

# 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

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT, MARCH 03, 2024

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

# MASS Intentions

Mon 03-04	7:30a	Edward and Mary Ehrets
Tue 03-05	7:30a	Lenoard Ruh
Wed 03-06	7:30a	Marie McLaughlin
	6:00p	Libby Kuchar
Thu 03-07	7:30a	Intentions of Bryan Keller
Fri 03-08	7:30a	Helen S. Tucker
Sat 03-09	8:00a	Emily Wickle
	4:30p	John Voli
Sun 03-10	8:30a	People of the Parish
	11:00a	Betty Zimmerman

Sponsor the Blessed Sacrament Candle in lent, call parish office

## READINGS and CELEBRATIONS for the WEEK

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
Mon 03-04	2 K 5:1-15ab; Lk 4:24-30
Tue 03-05	Dn 3:25, 34-43; Mt 18:21-35
Wed 03-06	Dt 4:1, 5-9; Mt 5:17-19
Thu 03-07	Jr 7:23-28; Lk 11:14-23
Fri 03-08	Ho 14:2-10; Mk 12:28-34
Sat 03-09	Ho 6:1-6; Lk 18:9-14
Sun 03-10	4 <sup>th</sup> Lent Sunday- 2 Ch 36:14-16, 19-23; Eph 2:4-10; Jn 3:14-21

## MUSIC MINISTRY

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

Collections Info	OLG	In Church	Expenses
Regular Collection	\$2,424.00	\$3,279.00	\$8,560.27
Building Fund		\$1,000.00	
Capital Campaign	\$65.00	\$40.00	
Parish Partnership	\$165.00	\$1,105.00	
Rice Bowl	\$40.00		
Other Regular Income	\$95.00	\$275.00	

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

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)

**EVENTS THIS 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, 10a**  
**Elementary Religious Educ., 9:40a**  
**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,**
- Thu 03.07 Music Ministry, 7p**  
**R.C.I.A., 7p**
- 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**

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

**PLEASE READ AND HELP!**

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

Go to [portal.catholicleaders.org/d/by84db](http://portal.catholicleaders.org/d/by84db)

There are also limited paper copies of the survey. Obtain one on the Gathering Area table or contact the parish office: 610-683-7443 or [secretary@stmaryskutztown.com](mailto:secretary@stmaryskutztown.com)

The survey is only open until March 31, 2024. You can reflect on your own spiritual growth and 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 aim for the highest response rate possible. This information is 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 results with the entire parish.

Thank you for helping with this important project!

**EVENTS NEXT WEEK**

- Sun 03.10 4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Collection-Capital Improvements**  
**hoagie orders due**  
**Mass-Recognizing Men of St Mary’s, 8:30a**  
**Elementary Religious Educ. 9:40a**  
**Level 3 Parent mtg, 9:40a**  
**Men of St. Mary’s mtg. 10a**  
**Junior High ministry, 6p**  
**Youth Stations of the Cross, 7p**
- Tue 03.12 Faith Sharing, 10a**
- Wed 03.13 Daily Mass, 7:30a**  
**Make hoagies, pm**  
**Daily Mass, 6p**  
**Stations of the Cross, 6:30p**  
**Adoration and Reconciliation, 7-8p,**  
**Pickup hoagies, 7-8:30p**
- Thu 03.14 Music Ministry, 7p**  
**R.C.I.A., 7p**
- Fri 03.15 Lenten Friday - abstinence**
- Sat 03.16 Lenten daily Saturday Mass, 8a**  
**Pray the Rosary, 4p**



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.

**SCRIPTURE REFLECTION- FATHER JOHN MARIA**

Our readings for the Third Sunday of Lent remind us of the beauty of God’s plan for calling His people to Himself. They also remind us of the challenge of His plan.

In the first reading from Exodus, the people of God have been led out of slavery in Egypt and they are on the way to the promised land. He has guided and provided for them along the way. It is within that relationship that God provided the Ten Commandments. These rules are intended to preserve and strengthen their love for God, and to set them free from the moral chaos, idolatry, and misery they left behind.

