

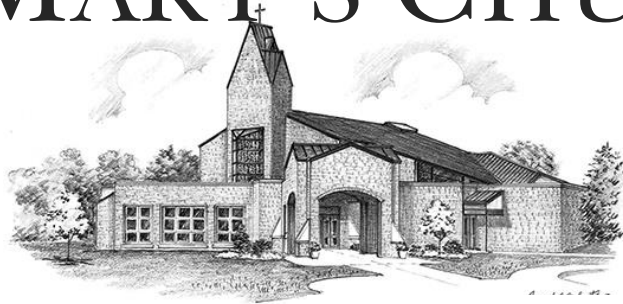


## Feast of the Holy Family, December 31, 2023

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

0195-1

# 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.allentowndioocese.org](http://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 Tele. 610-871-5200 x2204

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

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY, DECEMBER 31, 2023

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

# MASS Intentions

Mon	01-01	10:00a	<i>Anniversary of</i> Charles & Pat Regensburger
Tue	01-02	7:30a	Sr. John Joseph Schuyler, I.H.M.
Wed	01-03	7:30a	Sr. Mary Elizabeth Maguire, I.H.M.
Thu	01-04	7:30a	Special Intention
Fri	01-05	7:30a	<i>Birthday of</i> Joseph Ferrau
Sat	01-06	8:00a	Sr. Mary Angela Menna, I.H.M.
		4:30p	Jean Adriansen
Sun	01-07	8:30a	Gordon Hugo
		11:00a	People of the Parish

*Altar flowers in memory of Msgr. Immanuel Vernon this week*

## READINGS and CELEBRATIONS for the WEEK

Sun	12-31	<i>Feast of holy Family-</i> Sir 3:2-6, 12-14; Col 3:12-21; Lk 2:22-40 <i>or, in Year B,</i> Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3; He 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk 2:22-40
Mon		<i>Solemnity Mary Mother of God-</i> Nm 6:22-27; Ga 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21
Tue		1 Jn 2:22-28; Jn 1:19-28
Wed		1 Jn 2:29—3:6; Jn 1:29-34
Thu		1 Jn 3:7-10; Jn 1:35-42
Fri		1 Jn 3:11-21; Jn 1:43-51
Sat		1 Jn 5:5-13; Mk 1:7-11 <i>or</i> Lk 3:23-38
Sun		<i>Solemnity Epiphany of the Lord-</i> Is 60:1-6; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

## MUSIC MINISTRY

THIS WEEK		NEXT WEEK
4:30p	Moore, Mark Casey, Peggy	DeWald, Heather Casey, Peggy
8:30a	Skoronski, Nathan Cebenکو, Steve	Skoronski, Nathan Cebenکو, Steve
11:00a	Pirnot, Tom Talarico, Tim	Pirnot, Tom Skoronski, Katherine

Collection Dec. 17:	OLG	Church	Expenses
Regular Collection	\$3,659.00	\$10,286.00	\$9,292.85
Building Fund	\$25.00	\$1,000.00	
Capital Campaign	\$330.00	\$1,376.00	
Parish Partnership	\$125.00	\$20.00	
Other Regular Income	\$730.00	\$210.00	

## 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 of our parish.....  
..... and those that care for them



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	Carol Korbe	Barbara Shidisky
Dave Ebling	Cena Knowles	Tracy Snyder
Trent Eidle	Henry Kryeski	Nicole Sosik
Patricia Farabaugh	Edward & Rosemary Law	Todd Tanis
Paula Fehlinger	Harry Lewellen	Ralph Touch
Joey Flecher	Julie Lindsey	Amy Turko
Tammy G.	Eva Malanczuk	Christine VanDoorn
Joe Galantino	Dennis Martinsen	Phillip Vazquez
Michelle Galantino	Barry, Sharon Miller	Joseph Wawrzak
Sandra George	Elaine O. Miller	Bonnie Wessner
Lucy Ginsiorsky	Nikolette Nolte	Emily Wickle
	Diana Novi	

