

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
Permanent Deacon	Dcn. Howard Schultz
Coordinator/Religious Educ	Mrs. Ann Pergosky
Director of Music Ministry	Mrs. Anne Sitarik
and Parish Secretary	

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

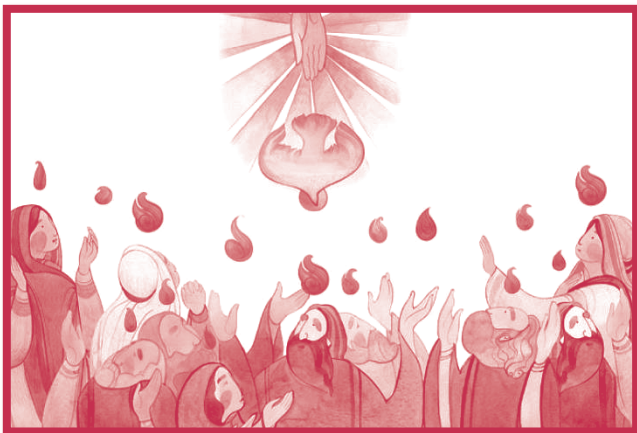
Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator:

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



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

SOLEMNITY OF PENTECOST, MAY 19, 2024

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

MASS Intentions

Mon 05-20	7:30a	Alma Haring
Tue 05-21	7:30a	James Schepers
Wed 05-22	7:30a	George and Elizabeth Smith
Thu 05-23	7:30a	William and Celestina Keller
Fri 05-24	7:30a	Hank Schepers
Sat 05-25	4:30p	John Voli
Sun 05-26	8:30a	Walter Opiekun
	11:00a	People of the Parish

Call the parish office to sponsor altar flowers in loving memory.

READINGS and CELEBRATIONS for the WEEK

Sun 05-19	Solemnity of Pentecost- Ac 2:1-11; 1 Co 12:3b-7, 12-13; Jn 20:19-23
Mon 05-20	Gn 3:9-15, 20 or Ac 1:12-14; Jn 19:25-34
Tue 05-21	Jas 4:1-10; Mk 9:30-37
Wed 05-22	Jas 4:13-17; Mk 9:38-40
Thu 05-23	Jas 5:1-6; Mk 9:41-50
Fri 05-24	Jas 5:9-12; Mk 10:1-12
Sat 05-25	Jas 5:13-20; Mk 10:13-16
Sun 05-26	Solemnity the Most Holy Trinity- Dt 4:32-34, 39-40; Ro 8:14-17; Mt 28:16-20

MUSIC MINISTRY

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

Collections last week:	OLG	Church	Expenses
Regular Collection	\$3,484.00	\$7,975.00	\$8,343.69
Building Fund	\$5.00	\$1,000.00	
Capital Campaign	\$145.00	\$855.00	
Parish Partnership	\$60.00	\$20.00	
Ascension Thursday	\$190.00	\$1,114.00	
Other Reg. Collections		\$1,290.00	

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



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



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

Contact office to update list: secretary@stmaryskutztown.com

"The piety of the Christian people has always very rightly sensed a profound link between devotion to the Blessed Virgin and worship of the Eucharist. Mary guides the faithful to the Eucharist." St. John Paul II

Please Pray for all those serving our nation

Keenan Albright	Charles Douglass	Nick Marakovits
Kyle Albright	Joseph Douglass	Melissa Marks
Michael Barron	Keith Essig	Laura Miller
Andrew Barthol	Ryan Flanagan	Spencer Morris
Frank M. Bieda	Kale Follweiler	Heather
John Boyer	Michael Allen Haak	O'Donnell
Matthew Boyer	Diane Henry	Menaka Nayyar &
Jonathan Cardé	Cmdr. Jason Hoch	Anthony Pirnot
Eric Cunningham	Joshua Joseph	Jake Schmeck
Timothy DeVall	Dan King	Phillip Talarico
Anthony DiPietro	James Knight	Steve Ziegler

