunday Sept 17, 9-11a in the Social Hall. Get involved, helpers ALWAYS welcome! Suzanne: 610-334-5385 or midas8@msn.com

His Excellency Bishop Schlert has authorized a special Diocese of Allentown collection to offer aid in response to the wildfire tragedy in Maui, Hawaii. It is a totally voluntary *no envelope* collection. Funds raised through this special collection will be sent to the Diocese of Honolulu's local Catholic Charities office.



St. Mary's Maui Relief collection: Sept 9/10.

OLG: Use Special Diocesan Collection-Maui thru Sept 10

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY! Many thanks to all who submitted their interest in the "opportunities to serve" drive earlier this year. Fr. John is still sorting through the responses! There is a **NEW** opportunity for some **light cleaning in the parish office.** This would be weekly, perhaps 2 hours. Please email or call Fr. John if you are interested.



ST. CHRISTOPHER NEWMAN CTR AT KU: During fall and spring semesters Fr. John celebrates 5p Sunday Mass at the Newman Center, 15207 Kutztown Rd. While primarily geared toward young adults in the community, all are

Last Chance Mass 😊

welcome. The first Fall Semester Mass will be **5p, Sunday Sept. 10.**

PIEROGIE/KITCHEN HELP: Since 1995 a dedicated group of people has made over 30,000 pierogies and other delicious foods for St Mary's Holiday Bazaar. Our group of kitchen help continues to turn over, and we need some new helpers this year. Could *you* share a couple of hours?



We make ***pierogies Mondays after Labor Day.** It takes about 6 hours and involves about 12 different jobs; half of them are sit-down jobs. ***Make Soup and BBQ Mondays in October;** ***Make Haluski the week of the Bazaar.**

With fresh faces like YOURS will we continue to be able to make these sought-after, homemade Bazaar foods.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION- FR. JOHN MARIA

In our readings, we're reminded of the lofty call as members of the Lord's Church, and the impact of our witness upon others.

God called the prophet Ezekiel to be a watchman for his people. This responsibility included the call to correct those who have endangered their souls with serious sin. As we all know, this is tricky business! No one likes to be corrected! How can we possibly do this?

In his letter to the Romans, Saint Paul explains the call to truly love our neighbor. The commandments should be understood as forming us for the love of God and neighbor. This is the key to fraternal correction: love, which desires the salvation of others.

In the Gospel, the Lord speaks of the responsibility of His Church to correct the serious sin of others and provides a blueprint for doing so in love. In the most serious cases, the Church may even excommunicate those who are obstinate in scandalous sin. The point of such a drastic step is to awaken the person to the eternal consequences of their sin – not to reject them in anger, but to call them to repentance.

True love desires the good of the other. We must all be reminded that of the many priorities in this life, we must prioritize our fidelity to the Lord. If we truly love Him and seek His salvation, we will have compassion upon others and desire their union with Him as well. This requires great care, prayer and true love!

Holiday Bazaar Cookies: Rolled, decorated cookies are very popular at the Holiday Bazaar. Here's an *easy* recipe. Donate cookie dough to REC in time for baking 12n-3p Tuesdays Sept 05--Oct 10. Call Carm 610-683-5931 or Valetta: 610-926-3910.

ABC Cookies from Romana Kemp

5 c flour 3 eggs 1 tsp cream of tartar
 2 c sugar 1 tsp baking soda ½ tsp vanilla
 ¾ lb. melted butter

Mix all ingredients together and divide into 3 patties. Wrap in waxed paper and chill overnight. Roll out and cut into shapes. Decorate & bake, 350° for 8-10 minutes.



THE ANNUAL HOLIDAY BAZAAR, the 1st Saturday in November, is an excellent opportunity for parishioners to showcase their talents. Handcrafted items - made from fabric, wood, paper, yarn, etc. - will be accepted for the table. Small items, using the materials you may already have in your stash, are a wonderful addition to the Ladies Auxiliary craft table. Bring items to the Religious Ed Center the week before the bazaar. All proceeds benefit the Ladies Auxiliary/St. Mary's Church. For info contact Frances Larash: 610-683-3675.



THANK YOU! As of June, soda can tabs collected at St. Mary's, with those from Brandywine Heights schools, resulted in \$134.00 donated to Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central PA and Phila.