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)

### EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Sun 12.31 FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY  
2<sup>nd</sup> Collection Parish Partnership  
**No Religious Education – Christmas Break**
- Mon 01.01 SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD,  
Mass at 10a  
Parish Office closed
- Tue 01.02 Faith Sharing, 10a
- Wed 01.03 Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, 7p
- Thu 01.04 Music ministry, 7p  
R.C.I.A., 7p
- Fri 01.05 Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, 8-9a
- Sat 01.06 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday daily Mass, 8a  
Pray the Rosary, 4p

### EVENTS NEXT WEEK

- Sun 01.07 Children's Liturgy of the Word, 8:30a  
Elementary Religious Ed., 9:40a  
Level 2 Parent meeting, 9:45a  
Women of Grace, 6p
- Tue 01.09 Faith Sharing, 10a
- Wed 01.10 Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, 7-8p
- Thu 01.11 Music Ministry, 7p  
R.C.I.A., 7p
- Sat 01.13 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday daily Mass, 8a  
Pray the Rosary, 4p

**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.*



#### ADDITIONAL CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIALS:

Stanley and Betty Dekowski  
Mary Kay Naughton  
Stella Shaffer  
John Steward  
Kiley Steward  
Bob and Ann Vresko

**FR. JOHN MARIA & the PARISH STAFF** wish to extend gratitude to all who shared holiday good wishes, sent cards, and prayed for the parish this Christmas season. May God richly bless you and your families during this Christmas season and throughout the new year!

Happy  
New Year

## Mary, Mother of God

Mass 10a, January 01, 2024

The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God falls exactly one week after Christmas, the end of the octave of Christmas. It is fitting to honor Mary as Mother of Jesus, following the birth of Christ. When Catholics celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God we are not only honoring Mary who was chosen among all women throughout history to bear God incarnate, but we are also honoring our Lord, who is fully God and fully human. Calling Mary “mother of God” is the highest honor we can give Mary. Just as Christmas honors Jesus as the “Prince of Peace,” the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God honors Mary as the “Queen of Peace.” This solemnity of Mary, the patron Saint of the United States, falling on New Year’s Day, is also designated the WORLD DAY OF PEACE



#### ABOUT THIS HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

Under normal circumstances this Holy Day is also a Holy Day of obligation, meaning all Catholics are obligated to attend Mass. However, this Holy Day falls on a Monday this year. The Bishops of the US have ruled that when this day falls on a Monday the obligation is abrogated. Therefore, one is not obligated to attend Mass on Monday, January 1. That said, we will still have our parish Mass at 10a and we will still celebrate. What a beautiful way to start the new year, praying with Mary, the Mother of God!

#### SCRIPTURE REFLECTION- FATHER JOHN MARIA

Today, we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family. We honor Jesus, Mary and Joseph – this most holy of families that ever lived. This truth is profound, yet I worry that they are considered so holy that their example seems out of reach. We need to resist that temptation and ponder the reality of their everyday lives.

In our Gospel, we get a glimpse into the reality of the life of the Holy Family. Their lives were no fairy tale. Life in ordinary circumstances was hard – hand to mouth, a struggle. The Holy Family had to endure this every day. They also had the danger of an evil tyrant desiring to snuff out the life of the Newborn King.

We see the example of Mary and Joseph, tending to the harsh realities and demands of life, but knowing the primacy of God’s plan in it all. In Mary, we see total cooperation with the grace of God. In Joseph, we see total reliance upon God’s prompting. We see his absolute commitment to protecting the holy family from danger. These are bedrock lessons for all of us.

We are called, like Joseph, to reverence for the revealed truth of God, and to recognize the spiritual dangers to our families – not in desperate fear, but in a determined trust in the plan and mercy of God.

This week, let us entrust our families in a profound way to His love and mercy, and may we be inspired by the example of the Holy Family!

