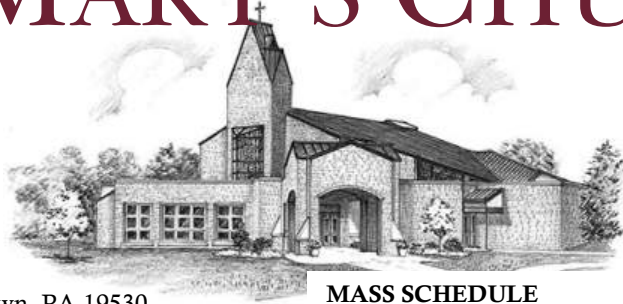


# ST MARY'S CHURCH



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 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

3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, JANUARY 21, 2024

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

# MASS Intentions

Mon	01-22	7:30a	Kate Saab
Tue	01-23	7:30a	Charles J. Sherman
Wed	01-24	7:30a	Jesse G. Painter
Thu	01-25	7:30a	William and Celestina Keller
Fri	01-26	7:30a	Mr. and Mrs. Donovan
Sat	01-27	4:30p	Matthew Schwartz
Sun	01-28	8:30a	People of the Parish
		11:00a	Scotty Joseph Raymond

*Altar flowers in memory of Mary and John Voli this week*

## READINGS and CELEBRATIONS for the WEEK

Sun	01-21	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday Ord Time- Jon 3:1-5, 10; 1 Co 7:29-31; Mk 1:14-20
Mon	01-22	Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children- 2 S 5:1-7, 10; Mk 3:22-30
Tue	01-23	2 S 6:12b-15, 17-19; Mk 3:31-35
Wed	01-24	2 S 7:4-17; Mk 4:1-20
Thu	01-25	Ac 22:3-16 or Ac 9:1-22; Mk 16:15-18
Fri	01-26	2 Tm 1:1-8; Mk 4:26-34
Sat	01-27	2 S 12:1-7a, 10-17; Mk 4:35-41
Sun	01-28	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time - Dt 18:15-20; 1 Co 7:32-35; Mk 1:21-28

## MUSIC MINISTRY

	THIS WEEK	NEXT WEEK
4:30p	Spanier, Amelia Casey, Peggy	Spanier, Chris Casey, Peggy
8:30a	Moore, Mark Cebenکو, Steve	Sitarik, Anne Cebenکو, Steve
11:00a	DeWald, Heather Moore, Mark	Sitarik, Anne Talarico, Tim

Collections Info	OLG	In Church	Expenses
Regular Collection	\$2,719.00	\$7,162.00	\$4,675.51
Building Fund	\$5.00	\$1,000.00	
Capital Campaign	\$160.00	\$1,110.00	
Parish Partnership	\$20.00	\$35.00	
Other Regular Income		\$20.00	

## 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
Evie Barletta	Bijou Greenwood	Benedicta Otchere
Caleb Bauer	Muriel Hadnagy	Rick Padilla
Christopher Bennett	Devon Hanna	Ed Pilarski
Claudia Berg	Jacqueline Hartz	Pat Regensburger
Greg Bradford	Linda Haurus	Rosemarie Reimert
Monica Bradford	Hannah Hayduk	Bill Pettit
Bradford family	Kathy Henry	Megan Roth
David Byer	Lillian Karch	Nina Hertzog
Nadia Cahill	Michael Karch	Rundle
Drew Cengeri	Joanne Kear	Richard Rusconi
Meaghan Clark	Patricia Keeney	Sr. Mary Sapanara, MSC
Colleen Wolff	Jane Kern	Tina Scatamacchia
Jerome Costanzo	Milton Kern	Jim Sherman
Kim Costanzo	Carol Korbe	Barbara Shidisky
Nancy Devlin-Litinsky	Cena Knowles	Tracy Snyder
Dave Ebling	Henry Kryeski	Nicole Sosik
Trent Eidle	Edward & Rosemary Law	Todd Tanis
Patricia Farabaugh	Harry Lewellen	Ralph Touch
Paula Fehlinger	Julie Lindsey	Amy Turko
Joey Flecher	Eva Malanczuk	Christine VanDoorn
Tammy G.	Dennis Martinsen	Phillip Vazquez
Joe Galantino	Barry, Sharon Miller	Joseph Wawrzak
Michelle Galantino	Elaine O. Miller	Bonnie Wessner
Sandra George	Nikolette Nolte	Emily Wickle
Lucy Ginsiorsky	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 01.21 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
Youth Mass, 8:30a  
 Level 7 Retreat, 9a-1p
- Tue 01.23 Faith Sharing, 10a**
- Wed 01.24 Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, 7-8p**
- Thu 01.25 Liturgy mtg, 8:45a**  
 Music Ministry, 7p
- Fri 01.26 Mary's Café, 10a**
- Sat 01.27 Pray the Rosary, 4p**  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection – Catholic Relief Services