SHARE YOUR SPARE: Parishioner Patricia Keeney needs a kidney donor and hopes and prays for a living kidney donation. Consider this generous gift. Spread the word. For info about Patty, kidney donation www.nkr.org/RMV653

THE LORD CALLS EACH AND EVERY SOUL TO KNOW HIS LOVE AND MERCY. Each of us is called to strive to know



Him in the *fullness* of Truth, and not to *settle* for partial truths, passing fads or imitations that can never satisfy the longing of our hearts. He founded His Church upon the Rock of Peter to teach with His authority. He sent the apostles forth to baptize in the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. He entrusted these truths & these

graces to the Catholic Church.

Do you have a friend or loved one open to hearing this call of Christ, and to being received into the Catholic Church? **Might YOU be that someone** who has been a friend of St. Mary's parish, but have hesitated to take the step toward becoming Catholic?

Jesus is still calling! St. Mary's Information Night **Sept 14 at 7p, Parish Ctr/Rectory mtg. room** will discuss the call of Jesus, and to explain the process beginning this Fall. There is no pressure or obligation to commit immediately.

The **Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)** is a prayer and study journey, culminating in union with Christ at Easter 2024.

Learn **more** Contact Fr. Maria, 610-683-7443

ARE YOU a SNOWBIRD? If you travel south for the winter, let the parish office know. We'll put a hold on mailings until your return date. Call/email the office. Bon voyage!



THE GIFT OF DAILY MASS: The opportunity to receive the Lord each day is a gift beyond all telling. Attending daily Mass has been a life-changer for so many people - including Father John! **On September 5, the daily Mass time changed to 7:30am.** Please prayerfully consider this gift! Even the saints agree!

"If there were only one church in the world where the Mystery of our altars was celebrated, and where the Host was consecrated, we should doubtless feel a holy envy for those who stood at the doors of that church. But we are the chosen people; we are at the door of that place, so pure and holy, where God is immolated every day! When you think of going to Mass on working days, it is an impulse of the grace that God wills to grant you." - *Saint John Vianney*



Greeter families needed Welcome new visitors and the parish, distribute bulletins. ministries@stmaryskutztown.com

A Word About Church in Latin America Collection...

Next week we will take up the Collection for the Church in Latin America. For many in Latin America and the Caribbean, a rising secular culture, difficult rural terrain, and a shortage of ministers all present obstacles to practicing the faith. Your support for the collection provides lay leadership training, catechesis, priestly and religious formation, and other programs to share our Catholic faith with those who long to hear the Good News of Christ. To learn more about how your gifts make a difference, visit www.usccb.org/latin-america

This collection will be Sept. 16/17, next weekend

Prayer for Solidarity

Merciful and loving God, through the intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe, we ask you to help us grow in unity and solidarity with the faithful around the world, especially those in Latin America and the Caribbean. Grant us the grace to give generously of our time, treasure, and talent to those in need. May we learn from the example of St. Junípero Serra, St. Rose of Lima, St. Oscar Romero, and all the saints from the Americas, and share our faith with humility and love. We ask this through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen.

MONSTRANCE BLESSED BY ST. JOHN PAUL II AT ST. MARY'S! Wednesday, Sept. 27, St Mary's will have our weekly hour of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. There will be an added blessing that evening, as our parish will use a monstrance blessed by St John Paul II!

In 2004, the late Pope **John Paul II** blessed monstrances for use during the Year of the Eucharist for people to pray for an increase of vocations to ordained ministry and consecrated life. These six monstrances were designated for Eucharistic adoration for vocations for each major continent or geographical area around the world as a symbol of

the connection between the Eucharist and priestly vocations. The six regions were: North America, Latin America, Europe, Asia, Africa and the Pacific.

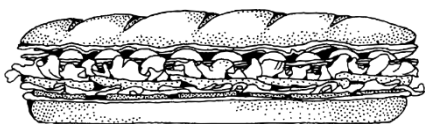
At 7p, Wednesday, September 27, St Mary's will be blessed to host this special monstrance - a beautiful vessel which displays the greatest of all possible blessings: Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Most Blessed Sacrament.

Plan to join us that evening as we pray for an increase in vocations!



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THEY'RE BAAAAACK: Mark your calendars for St. Mary's Hoagie Sales coming this fall-making on Oct 11/pickup Oct 12 am; and Nov 15/ pickup Nov 16 am.



