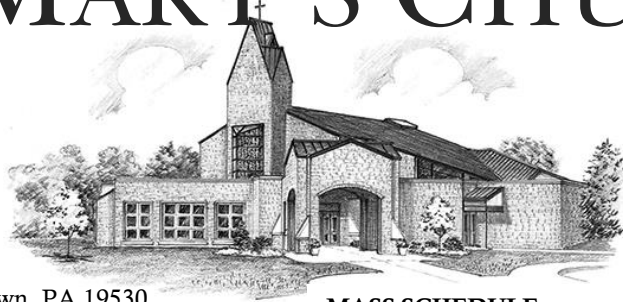


# ST MARY'S CHURCH



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
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

If you keep my commandments,  
you will remain in my love,  
just as I have kept my Father's commandments  
and remain in his love.

John 15:10



## **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

6<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER, MAY 05, 2024

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

0195-1

# MASS Intentions

Mon	05-06	7:30a	Elizabeth McDonnell
Tue	05-07	7:30a	Edward and Mary Ehrets
Wed	05-08	7:30a	William and Celestina Keller
		7:00p	Mary Magdalene Jenkins
Thu	05-09	12:00n	Elizabeth Wereley
		7:00p	People of the Parish
Fri	05-10	7:30a	Elizabeth Blatterspiel
Sat	05-11	4:30p	People of the Parish
Sun	05-12	8:30a	<i>All Parish Mothers, living &amp; deceased</i>
		11:00a	<i>All Parish Mothers, living &amp; deceased</i>

Altar flowers are in memory of Elizabeth Blatterspiel this week.

## READINGS and CELEBRATIONS for the WEEK

Sun	05-05	6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter- Ac 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48; 1 Jn 4:7-10; Jn 15:9-17
Mon	05-06	Ac 16:11-15; Jn 15:26—16:4a
Tue	05-07	Ac 16:22-34; Jn 16:5-11
Wed	05-08	Ac 17:15, 22—18:1; Jn 16:12-15
Thu	05-09	Solemnity Ascension of the Lord: Ac 1:1-11; Eph 1:17-23 or Eph 4:1-13; Mk 16:15-20
Fri	05-10	Ac 18:9-18; Jn 16:20-23
Sat	05-11	Ac 18:23-28; Jn 16:23b-28
Sun	05-12	7 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter- Ac 1:15-17, 20a, 20c-26; 1 Jn 4:11-16; Jn 17:11b-19

## MUSIC MINISTRY

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

Collections last week:	OLG	Church	Expenses
Regular Collection	\$3,199.00	\$7,634.00	\$11,478.58
Building Fund	\$35.00	\$1,000.00	
Capital Campaign	\$30.00	\$170.00	
Parish Partnership	\$270.00	\$1,525.00	
Other Reg. Collections		\$234.00	

## HOW DO I SIGN UP FOR ONLINE GIVING?

1. Visit [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



Please pray for the sick of our parish.....  
..... and those that care for them



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

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



**Remember in your Prayers** Dolores J. Petrovich, formerly of our parish. Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. Amen

## 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 &
Jonathan Cardé	Diane Henry	Anthony Pirnot
Ryan Cengeri	Cmdr. Jason Hoch	Jake Schmeck
Eric Cunningham	Joshua Joseph	Phillip Talarico
Timothy DeVall	Dan King	Steve Ziegler
	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 05.05 6<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER  
Level 3 First Communion Mass, 11a
- Mon 05.06 Baptism Prep class, 6:30p
- Tue 05.07 Faith Sharing, 10a  
Ladies Auxiliary meeting, 6:30p
- Wed 05.08 Handiwork from the Heart mtg., 10a  
Vigil Mass for Ascension Thursday, 7p
- Thu 05.09 SOLEMNITY OF ASCENSION OF THE LORD  
Mass times: 12n and 7p  
Parish Office Closed
- Sat 05.11 Pray the Rosary, 4p  
2<sup>nd</sup> Collection – Capital Improvements

### EVENTS NEXT WEEK

- Sun 05.12 7<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER  
Happy Mother's Day  
2<sup>nd</sup> Collection – Capital Improvements
- Mon 05.13 Baptism Prep class, 6:30p
- Tue 05.14 Faith Sharing, 10a
- Wed 05.15 Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, 7p
- Thu 05.16 Music Ministry, 7p
- Sat 05.18 Pray the Rosary, 4p

**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.*

**MOTHER'S DAY ENVELOPES** were not included in the April envelope mailing. To include names on the Remember our Mothers list on May 12 look for blank Mother's Day envelopes in the Gathering area. Father will keep these intentions on the altar for the month of May.

