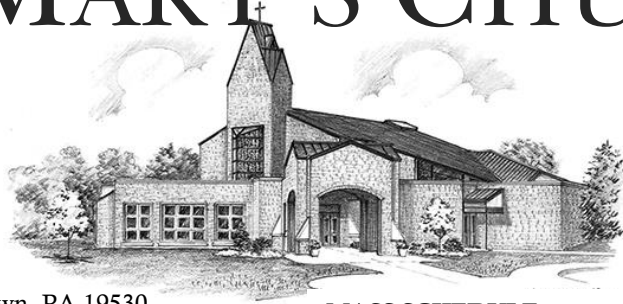


ST MARY'S CHURCH



14833 Kutztown Road ▪ Kutztown, PA 19530

www.StMarysKutztown.com

www.facebook.com/stmaryskutztown

Church, Meeting Rooms, Business & Parish Offices:

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

Email: Parish@StMarysKutztown.com

Religious Education Center: 610-683-6454

Email: 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

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 or 800-276-1562

**I will place my law
within them
and write it
upon their hearts;**

Jeremiah 31:33

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 1st 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 2nd & 4th 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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT, MARCH 17, 2024

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

0195-1

MASS Intentions

Mon	03-18	7:30a	People of the Parish
Tue	03-19	7:30a	John Patrick Schultz
Wed	03-20	7:30a	Mary Louise Tucker
		6:00p	Jim Corson
Thu	03-21	7:30a	Stephen Fernando
Fri	03-22	7:30a	Matthew Schwartz
Sat	03-23	8:00a	Special Intention
		4:30p	Matthew Schwartz
Sun	03-24	8:30a	Walter Porambo
		11:00a	People of the Parish

To sponsor Blessed Sacrament Candle call the parish office

READINGS and CELEBRATIONS for the WEEK

5 th Sunday of Lent- Jr 31:31-34; He 5:7-9; Jn 12:20-33—4:30p; Ez 37:12-14; Ro 8:8-11; Jn 11:1-45—11a:			
Mon	03-18	Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62; Jn 8:1-11	
Tue	03-19	2 S 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Ro 4:13, 16-18, 22; Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a	
Wed	03-20	Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Jn 8:31-42	
Thu	03-21	Gn 17:3-9; Jn 8:51-59	
Fri	03-22	Jr 20:10-13; Jn 10:31-42	
Sat	03-23	Ez 37:21-28; Jn 11:45-56	
Sun	03-24	Palm Sunday- Mk 11:1-10 or Jn 12:12-16; Is 50:4-7; Phil 2:6-11; Mk 14:1—15:47	

MUSIC MINISTRY

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

Collections Info	OLG	In Church	Expenses
Regular Collection			\$5,390.72
Building Fund			
Capital Campaign	Collections	info not	available
Parish Partnership	at print	deadline	this week.
Rice Bowl			
Easter Flowers			
Other Regular Income			

HOW DO I SIGN UP FOR ONLINE GIVING?

1. Visit 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 Turko
Joe Galantino	Eva Malanczuk	Christine VanDoorn
Michelle Galantino	Dennis Martinsen	Phillip Vazquez
Sandra George	Barry, Sharon Miller	Joseph Wawrzak
	Elaine O. Miller	Bonnie Wessner
	Shannon Morris	

Contact office to update list: 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
John Boyer	Kale Follweiler	O'Donnell
Matthew Boyer	Michael Allen Haak	Menaka Nayyar & Anthony Pirmot
Jonathan Cardé	Diane Henry	Jake Schmeck
Ryan Cengeri	Cmdr. Jason Hoch	Phillip Talarico
Eric Cunningham	Joshua Joseph	Steve Ziegler
Timothy DeVall	Dan King	
	James Knight	

