

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 and Parish Secretary	Mrs. Anne Sitarik

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



Therefore,
stay awake,
for you
know
neither the
day nor the
hour

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 a valid and Sacramental marriage

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

THIRTY SECOND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME, NOVEMBER 12, 2023

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

THIRTY SECOND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME, NOVEMBER 12, 2023

MASS Intentions

Mon	11-13	7:30a	Edward and Mary Ehrets
Tue	11-14	7:30a	Souls in Purgatory
Wed	11-15	7:30a	Jim Corson
Thu	11-16	7:30a	Dan Hare
Fri	11-17	7:30a	Special Intention
Sat	11-18	4:30p	Stanley and Margaret Nolan
Sun	11-19	8:30a 11:00a	Frank and Joan Cochrane People of the Parish

*Altar flowers and Blessed Sacrament candle in memory of
Emilie Hoffman this week*

READINGS and CELEBRATIONS for the WEEK

Sun	11-12	32 nd Sunday Ordinary Time- Wis 6:12-16; 1 Th 4:13-18 or 4:13-14; Mt 25:1-1
Mon	11-13	Wis 1:1-7; Lk 17:1-6
Tue	11-14	Wis 2:23—3:9; Lk 17:7-10
Wed	11-15	Wis 6:1-11; Lk 17:11-19
Thu	11-16	Wis 7:22b—8:1; Lk 17:20-25
Fri	11-17	Wis 13:1-9; Lk 17:26-37
Sat	11-18	Wis 18:14-16; 19:6-9; Lk 18:1-8
Sun	11-19	33 rd Sunday Ordinary Time- Prov 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31; 1 Th 5:1-6; Mt 25:14-30 or 25:14-15, 19-21

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	\$4,528.00	\$5,118.45	\$14,053.00
Building Fund	\$10.00	\$1,000.00	
Capital Campaign	\$60.00	\$40.00	
Parish Partnership	\$10.00	\$50.00	
All Saints Day	\$225.00	\$914.00	
All Souls Day	\$120.00	\$1,084.00	
SCB Seminary	\$5,350.00	\$4,176.00	
Other Regular Income	\$10.00	\$185.00	

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

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 11.12 32ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Return Hoagie orders
Elementary Religious Education, 9:40a
Men of St. Mary's, 10:30a
Junior High Ministry, 6p
- Tue 11.14 Faith Sharing, 10a
- Wed 11.15 Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, 7-8p
Make hoagies, pm
Pickup hoagies, 7-8:30p
- Thu 11.16 Pickup hoagies, 7:30-9a
Mary's Café-Morning Edition, 10a
Music Ministry, 7p
R.C.I.A., 7p
- Sat 11.18 Pray the Rosary, 4p
2nd Collection – Diocesan Poverty Relief Fund

EVENTS NEXT WEEK

- Sun 11.19 33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
2nd Collection – Diocesan Poverty Relief Fund
Youth Mass, 8:30a
Breakfast served, 8:30a-11:15a
Catechist Breakfast, 9:45a
- Tue 11.21 Faith Sharing, 10a
- Wed 11.22 Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, 7p
- Thu 11.23 HAPPY THANKSGIVING DAY
Daily Mass, 9a
- Fri 11.24 Parish Office closed
- Sat 11.25 Pray the Rosary, 4p
2nd Collection – Parish Partnership

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.*



OFFERTORY ENVELOPES: To begin receiving offertory envelopes, please contact the parish office: secretary@stmaryskutztown.com



ARE YOU a SNOWBIRD traveling south for the winter? Tell the parish office, we'll hold mailings until your return. Call/email the office. Bon voyage!

BAPTISM PREP: The next meetings are 6p, Dec. 04 and 11. Call Ann Pergosky: 610-683-5454 to register.



SPAM MESSAGES: Should you receive a "personal" style email or text message appearing to come from Fr. John or parish staff please disregard them and even block the sender. Fr. John and the staff will *never ask you for money or gift cards.*

BREAKFAST IS SERVED next Sunday, 8:30-11:15a in the Social Hall. Get involved! Suzanne: 610-334-5385 or midas8@msn.com

GIVING FROM OUR BOUNTY: This *bountiful* project is supported by our JR High Rel Ed, **Nov 12-Dec 03**. Cost of living increases have made an especially difficult time for many.



The organizations that support families in need struggle. Visit the Gathering Area to choose gift and/or food item tags. Gifts support Lifeline, Friend, Inc., and Willow Brook.