Contact office to update list: secretary@stmaryskutztown.com

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

EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Sun 05.19 SOLEMNITY OF PENTECOST**
Catechetical brunch/closing prayer service,
9:45a
 Men of St. Mary's meeting, 10a
 Parish Mission: Adoration 12n-7p
 Parish Mission: Evening Prayer w/Fr. Searles, 7p
- Mon 05.20**
 Parish Mission: Adoration 8a-7p
 Parish Mission: Evening Prayer w/Fr. James, 7p
- Tue 05.21**
 Parish Mission: Adoration 8a-7p
 Parish Mission: Evening Prayer w/Fr. Kuna, 7p
- Thu 05.23 Music Ministry, 7p**
- Sat 05.25 Pray the Rosary, 4p**
 2nd Collection – Parish Partnership
 Homeless Pet supply collection, REC lot, 4p

EVENTS NEXT WEEK

- Sun 05.26 TRINITY SUNDAY**
 2nd Collection – Parish Partnership
 Homeless Pet supply collection, REC lot before
 Masses
- Mon 05.27 MEMORIAL DAY**
 Daily Mass, 9a
 Parish Office closed
- Tue 05.28 Faith Sharing, 10a**
- Wed 05.29 Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, 7-8p**
- Thu 05.30 Music Ministry, 7p**
- Sat 06.01 1ST SATURDAY Daily Mass, 8a**
 Pray the Rosary, 4p
 2nd Collection – Father's Day envelopes

EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINE: Submit items for June 02 by 12n May 22. *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.*

FOUND ITEM: A gold class ring (St. Matthew class of 1960?) has been found. To claim it contact the parish office.

"When we are before the Blessed Sacrament, let us open our heart; our good God will open his. We shall go to him; He will come to us; the one to ask, the other to receive. It will be like a breath from one to the other." *St. John Vianney*

BANNS OF ORDINATION: Rev. Mr. Nikolai R. Brelinsky, who has served as traditional deacon at St. Mary Church, Kutztown has been called to the Order of the Presbyterate by His Excellency, Alfred A. Schlert, D. D. Bishop of Allentown. Rev. Mr. Brelinsky will be ordained at the Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena, Allentown, on Saturday, June 01, 2024.



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. Thank you!

Parish Mission - May 19, 20 & 21!

Our St. Mary's Parish Mission is our special time to gather 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. Today we begin to keep her company in prayer before Her Divine Son, calling upon the Holy Spirit.

Each evening at 7pm, gather for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Evening Prayer, song and reflection. The Holy Hour will close with Benediction at 8pm. 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?

Please sign up! Find Sign-up sheets on the Gathering Area tables, as well as on the front page of the website. *Will you keep watch with Him?*

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION- FATHER JOHN MARIA

On the Feast of Pentecost, we celebrate the sending of the Holy Spirit upon the Church, equipping Her to proclaim the truth of Jesus Christ, to the ends of the earth.

In addition to the historical account from Acts 2, there are various options that the Church provides for reflection, including the story of the Tower of Babel from Genesis 11. In that passage, we find humanity pushing God out of the picture, and then experiencing the consequences – alienation from God brought alienation from one another, confusion of languages, isolation and division.

At the Incarnation of Christ, the Divine Word became flesh, so as to reconcile God and man. At the Cross, He conquered sin and death. At Pentecost, He sent the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles, enabling them to speak to people of all languages. He founded a Church that would be Catholic (which means "universal"), so that persons of every nation would find unity in the Person of Jesus Christ.

The Holy Spirit guides the Church, and desires to dwell within each heart. The Lord has thought of everything to facilitate our salvation! But the questions remain: Are our hearts truly docile to the Holy Spirit? Is YOUR heart open to His love and truth?

This week, pray for renewal of His Church, and open your heart to the Holy Spirit!



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

Dear Friends,

I want to thank you for your attention and interest as we have presented the 2024 *Because We Are Catholic Annual Appeal* the past few weeks.

I know that there are many obligations and concerns facing each of you and your families, but, as your Pastor, I want you to know that I support this effort. Every year, the Appeal provides the means to continue the mission that Christ has entrusted to us: to serve, to educate, to care for the poor and marginalized, and to be an inspiration of hope. The ministries, seminarians, retired priests, and programs that benefit from this effort allow us to fulfill our Diocesan Mission which is to be a Roman Catholic Family of Faith, centered in the Holy Eucharist, faithful to the Church's teaching, bringing the Light of Christ to each other, and to our community.

I am confident that together, with every family's participation, we can and will make a difference in furthering Christ's work on earth. Please take a few minutes to prayerfully consider making your commitment today by completing a pledge envelope. For those of you who have already made a gift, I thank you for your generosity. In a few moments I will ask the ushers to pick up all envelopes and pledge cards.