**EVENTS NEXT WEEK**

- Sun 01.28 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection – Catholic Relief Services  
Elementary Religious Education, 9:40a  
Level 2 Parent mtg. 9:45a  
 Junior High ministry 6p
- Tue 01.30 Faith Sharing, 10a**
- Wed 01.31 Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, 7-8p**
- Fri 02.02 1<sup>st</sup> Friday Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, 8-9a**
- Sat 02.03 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday Daily Mass, 8a**  
 Pray the Rosary, 4p  
 Annual Spaghetti Dinner, 4:30-6:30p  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection – Lifeline/Mary's Shelter

**BULLETIN DEADLINE:** Submit items by 12n one week prior to Sunday. *Submit full-page items two full weeks in advance.*

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

Watch/visit WFMZ TV Stormcenter for parish cancellation notices due to winter weather.



**ST. CHRISTOPHER NEWMAN CTR AT KU:** FYI to those who sometimes attend the "Last Chance Mass" at the Newman Center, KU. **These Masses resume 5p, Jan. 21..**

**MORNING EDITION-MARY'S CAFÉ:** Fri. Jan 26 at 10a in the Religious Ed ctr, all are invited to join Fr. John's MARY'S CAFÉ; topic is "The Holy Sacrifice of Mass."

The Mass is a central part of our faith, and many of us know the words by heart. And yet, there are many misconceptions and questions. In this talk, Fr John will explain the big picture, as well as the meaning of the different parts of the Mass. Bring your questions and bring a friend!



"Mary's Café" is a great opportunity to get together with others at the parish and grow in your faith. The talk is informal and informative, allowing questions on the topic at hand, and others as well! Light refreshments will be available. Hope to see you Fri. Jan 26 at 10a in the Religious Ed Center!



Next week, our parish will take up The Catholic Relief Services Collection (CRSC). Funds from this collection provide food to the hungry, support displaced refugees, and bring Christ's love and mercy to vulnerable people here and abroad. Next week, please give generously to the collection and **reveal Christ's love** to those most in need. Learn more about the collection at [www.usccb.org/catholic-relief](http://www.usccb.org/catholic-relief)

*Your support January 28/29 is most appreciated*

**SPAGHETTI DINNER:** 4-6p, Feb. 03. Only 2 weeks until the

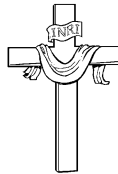


Sr. Kathleen White Memorial Spaghetti Dinner (Dine-in or Take-Out) benefits the Heifer Project. Join for delicious spaghetti and meatballs in a *special recipe* sauce, Italian Wedding Soup, salad, roll and dessert. **All meals one size: Free-Will donation (Suggested donation \$8 each).**

For Take-Out: Pre-order required. Dine-In pre-orders not required but helpful.

*Please share your talent with this special project.* Sign-up in Gathering Area: dinner prep/serving AND dessert donations. **Take-Out/Pre-Orders:** 610-683-7443/[stmmarysspaghetti@gmail.com](mailto:stmmarysspaghetti@gmail.com)

Remember in your Prayers Yvonne



Fenstermacher and Marco Roman, of our parish, who have died. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. *Amen*

**SCRIPTURE REFLECTION- FATHER JOHN MARIA** In each of our readings from Scripture today, the Lord is calling souls to Himself. In each case, a word is spoken that invites and demands a response. In each case, there is urgency.

In the Book of Jonah, the people of wicked Ninevah are called to repent. They were enemies of God's people, yet He sent a prophet to seek a change of heart. This reminds us that all souls are important to God. He desires to give His mercy. He is patient and knows each individual heart. His message is clear: repent.

In the Gospel, we hear the very first recorded words of the Lord Jesus Christ at the beginning of His public ministry: "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel." That was His message spoken to all, and then it became personal. He called Simon Peter, Andrew, James and John.

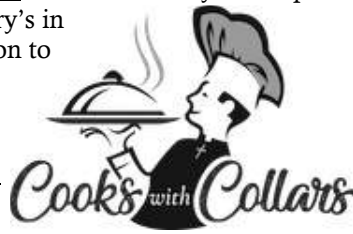
How did they respond? They abandoned their nets, they responded with urgency. It would surely take a while before they got past clueless, but they responded with open hearts.