- ☆Lifeline requests mother and baby items
- ☆Friend, Inc. seeks food donations for Christmas and children's Christmas clothing and toys.
- ☆Willow Brook residents in long-term care can feel isolated. A little cheer goes a long way to boost morale and aid recovery. You may even include a letter or care for a more personal connection.

Please visit Gathering Area table to select an item(s) and return gift items by Sunday, **Dec 03**, with tags securely attached, into the Gathering Area large boxes. Please do not wrap Gifts. *However, gift bags and wrapping paper donations welcomed.*

If you take a gift tag do please return it by the Dec. 03 due date so it can be handed to recipient families. *Thank you!*

In November We Pray for Our Beloved Dead

O God, giver of life and glory,
by the death and resurrection of your Son,
we have been redeemed from sin.
Look with mercy on your departed servants,
our beloved family, friends, and neighbors.
Grant them your true happiness in the heavenly kingdom,
where we hope to be reunited with them in eternity. Amen.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION- FR. JOHN MARIA

Our Gospel for the 32nd Sunday emphasizes the importance of watchfulness – being prepared for the coming of the Lord. We read the parable of the ten virgins awaiting the bridal procession. The bridegroom would be passing through on the way to the great wedding feast. The foolish ones were unprepared for nightfall and brought no oil.

Whenever this parable comes up, it seems the first question is "Why didn't the wise ones share?" In the larger moral lesson, it's important to understand that parables were not intended to be precise images in all aspects, but meant to convey a particular point. In this case, there is a unique, personal and individual task to be vigilant – lest we miss the coming of the Bridegroom.

The Fathers of the early Church interpreted the lamp as a sign of faith, but the all-important oil, as good works of love. I would also tend to see the oil as the grace of God in our souls – we must all be vigilant to be in a state of grace, ready for His coming. We can't give away our sanctifying grace!

Taken together, we hear faith, works of love and grace – these are the components of holiness. This week, reflect upon how well you are preparing for the coming of Christ the Bridegroom! He deserves to be our first priority!

MARY'S CAFÉ: Thursday, November 16, 10am in the Religious Ed Center, all are invited to join Father John at **Mary's Cafe** for an informal talk on the "Last Things", a "morning encore" of the Nov. 09 talk.

As we near the end of the liturgical year and approach Advent, our Mass readings draw us to reflect upon the final judgment and the coming of Christ. As Christians, we know that at death, life is changed, but not ended. What does the Church teach about death, judgment, heaven and hell? And how are we to understand the Church's teaching on purgatory? Where are these teachings found in Scripture?

Join us Thursday, Nov. 16, 10a at Mary's Café.



CHRISTMAS OPLATKI: The parish has purchased a limited supply of "oplatki" - the wafer bread included in many family gatherings with East European traditions at Christmas. We ask \$3 per package to cover expenses. First come, first serve! We may order more if our supply is depleted quickly. To purchase Oplatki, contact: 610-683-7443 or parish@stmaryskutztown.com



RETIRED AND INFIRMED PRIESTS ANNUAL FUND, "CHOSEN, BLESSED, SHARED"

PURPOSE The purpose of THE ENDOWMENT FOR THE CARE OF RETIRED PRIESTS is to provide a long-term source of funding to meet the future needs of retired priests in good standing who have faithfully served the Catholics in the Diocese of Allentown.

HOW TO GIVE TO THE ENDOWMENT FOR THE CARE OF RETIRED PRIESTS

- Make an outright gift of cash.
- Make a planned gift to The Endowment through your will or through other means such as a charitable gift annuity that could be a source of income for you.

Please know that any amount you wish to contribute to The Endowment, no matter how great or small, will be accepted with great appreciation. *All gifts to The Endowment are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.*

NEED FOR THE ENDOWMENT-When a Diocesan priest is ordained, he makes a lifelong commitment to serve the needs of the faithful in the Diocese of Allentown. In return, the Diocese makes a commitment to provide the priest for his basic well-being during his lifetime, including retirement. The normal retirement age for a priest in our Diocese is 75. Retirement costs including insurance, healthcare, prescription drugs, skilled nursing care, and housing/sustenance continue to escalate. At present, approximately 1/3 of Diocesan priests are retired.

The Diocese of Allentown currently pays for the retirement needs of priests with the Because We are Catholic Annual Appeal and Diocesan operating budget. Due to the ever-increasing costs of care, which now exceed \$2.7 million per year, the Diocese created this Endowment Fund to assist funding these expenses in the future.