We too are on the way to the promised land of Heaven, ultimate union with the Lord. That union begins in this life, which remains a challenge, subject to suffering in a world fallen from grace. Christ has entered into it and shows us the way – the way of the cross. With Saint Paul, we proclaim and follow Christ Crucified. This remains a stumbling block to the world. Happily, we’re not here to serve the world, but the Lord!

As Jesus cleansed the Temple of worldly sin and distraction, He desires to purify us as well. The Lord has consecrated us – each and every one of us – and set us apart for holiness. He has called us to relationship with him. There are rules, and we are indeed to obey – not as slaves, but as sons and daughters being shaped to the heart of Jesus. This week, welcome the truth and teaching of Christ into your heart!

**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 celebrate their First Reconciliation today, Sunday, March 03.

**SAVE THE DATE:** For children of all ages—St. Mary’s Annual Easter Egg Hunt, 10a Saturday March 30. Bring your children, grandchildren and a basket for the goodies!



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

**FORMED FRIDAYS-JESUS AND THE EUCHARIST:** Fortify your faith this Lent- **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, REC Social Hall** with a video from FORMED, followed by discussion questions and Q&A. Light drinks 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, March 08 at 6:30pm!**

**RAISING CHICKENS TO SUPPORT HER FAMILY:** Nowadays, in Morazán, El Salvador, it is very difficult to know when



the rainy or dry seasons will be. The unpredictable weather puts the livelihood of Sandra's family in jeopardy. Despite the challenges, Sandra and her husband, Santos, remain dedicated to ensuring their children grow healthy and succeed in school. Learn how their strong family dynamic enabled Sandra to participate in a Catholic Relief Services' project on raising chickens and how her determination has helped her family and community. Visit [CRSRicebowl.org](http://CRSRicebowl.org) for a weekly Story of Hope.

**RICEBOWL RECIPE:** Rellenos de Coliflor—*cauliflower fritters in tomato sauce*—is a traditional dish from El Salvador, a vegetarian dish where cauliflower is battered and fried until golden crispy. Start to finish: 25 minutes; Servings: 4-6

Ingredients

- 1 med. head cauliflower, cut to bite-sized florets
- 3-4 large eggs, separated
- 1 teaspoon flour
- Vegetable oil-, enough to deep fry the cauliflower pieces
- 1 cup of water
- 3 medium tomatoes, diced
- 1 green chili pepper, finely chopped
- ½ small onion, finely chopped
- ½ tablespoon vegetable bouillon powder
- Salt to taste

In a large pot, boil cauliflower until tender, about 2 minutes. Remove and drain.

Beat the egg whites until stiff peaks form. Add flour to the egg yolks and mix until just blended. In a large bowl, fold the egg whites into the yolk mixture. Add the cauliflower and coat entirely.

In a large pot over medium-high heat, heat the vegetable oil until very hot. Add the pieces of coated cauliflower and fry until golden brown all over. Remove and set aside.

In a large pot, add water, tomatoes, chili pepper and onion and stir to combine. Add the vegetable bouillon powder. Heat to a simmer. Add the cauliflower and continue simmering for 3 minutes. Add salt to taste. Serve at once.

**WEDNESDAY EVENINGS IN LENT-** 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 would attend daily Mass, but the 7:30a time is prohibitive.

In 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. Choose one of these devotions, or all. Consider a Wednesday 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.

**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 and the three pastors of the "feeder" parishes serve as members 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. For more info ask Fr. John and check out [www.hgaschool.org/](http://www.hgaschool.org/) to learn more about receiving an excellent Catholic K-8 education, or call 610-929-4124 to arrange a visit!

