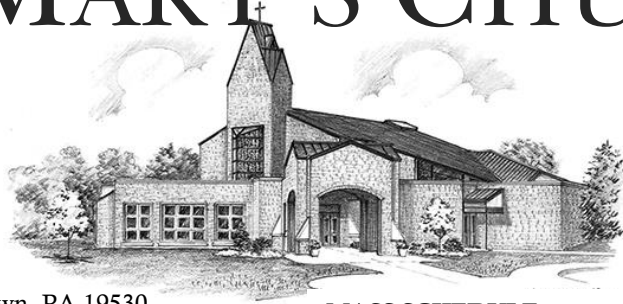


# ST MARY'S CHURCH



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

Abraham and Isaac  
Trust God

GENESIS 22:1-2

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT, FEBRUARY 25, 2024

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

0195-1

# MASS Intentions

Mon 02-26	7:30a	Bill Stadalnik
Tue 02-27	7:30a	Intentions of: Pat Regensburger
Wed 02-28	7:30a	For the Sick and Suffering of our Parish
	6:00p	Helen E. Sheehan
Thu 02-29	7:30a	Intentions of: Connie Costanzo
Fri 03-01	7:30a	John Broderick
Sat 03-02	8:00a	Earl, Eleanor, David & Glenn Frantz
	4:30p	David Heffner
Sun 03-03	8:30a	Virginia Padasak
	11:00a	People of the Parish

*Blessed Sacrament Candle in memory of Tom and Jane Quirk*

## READINGS and CELEBRATIONS for the WEEK

Sun 02-25	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent- Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Ro 8:31b-34; Mk 9:2-10
Mon 02-26	Dn 9:4b-10; Lk 6:36-38
Tue 02-27	Is 1:10, 16-20; Mt 23:1-12
Wed 02-28	Jr 18:18-20; Mt 20:17-28
Thu 02-29	Jr 17:5-10; Lk 16:19-31
Fri 03-01	Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a; Mt 21:33-43, 45-46
Sat 03-02	Mic 7:14-15, 18-20; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32
Sun 03-03	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent- Ex 20:1-17 or 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17; 1 Co 1:22-25; Jn 2:13-25

## MUSIC MINISTRY

	THIS WEEK	NEXT WEEK
4:30p	Moore, Mark Casey, Peggy	Spanier, Chris Casey, Peggy
8:30a	Talarico, Tim Cebenکو, Steve	Skoronski, Nate Cebenکو, Steve
11:00a	Thomas, Cathy Talarico, Tim	Pirnot, Tom Skoronski, Kate

## Collections Info OLG In Church Expenses

	OLG	In Church	Expenses
Regular Collection	\$3,429.00	\$4,527.00	\$14,431.67
Building Fund	\$25.00	\$1,000.00	
Capital Campaign	\$370.00	\$30.00	
Parish Partnership	\$175.00	\$5.00	
Ash Wednesday	\$85.00	\$2,633.25	
Catholic Home Missions	\$90.00	\$1,311.00	
Other Regular Income	\$115.00	\$540.00	

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

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	Cmdr. Jason Hoch	Steve Ziegler
Eric Cunningham	Joshua Joseph	
Timothy DeVall	Dan King	
	James Knight	

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

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

**EVENTS THIS WEEK**

- Sun 02.25 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT  
2<sup>nd</sup> Collection – Parish Partnership  
9:40a Elementary Religious Education  
9:45a Level 3 Parent mtg.  
6p Junior High ministry
- Tue 02.27 10a Faith Sharing
- Wed 02.28 Daily Mass, 7:30a and 6p  
Stations of the Cross, 6:30p  
Adoration and Reconciliation, 7-8p
- Thu 02.29 Liturgy meeting, 8:45a  
Music Ministry, 7p  
R.C.I.A., 7p
- Fri 03.01 *Lenten Friday-abstinence*  
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, 8-9a
- Sat 03.02 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday daily Mass 8a  
Pray the Rosary4p  
2<sup>nd</sup> Collection-Easter Flower Memorials