With gratitude

Father John Maria



PRAYER SQUARES: Please help yourself to a personal prayer square in the Gathering Area. The squares are hand-made by the parish's Handiwork from the Heart members, for you, for a friend, or a loved one.

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 | • No beds/pillows please |
| • 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.



The Relay for Life American Cancer Society for Kutztown and Eastern Berks County was held May 18th at Bowers Park. To make a donation for the St. Mary's Relay team send checks made out to The American Cancer Society to Tom Cengeri 321 Crystal Ridge Road Kutztown PA 19530. Thank you for your support.

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.



FAITH NIGHT AT THE READING

PHILLIES: Thurs. July 11. Tickets at

\$9 each, Green seats. Contact Tom

Cengeri by June 01 to reserve tickets: 610-207-5831. Mail checks to Tom Cengeri; 321 Crystal Ridge Rd, Kutztown, 19530. Fireworks will follow the game.

"Take pleasure in remaining in His company: do not lose this most precious time, for this hour is of the utmost value to the soul, and the Good Jesus desires you to spend it with him." St. Teresa of Avila

FRIENDSHIP MINISTRY: 2-4p, May 19 (3rd 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

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

EUCCHARISTIC MIRACLES EXHIBITION: May 24-25, by Vatican International, displaying Blessed Carlo Acutis' exhibits of Eucharistic miracles. Weekend Masses in Jim Thorpe, Immaculate Conception, 4p Sat.; 10:45a Sun. and 8:30a St. Joseph.

MEMORIAL DAY MASS/GETHSEMANE CEMETERY: 10a, Monday May 27. All are welcome.

FATIMA TOUR FOR PEACE: The following parishes will host the International Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Fatima:

May 27/28 - St. Ursula Parish, Fountain Hill

May 31 - St. Margaret Parish, Reading

June 1/2 - Annunciation BVM, Catasauqua- Sat: 3p Rosary & Procession; 4p Mass. Sun: 8/10:30a Mass, then speaker; 1:20; procession.

DINE OUT EVENT-HGA REGIONAL SCHOOL: May 29/30, 11:30a-7:30p Pizza Como, Muhlenberg. Mention HGA and the school will receive a portion of the profits! Thanks!

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 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

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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 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 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!

Word of Life: "Without a foundational, practical formation, it is difficult for our consciences to guide us well in concrete situations. As Catholics, we have the immense gift of the teaching authority of the Catholic Church and can turn to it for help forming our consciences. For example, learning about Christian moral principles, reading the Catechism of the Catholic Church, or researching what the Church says about a challenging teaching will help us grow in knowledge of the truth." ~ USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, "Understanding Conscience"

A NOVENA FOR LIFE honoring the FEAST OF THE VISITATION. May 22-30. Sign up: respectlife.org/visitation

HGA REGIONAL SCHOOL-KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION: 2024-2025 school year registration is open! Learn more, contact Kelly Precht: kelpre@hgaschool.org

ST FRANCIS CLASSICAL CATHOLIC ACADEMY: for Admission Inquiry appt, or Student Shadow experience visit WhySFCCA.com Prek & K space is limited. 3-12 part time options, and aftercare options for all enrolled students.

MAY 22:

DAY OF PRAYER & REMEMBRANCE FOR MARINERS & PEOPLE OF THE SEA

MARINER'S PRAYER

Our Lady, Star of the Sea, Mother of God and our Mother, you know all the dangers of soul and body that threaten mariners. Protect your sons and daughters who work and travel on the waters of the world, and protect also their families that await their return. Star of the Sea, Mother of the Church, give light and strength to those chaplains and lay ministers who bring the love of your Divine Son among mariners. Fill their hearts with a supernatural and life-giving zeal for the apostolate. Star of the Sea, light shining in the darkness, be a guide to those who sail amid the storms and dangers of life. Enlighten the hearts of ardent disciples and bring us all to the safety of heaven's port. Amen.



STELLA MARIS

REFLECTION... by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

We see and hear and all but feel the tremendous power of towering rockets aimed for long travel in space when we watch TV coverage of a launch from Cape Canaveral. This has happened so often that our initial fascination with this has waned considerably. We now have a country-wide "yawn" when such launchings happen since we've seen so many. Yet the fearsome power displays remain.