FOR MORE INFO OF TO DONATE: 800-831-4443 or visit www.WeLoveOurPriests.org. Mail to: Diocese of Allentown The Endowment for the Care of Retired Priests; Post Office Box F; Allentown, PA Pennsylvania 18105-1538

Poverty Relief Fund

Diocesan Poverty Relief grants are funded by a special annual second collection. These grants, made possible through your generosity, support a wide range of local projects and services that alleviate and address poverty in Berks, Carbon, Lehigh, Northampton, and Schuylkill counties.

This year's Poverty Relief Fund collection: Nov. 18-19

SUPPORT FOR SEMINARY RELOCATION

Thank you for supporting the Campaign for Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary in Lower Gwynedd. SCBS has been forming priests to serve in our communities for more than 190 years in Wynnewood. So far, the parish has contributed \$9,586.00 for our seminarians today and our priests for tomorrow. Follow construction progress: www.scs.edu/news-events/relocation-effort/

Give: AllentownDiocese.org/scbs

HGA REGIONAL SCHOOL WINTER SERVICE PROJECT Nov. 06-20 will collect clean, gently worn and new coats for our **Annual Coat Drive.**

CATHOLIC ANSWERS TO: ETHICAL QUESTIONS AT THE

END OF LIFE: Nov. 12, Assumption BVM, Bethlehem, sponsored by the Knights of Malta. Speakers will be Dr. Minh Nguyen, who is a medical doctor at LVHN as well as a Knight of Malta. He'll be joined by Fr. John Krivak, pastor at St. Theresa's, Hellertown, and a theologian and ethicist. **RSVP** www.allentowndiocese.org/catholic-answers-ethical-questions-end-life

DESIGNED WITH PURPOSE: NFP DATE NIGHT: 6:30-9:30p, Nov. 16, Assumption BVM Bethlehem. Open church with Adoration, Confession, and Benediction from 6:30-7:30p. Followed by fellowship & discussion at the Copperhead Grille, with free appetizers and a drink on us, cash bar available, 5737 PA-378, Bethlehem.

LOSS – GRIEF – LETTING GO DAY OF REFLECTION – 6:30-8p, Friday, Nov. 17. Grief is a silent pain that is at times unbearable. Sr. Nancy Iampietro will guide you to reflect on loss and hope, on grief and love, on letting go of what we thought would be. With the Lord we can find comfort and healing where our wounds hurt the most.

Sr. Nancy is a Missionary Sister of the Precious Blood and a Theologian with specialization in Formative Spirituality, Spiritual Direction, and leadership.

Register by 11/13: Mariawald Renewal Center 610-777-0135 or mariawaldcenter@gmail.com Cost: \$20

NFP DATE NIGHT: DESIGNED WITH A PURPOSE, 6:30-9:30p, Nov 16, Assumption BVM, Bethlehem and Copperhead Grille, Bethlehem. 6:30p Adoration, Confession; 7:15 Benediction; 7:30p Fellowship and discussion w/free apps and a drink on us! Cash bar available. **RSVP**

allentowndiocese.flocknote.com/signup/141376

“ASK, KNOCK, SEEK” Catholic Men's Conference-8a-4p, Nov. 18, DeSales Univ. The Allentown Diocese's Men's Commission host this annual Catholic Men's day-long conference with keynote speakers: Matthew Leonard, Peter Herbek, and Fr. Larry Richards who will be speaking on the importance of the masculine pursuit of faith in a modern age. Info/register: MenAliveInChrist.org

CATHOLIC GRANDPARENTS

ASSOC: 9:15a, Nov. 18 at St. Joseph the Worker Parish Center. Grandparents provide families with family history and traditions. Sometimes treasures lay buried waiting to be discovered. Is it time for your treasure to shine?

Passing on the Faith is part of that treasure and grandparents' vocation. Join the next monthly chapter meeting of the International Catholic Grandparents Association, a valuable resource, Nov 18.



DINE OUT -CHIPOTLE- 4-8p, Nov 22 at Chipotle, Muhlenberg. Use code FVMQHZZ for online/app orders and **HGA Regional School** benefits from your purchase.

Word of Life: “In addition to enshrining pro-life laws and policies, the transformation of our culture also requires continual conversion of our *own* hearts, so that we can recognize in every person the face of Christ and place their needs before our own.” ~ Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge, Chair of the USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities; “Living Radical Solidarity”

EXPLORE *NEW* DIOCESAN EMPLOYMENT NEEDS

Visit: www.allentowndiocese.org/about/employment

DOES THE CHURCH TEACH THAT? Our second reading from St Paul's First Letter to the Thessalonians (1 Th 4:13-18) includes a mysterious line about being caught up in the air with the Lord. Some Protestant Christians try to use this verse to support their belief in a "rapture" of believers, leaving others behind. Does the Catholic Church teach this? No. Why not? Because it's not Scriptural!