**BAPTISM PREP CLASSES** will be 6:30p May 06 and 13. Contact Ann Pergosky to sign up: 610-683-6454



**SOLEMNITY OF ASCENSION DAY- Thursday, May 09** is a Holy Day of Obligation. Celebrate Jesus' Ascension into Heaven!  
Masses: 7p May 17; 12n & 7p May 18

**FOUND ITEM:** A gold class ring (St. Matthew class of 1960?) has been found. If you think it is yours, to claim it contact the parish office.

The 2024 **Because We Are Catholic Annual Appeal** is underway! Our parish support is a vital part of this Diocesan-wide effort to serve children and families in our own community and throughout the Diocese of Allentown. You can scan the QR code and make your gift today at [www.BecauseWeAreCatholic.org](http://www.BecauseWeAreCatholic.org). Thank you!



## St Mary's Parish Mission on May 19, 20 & 21!

Mark your calendar! Our St. Mary's Parish Mission will be our special time for us to come together as a family, to adore the Lord in His True Presence and call upon the Holy Spirit. Each May, the Church honors mothers and our patroness, the Blessed Virgin in a special way. Beginning on Pentecost Sunday, we will keep her company in prayer before Her Divine Son, calling upon the Holy Spirit.

Each evening at 7pm, we will gather for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Evening Prayer, song and reflection. The Holy Hour will close with Benediction around 8pm. Our guest speakers - Fr Mark Searles, Fr. Richard James and Fr. Matthew Kuna - will share their own reflections upon the Holy Spirit, the Blessed Sacrament and Mary, Mother of the Church.

Each day, there will be periods of Eucharistic Adoration until 7pm. This is a powerful time of private prayer in the Presence of Jesus! We need ALL slots to be filled by at least one (and preferably more) person. We cannot leave Him alone! Will you make a commitment to adore our Lord Jesus Christ and seek the intercession of His Mother for your most heartfelt intentions?

One-hour commitments are ideal, but if a half-hour is best for you, please sign up! Sign-up sheets are on the tables in the gathering area, as well as on the front page of the website. *Will you keep watch with Him?*

### SCRIPTURE REFLECTION- FATHER JOHN MARIA

Today's Gospel from John 15 follows immediately upon last week's Gospel about the Vine and the branches, when we heard the repeated call of Jesus to remain in Him, so that we can bear fruit. An essential way of remaining in Him is to receive His grace in the holy sacraments.

Today, the words of Christ move from remaining in His love, to keeping His commandments, and having a joy that is complete. All too often, we fail to see any connection between love, commandments and joy. To some commandments are seen as drudgery.

Following God's commandments ought not be seen as a burden, but rather the surest way of joy, by living in peaceful harmony with the One who is the way, the truth and the life.

Christ goes on to speak about true love, which is sacrificial. There is a connection between giving love, and receiving joy. The more we love, the more joyful we will be.

Jesus wants us to accept His teaching, not out of fear of His power and authority, but out of love and trust. We are incredibly blessed to know that the Lord God of Heaven and Earth calls us to be His friend, His beloved child. He has laid down His life for us.

That is good news. Sharing in that true love has the power to bring joy to our hearts, even amidst the many ups and downs of life!

**DEACON BRELINSKY TO BE ORDAINED JUNE 01:** Deacon N. Romero Brelinsky has been a great blessing to our parish since his diaconate assignment began in June 2023. His formal assignment with us has come to an end as he finishes his last semester at seminary and prepares to be ordained a priest on June 1. The Bishop will inform him that day of the new parish he will be assigned to serve.

There will be a reception on Saturday June 1 at 2pm in the social hall, where Father Brelinsky will greet people and give "first blessings" - a beautiful and powerful blessing from newly-ordained priests. More details will follow as that time nears.

Please keep Deacon Romero in your prayers as he approaches his special day!



**TRAVEL PLANS THIS SUMMER?** Visit [www.MassTimes.org](http://www.MassTimes.org) for nationwide Mass times/locations. This service is completely free.