The Pentecost event involves divine power. It marks a departure from the usual quiet ways of God, if only for the duration of that wind that filled the house where the timid Apostles were hiding out. The fiery tongues over their heads were another frightening feature. We know the story well. Even more memorable was that reversal of Babylon when suddenly, many languages were heard and understood by everyone in the crowd that gathered outside.

The Holy Spirit made His case dramatically for sure. The worldwide Church of Christ was being born. It did so with a wonderful kind of power, the miraculous kind.

But the quieter and more customary pattern for divine appearances reappears when Christ reappears to His chosen on Easter evening, recorded for us in John's gospel excerpt for today. Jesus appears on to them suddenly but quietly, in a room with locked doors.

What an occasion for reprimand, were Jesus so inclined. He would have been entitled to same if He wanted to bring up their cowardly conduct 48 hours previous when they had mostly fled from Him. Young John was the sole and glorious exception who had stayed at the foot of the cross with the sorrowful Mother and her friends.

Instead, Jesus offers a gentle benediction; "Peace be with you." The disciples went from rejection to rejoicing. A foretaste of the warm reception we can experience when we make a good sacramental confession. There follows that humble display of the scars left on His hands and side from the horror of Roman crucifixion. Then His commissioning of them to preach and forgive sins.

All this power in its gentle form continues to be poured out into our enduring Church. That should encourage us to fulfill our responsibility to evangelize in the 21st century. We live now in a world that doesn't care much for the message of Jesus even though it's the only one replete with the truth that sets one free. Modern man will not easily dismount from his high horse of accepting only scientific truth as real. We know that. We also know that it is not an easy mission. But it never has been, right from the beginning. Even Jesus had to face opposition. So, dare we hope for less? Yet we have the conviction of its power when we simply consider Jesus' empty tomb and the definitive statement it makes about who wins in the end. Just don't look for praise because you won't often receive it.

One Sunday morning after Mass a woman came up to the pastor and thanked him for his encouraging homily that day. In response, the priest said, "Why, don't thank me, thank the Lord." She then replied, "Well, I thought of that, but it wasn't quite that good Father.

God love you, and Happy Pentecost!

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May 24, Annual Day of Prayer for the Church in China

Virgin Most Holy, Mother of the Incarnate Word and our Mother, venerated in the Shrine of Sheshan under the title “Help of Christian,” the entire Church in China looks to you with devout affection.

We come before you today to implore your protection.

Look upon the People of God and, with a mother’s care, guide them along the paths of truth and love, so that they may always be a leaven of harmonious coexistence among all citizens.

When you obediently said “yes” in the house of Nazareth, you allowed God’s eternal Son to take flesh in your virginal womb and thus to begin in history the work of our redemption.

You willingly and generously cooperated in that work, allowing the sword of pain to pierce your soul, until the supreme hour of the Cross, when you kept watch on Calvary, standing beside your Son, who dies that we might live.

From that moment, you became, in a new way, the Mother of all those who receive your Son Jesus in faith and choose to follow in his footsteps by taking up his Cross.

Mother of hope, in the darkness of Holy Saturday you journeyed with unfailing trust towards the dawn of Easter. Grant that your children may discern at all times, even those that are darkest, the signs of God’s loving presence.

Our Lady of Sheshan, sustain all those in China, who, amid their daily trials, continue to believe, to hope, to love.

May they never be afraid to speak of Jesus to the world, and of the world to Jesus.

In the statue overlooking the Shrine you lift your Son on high, offering him to the world with open arms in a gesture of love.

Help Catholics always to be credible witnesses to this love, ever clinging to the rock of Peter on which the Church is built.

Mother of China and all Asia, pray for us,
now and for ever. Amen!

Composed by Pope Benedict, XVI, May 24, 2008



Our Lady of Sheshan

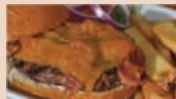
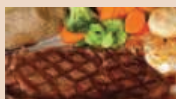
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ATTORNEY AT LAW

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SHOEMAKERSVILLE, PA 19555

Phone: 610-562-7125

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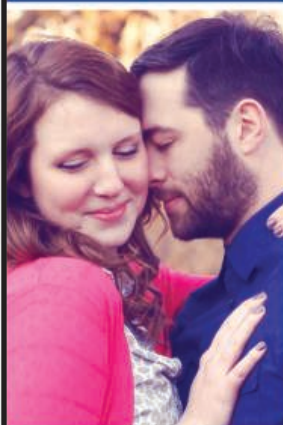
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