The Lord continues to call to each of us. The message of repentance was not isolated in these historical moments, but continues in each moment, and in each life. We should hear this call as a call of intense personal love.

Will you respond with urgency? What will be your response to the Lord?

**COOKS WITH COLLARS IS ON!** Fr. John needs your help!

Fr. John will represent St Mary's in this online cooking competition to raise funds for parishes and Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Allentown. Visit [www.CooksWithCollars.com](http://www.CooksWithCollars.com)

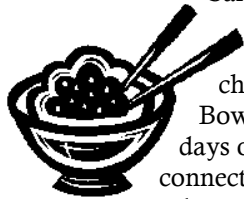


to see (and vote for) your favorite diocesan priests' delicious kitchen creations. Vote early and vote often (**deadline Feb. 12**) for our top chef! All proceeds benefit the parish you vote for. Your vote makes Fr. John a winner!

**DRIED PALM COLLECTION-** Bring in dried, blessed palm from years' past to become ash for use at Ash Wednesday Masses. Ash Wednesday is Feb. 14. Find collection baskets in the gathering area.



**LENT IS COMING!** Join our parish's transformative Lenten journey: CRS RICE BOWL and meet people in Uganda, El Salvador and Indonesia who are working



hard to overcome the challenges of hunger and the impact of climate change. Pick up your family's CRS Rice Bowl from the Gathering Area. In the 40 days of Lent, we'll reflect on our connectedness as one family in Christ and work together to ensure our sisters and brothers worldwide can thrive. Visit [crsricebowl.org](http://crsricebowl.org) to learn more.



The free Catholic prayer app from the Augustine Inst. that inspires your daily conversation with God through faithful meditations and nourishing Scripture. Look for it wherever you find apps.

**CALLING ALL PARISHIONERS!** St. Mary's is updating the contact information for all who are part of our parish family. We would appreciate it if you'd take a moment to visit: <https://forms.gle/iFwTC4vt3CDrof4x9>



or scan the code to complete the brief form. Look for paper copies in the gathering area if needed. Thanks for your help in this effort!

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

Contact the parish office to pick up your copy! 50 copies are available—first-come, first-served. We will accept names for the waiting list. Digital copies available upon request. Freewill donations welcome to defray expenses. We look forward to a full version in the coming years!

**MASS INTENTIONS, 2024:** As Catholics we believe souls united in Christ remain connected—even after death; seek the prayers of the saints; and pray for the souls of loved ones who have died in Christ. It's a most powerful prayer and act of love to request Mass be offered for loved ones' souls.

The 2024 Mass book is open for Saturday/Sunday and weekday Mass requests. Contact the parish office to schedule a mass intention. Because of the increased demand for scheduled Masses:

- † The book is open for the whole year until dates are full.
- † Please request no more than 1 weekend Mass per month.
- † There are no limitations on daily Masses.
- † Personal Mass intentions not available for: Holy Thursday, Easter, Christmas, Mother's nor Father's Day

**HGA REGIONAL SCHOOL** new student registrations now open for next school year! We'd love you to join our school family! For info and tour contact Head of School, Kelly Precht! [kelpre@hgaschool.org](mailto:kelpre@hgaschool.org) 610-921-4124

**BERKS CATHOLIC HS OPEN HOUSE-** 5:30-7p, Tue, Jan 30. Come feel the energy of our community! Open registration for new students, activity fair, tours, opportunity to speak with teachers and administrators.! Please RSVP at: <https://forms.gle/GA1wnt4wp4aM2x9G9>

For more info about Berks Catholic HS or to schedule a Shadow Day email [nsmith@berkscatholic.org](mailto:nsmith@berkscatholic.org) (all inquiries are confidential).

**PARTNER SCHOOL & PREP SCHOOL NIGHT AT BERKS CATHOLIC-** Tue, Jan 30- Boys Basketball. JV starts at 6. All Partner and PREP students admitted for free. Wear your school or BC spirit wear.

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

**MONDAY MINI RETREAT:** Feb. 19 at St. Francie Retreat House, Easton (and virtual). Discussing: AN OVERVIEW OF SYNOD TOPICS AND PARTICIPANTS. 6p meal; 7-9p Fr. Pat McCloskey talk. Register: [stfrancisretreathouse.org](http://stfrancisretreathouse.org) (select retreats/mini-retreats) or 610-258-3053 ext.0. Onsite offering \$35 (**deadline 4p Feb. 9**); virtual offering \$20 (**deadline 4p Feb. 14**).