**MASS OF THANKSGIVING-HOMESCHOOL COMMUNITY:** 6:30p, Wed. May 22 at the Cathedral in Allentown, with a special blessing for those graduating H.S. All homeschooling families are invited. Light reception follows. Info: [kosenbach@allentowndiocese.org](mailto:kosenbach@allentowndiocese.org) **Register by May 05:** [allentowndiocese.flocknote.com/signup/152553](http://allentowndiocese.flocknote.com/signup/152553)

**YOUNG WOMEN'S DISCERNMENT GROUP:** 5:30p, May 08. For women ages 18-35 seeking community with whom to discern a vocation to Religious life, and general discernment with no specific religious order in mind. Learn more: [gmgalassi46@gmail.com](mailto:gmgalassi46@gmail.com)

**HAIL MARY, OUR BEAUTIFUL MOTHER RETREAT:** May 10-12, a Co-Ed Marian Retreat with Fr. Chris Alar at Malvern Retreat House. Fr. Alar is Provincial Superior of the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception and a host on EWTN. Cost: \$325; Space is limited. Info/Register: [www.malvernretreat.com](http://www.malvernretreat.com)

**"Synod Listening Sessions: WHAT WE LEARNED"** Mini Retreat May 20, St. Francis Retreat House, Easton. With Carol Swavely & Joan Hilstolsky. 6p Dinner, then 7-9p talk. Register: [stfrancisretreathouse.org](http://stfrancisretreathouse.org) (click event tab/ mini-retreats). Onsite: \$40 (by May 10); virtual: \$25 (by May 15).

**SFCCA OPEN HOUSE: 5p, May 17.** Learn about Full time Prek-10<sup>th</sup> Grades; Part time options 3<sup>rd</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> grades and Aftercare options. Stay for 7p Spring Concert and Patriotic Revue! [saintfrancisclassical.com](http://saintfrancisclassical.com)

**MEN'S RETREAT GROUP AT MALVERN RETREAT HOUSE:** May 17-19. With the Mid-May Group's 102<sup>nd</sup> consecutive retreat at St. Joseph's-in-the-Hills, and the Archbishop Fitzmaurice Group, Dioc. of Wilmington, together for over 80 years. Our retreat weekend event is Pentecost weekend and open to the men of the diocese, along with their sons, grandsons, brothers, cousins, and friends. Contact John Graham: [jgraham9008@outlook.com](mailto:jgraham9008@outlook.com)

**FRIEND SHIP MINISTRY:** 2-4p, May 19 (3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays), St. Ann parish, Emmaus. Ministry for young adults with disabilities (19-35). Foster friendships and belonging through fun, service, spiritual activities. Contact: [mciofalo@comcast.net](mailto:mciofalo@comcast.net)

**DAILY MASSES WITH BISHOP SCHLERT, BECAUSE WE ARE CATHOLIC:** All are invited to celebrate with the Bishop: May 22, 8:30a - St. Joseph the Worker, Orefield



**LIFELINE BANQUET 2024:** 5p, May 23, The Double Tree. Benefits Lifeline of Berks Co. pregnancy resource center. Tickets & sponsorships: scan QR, 610-374-8545 x207 or [lifelineofberks.org](http://lifelineofberks.org) **RSVP: May 10.**

Each year, the Holy Father asks for our prayers for a specific intention each month. You are invited to answer the Holy Father's request and to join with many people worldwide in praying for this intention each month.

**MONTH OF MAY INTENTION:** For the formation of religious and seminarians: We pray that religious women and men, and seminarians, grow in their own vocations through their human, pastoral, spiritual and community formation, leading them to be credible witnesses to the Gospel.

**SAVE THE DATE:** At Masses June 01 Father John will give a special blessing for all parish graduates, High School, College, post-graduate. All 2024 graduates are invited to receive the special Blessing.



**COLLECTION for HOMELESS PETS:** Once again the homeless pets of our area need our help! The Animal Rescue League and Humane Society need the following items:

- |                               |                                 |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • Washed T-Shirts             | • Cat litter                    |
| • Washed linens, cloths, rags | • Cat and dog treats            |
| • Paper towels                | • Canned/Dry cat/dog food       |
| • Trash bags, latex gloves    | • Spray cheese/PB               |
| • H/E Laundry detergent       | • Chew/Scratch toys             |
| • Bleach                      | • <i>No beds/pillows please</i> |
| • Spray cleaners              |                                 |

Items will be collected May 25/26 (30 minutes BEFORE Masses, in the REC parking lot). Questions? Contact Stephanie Stamm: 610-926-1560. Thank you.

**ADULT CONFIRMATION AT CATHEDRAL:** 11:30a, May 19 Bishop Schlert will celebrate Mass wherein he will confirm adults of our Diocese. Those to be confirmed are those adults who were baptized in the Roman Catholic Church, received their First Holy Communion, are catechized, but never confirmed. Please contact Fr. John Maria to discuss necessary instruction, and registration with the Bishop!