**EVENTS NEXT WEEK**

- Sun 03.03 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT  
2<sup>nd</sup> Collection – Easter flowers  
Children’s Lit. of the Word, 8:30a  
Men of St Mary’s  
Elementary Relig. Educ., 9:40a  
Level 3 Parent mtg., 9:45a  
Level 2 1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliation 1:30p
- Tue 03.05 Faith Sharing, 10a  
Ladies Aux. mtg., 12n
- Wed 03.06 Daily Mass, 7:30a and 6p  
Stations of the Cross, 6:30p  
Adoration and Reconciliation, 7-8p,
- Fri 03.08 *Lenten Friday - abstinence*  
Formed Fridays, 6:30p
- Sat 03.09 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday daily Mass 8a  
Pray the Rosary, 4p  
2<sup>nd</sup> Collection-Easter Flower Memorials

**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! *Inform us if moving.*

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



**PRAY FOR OUR LEVEL 2 YOUTH** who will celebrate their First Reconciliation next Sunday, March 03.

**A Word About...Catholic Home Missions**

Thank you for your generous support of last week’s Catholic Home Missions Appeal. As a parish, we raised **\$1,430.00** to strengthen the Church at home and spread the Gospel in the United States. If you missed the appeal, it’s not too late to give! Just visit [www.usccb.org/home-missions](http://www.usccb.org/home-missions).

*Thank you for your support last week, Feb, 18*

**THE DISCIPLE MAKER INDEX SURVEY IS OPEN!**

**PLEASE READ AND HELP!**

It’s official! The Disciple Maker Index Survey opened this week, and we need your help!

Please help us participate by completing a 10-15 minute survey as soon as possible.

Go to <https://portal.catholicleaders.org/d/by84db>

There are also opportunities to complete the survey after daily and Sunday Mass and you can obtain a paper copy on the Gathering Area table or contact the parish office: 610-683-7443 or [secretary@stmaryskutztown.com](mailto:secretary@stmaryskutztown.com)

The survey will only be available from February 14 to March 31, 2024, and will ask you to reflect on your own spiritual growth and enable you to provide feedback on our parish’s efforts to help you grow. All responses will be confidential, and the parish will only receive information about the community as whole.

We are trying to get the highest response rate possible.

This information will be invaluable to Fr. John and our various ministries as we plan for the future and strive to be the best disciples

we can be. We will receive the results this spring/summer at which time we will share what we have learned with the entire parish.

Thank you for helping with this important project!



**SCRIPTURE REFLECTION- DCN. NIKOLAI ROMERO**

Many people are familiar with the story of the first reading from the book of Genesis, commonly known as the “binding of Isaac” or “God’s test of Abraham.” At God’s request, Abraham takes his only son Isaac up the mountain in order to offer him as a sacrifice before the Lord. Many who hear this passage are often confused why a good and loving God would ask such a brutal thing of Abraham. Even if He plans to stop the sacrifice, it still seems like a cruel and cold-hearted test. Yet, for the Hebrew audience this reading expresses a deep and powerful love. For the Christian, too, it prefigures the greatest act of love to be revealed in Christ.

This passage shows a number of ways by which they are meant to respond to God. Abraham has received his son Isaac only by God’s miraculous intervention. So, when he is asked to make a sacrifice of this beloved son, Abraham remembers that he is a gift from God. He cannot be possessive of this gift but must be willing to give it up. Abraham’s actions demonstrate his true trust in God’s goodness. If he doubted that God was good, he would have reason to believe that this request was evil. But Abraham does not doubt. Rather, by faithfully obeying the request, we see how firmly he trusts in God’s goodness. He trusts not only that something good was to come from this instruction, but that the order itself must be good in some way.

Ultimately, this passage prefigures Jesus Christ, God’s own beloved Son. Isaac foreshadows Jesus as he obeys the will of his father. In the end, neither story is a tragedy, but a tale of God’s mercy and triumph over death. This Lent, we too can practice trustful obedience in God’s plan. If we are willing to make sacrifices, He will work wonders for us and in us.