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

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



**OFFERTORY ENVELOPES:** To begin receiving offertory envelopes, please contact the parish office: [secretary@stmaryskutztown.com](mailto:secretary@stmaryskutztown.com)

**2024-FLOWER/BLESSED SACRAMENT MEMORIALS:**

Call/email the parish office to sponsor altar flowers or Blessed Sacrament Candle in memory/honor of a loved one

**PARISH DIRECTORY UPDATE:** As many know, St Mary's has produced parish directories every five years. The last completed directory was for 2015. A new directory was planned, and photos were taken, following the 2019 parish anniversary. Sadly, the Covid pandemic disrupted parish life, and life in general, which led to reduced participation by parish families. To further complicate the project, the directory company entrusted with the project went out of business! Thanks to several dedicated parishioners, we have completed the directory ourselves, and have a limited release of this edition. The first 150 copies are reserved for those who had their family photos taken.

Contact the parish office to pick up your copy! The remaining (50) copies will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. We will be accepting names to be placed on a waiting list. Digital copies available upon request. Freewill donations are welcome to defray expenses. We look forward to returning to a full version in the coming years!

**MAKE STEWARDSHIP YOUR RESOLUTION IN 2024:** Making an estate plan is an act of care for yourself, your loved ones, and your community. By creating your plans, you can outline important financial and healthcare decisions for the future, provide for your loved ones, and ultimately, act as a steward of everything God has placed in your care.

Through our new partnership with FreeWill, you can start the new year by completing this important act of care. FreeWill is a secure online platform that can walk you through the process of creating your estate plan — 100% free of cost. Please visit [www.allentowndiocese.org/giving](http://www.allentowndiocese.org/giving) or scan this QR code to begin.



**EXPLORE \*NEW\* DIOCESAN EMPLOYMENT NEEDS**

Visit: [www.allentowndiocese.org/about/employment](http://www.allentowndiocese.org/about/employment)

**Word of Life:** “Dearest St Joseph... Help us to faithfully commit ourselves to the service and defense of human life —especially where it is vulnerable or threatened. Obtain for us the grace to do the will of God in all things.” ~ USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities; A Prayer to St. Joseph, Defender of Life [www.respectlife.org/prayer-to-st-joseph](http://www.respectlife.org/prayer-to-st-joseph)

**REFLECTION... by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson**

Many items in our everyday lives follow a formula. The list would include everything from breakfast cereal to industrial chemicals. But the same holds true for our spiritual lives. Our Catholic prayers, for example, generally follow the “formula” or pattern of the “Our Father.” We praise God and then make respectful request(s) of Him.

So too is there a formula for living family life as given to us in Holy Scripture. Today’s Second Reading, of St. Paul to the Colossians, should rank high in our estimation. It is a direct refute of all the bullish attacks on Christian family life in the secular culture that surrounds us. The chief feature there is the absence of God and any reference to Him that is sadly prevalent in many families today.

The purpose of this particular letter was to bolster the faith of the community at Colossae and to correct errors reported about the Church in that city. Jewish and Hellenistic elements seem to be combined in those errors. Paganism, magic, astrology and mystery religions.

As we read the particular section of the Letter chosen for us on this special Feast of the Holy Family, we note the formula that emerges for living all our families in a truly Christian way. The basic component is the fact that we are “God’s chosen ones.” This means that God’s existence as well as His presence are the essentials. Take God away and the whole formula is baseless. Note that “bearing with one another and forgiving one another” is included. How absent that seems to be many times these days!

Comedians make light of it, sometimes, but underneath the laughter is the sad kernel of truth that too many of us do not forgive and forget the mistakes of those people who have the same last name as ours.

We dare not push aside the Holy Family as our model because of the sublime holiness present there. If we are, as Paul tells us, “God’s chosen ones,” we have the inborn ability to honor God’s choice by our prayer and daily effort.