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

**A HEART OF COMPASSION: A Weekend Retreat**-June 07-09, St. Francis Retreat House, Easton. Journey with Boundless Compassion facilitators Joan Doherty, Sr. Meg Cole SSJ, and Peg Choinski as they explore various aspects of compassion. Register at [stfrancisretreathouse.org](http://stfrancisretreathouse.org) or call 610-258-3053 x0 to learn more.

**RETROUVAILLE:** Rediscover the Love in your Marriage. Thousands of couples have healed their marriages at Retrouvaille (*retru-vee*). Get help for marriage problems, difficulties or crises. Learn to build communication skills and increase intimacy. **Next weekend program: Aug. 09-11-18** 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)

**2025-PILGRIMAGE TO ITALY WITH BISHOP SCHLERT & FR. HOFFA:** **Tue. March 25, 2025-Sat. April 3, 2025.** The Diocese of Allentown Int'l Pilgrimage will "Follow the Footsteps of Saints Peter and Paul" through Florence, Assisi, and Rome. Sign up: Fr. Allen Hoffa [ahoffa@allentowndiocese.org](mailto:ahoffa@allentowndiocese.org) or 610-921-2729 x 2205.

**MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE:** Check out HGA Regional School's online lip sync competition entry to raise funds for Catholic schools in the Diocese of Allentown. The students had so much fun planning and filming their video! **Visit: [www.WeLoveOurCatholicSchools.com](http://www.WeLoveOurCatholicSchools.com)** to see the video and Cast Your Vote for HGA! Sharie with friends and support Diocesan Schools. Offline donations by cash/check also accepted thru May 31, 2024. Thank you!

## Daily Marriage Tip

Some arguments just aren't worth fighting. If you and your beloved have an ongoing disagreement, consider whether it's time to forgive and let this one go.

[foryourmarriage.org/daily-marriage-tips](http://foryourmarriage.org/daily-marriage-tips)

**Word of Life:** "The Lord says to us, 'Do not fear: I am with you' (Isaiah 41:10). He speaks these words not as one who merely observes our pain, but as one who experienced immense suffering. And the very wounds that bear witness to his suffering indicate the essence of our identity and worth: we are loved by God. Reflecting on the healed wounds of the Risen Christ, we see that even our most difficult trials can be the place where God manifests his victory. He makes all things beautiful. He makes all things new." ~ USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, "Be Not Afraid" NABRE © 2010 CCD. *Used with permission.*

### **HGA REGIONAL SCHOOL-KINDERGARTEN**

**REGISTRATION:** 2024-2025 school year registration is open! Learn more, contact Kelly Precht! [kelpre@hgaschool.org](mailto:kelpre@hgaschool.org)

### **EXPLORE \*NEW\* DIOCESAN EMPLOYMENT OPENINGS**

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

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

My brother-in-law is quite the handyman. I've seen his work around his house where he has altered this or that to customize his home for the better. I have a young friend who completely re-engineered an old truck's motor and wheels. I know a seamstress who turned a bolt of material into a canopy for a Eucharistic procession. When I asked them where they got their "how to" instructions, they all answered the same: from internet videos. Of course, the presumption is that they understood the given instructions.

On the higher plane than people's everyday skills, comes the all-important ability we all must make a return on the love that God has for us. The answer here predates the internet by centuries. The "manual," so to speak, is the Holy Bible. In it we find the passage from St. John's gospel that is proclaimed this weekend.

Jesus is our expert at this task. You just heard Him say that not only does His Father love Him, but also that He loves you, and hopefully me. All of us, "warts and all." But then comes the instruction on how to keep this love alive: "If you keep My commandments you will remain in My love, just as I have kept them and remain in His (the Father's) love. Speaking of love, don't you just love the simplicity of it?"

You know our Catholic Church has often been degraded by its many enemies as a place of "rules, rules, and rules." That may seem true from the outside looking in. But whatever specific rules we follow are all derivatives from this one command of Jesus to love one another applied to all aspects of human living.

Rules are necessary for order and peaceful living in any society. Just imagine your driving commute to work if there were no traffic rules! Worse still if there were no law enforcement agencies to enforce the rules. That brings up the whole idea of expressing our admiration and pledging our support for all the good men and women involved in law enforcement.