**MAKE STEWARDSHIP YOUR RESOLUTION IN 2024:** Making an estate plan is an act of care for yourself, your loved ones, and your community. You can outline important financial and healthcare decisions for the future, provide for your loved ones, and act as a steward of all God has given.

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



**WINDOW TO THE WOMB -- BABY'S DEVELOPMENT FROM CONCEPTION:** Live Action developed a video that walks one through each trimester of pregnancy, day by day, by presenting an animated baby's development starting from conception. When clicking through the weeks, you'll be able to read notes on the screen that describe certain aspects of the child's development. The following link is to the video: <https://www.windowtothewomb.app/>

**Word of Life:** "There is such a wide spectrum of issues involving the protection of human life and the promotion of human dignity. Good people frequently disagree on which problems to address, which policies to adopt and how best to apply them. But for citizens and elected officials alike, the basic principle is simple: *We must begin with a commitment never to intentionally kill, or collude in the killing, of any innocent human life, no matter how broken, unformed, disabled or desperate that life may seem.* In other words, the choice of certain ways of acting is *always and radically incompatible* with the love of God and the dignity of the human person created in His image." ~ United States Conference of Catholic Bishops; "Living the Gospel of Life," © 1998 USCCB

**DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE LEGAL PROTECTION OF UNBORN CHILDREN:** This Monday, January 23, the Church in the United States observes the annual "Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children." This day is set aside to pray for the legal protection of human life and to do penance for the violations to human dignity through abortion. We are called to observe this day through prayer and penance. More information: [respectlife.org/january-22](http://respectlife.org/january-22)

**HEALING AFTER ABORTION:** If you or someone you know is suffering after abortion, confidential, compassionate help is available. Visit [HopeAfterAbortion.org](http://HopeAfterAbortion.org)

**RETROUVILLE:** Rediscover the Love in your Marriage. Thousands of couples have healed their marriages at Retrouville (*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)



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



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

**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

### REFLECTION... by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

In all our popular sports we find "fair play" and "foul play" with referees and umpires necessary to decide. But in good literature we often find something called "word play." Our natural reaction as readers of such is enjoyment and remembrance. Word play always involves making jokes by using the meanings of words in an amusing and clever way. That's precisely why the word "play" is part of its title. However, word play can also create more serious observations if it is used deliberately.

Recall G.K. Chesterton's statement that "Christianity has not been tried and found wanting; it has been found difficult and left untried."

Nestled in today's Gospel passage from St. Mark's first chapter is exactly the case of word play made with serious undertone is Jesus' remark to His early followers: "*Come after Me and I will make you fishers of men.*" I happen to love that line. I love proclaiming it to you. Why? Because it captures something special. It is a trait of Our Lord that the gospel writers usually don't refer to, and that is Jesus' sense of humor. That helps round out His personality and makes Him attractive. For so He is and always will be.

But here and now, let us focus on those first three words He says, namely "*Come after Me.*" There is no word play here, but a serious call addressed not only to the men on that long ago seaside but also to us. In plain terms, with little "play" present, just what prevents us from doing what Jesus asks? Or pretending we didn't hear what He said? Coming after Him ultimately means not going after other realities. And we get a little nervous. Why?

If we are honest with ourselves, we usually go after other things. We might say one or the other of the "Big Three," namely: "Wealth, Honor and Fame." Sometimes it's a combination of those. Or a subdivision like greed. Anything but going after Jesus. So here and now, as we begin this third week of a new year, it would be a good "play" to go with Jesus for a welcome change.

Meantime, there are always examples of how word play can take us by surprise. Helena Modjeska (1844-1909) was one of the most popular actresses of her time because of her emotional style and superb ability. Once, to demonstrate the raw power of that ability, she gave a dramatic reading in her native tongue, Polish. No one at the sedate dinner party understood Polish, but all were in tears by the end of her performance. Such was the power of her presentation. Only later was it revealed that the piece that had moved the sophisticated audience to tears was the Polish alphabet!

God love you and give you His peace.

# REVEAL Christ's LOVE



After years of tension between Ukraine and the Russian Federation, Russian forces began a devastating war in February 2022 by invading Ukraine. In addition to killing and wounding many, the conflict has forced millions of Ukrainians to flee the country. Many refugees went to neighboring countries in Europe, but many others came to the United States. For decades, the Migration and Refugee Services (MRS) department of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has assisted refugees fleeing wars and persecution, and in 2022 it responded to the Ukrainian refugee crisis with two initiatives to help local communities welcome refugees.