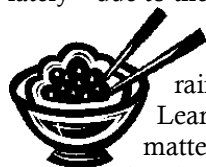
*We are a welcoming community called to deepen and share our faith*

**FORMED FRIDAYS-JESUS AND THE EUCHARIST:** Fortify your faith this Lent- join us **6:30p** Feb. 23, **March 8 and 22**, as we explore "Jesus and the Eucharist." As the Church throughout the USA celebrates the Eucharistic Revival, it's the perfect time to go deeper in your understanding of the most precious gift: the Holy Eucharist.

Jesus is Truly Present: Body, Blood, Soul & Divinity. Why do we believe this? What does it mean to say the Eucharist is the source and summit of our faith? Why do we say He is the Lamb of God? What did Jesus teach about the "Bread of Life"?

The **evenings begin at 6:30pm in the Social Hall** with a video from FORMED, followed by questions for discussion and Q&A. Light drinks and snacks will be available, in keeping with these Lenten Fridays. Don't just give up chocolate for Lent, grow stronger in your Catholic faith. **Join us this Friday, February 23 at 6:30pm!**

**OVERCOMING HUNGER:** In Akwangagwel, Uganda, the climate is very hot and dry. Farmers in this region depend heavily on the rainy season for a successful harvest. But lately—due to the hanging climate—the rain has been



coming later than it used to and is more inconsistent. Sometimes, when it does rain, it causes flooding and ruins the crops.

Learn how Adolf and Florence have taken the matter into their own hands, implementing new farming techniques they learned from a Catholic Relief Services program to improve their farm and fight against hunger in their community. Visit [CRSRicebowl.org](http://CRSRicebowl.org)

**RICEBOWL RECIPE FROM UGANDA:** Matoke With Beans is an East African dish, popular in Uganda. It combines two staple ingredients: matoke—a type of banana—and beans, typically kidney beans or black-eyed peas. The dish is hearty, nutritious, and often enjoyed as a main course.

Start to finish: 45 minutes; Servings: 4

**Ingredients**

- 2 tablespoons oil
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 teaspoon fresh ginger, grated
- ½ teaspoon cumin
- 4 green plantains or bananas, peeled/cut to 2" pieces
- 15-ounce can diced tomatoes
- 15-ounce can kidney beans, drained
- ½ cup vegetable stock
- ½ teaspoon chili flakes
- Salt to taste
- ½ cup cilantro, chopped, for garnish



In a pot over medium heat, heat the oil and sauté the onion until it is translucent and soft, about 2 minutes. Add garlic, ginger and cumin. Stir for a minute or two until spices are fragrant. Add the bananas, diced tomatoes, kidney beans, vegetable stock and chili flakes. Salt to taste.

Cover the pot and bring to a boil. Reduce heat and let simmer for 25-30 minutes, or until the bananas are tender.

Garnish with cilantro and serve immediately.

**WEDNESDAY EVENINGS IN LENT:** Lent is a perfect time to dig deeper in faith and draw nearer to the heart of Christ. We are blessed beyond imagination to have Christ truly present in the Holy Eucharist. Those able to attend daily Mass are especially blessed. Many folks would love to attend daily Mass, but the 7:30a time is prohibitive.

This Lent, we add a **6p Mass Wednesdays. 6:30p (following Mass) Stations of the Cross** will be prayed. Finally, **followed by 7-8p Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**, with confessions available. Feel free to choose one of these devotions, or all, but consider making Wednesday a part of your Lenten journey.

**THEY'RE BAAAAACK:** St. Mary's Hoagie Sales coming this Spring-making on March 13/pickup 3/13 pm and 3/14 am; and making April 24/ pickup April 24 pm and April 25 am.