So yes, our Church has rules because Christ had them first. He has entrusted sinful human beings with administering them. It's historically true that often those same humans have made mistakes or even have sinned against them. Chaos followed. But for the good people like you who try consistently to obey God's rules, you are on the way to becoming "saints." That, after all, is our main project in the Christian life. We know the simple rule of Our Lord is not always easy to obey. But then it's always fulfilling.

"All have been given a bag of tools,  
A formless rock and a book of rules.  
And each must make ere life has flown,  
A stumbling block or a steppingstone."  
God love you and you Him in return.

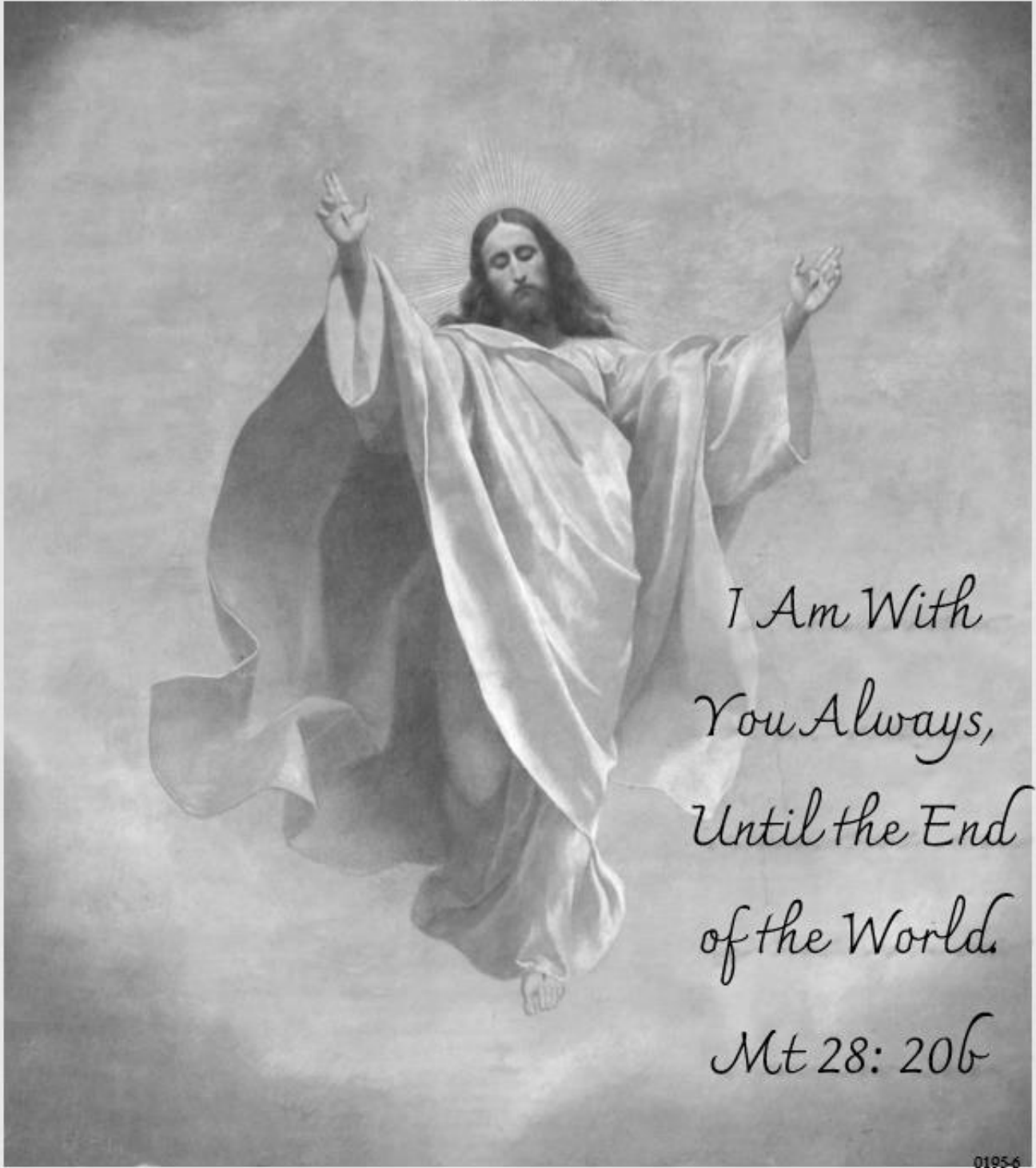
# Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord

May 09, 2024

Ascension Masses

7pm May 08

12n & 7pm May 09



*I Am With  
You Always,  
Until the End  
of the World.  
Mt 28: 20b*