The first initiative, Welcome Circles, is a community-led program that helps local groups work together to provide financial support and connect refugees to services such as health care and education. Although Welcome Circles are locally led, they are certified, vetted, and given ongoing guidance by MRS staff or local affiliate experts. MRS's support and guidance help each Welcome Circle accompany refugees effectively during the resettlement process. As of early 2023, the Welcome Circles program already had 25 circles engaging more than 200 volunteers and had expanded to welcome refugees from Haiti, Cuba, Nicaragua, and Venezuela in addition to Ukraine.

Since 2010, MRS has led the second initiative, Parishes Organized to Welcome Immigrants and Refugees (POWIR), a program that works with select diocesan resettlement programs to empower parishes and local Catholic institutions so they can welcome and assist immigrants and refugees at the diocesan level. From May 2021 to January 2023, this diocesan support helped nearly 10,000 local volunteers, working in Catholic communities in 23 active POWIR

programs nationwide, to spend more than 100,000 volunteer hours working with and on behalf of about 24,000 clients.

Funds received through The Catholic Relief Services Collection allow MRS to help victims of war and oppression begin new lives in welcoming, supportive communities through innovative initiatives like Welcome Circles and POWIR. In addition to MRS, the collection supports other Catholic organizations that aid victims of persecution and natural disasters, provide legal services to poor immigrants, and advocate for the powerless.

## Your Donations Help Our Brothers and Sisters . . .

### In the United States

Feed Jesus' hunger in suffering refugees . . . through the **USCCB Department of Migration and Refugee Services (MRS)**.

Offer legal assistance to Jesus in struggling immigrants . . . through the **Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC)**.

Reach out to comfort Jesus' loneliness in isolated workers . . . through the pastoral work of the **USCCB Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church**.

### And Around the World

Give water to quench Jesus' thirst in the people of Kenya and Zambia . . . through the humanitarian work of **Catholic Relief Services (CRS)**.

Advocate on behalf of Jesus in the poor and marginalized . . . through the public policy work of the **USCCB Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development**.

Send aid to Jesus in the victims of natural disaster . . . through the **Holy Father's Relief Fund**.



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection – Next Week



The Catholic Relief Services Collection

OFFICE OF NATIONAL COLLECTIONS • 8211 FOURTH STREET NE • WASHINGTON, DC 20017-1194 • 202-541-8400 • FAX 202-541-8460 • [WWW.USCCB.ORG/NATIONALCOLLECTIONS](http://WWW.USCCB.ORG/NATIONALCOLLECTIONS)

Copyright © 2023, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC. All rights reserved. Photos: Michael Sulman/CRS, Arny Diphova/CRS, Rebelah Lemke/CRS.

70200424

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

0195-6

Neighborhood  
**Ozgood's**  
Grill & Bar

**2 Locations! Open Sunday!**

Locally owned and operated, Ozgood's Neighborhood Grill & Bar in Robesonia, PA and Kutztown, PA has been serving great food and beverages since 1997. Both locations offer our unique menu and friendly casual dining scene the whole family will enjoy!

Seafood, Steaks, Chicken, Burgers, Sandwiches, Wings and More!

**Banquet Facilities ♦ Weekly Specials  
Friday/Saturday Specials ♦ Holiday Menus**



**Bell ACE Hardware**  
1051 Trexlertown Road  
Trexlerstown, PA 18087  
Joe Rudderow - Owner  
(610) 395-1132  
Open - 7 days  
Traeger/Weber/Big Green Egg  
Stihl/EGO/Craftsman  
Ben Moore/Clark & Kensington  
Yeti/Solo/Ace Rewards  
Shop 24/7 - bellacehardware.com

**RICHARD L.  
GESCHWINDT**

ATTORNEY AT LAW

203 E. NOBLE AVENUE  
SHOEMAKERSVILLE, PA 19555

Phone: 610-562-7125

**HAHN EXTERIORS**

Decks • Fences • Sunrooms  
Windows • Siding  
Honest High Quality Work For  
St. Mary Families

3617 Kutztown Rd., Laureldale

**610-929-2832**

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



**Walbert Funeral Home  
& Crematory**

*Russell P. Walbert, F.D., Supervisor*

14390 Kutztown, Road  
Fleetwood, PA 19522

[Russ@WalbertFuneralHome.com](mailto:Russ@WalbertFuneralHome.com)  
(610) 944-9900

Personal Service with our On-Site Crematory

**RIDESHARE  
ZONE**

**S** top  
**A** sk  
**M** atch  
**I** nform

**#WHATSMYNAME**



Make a Difference in Your Community

**VOLUNTEER**

with the American Red Cross

Join today at [redcross.org/Volunteer](http://redcross.org/Volunteer)

*Sponsor Support*

HOW YOU CAN HELP  
OUR COMMUNITY,  
OUR SPONSORS



Our sponsors pay for  
our parish bulletin.