Contact office to update list: secretary@stmaryskutztown.com

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

EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Sun 03.17 5TH SUNDAY IN LENT
Youth Mass, 8:30a
Mary's Shelter BowlAThon, Jr High, 3-5p
- Tue 03.19 Faith Sharing, 10a
- Wed 03.20 Daily Mass, 7:30a
Daily Mass, 6p
Stations of the Cross, 6:30p
Adoration and Reconciliation, 7-8p
- Thu 03.21 Music Ministry, 7p
R.C.I.A., 7p
- Fri 03.22 Formed Fridays, 6:30p
- Sat 03.23 Lenten daily Saturday Mass, 8a
Pray the Rosary, 4p
2nd Collection – Parish Partnership

EVENTS NEXT WEEK

- Sun 03.24 PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION
2nd Collection – Parish Partnership
Elementary Religious Education, 9:40a
Reconciliation Service, 3p
Junior High ministry, 6p
- Tue 03.26 Faith Sharing, 10a
- Wed 03.27 Stations of the Cross, 6:30p
Adoration and Reconciliation, 7-8p
- Thu 03.28 HOLY THURSDAY Mass at 7p
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, 8:30-11p
- Fri 03.29 GOOD FRIDAY OF OUR LORD'S PASSION
Holy Land Collection
Liturgy, 3p
Stations of the Cross, 7p
- Sat 03.30 HOLY SATURDAY
Easter Egg Hunt, 10a
Bless Easter food, 11:15a
Reconciliation, 11:30a-12:30p
Easter Vigil Liturgy, 8p

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.*



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 8:30a Palm Sunday Mass. Info: Sue Zawaly 610-944-7313.

SAVE THE DATE: Children of all ages—Parish Easter Egg Hunt, 10a Sat. March 30. Bring children, grandchildren, and your basket!



HOLY WEEK

- March 24th PALM SUNDAY OF OUR LORD'S PASSION
3pm Reconciliation with 4 priests
- March 28th HOLY THURSDAY
7pm Mass of the Lord's Supper
- March 29th GOOD FRIDAY
3:00pm Liturgy of the Lord's Passion
7:00pm Stations of the Cross
- March 30th HOLY SATURDAY
10am Easter Egg Hunt
11:15am Blessing of Easter Food
11:30am-12:30pm Reconciliation
8pm Easter Vigil liturgy
- March 31st EASTER SUNDAY
7am Mass
9am Mass
11am Mass

THE DISCIPLE MAKER INDEX SURVEY IS OPEN!
PLEASE READ AND HELP!

Participate in this 10-15 minute survey a.s.a.p. Visit portal.catholicleaders.org/d/by84db

There are limited paper copies of the survey on the Gathering Area table or contact the parish office: 610-683-7443 or secretary@stmaryskutztown.com

Please be sure to complete the survey by March 31, 2024. All results will be confidential. Help us achieve maximum participation. Your response will help parish plans.

Thank you for helping with this important project!

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION- FATHER JOHN MARIA

Today's readings (Cycle B) for the 5th Sunday of Lent are about turning points: in God's plan of salvation history; in the events of the life of Jesus, and in our own lives.

In the first reading, the Lord is signaling through the prophet Jeremiah a huge turning point – a new covenant. This occurred around 600 BC, at perhaps the lowest point for God's old covenant people. In their misery, the Lord was revealing hope for blessings beyond their imagination.

God had called a people to covenant (a sacred family bond) with Him. This happened first with Adam, then with Noah, and later with Abraham. This would expand with Moses and later with King David. Into this development, Jeremiah prophesied a new covenant, written on the heart. There were many signs that this would be offered not only to the eldest brother Israel, but to all of God's family.

In the Gospel, some Greeks asked to see Jesus. This signified a major turning point, when the Lord would draw ALL to Himself.

As we journey forward in Lent, we should pause to reflect upon His call to YOUR heart. We will soon recall how He gave His flesh and blood on the cross. We will soon remember that He offered His Body and Blood at the Lord's Supper – His new and eternal covenant.

He is calling YOU to give your life to Him.

