



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT, DECEMBER 03, 2023

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

# ST MARY'S CHURCH



14833 Kutztown Road ▪ Kutztown, PA 19530

[www.StMarysKutztown.com](http://www.StMarysKutztown.com)

[www.facebook.com/stmaryskutztown](https://www.facebook.com/stmaryskutztown)

Church, Meeting Rooms, Business & Parish Offices:

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

Email: [Parish@StMarysKutztown.com](mailto:Parish@StMarysKutztown.com)

Religious Education Center: 610-683-6454

Email: [RelEd@StMarysKutztown.com](mailto: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.allentowndiocese.org](http://www.allentowndiocese.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](http://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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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



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# MASS Intentions

Mon 12-04	7:30a	Gertrude Silva
Tue 12-05	7:30a	Jane Quirk
Wed 12-06	7:30a	William and Celestina Keller
Thu 12-07	7:30a	Nicholas and Sophia Dubyk
	7:00p	People of the Parish
Fri 12-08	12:00n	Mary Ellen Noel
	7:00p	Matthew Schwartz
Sat 12-09	4:30p	People of the Parish
Sun 12-10	8:30a	Barbara Pinter
	11:00a	William Boyer

Altar flowers in memory of Tom and Jane Quirk this week

*READINGS and CELEBRATIONS for the WEEK*

Sun 12-03	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent- Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7; 1 Co 1:3-9; Mk 13:33-37
Mon 12-04	Is 2:1-5; Mt 8:5-11
Tue 12-05	Is 11:1-10; Lk 10:21-24
Wed 12-06	Is 25:6-10a; Mt 15:29-37
Thu 12-07	Is 26:1-6; Mt 7:21, 24-27
Fri 12-08	Solemnity Immaculate Conc Gn 3:9-15, 20; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38
Sat 12-09	Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8
Sun 12-10	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent-Is 40:1-5, 9-11; 2 Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8

**MUSIC MINISTRY**

	<i>THIS WEEK</i>	<i>NEXT WEEK</i>
4:30p	Sitarik, Anne Casey, Peggy	DeWald, Heather Moore, Mark
8:30a	Sitarik, Anne Cebenko, Steve	Spanier, Chris Moore, Mark
11:00a	Pirnot, Tom Skoronski, Katherine	Thomas, Cathy Moore, Mark

	<i>Online &amp; In Church</i>	<i>11-19</i>	<i>11-26</i>	<i>Expenses</i>
Regular Collection		\$8,802.00	\$4,213.30	\$25,698.29
Building Fund		\$1,025.00	\$1,000.00	
Capital Campaign		\$275.00	\$35.00	
Parish Partnership		\$110.00	\$1,326.00	
Poverty Relief		\$1,819.00	\$75.00	
Other Regular Income		\$50.00	\$225.00	

**HOW DO I SIGN UP FOR ONLINE GIVING?**

1. Visit our church website at [www.stmaryskutztown.com](http://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
Joey Flecher	Dennis Martinsen	Christine VanDoorn
Tammy G.	Barry, Sharon Miller	Phillip Vazquez
Joe Galantino	Elaine O. Miller	Joseph Wawrzak
Michelle Galantino	Nikolette Nolte	Bonnie Wessner
Sandra George	Diana Novi	Emily Wickle
Lucy Ginsiorsky		

Contact office to update list: [secretary@stmaryskutztown.com](mailto: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](mailto:secretary@stmaryskutztown.com)

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**EVENTS THIS WEEK**

- Sun 12.03 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Collection – Christmas Flowers**  
Children’s Liturgy of the Word, 8:30a  
Advent Family Session, 9:40a
- Tue 12.05 Faith Sharing, 10a**  
**Ladies Auxiliary Potluck Christmas lunch, 12n**
- Wed 12.06 Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, 7p**
- Thu 12.07 Handiwork from the Heart, 7p**  
**Vigil Mass of the Immaculate Conception, 7p**
- Fri 12.08 SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, Mass at 12n and 7p**
- Sat 12.09 Pray the Rosary, 4p**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Collection – Retired Religious**