**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.

**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 **March 4** - St. Catharine of Siena, Reading, Topic "Sacrifice" by Rob Johnson
- o **March 11** - Ss. Peter and Paul, Lehighton, 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:** 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:** 4-7p Fridays thru March 22 St John's the Baptist, Pottsville. Enjoy Baked Haddock or Weekly 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

**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>

**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.



**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)

**NUN RUN 5K & 1M Walk:** 10a April 29, Holy Guardian Angels Regional School (*not St. Michael Convent as in years past*) 3125 Kutztown Rd., Reading. Support the mission and lives of our Missionary Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus! Become a SPONSOR, a RUNNER/WALKER or a VIRTUAL RUNNER/WALKER! **All receive a Nun Run t-shirt if registered by March 20.** Visit [MSCreading.org](http://MSCreading.org), email [CWhitmoyer@mscreading.org](mailto:CWhitmoyer@mscreading.org) or call 610-207-5862

**ST FRANCIS CLASSICAL CATHOLIC ACADEMY:** Enrolling now. Learn about the exciting renewal of Classical Catholic education in Bally and the our PreK-10<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum-part time option for gr.3-12. [saintfrancisclassical.com](http://saintfrancisclassical.com)

**LADIES NIGHT BAG BINGO:** 6p, April 06 HGA Regional School's Home & School Assoc... \$25/ticket for 25 games. Special Games and more! 21+ event. **Advance tickets only:** [holyguardianangelsregionalschool.square.site](http://holyguardianangelsregionalschool.square.site)

**Word of Life:** The Gospel of Life is “meant to be a precise and vigorous reaffirmation of the value of human life and its inviolability, and at the same time a pressing appeal addressed to each and every person, in the name of God: respect, protect, love and serve life, every human life! Only in this direction will you find justice, development, true freedom, peace and happiness!” (The Gospel of Life 5).

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

**REFLECTION...** by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson  
“Powerhouse” can be defined in a few ways, As a simple plant that produces power. Or as a person who possesses great force of energy, as in “She is an editorial powerhouse.” Today I want to call on the word as an apt description of this weekend’s Readings for Mass.

First comes the Ten Commandments from the Book of Exodus. They are stark, confident, certifiably the divine basics on how to live for a largely illiterate people. Later on in history, the Church will elaborate on their meanings for a more sophisticated audience. So, for example, “Thou shalt not kill” will expand to include more subtle killings, like the reckless use of illicit drugs.

We move on to St. Paul’s Letter, where he contrasts Jewish and Greek religious aspirations with that of the Christian’s. featuring a crucified Jesus as “the wisdom and power of God.” He is blunt and straightforward but impactful.

Then we come to the highly dramatic and demonstrably divine act of Jesus, angrily cleansing His “Father’s House,” the Temple, of the rank commercialism that had become common there. This Jesus follows with His symbolic prediction of His death and resurrection.

This threefold combination of Readings here in the middle of Lent leaves us a little breathless, partly because we moderns have become so used to the subtlety mostly used by Satan and the societal enemies of Christ prevalent in our present culture. Yet I find the whole ensemble refreshing, like a hot shower after work or play in the cold. Or a cold shower after the same in summer’s heat.

Here is our one true God, soon to be a crucified corpse followed by a total resurrection prepared for and praised, yet remaining fully human as was the Babe at Bethlehem. Able to take on all the various forms of negativity we face in life with the positive outlook unique to Himself. He only asks His followers, you and me, to take on what we can and do so with His help.

So it is Lent, this penitential season where we face not only the exterior, but also the interior darkness we often take on because we think it’s light. The true Light will blaze forth on the morning of the Third Day, and we will know whose pledge for redemption is the real one.

What a “powerhouse” Faith we are offered; what a confident Hope we gain; what a contagious Charity we can practice! All because of Jesus Christ our Lord!  
May God Love you and give you His peace!



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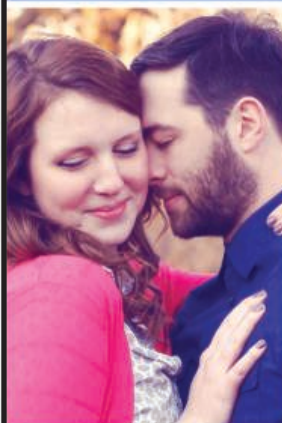
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