The story is told of a young man who stood before a judge to be sentenced for forgery. The judge had been a friend of the boy’s father, who was famous for his books on the law of trusts. “Young man,” said the judge sternly, “do you remember your father, that father whom you have disgraced?”

“I remember him perfectly.” the young man answered quietly.

“When I went to him for advice or companionship. He would say ‘Run away, boy, I’m busy.’ Well, my father finished his book, and here I am.”

God love you and bring His peace to your family.

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# World Day of Peace

## January 01

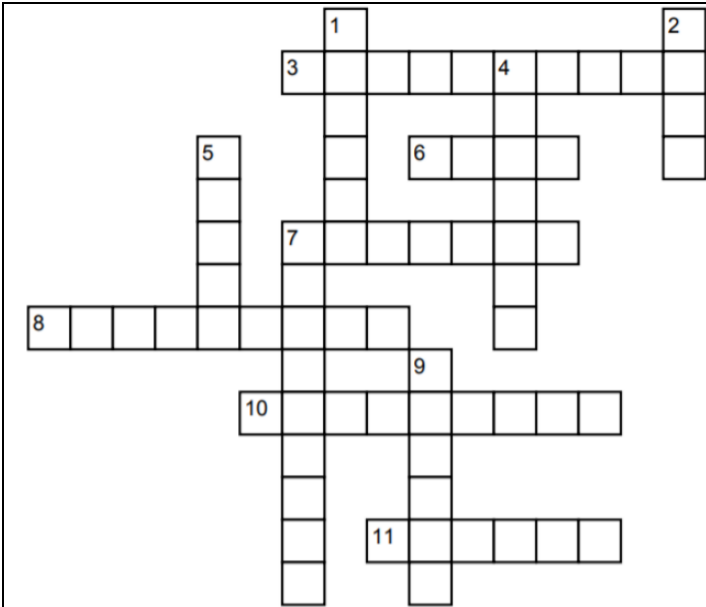
“The world must be educated to love Peace, to build it up and defend it.”

Pope Paul VI, 1968

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## Feast of the Holy Family Crossword Puzzle



### Across:

3. The prophetess gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jerusalem.
6. He said to \_\_\_\_\_ his mother, Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel.
7. Now, Master, you may let your \_\_\_\_\_ go in peace, according to your word.
8. The temple was in \_\_\_\_\_.
10. They went to offer the \_\_\_\_\_ of a pair of two young pigeons, in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord.
11. According to the law of Moses, \_\_\_\_\_ and his wife took him to present him to the Lord.

### Down:

1. She never left the \_\_\_\_\_, but worshiped night and day with fasting and prayer.
2. There was also a prophetess, \_\_\_\_\_. She was advanced in years.
4. The child's \_\_\_\_\_ were amazed at what was said about him.
5. The man held \_\_\_\_\_ in his arms and blessed him.
7. My eyes have seen your \_\_\_\_\_, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples.
9. Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was \_\_\_\_\_. This man was righteous and devout.

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## Reflection Questions for the Feast of the Holy Family

**H**ow can we transform our homes into sanctuaries that reflect God's love and faithfulness, as shown by the Holy Family?

**I**n what ways does my family practice obedience to God's will, similar to the dedication shown by Mary, Joseph and Jesus in the Gospel of Luke?

**H**ow do the virtues of faith, hope, and love manifest in my daily family interactions? Are there specific areas where we could improve?

**C**onsidering the respect and honor Sirach emphasizes towards parents, how does this teaching influence my understanding and practice of family relationships?

**I**n what practical ways can we make our family relationships reflect the sacred covenant, rather than just social constructs, as inspired by the Holy Family?

### Prayer for a Blessed Home Based on Psalm 128

Father in heaven  
We know you bless those who follow you.  
You provide for all of our needs.  
Please bless all who live in our home.  
Help us grow in faith and be fruitful.  
Help us to trust in your holy will  
And to be close to you.  
May our home see many happy days  
Of joy and love and laughter.  
Be with us all of our lives  
And grant us peace in our home.  
Amen.

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