Please deposit candy and prize donations for St. Mary's March 30 Easter Egg hunt in marked boxes in the gathering area and the social hall. Cash contributions to help purchase supplies are also welcome. Eggs will be filled after 9a Palm Sunday Mass. Questions? Sue Zawaly 610-944-7313.

**BERKS CATHOLIC HS** is accepting applications for the Fall. Please contact Nicky Smith: [nsmith@berkscatholic.org](mailto:nsmith@berkscatholic.org) with questions. Learn how Berks Catholic prepares students to be college- and life-ready. All inquiries are confidential.

**DIOCESAN LENTEN RETREAT SERIES-The Mystery of the Eucharist** with diocesan speakers. Weekly schedule: 6:30-7:30p Adoration, 7:30p presentation, 8p refreshments.

- o **Feb 26** - St. Ambrose, Schuylkill Haven, Topic "Presence" by Lillian Fallon
- o **March 4** - St. Catharine of Siena, Reading, Topic "Sacrifice" by Rob Johnson
- o **March 11** - Ss. Peter and Paul, Lehigh, Topic "Promise" by Kristin Osenbach
- o **March 18** - Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena, Allentown, Topic "Holy" by Fr. John Trigilio

**Sign up:** [allentowndiocese.flocknote.com/signup/152184](http://allentowndiocese.flocknote.com/signup/152184)

**LENTEN DAY OF PRAYER, REFLECTION:** 9a-3p, March 9, Mariawald Renewal Ctr. Reflect on the CRUCIFIED KING with Fr. Brian Miller, St. Catherine of Siena, Reading. Register: 610-777-0135 or [mariawaldcenter@gmail.com](mailto:mariawaldcenter@gmail.com) by **March 05**, Cost: \$40, lunch included. 1094 Welsh Rd, Reading.

**LENTEN DINNERS:** Fridays thru March 22 St John's the Baptist, Pottsville. 4-7p enjoy Baked Haddock or "Fish of the Week" specials, with side, vegetable, clam chowder, salad, dessert. Dine-in or take-out. Fish dinners (Adult/Child): \$18/\$10. Dinners w/out fish: \$14/\$6. Info: 570-622-5470

**BERKS CATHOLIC HS** is accepting enrollment applications. For questions Nicky Smith: [nsmith@berkscatholic.org](mailto:nsmith@berkscatholic.org)  
Learn how Berks Catholic prepares students to be college- and life-ready. All inquiries are confidential.

**ST FRANCIS CLASSICAL CATHOLIC ACADEMY OPEN**

**HOUSE:** 11:15a-1:30p Feb. 25. See the exciting renewal of Classical Catholic education in Bally! Meet faculty, take a tour, meet current families in our PreK-10<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum—part time option for gr.3-12.  
[saintfrancisclassical.com](http://saintfrancisclassical.com)

**HGA REGIONAL SCHOOL DINE OUT EVENT:** 4-8p, Feb. 28 at Panera Bread. Show HGA flier or use code FUND4U to support HGA by your purchase. Enjoy!

**MEN'S LENTEN MORNING RETREAT:** 9a, March 02, St. Jane de Chantal Church, 4049 Hartley Av Easton. The Allentown Diocese's Men's Commission invites the men in the Diocese to attend their Lenten morning retreat. This year, the theme is "Brothers In Prayer" featuring Bishop Alfred Schlert, Fr. Alex Brown, and Fr. Keith Laskowski. The morning will include Mass, talks, and confession. Register at: [www.MenAliveInChrist.org/events](http://www.MenAliveInChrist.org/events)

**ATTN: HS SENIORS OF ITALIAN HERITAGE:** Victor Emmanuel II Beneficial Society offers a \$12,000 scholarship available to Berks Co. HS seniors of Italian heritage living in Berks Co. Pick up applications at your local HS guidance office. Return to: VE II by March 15, 2024. Contact Fred Ranalli Jr. 610 406 1131 with question.



**STATIONS OF THE**

**CROSS:** 7p, March 15 at the St. Francis Retreat Ctr. Chapel in Easton. Join Bishop Schlert at this Stations of the Cross in support of survivors of sexual abuse and their families.