It should be telling that this mistaken interpretation does not even occur in history until the 1800s. The passage refers instead to what will occur at the Second Coming. For a helpful response with Catholic teaching, check out “Answering the Rapture Challenge”:

www.catholic.com/magazine/online-edition/answering-the-rapture-challenge

REFLECTION... by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

“Readiness!” We say things like “The minor league pitcher is *ready* for the majors.” Or “The med student is now *ready* for hospital duty” Or, “The young priest is *ready* to be a pastor.” All these opinions revolve around our understanding of readiness. The contributing factors include our methods of judgment and discernment, which always involve at least a bit of opinion.

How different it is when we judge ourselves as *not* ready. Then we grow cautious about taking on a new project in our lives, or even accepting a new truth about ourselves. Particularly in matters of health. I believe that is all very natural. Our Lord is keenly aware of this, as He is about everything. Yet He still wants us to adopt a sense of readiness about our next life. This may be something new for us, especially if we are afraid of it.

In the well-known parable Jesus tells us this weekend, He makes use of a unique situation. Biblical scholars tell us that “the precise matrimonial ceremony is impossible to reconstruct.” All we really must know is that rabbis at the time used nuptial imagery to describe the relationship between God and His people.” So does this greatest of all rabbis.

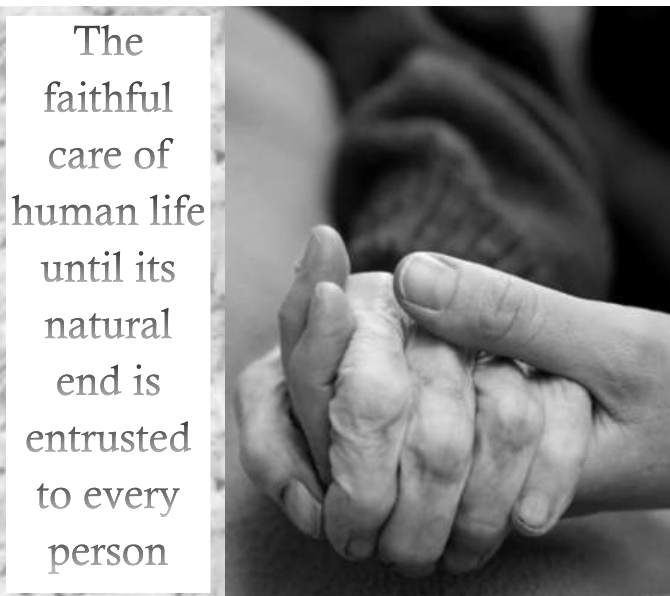
Obviously, Our Lord recommends being vigilant about His calling us home to heaven. It's a “November kind of thing.” But vigil-keeping becomes wearying. But may I suggest that Our Lord is speaking more about being ready?

Readiness is a bit different from vigil-keeping. It happens by a steady and consistent effort. It has a goal in mind. We believe we can reach it. The natural world in November invites us to ponder our death, with its often gray days and cold rain in the presence of leafless trees. But at the same time, we can remain hopeful and trusting of Our Lord's words about our future resurrection to eternally bright days. As He said to St. Thomas: “*Blessed are those who have not seen but have believed.*”

An Indiana cemetery has a tombstone over 100 years old that bears this epitaph: “*Pause, Strangers, when you pass by; As you are now, so once was I. As I am now, soon you will be, so prepare for death and follow me.*”

An unknown passerby had read these words and scratched this reply below them “*To follow you I'm not content; Until I know which way you went.*”

God love you and give you His peace.



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WELCOME TO THE SAINT MARY'S CHURCH PARISH WEEKLY BULLETIN!

Now is a great time to call and find out how your sponsorship can not only support Saint Mary's Church and our community, but grow your business at the same time!

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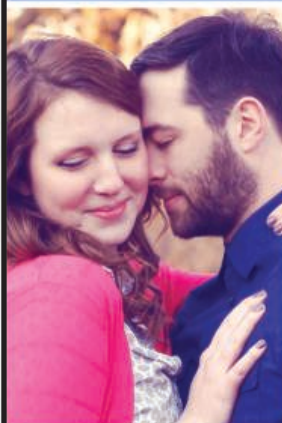
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TOPTON FAMILY PRACTICE ASSOCIATES

Joseph J. Blasiol, D.O. Jeffery J. Jones, D.O.



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