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 Friday, March 22 at 6:30pm!**

EMBODYING THE LOVE OF CHRIST BY CARING FOR ONE

ANOTHER: Reflect on your Lenten journey thus far: What have you learned from our global family members in Uganda, El Salvador and Indonesia? How does the Eucharist unite us with our sisters and brothers around the world? Consider how Christ is present in Adolf and Florence, Sandra and Santos, and Evita. Visit **CRSRicebowl.org** for the weekly Story of Hope.



GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION- Pope Francis asks us to support the Pontifical Good Friday Collection helping Christians in the Holy Land, where they are now less than 2% of the population. Your support helps parishes, Catholic schools, and religious education. The Pontifical Good Friday Collection also helps to preserve the sacred shrines of Christianity, including in Jerusalem, Nazareth, and Bethlehem, to name only a few.

When you contribute to the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, you join with Catholics around the world in solidarity with the Church in the Holy Land. *Please be generous!* Learn more about Christians in the holy Land: www.myfranciscan.org or www.custodia.org



ST. CHRISTOPHER NEWMAN CTR AT KU: FYI to those who sometimes attend the "Last Chance Mass" at the Newman Center, KU there is no 5p on 3/17 Mass nor 3/31.

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.

Save the Date

ST MARY'S WOMEN'S SPIRITUALITY

RETREAT: 9:30a-3p, Saturday, April 27 at McGlenn Conference Ctr. Alvernia Univ. More info to come!

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/ 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@berksatholic.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 18** - Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena, Allentown, Topic "Holy" by Fr. John Trigilio
Sign up: allentowndiocese.flocknote.com/signup/152184

GETHSEMANE 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 March 15.



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 or office@marysshelter.org

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

PILGRIMAGE TO ITALY WITH BISHOP SCHLERT:

Reservations are open for the JUBILEE YEAR PILGRIMAGE TO ITALY with Bishop Schlert & Fr. Hoffa: **Tue. March 25, 2025-Sat. April 3, 2025.** The first Diocese of Allentown International Pilgrimage will “Follow the Footsteps of Saints Peter and Paul” through Florence, Assisi, and Rome. Sign up: Fr. Allen Hoffa ahoffa@allentowndiocese.org or 610-921-2729 x 2205.

ARK ENCOUNTER & CREATION MUSEUM–Williamstown, KY. St. Benedict Prime Timers Tour w/White Star Tours invites you to this 4-day/3-night excursion June 17-20, 2024. \$745/person - Double Occupancy; \$930/Single Occupancy; \$50 Deposit to hold reservation – **Balance Due April 1, 2024.** Questions: Marie Blimline 484-332-3241 or Jeanie Hauck 610-856-7575.

WE ARE REMEMBERED 33RD EASTER MASS: 7p, April 03, St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Whitehall, sponsored by diocesan “We Are Remembered” Ministry that ministers and welcomes all who mourn the death of a loved one.

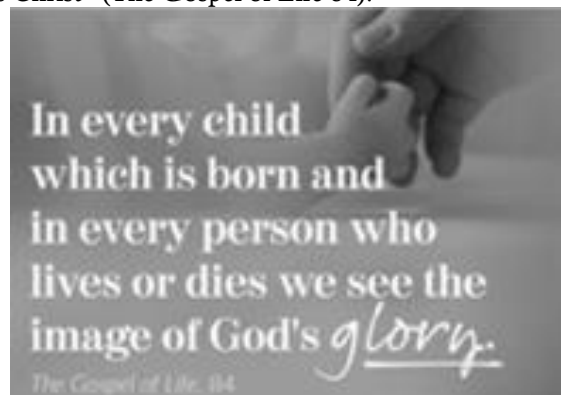
Share loved ones’ names **by March 20** to ensure inclusion in the Book of the Remembered which will be printed in the AD Times. A \$5 donation for each name helps cover expenses; *every name will be enrolled regardless of donation.*

Send Sponsor(s) name, Donation \$, Address, Phone, Email, and Deceased Name(s) and checks to: We Are Remembered Ministry, St. Elizabeth of Hungary, 618 Fullerton Ave., Whitehall, PA 18052. Questions? contact Mary Spieker, dirreled@sercc.org or 610-266-0695.