**GETHESEMANE GRAVE CLEAN OFF:** Beginning March 15 the semi-annual grave clean-off at Gethsemane and St. Mary's Cemeteries will commence. Please retrieve any gravesite items you wish to keep prior to then.

**CABRINI:** HGA will host a private screening of the film Cabrini at 2p Sunday, March 10 at the AMC Fairgrounds Theater, 3050 N. 5th Street Highway, Reading. \$25 Ticket for movie & voucher for a regular-size popcorn/beverage combo OR \$15 Ticket for movie only. Purchase tickets online. You will not need a physical ticket; you will be checked in at the theater on the day of the screening. Only 200 tickets available – don't delay!

What parents need to know: Cabrini has been assigned PG-13 for thematic material, some violence, language, and smoking. Tickets and video trailer:  
<https://www.hgaparish.com/post/cabrini-private-screening>



**BOWL-A-THON,** 3-5p, March 17. Raise money for clients and programs at Mary's Shelter. For each strike both kids and adults get a chance to go to prize table! Food drinks and snacks provided. Register [www.marysshelter.org](http://www.marysshelter.org) or [office@marysshelter.org](mailto:office@marysshelter.org)

**33<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL WE ARE REMEMBERED MINISTRY EASTER**

**MASS:** 7p, April 03, St Elizabeth of Hungary, Whitehall. Celebrate and remember the lives of loved ones who have died. Social and spring flowers/gifts after Mass in parish hall. Enroll those whom you remember to ensure their inclusion in the enrollment list in the AD Today. A \$5 donation for each name helps cover expenses. Find enrollment form: [www.sercc.org/st-elizabeth-church/bulletin](http://www.sercc.org/st-elizabeth-church/bulletin). Enroll by March 20.

**NUN RUN 5K**  
April 13 at 10:00 AM  
Join us to support the mission and lives of our MSC Sisters:  
Sponsorships  
Live & Virtual Options  
Visit: [MSCreading.org](http://MSCreading.org)  
[CWhitmoyer@mscreading.org](mailto:CWhitmoyer@mscreading.org)  
**Fun Walk 2024** T-SHIRT DEADLINE 3/20



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

**IN TALKING WITH YOUR CHILDREN,** have you neglected to raise the call to Church ministry? The process of answering God's call begins in childhood. Throughout adolescence and adulthood, the attitudes assumed in childhood begin to influence the course of one's life. A vocation or a talent will not grow to fruition unless it is nurtured in childhood and adolescence by a parent.

**HGA REGIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL:** St. Mary's parish is proud to be a part of HGA Regional Catholic School, 3125 Kutztown Rd, Reading. Fr. John Maria, along with pastors of the 3 other "feeder" parishes (HGA; St. Joseph's Reading; and St. Mary's Hamburg) serves as a member of the Governing Board of Pastors.

We live in challenging times when the dominant secular vision of morality is becoming increasingly opposed to traditional Catholic morality. Providing our children with a sound and solid grounding in Catholic values – and an excellent education – is more urgent than ever. HGA Regional School is an outstanding source. Check out [www.hgaschool.org/](http://www.hgaschool.org/) for more into on receiving an excellent Catholic K-8 education, or call 610-929-4124.

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



## Daily Marriage Tip

Perhaps you've avoided the flu so far. Sooner or later, however, one of you will feel under the weather. How does your beloved like to be cared for? Give what he/she needs, not what you would have liked.