Help us support them, thank  
them, and show them the  
*Finding* **FABER** app when you  
visit their establishments.



**JOHN PATRICK**  
publishing company, inc.

**For Advertising Information  
Contact Kathleen Gregory  
215-858-9733  
[Kgregory@jppc.net](mailto:Kgregory@jppc.net)**

**Advertise  
Your Business  
Here  
800-333-3166  
ext. 161  
[www.jppc.net](http://www.jppc.net)**

*Thank You*  
to our  
bulletin sponsors  
for their support  
during the past year!  
Your continued support has not gone unnoticed  
by your parish community and is SO appreciated!

# Kutztown Animal & Bird Hospital

FAMILY CARE FOR YOUR SPECIAL PET  
Dr. Bridget McMahon, DVM, Owner

Birds • Cats • Dogs • Exotics • Reptiles  
SPECIAL PROGRAMS: Kittens • Puppies • Senior Pets  
New Clients Always Welcome  
**610-683-5353**  
15620 Kutztown Rd., Kutztown, PA www.kutztownanimalhosp.com

FULL SERVICE PET CARE INCLUDING:  
• CERTIFIED CHIROPRACTIC CARE  
• LASER SURGERY  
• DENTISTRY

## Mae A. Stump Funeral Home, Inc.

*David W. Weber, Supervisor*



117 West Main Street • Fleetwood **610-944-7621**

# LUDWICK

FUNERAL HOMES AND  
CREMATION CARE, INC.

*Remembering Lives • Honoring Legacies*

333 Greenwich Street, P.O. Box 292  
**Kutztown, PA 19530 (610) 683-8111**  
Deron K. Youse, F.D., Supervisor, Co-Owner

25 East Weis Street, P.O. Box 25  
**Topton, PA 19562 (610) 682-2434**  
Jonathan M. Quier, F.D., Supervisor, Co-Owner

*Providing Service Beyond Your Expectations,  
Just When You Need It Most...*

info@Ludwickfh.com www.Ludwickfh.com



Serving  
Berks  
County



Trust Our Family With Yours  
**Estate Planning & Elder Law**  
P: (610) 562-2000  
www.antanavagefarbiarz.com



*We Care!*

**Home  
Care is  
Better...**  
when people  
care  
**Age in Place  
Home Care**  
When Quality and Dependability Matter Most

**www.AIPHC.com • 888-990-4555**

# CLOVER HILL

Vineyards & Winery

# DRINK LOCAL!

THE WINERY IN  
BREINIGSVILLE

610-395-2468

THE VINEYARD IN  
ROBESONIA

610-693-8383

ALLENTOWN  
FARMERS MARKET

610-439-3969

BOSCOV'S FARMERS  
MARKET

610-921-3312

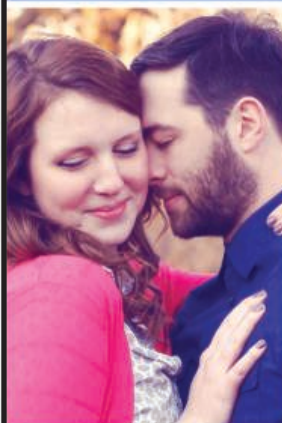
www.CloverHillWinery.com



**Welcome  
to Our Church!**



catholicmatch®  
Pennsylvania



CatholicMatch.com/  
datePA

## Mallory's Army Foundation

United Together In The Fight Against Bullying...  
Don't Just Teach Kindness... BE KINDNESS!



www.MallorysArmy.com  
(973) 440-8657 • info@mallorysarmy.org  
It's easy to join our mailing list! Just send  
your email address by text message:  
Text MALLORYSARMY to 22828 to get started.

Message and data rates may apply.

## TOPTON FAMILY PRACTICE ASSOCIATES

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



72 E. Washington Street **610-682-7131**  
Topton, PA 19562 Office Hours By Appointment