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:** holygardianangelsregionalschool.square.site

ALTAR SERVER MASS: 11a, April 13, Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena, Allentown. All youth altar servers of the diocese are invited to attend this special Mass with Bishop Schlert to bless and thank all who serve this important ministry. Participants may bring and vest in their parish’s altar server robes. A reception for youth altar servers and their families will be held after the Mass.

Word of Life: “To celebrate the Gospel of life means to celebrate the God of life, the God who gives life... In every child which is born and in every person who lives or dies we see the image of God’s glory. We celebrate this glory in every human being, a sign of the living God, an icon of Jesus Christ” (The Gospel of Life 84).



	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 CWhitmoyer@mscreading.org T-SHIRT DEADLINE 3/20

REFLECTION... by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

Thinking of your early school days, you likely remember the name of “that kid.” He or she was the one who, by dint of personality and intelligence you just know, had caught the eye of the teacher. Of course, unknown to us at the time, the teacher had to make the professional effort not to categorize that one student as a “pet.”

Later on in life, you saw the same dynamic in action when a certain co-worker was favored by the boss. In times past the boss might make his favoritism obvious. Not so today, where an HR office would pounce on the perpetrator quickly. Even to the point of dismissal.

On a much higher plain of observation, we could easily imagine Our Lord being the envy of His peers for what He said and did. Careful as He was to preclude praise let alone adulation of any kind, the people He ministered to knew instinctively that He had favor with Yahweh. Their wish to honor Him was a constant problem for Jesus, requiring Him to take action. At one point He even fled the crowd lest they make Him a king.

Jesus modeled the virtue of humility, but at the same time He knew God the Father in a way we never will. His respect for the Father was so obvious that the later unknown writer of the Letter to the Hebrews that we hear in today’s Mass could write that “He was heard because of His reverence when He prayed.

Reverence. There is a word. A state of being. A quality worth developing in our lives. It is a habit of being that begins with God and applies to the things of God but reaches down to our relations with our neighbor. Most often we in our present day can know reverence as the missing element in our common culture as we daily witness the opposite of it.

Something is terribly wrong about the way we freely murder our fellow man in the streets of our cities, and on the battlefields of our wars.

Add this the coldness with which our society wants to erase God from being a deciding factor in all we say and do. We’ve made other gods, often enough. Gods of power, wealth and fame.

As the waning days of Lent 2024 are upon us, may I suggest a project that will take us all way past Easter? It’s to develop our reverence for God and our neighbor.

God love you and lead you to betterment and a better Lent.