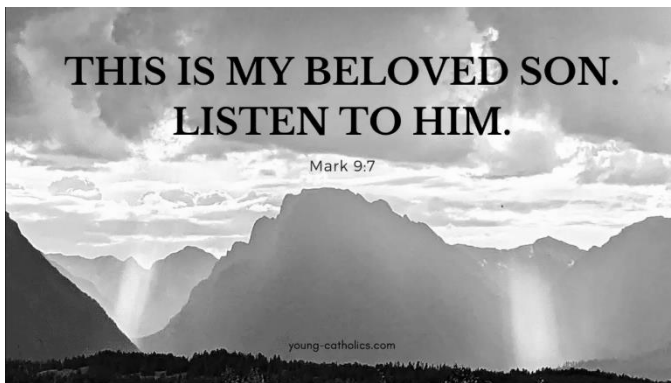
**KNOW THE FACTS - VOTER REGISTRATION IN PA:** Are you registered to vote? If not, here's how. Check with your county voter registration office. The last day to register is usually a month before the election.

Individuals applying to register to vote must be:

- ✓ **A citizen of the United States** for at least one month before the next primary, special, municipal, or general election.
- ✓ **A resident of Pennsylvania** and the election district in which the individual desires to register and vote for at least 30 days before the next primary, special, municipal, or general election.
- ✓ **At least 18 years of age** on or before the day of the next primary, special, municipal, or general election.

**For more details about voting in Pennsylvania:** [www.votespa.com](http://www.votespa.com)

**Word of Life:** "We often assume parenthood happens easily after 'I do,' but for many married couples, it does not. For some, the joy of conception never happens. Others suffer repeated miscarriages. Still others experience secondary infertility... If you experience difficulty bringing a child into your family, know that you are not alone. God is with you, and his Church desires to walk with you... God has a beautiful plan for your life as a married couple." ~ USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities ; "Seven Considerations While Navigating Infertility"; [respectlife.org/navigating-infertility](http://respectlife.org/navigating-infertility)



**DAILY SUBSTITUTES K-8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE:** Work with Holy Guardian Angels Regional School family. Submit cover letter, resume, and all certifications and clearances. Email: [kelpre@hgaschool.org](mailto:kelpre@hgaschool.org)

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

**REFLECTION...** by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson  
Fathers and Sons. A unique dynamic. Psychologists have a field day explaining it. But even we non psychologists know that it is in contrast with the bond between fathers and daughters. It seems to me to be a straight bold line, as opposed to one softened with curlicues for the girls. At any rate, we somehow know this without ever being taught. We see it played out in the lives of our so-called "nuclear" or immediate families. It is in play in today's Scripture Readings for the Mass of the Second Sunday in Lent.

Today the Church presents us with one of the most endearing stories of the Old Testament, manifesting the love between father and son, Abraham, and Isaac. Oh, how Abraham the father must have been conflicted at first, but he knew that what God asked of him must be done. Obedience in the raw. But that very obedience so pleased God that a higher form of Divine Father and son took over. Abraham's reward would be numerous generations of sons and daughters in a chosen nation.

Fast forward through the ensuing centuries and we are allowed to share through Mark's writing under the Holy Spirit's guidance the spectacular transfiguration of Jesus of Nazareth to Son of the Most High, as the Archangel had described Him to His Mother Mary some thirty years prior.

Like Abraham on his mountain top, so Jesus on His, love between Father and Son is apparent. But this time there are five witnesses to it. Moses and Elijah, representing respectively the Old Testament Law and Prophecy now bear witness to someone who fulfills both. Peter, James and John, that favored trio of Jesus, look on baffled to see their Master in a new light, literally and figuratively. It will be in the category of something yet to come, also brought about by an incomparable obedience. The nails will be pounded in; the sword will pierce through, and no angel will stop the soldiers of Rome.

All of this puts our obligatory obedience to God in perspective. It provides not only motivation before it but a wonderful reward after it. This is why we choose our Lenten penances: we have not always obeyed God or done so grudgingly. Time for our conversion, don't you think?

One day a little boy was riding his tricycle around the block, over and over again. Finally, a policeman stopped and asked him why he was going around and around. The boy answered that he was running away from home. Then the policeman asked why he kept going around the block. Then the boy responded, "Because my dad said that I'm not allowed to cross the street." The point, I trust, is clear obedience will keep you close to those you love.

God love you and have a good Lent.



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