**EVENTS NEXT WEEK**

- Sun 12.10 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Collection – Retired Religious**  
Elementary Religious Education, 9:40a  
**Men of St. Mary’s, 10a**  
Junior High ministry, 6p
- Tue 12.12 Faith Sharing, 10a**
- Wed 12.13 Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, 7p**
- Thu 12.14 Music Ministry, 7p**  
**R. C. I. A., 7p**
- Sat 12.16 Pray the Rosary, 4p**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Collection – Capital Improvements**

**EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINE:** Thru Jan. 07, send items by 12n ten days early; 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](mailto:secretary@stmaryskutztown.com)

**BAPTISM PREP:** The next meetings are 6p, Dec. 04 and 11. Call Ann Pergosky: 610-683-6454 to register.



**LADIES AUXILIARY CHRISTMAS COVERED DISH LUNCH MEETING:** 12n Tue. Dec. 05. All women of the parish are welcome. Please bring a covered dish to share. Small cost gift cards (Giant, CVS, McDonalds) for Mary’s shelter welcome.

*Last Chance Mass* 😊

**ST. CHRISTOPHER NEWMAN CTR AT KU:** FYI to those who sometimes attend the Last Chance Mass at the Newman Ctr, KU, the last Fall semester 5p Mass will be Dec. 10. Masses there will resume 5p, Jan. 28.

**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 THIS 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 are 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!*



**SOLEMNITY of the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION-**Thursday Dec. 8 is a Holy Day of Obligation. We have the obligation (and the great blessing) to attend Mass. Mass times:  
 Thu. Dec. 7 at 7p *vigil Mass.*  
 Fri. Dec. 08 at 12n and 7p.

**W**e welcome in the family of God, and the family of St. Mary’s this child who was baptized.

Willa Mae D.

May we all share our faith with her.



**SCRIPTURE REFLECTION- FR JOHN MARIA**

Today we celebrate the first Sunday of Advent. Everybody considers this to be the time to “get ready for Christmas”, but if that’s all it is, we’re not doing it right! Advent is a season of waiting – of reflection and expectation. During the latter part of Advent, we remember the first coming of Christ – when the Son of God became Man, born of the Blessed Virgin Mary. But during this first part of Advent, the Church leads us to turn our hearts and minds to look forward to the Second Coming of Christ at the end of time.

Our readings today contain the resounding call to stay awake! As the weather gets colder and darkness begins earlier, we may feel drawn to just stay under the covers. Likewise, as the darkness of a culture turning from God gets thicker, we may feel tempted to go with the flow. But today, the Lord calls us to awake from such sleep! He calls us to be confident of His promise and to be prepared for His coming. How will you heed His call?

As we begin Advent, let’s resolve to turn down the noise of the culture, and tune in to the Voice of the Lord. Stay awake and draw nearer to the One who will come again!

**CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIALS:** Today, Dec. 03 is the Christmas Flowers collection. Please remember include memorial names on envelope.

- † If you use St. Mary's Online Giving, you may include names in the Online Giving form.
- † If you do not receive envelopes, you may make an offering in a plain envelope; include "in memory of" names on the envelope.



**DECORATING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:**

12:05p Dec 17 to decorate the Church for Christmas. Meet after Mass in the gathering area. Call Ann Pergosky: 610-683-6454



## Christmas Mass Schedule

**Dec. 17 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**  
 3:00pm Reconciliation Service (w/visiting priests)

**Dec. 23 & 24 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**  
 4:30pm Saturday Vigil Mass  
 9:00am Sunday Mass  
 11:00am Sunday Mass

**Dec. 24 & 25 Merry Christmas**  
 4:00pm Christmas Eve Vigil Mass  
 10:00pm Christmas Eve Vigil Mass\*  
 \*Sing Carols at 9:30 pm

**Dec. 25 Merry Christmas**  
 10:00am Christmas Day Mass



*The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us!*

Come home to St. Mary's. Celebrate our Savior's birth!