April 2024				
	April 06/07	April 13/14	April 20/21	April 27/28
Music Ministry				
4:30p	Spanier, Chris Casey, Peggy	DeWald, Heather Moore, Mark	Spanier, Amelia Casey, Peggy	Moore, Mark Casey, Peggy
8:30a	Sitarik, Anne Cebenko, Steve	Spanier, Chris Moore, Mark	Talarico, Tim Cebenko, Steve	Skoronski, Nathan Cebenko, Steve
11:00a	Pirnot, Tom Skoronski, Kate	Thomas, Cathy Talarico, Tim	Sitarik, Anne Talarico, Tim	DeWald, Heather Talarico, Tim
Extraordinary Eucharistic Ministry				
4:30p	Skoronski, Joseph Zawaly, Sue	Arnold, Vince Ruh, Mike	Arentz, Stephanie Arentz, Bill	Arentz, Stephanie Arentz, Bill
8:30a	Schnabl, Janice Cengeri, Tom	Ganser, Steve Hilburt, Laura	Cengeri, Tom Pangrazi, Dana	Hilburt, Laura Tucker, John
11:00a	Gallagher, John Kropf, Walter	Neumann, Sue Wanner, Theresa	Gallagher, John Kropf, Walter	Jones, John Pirnot, Ann
Lector & Commentator				
4:30p	c-Sosik, Carm l-Taylor Elizabeth	c-Larash, Frances l-Kasopsky, Susan	c-Hertzog, Darlene l-Sosik, Carm	c-Zawaly, Patty l-Zettle, Steve
8:30a	c-Shidisky, Joe l-Phillips, Rita	c-Mehltretter, John l-Skoronski, Wendy	c-Pangrazi, Ron l-Althouse, Katrina	c-Mehltretter, John l-Skrip, Stormy
11:00a	c-Zettle, Steve l-Kopchick, Karen	c-Thomas, Dan l-Bauman, Lesley	c-Thomas, Dan l-Thomas, Cathy	c-Jones, Anne l-Thomas, Dan
Altar Server Ministry				
4:30p	Daniel S.	John S.	Carter G.	Carter G.
8:30a	Steven D. Katherine S.	Steven D. Connor S.	Jackson M. Zachary S.	Daniel S. Katherine S.
11:00a	Alexa N.	Anthony C.	Volunteer Server	Volunteer Server
Greeter Ministry				
4:30p	Men of St. Mary's	Arnold Family	Galantino Family	Arnold Family
8:30a	Phillips Family	Phillips Family	Men of St. Mary's	Skoronski Family
11:00a	Gabriel, Mike	Pirnot, Ann	Thomas, Diane	Thomas, Diane
Collection Volunteers				
<i>Sundays</i>	Phillips, Zettles	Bennett, Moran, Tempesco	Arnolds, Boderman	Olsheski, P Zawaly
Rosary Leader-Saturdays				
4:00p	Skoronski, Wendy	Eshbach, Valetta	Zettle, Steve	Arentz, Stephanie

Lenten Reconciliation Service – Sunday, March 24 at 3pm

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life.” This famous passage from John 3:16 illustrates the Lord’s mission to save us, and share His grace, love and mercy!

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is an essential channel of His grace. In this season of Lent, we recall His willingness to die for each of us. We must also acknowledge the reality of sin, and our need for His mercy.

Many object and say, “Why do I need to go to another human being? Whose idea was that?”

The answer is ... Jesus. After His resurrection from the dead (John 20:21-23), Jesus breathed His Holy Spirit upon the Apostles (the first priests of the new covenant) and gave them the power to forgive sins – an amazing gift! It is humbling to speak our sins to another, but He wants us to hear God’s mercy spoken. We can leave the sacrament without any doubt that we have “owned up,” and we can be sure that He has lifted the burden.

Each and every confession is confidential, protected by the seal of the sacrament. You may go face to face or confess anonymously behind the screen, whichever you prefer. You can be sure that there is no judgment. Priests have devoted their lives to bringing souls to Christ!

Please make time to prepare well and come back to His mercy, no matter how long it has been. If you are unsure of the steps, don’t worry. The priest will walk you through it. The most important step is to examine your conscience, so that you may know the sins you must confess.

On the reverse side, you will find an “examination of conscience” to help you prepare well for the sacrament. The purpose of this is not to cause discouragement, anxiety or shame, but to stimulate repentance and desire to be reconciled with the God ... who so loved the world that he gave His only Son!

Be not afraid! Jesus, we trust in you!

How to Go to Confession:

1. Begin with the Sign of the Cross.
2. Tell the priest how long it has been since your last confession.
YOU: Bless me, Father, for I have sinned. My last confession was ____ ago.
3. Confess your sins simply and peacefully.
When you finish, you may say: **“I am sorry for these and all of my sins.”**
4. The priest will speak to you and possibly offer some advice or encouragement.
He will then give you a **penance to fulfill after your confession.**
He will ask you to pray an Act of Contrition.
5. You will then pray the **Act of Contrition:** *(You may use your own words.)*
**O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended You.
And I detest all my sins because of Your just punishments,
but most of all because they offend You, my God,
who are all good and deserving of all my love.
I firmly resolve, with the help of Your grace, to sin no more
and to avoid the near occasions of sin. Amen.**
6. The priest will then forgive your sins with the prayer of absolution.
7. After the absolution, you will join Father in giving thanks and praise to God....
PRIEST: Give thanks to the Lord for He is good.
YOU: His mercy endures forever.
PRIEST: The Lord has freed you from your sins. Go in peace.
YOU: Thanks be to God!