SEM SAYS-PODCAST hosted by the St. Charles Borromeo Seminarians. Listen wherever you get podcasts.



FOR GOD AND COUNTRY: 2p, Sept 10, Cathedral in Allentown. Enjoy a medley of Patriotic Music and Songs by the Choirs of the Cathedral Parish. Scripture, Patriotic Readings and Reflection. 1st Responders invited to wear their Uniforms. Free Will Offering.

ST MONICA MINISTRY HOLY HOUR: 6-7p Sept 13. Are you heartbroken because family members have left the Church? Join the St. Monica Ministry petitioning Our Lord to draw back into the fold our loved ones who've strayed, to give strength and wisdom to those who await their return. Meet monthly at St. Theresa Church, Hellertown. Info: CelestStMonicaMinistry27@gmail.com



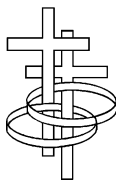
DAILY MASS with BISHOP SCHLERT: Save the dates.

- Sept 14, 9am, St. Clare of Assisi, St. Clair
- Sept 19, 8:00am, Cathedral in Allentown

PLACES OF COMFORT AND HEALING: Sept. 18. Explore God's Mercy and our call to mercy with one another. 6p Dinner, 7-9p talk. \$35 Onside; \$20 virtual. Register www.strancisretreathouse.org 610-838-1048 **by Sept 11 or by Sept 15 for virtual.** St. Francis Retreat House, Easton.

DESIGNER BAG BINGO-HGA REGIONAL SCHOOL: 12p Sept. 16. Doors open at 11. Bingo begins at 12n. 3125 Kutztown Rd, Reading, 19605

DIOCESAN ANNIVERSARY MASS: Sunday, Sept. 17. Each year the Diocese of Allentown offers a Mass for married couples celebrating a milestone anniversary. Couples are invited to renew their vows and thank God for the gift of the Sacrament of Marriage. RSVP: www.allentowndioocese.org/anniversarymass



MASS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES: 6p, Sept 21, St. Thomas More, Allentown. Let us gather as a community of faith! You are cordially invited to Mass with Bishop Alfred Schlert in celebration of persons with disabilities.

ALLENTOWN DIOCESE MEN'S & WOMEN'S CURSILLO WEEKENDS: Cursillo has been a powerful means of spiritual growth for Catholics throughout our diocese as well as Catholics around the world for decades. (It's been a great blessing in Fr. John Maria's life as well!) This year's weekends: Men: Thurs Evening 9/21 to Sunday Afternoon 9/24. Women: Thurs Evening 9/28 to Sun Afternoon 10/1. Must be 18yrs of age to attend; held at Mariawald Renewal Ctr Mohnton.

Learn more- call or text: Beth Pawlik: 610-781-2935 or Michael Pawlik: 610-781-4400

YOUR TREASURE'S MYSTERIES UNLOCKED at the Cathedral. 5:30-9:30p, Sept 23 at the Walson Ctr, 210 N 18th St, Allentown. Be a spectator or have an in-depth evaluation of your keepsakes at the Antique Treasure Show. Enjoy wine, beer, hors d' oeuvres, desserts & coffee. Plus, Silent & Live Auction of Unique Items. Benefits Maintenance & Repairs at Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena. Tickets at door \$30; \$25 in advance. Info: Cathedral-church.org, or @allentowncathedral, or call 610-433-6461.

CASTING THE NET-MEN'S HALF-DAY RETREAT: 8a-12n Sept 23, St. Mary's **Hamburg.** Strengthen your faith; connect with other Catholic men; be equipped to live as a faithful disciple. Msgr. Andrew Baker, Rector, Mount. St. Mary's Seminary, Emmitsburg, MD will present: PUT OUT INTO THE DEEP: THE EVANGELIZATION OF MEN BY MEN. Register for this FREE event: MenAliveInChrist.org

DIOCESAN GOLF TOURNAMENT: Sept 25, Steel Club, Hellertown. Proceeds benefit seminarian scholarships. Visit www.allentowndioocese.org/golf for sponsorships or to register.



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HGA REGIONAL SCHOOL DINE OUT EVENT: Visit Panera Bread (Muhlenberg location) 4-8p, Sept 27 and a portion of your purchase will help the school!