**ST. MARY'S NEXT SOUP KITCHEN** project approaches **Dec 23/24**. The Soup Kitchen serves 200-400 people. Visit gathering area donation table. Return All items by Dec 21. Soup kitchen prep: 10a Dec. 15. A few volunteers would help. Questions? Mary Alkons 610-683-5443



*As often as you did it for one of my least brothers, you did it for me.*

**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](mailto:parish@stmaryskutztown.com)



**BAMBINELLI BLESSING:** 8:30a Mass, Dec. 17.

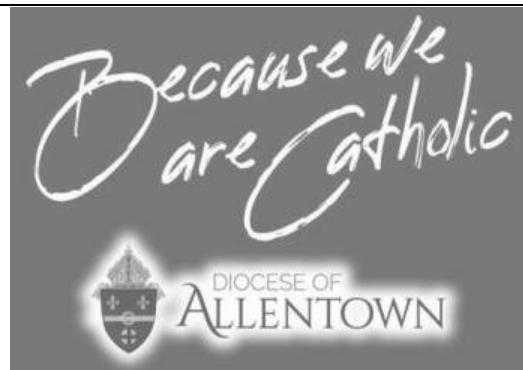
Join in a Vatican tradition here at St. Mary's. With parishes around the world Join in a Baminelli Blessing. All families are invited to bring the Baby Jesus from your family Nativity (crèche) to Mass when the Infant Kings will be blessed. **Look for complete details in bulletin flyer.** Questions: Ann Pergosky [reled@stmaryskutztown.com](mailto:reled@stmaryskutztown.com)



**COR JESU: 7-9p, Thu Dec 07-** a weekly diocesan worship event for Young Adults, starting in Advent. Each night will incorporate Adoration, Benediction, Confession, and Mass. Followed by fellowship afterwards. Dec. 7, 14, 21 at St. Ursula Parish, Fountain Hill

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

Thank you to those who have given so generously to the "Chosen, Blessed, Shared" annual fund. If you haven't given, it isn't too late to support the retired priests of our Diocese by making a gift to the Endowment Fund for the Care of Retired Priests. This special fund is used to directly support retired priests in good standing including the future costs of their healthcare, insurance, and housing and sustenance. Please return your gift using the envelope you received in the mail. These envelopes may be returned in the mail or in the collection basket at Mass. Your generosity supports retired priests from all 5 counties of our Diocese!



**APPEAL IS UNDERWAY!** We are still short of our parish goal as the year draws to a close! We're almost there! Parish Goal: \$81,767; Total Committed: \$75,914.00; No. of donors: 137. Average gift: \$554.12; No. of Registered families: 801. If you have yet to contribute, every penny helps! If you have already, thank you for your generosity.

**ADVENT DAY OF PRAYER:** 9:30a-4p, Dec. 09, Mariawald Renewal Center, Reading. Advent is the time of promise! Explore the doors that await us during Advent with Sr. Nancy Iampietro as guide. 1094 Welsh Rd, 19607. Cost: \$40; Register 610-777-0135; [mariawaldcenter@gmail.com](mailto:mariawaldcenter@gmail.com)

**FRANCISCAN CHRISTMAS MINI-RETREAT:** Dec. 11, 6p dinner; 7-9p desserts, music, presentations, fellowship and prayer. You are invited! Register: [stfrancisretreathouse.org](http://stfrancisretreathouse.org) or 610-258-3053 x0. Onsite \$35/virtual \$20.

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**ST. MONICA MINISTRY Buffet Dinner and Bilingual Holy Hour in Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe: 6p, Dec 12**  
Tue., Dec. 12, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, at St. Theresa Church, Hellertown, and will be preceded at 4p by a buffet dinner and basket raffle in the parish's Friendship Hall. Presider: Deacon Miguel Ramirez, of Our Lady of Mercy and St. Anthony of Padua Parishes in Easton- Our Lady of Guadalupe's maternal love for her children, and on her constant intercession for those who've left the Church. Register dinner: [allentowndioocese.org/stmonicaministry](http://allentowndioocese.org/stmonicaministry)

**HGA REGIONAL SCHOOL COUGAR CASH RAFFLE!** thru Feb. 02 visit [holygardianangelsregionalschool.square.site](http://holygardianangelsregionalschool.square.site) for tickets. Last year's prize nearly \$4,500!