0195-A

EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE

1. I am the Lord your God. You shall not have strange gods before me.

- † Do I sometimes live as though God does not exist? Do I put anything above God? Do I pray daily? Have I loved God with all my heart, [soul](#) and strength?
- † Have I had any involvement with the occult, witchcraft, wicca, Ouija boards, seances, tarot cards, new age crystals, Reiki or fortune telling? Have I put faith in horoscopes?
- † Have I received Holy Communion in mortal sin?
- † Have I abused the Sacrament of Penance by lying to the priest or deliberately not confessing a mortal sin?
- † Have I denied a truth of the faith?

2. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.

- † Have I used God's Holy Name irreverently?
- † Have I blasphemed God, the Church, the saints or sacred places or things?

3. Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day.

- † Have I skipped Mass on a Sunday or Holy Day without serious reason?
- † Do I keep Sunday as a day of prayer and rest? Or do I treat Sunday as any other day?
- † Have I deliberately come late or left early from Mass without a good reason?

4. Honor your father and your mother.

- † Do I honor and respect my parents? Have I deliberately hurt my parents?
- † Do I treat my children with love and respect?
- † Have I neglected family duties?
- † Do I show respect for my lawful superiors?

5. You shall not kill.

- † Have I deliberately harmed anyone?
- † Have I had an abortion or encouraged an abortion? Have I attempted suicide or seriously considered it?
- † Have I abused drugs or alcohol?
- † Have I led anyone to sin through bad example or through direct encouragement?

6. You shall not commit adultery.

For the married

- † Am I faithful to my spouse in thought and action? Have I used artificial contraception, or been sterilized?
- † Was I married outside the Church without proper permission of the Bishop?

For the unmarried

- † Have I engaged in sexual activity with anyone of either sex?

For all

- † Have I deliberately viewed pornographic magazines, [videos](#) or websites?
- † Have I masturbated?
- † Have I used impure language or told impure jokes? Do I dress immodestly or lead others into temptation?

7. You shall not steal.

- † Have I stolen or accepted stolen goods?
- † Have I deliberately destroyed the property of others? Have I cheated anyone of what I owe?
- † Do I gamble excessively?
- † Do I share what I have with the poor and the Church according to my means?

8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

- † Have I lied? Have I sworn falsely?
- † Have I plagiarized or been academically dishonest?
- † Have I gossiped? Have I revealed secrets or confidential information without good reason?
- † Have I ruined the good name of others by spreading lies or needlessly revealing their faults and sins?

9. You shall not desire your neighbor's wife.

- † Have I deliberately and consciously permitted sexual thoughts about anyone besides my spouse?
- † Do I guard my imagination and senses?
- † Have I watched shows, pictures or movies that contain impure scenes with the deliberate intention of being aroused?

10. You shall not desire your neighbor's goods.

- † Am I envious of the possessions, abilities, talents, beauty, or success of others?

You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

- † Do I love my neighbor? Is there anyone whom I refuse to love? Have I wished harm on anyone?
- † Do I forgive from my heart those who have hurt me? Do I harbor hatred or grudges? Do I pray for my enemies?
- † Have I ridiculed or humiliated others?
- † Do I seek to help others in need?
- † Do I love myself as God loves me? Do I care for my physical, emotional, and spiritual health?
- † Do I forgive myself for my sins after bringing them to God in the Sacrament of Reconciliation?

Precepts of the Church

- † We are obligated to keep holy the Lord's Day by attending Mass each Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation. Have I deliberately missed Mass without a serious reason?
- † Have I gone to confession at least once a year when I have serious sins to confess?
- † If eligible, do I receive Holy Communion, at least once during Easter time?
- † Do I abstain from meat on Fridays in Lent (14+) and fast on one full meal on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday (ages 18-59)? Do I fast for one hour before Holy Communion (water and medicine allowed)?
- † Do I contribute to support the material needs of the Church?

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