LIFE CHAIN: 2-3:30p, Oct. 1, Penn Ave, W Reading. Take a stand for life for the sake of children whose cries are being silenced. Attend this solidarity of Local Christians against abortion. *Prayer walk Penn Ave, Sat. Sept. 30; meet at 5:45p at St. James.* Info: Pam Snyder: 610-790-9197

RETRouvaille: Rediscover the Love in your Marriage. Couples can feel lonely, frustrated, or angry in their marriage, or feel shut off from one another. Others experience severe conflict and endless arguments. Retrouvaille offers hope for all by teaching to communicate in a deeper, more meaningful way, healing hurts and rebuilding trust and intimacy. No relationship is beyond help. **Next weekend program: Oct. 06-08** at the Family Life Center in Malvern. Info or Register: 215-766-3944 or 800-470-2230. *All inquiries strictly confidential.* www.HelpOurMarriage.org

HGA REGIONAL SCHOOL FUNDRAISER: Donate \$5 to receive a 25% discount shopping pass for Boscov's Friends Helping Friends sale, Wed., Oct. 18. You'll also be registered to win a \$100 Boscov's Gift Card. HolyGuardianAngelsRegionalschool.square.site or 610-929-4124 or email development@hgaschool.org for a pass.



Oktoberfest

MSC OKTOBERFEST: 12-5p, Oct. 8 at Reading Liederkrantz. *Hosted by and for the Missionary Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.* Enjoy an authentic German Oktoberfest! **With *Live Music and Dancing with the Josef Kroboth Band 1:00-4:00! *\$20 entrance fee online or at the door (\$10 for 10-17 – under 10 free); *An outdoor celebration in a scenic, accessible grove with pavilion, open-air first-come seating, scattered heaters, if needed; *Authentic German Food and Beer ordered by guests at cash only food and beverage stands (menu options online). *For tickets or to support our Sisters: www.mscreading.org cwhitmoyer@mscreading.org**

Word of Life: “By our baptism, we are members of Christ’s body and sharers in his mission. Imitating Christ,

we must care for all members of our communities, honoring each person as unique, sacred, and created in the image of God.” ~ USCCB, “Open Wide Our Hearts” Bulletin Insert

EXPLORE *NEW* DIOCESAN EMPLOYMENT NEEDS
Visit: www.allentowndiocese.org/about/employment

REFLECTION... by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

“Word Trivia,” is a favorite website of mine. I suppose that the former English teacher in me surfaces now and then. At any rate, the word chosen for an early July day happened to be: “vexatious.” The definition given for this adjective was “annoying and frustrating.” That led me to apply the word to one of our Christian obligations of fraternal correction. You know what that is. To correct someone, usually a friend or family member, who has made a bad choice and is on the slippery slope to disaster.

We learn from the First Reading that Ezekiel the prophet, as the divinely appointed watchman over Israel, had to preach this obligation to Israel. It could not have been a popular pronouncement, there was an urgency at hand because the powerful kingdom of Babylon was breathing down Jerusalem’s neck.

St. Paul echoes the call. But it the Gospel tells us of God’s p elaborate three step procedure for handling the matter. It starts with a caring one-on-one conversation between the parties, and if that does not work, then present it to the community of the Church. If even that fails, then dismiss the offender in his chosen pursuit. Not a happy result.

But the “good news” that this gospel conveys is that short but very sweet promise of Jesus that when 2 or 3 of us gather in His name for matters like prayer, or decision-making, or change of lifestyle, He will be in our midst.

We Catholic Christians know that Christ has all the answers we need. But His presence adds strength to our purpose. Even to the demanding task of fraternal correction, He adds His insight and power. But, as always, we have to maintain a sense of truth and unselfishness. We can never stoop to the level of a certain senior citizen I read about.

It seems this certain old man was strolling on the beach when he came upon a magic lamp. He picked it up, dusted it off, when suddenly a genie appeared. “Because you have freed me,” the genie said, “I will grant you a wish.”

The startled old man though for a few moments and then responded, “My brother and I had a fight some thirty years ago, and he hasn’t spoken to me since. I wish that he will finally forgive me.”

There was a thunderclap and the genie declared, “your wish has been granted. But then the genie continued, “You know, most people would have asked for wealth or fame. But you only wanted the love of your brother. Is that because you are dying?”

“No way!” the man answered. “But my brother is dying and he’s worth about \$60 million.”

We are a welcoming community called to deepen and share our faith