**RETROUVAILLE:** Rediscover the Love in your Marriage. Thousands of couples have healed their marriages at Retrouvaille (*retru-vee*). Get help for marriage problems, difficulties or crises. Learn to build communication skills and increase intimacy. **Next program: Feb. 16-18 weekend** at the Family Life Center in Malvern. Info or Register: 215-766-3944 or 800-470-2230. *All inquiries strictly confidential.* [www.HelpOurMarriage.org](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.org)

**EXPLORE \*NEW\* DIOCESAN EMPLOYMENT NEEDS**  
Visit: [www.allentowndioocese.org/about/employment](http://www.allentowndioocese.org/about/employment)

**Word of Life:** "*The Gospel of Life* recognizes the full range of threats against human life, from poverty and malnutrition to murder and war. Particular emphasis, however, is placed on threats to life at its beginning and end—precisely when it is most in need of protection. In modern times, children in their mothers' wombs and those approaching the end of their lives are certainly among the 'least of these' in our world's estimation." ~ USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities [respectlife.org/live-the-gospel-of-life](http://respectlife.org/live-the-gospel-of-life)

### **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary-December 08**

On Dec. 8, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin, a holy day of obligation for dioceses in the United States. On this feast, we celebrate Mary's conception free from the stain of Original Sin, and we recognize that Mary's life began the moment she was conceived in the womb of St. Anne. So, too, does every human life begin at the moment of fertilization, when it is lovingly knit together by God the Father

**Mary Immaculate, Patroness of our Country, Pray for Us**

**REFLECTION... by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson**  
"Watch" is the key word in the Scriptures for this First Sunday of Advent. Liturgically speaking, this is the equivalent of New Year's Day for the Church. You and I begin a whole new look at the Life, Death, and Resurrection of the Lord. We will meditate on it against

the background of a new calendar year as well, complete with the milieu of the secular world's story as the background.

We know there are many kinds of watchfulness. We will hear again next summer, for example, the steady recorded voice coming from a wheeled stroller saying over and over again: "Watch the cart please!" Slow vacationers must step aside to allow for passage.

Add to the list the watchfulness and the alert scanning of the night watchman, hired to stay aware of any sound that could come from a break in on the property. Add in the seasonal ditty that tells of the children's need to "better watch out, better not pout" because someone special is "coming to town."

But then there is Jesus, here in a deadly serious command to His disciples to "Be watchful! Be alert!" exclamation points given. Why? Because "you do not know when the time will come." "What time?" you ask. The end time. The finale of the complicated symphony that has been going on since creation. The crashing stops all the sound and fury of our little lives that is necessary for the renewal of our hearts and minds to live in the promised kingdom Jesus spoke about.

In its own way, Advent marks the beginning of an end and the end of a beginning. How so? By its plea for us to pay more attention than we have been to the fact that this life is not the only one, and that we have a destiny to live elsewhere and forever where "eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor has it entered into the mind of men what God has intended for those who love Him." That last is the description from one of the Lord's premier disciples: St. Paul.

But Advent is happily the end of the beginning of our walk with Jesus. We've been baptized into His family and we are all His children. So we are not just starting out on the path. We know how to be prepared.

Our Advent watchfulness, then, includes a subtle warning against any complacency settling into our lives. That's where the purple vestments, symbolic of penance, come into play. To remind us that the best preparation for celebrating Christmas is to do some fasting, some alms giving and plenty of prayer. To "clean up the stable of our souls" to be more ready to receive our Redeemer "wrapped in swaddling clothes."

Of course, there will always be people who completely misunderstand what it means to be prepared for God's coming. A certain Mrs. Vandemeer decided to have her portrait painted. She told the artist, "Paint me with diamond earrings, a diamond necklace, an emerald bracelet, and a ruby pendant." "But," the artist protested, "you're not wearing any of those things." "I know," said Mrs. Vandemeer. "It's in case I should die before my husband. I'm sure he'd remarry right away, and I want her to go nuts looking for the jewelry."

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!

Call 1.800.333.3166 today for details!



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Jonathan M. Quier, F.D., Supervisor, Co-Owner

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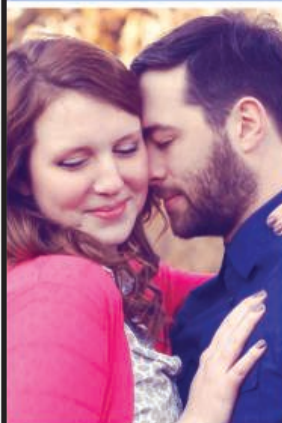
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