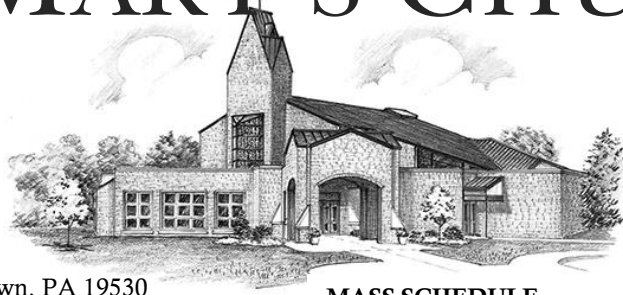


# ST MARY'S CHURCH



14833 Kutztown Road ▪ Kutztown, PA 19530

[www.StMarysKutztown.com](http://www.StMarysKutztown.com)

[www.facebook.com/stmaryskutztown](http://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<br>and Parish Secretary | Mrs. Anne Sitarik            |

## PARISH ORGANIZATIONS

|                   |                           |
|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Ladies Auxiliary  | Theresa Bieak & Deb Massa |
| Men of St. Mary's | Mr. Tom Cengeri           |
| O 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

*As for me and my household  
we will  
serve the  
Lord*  
*Joshua 24:15*

## **MASS SCHEDULE**

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| Saturday Vigil | 4:30 pm  |
| Sunday         | 8:30, 11:00am  |
| Daily Masses   | 7:30am (Monday – Friday)<br>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

21<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, AUGUST 25, 2024

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

0195-1

# MASS Intentions

|     |       |        |                           |
|-----|-------|--------|---------------------------|
| Mon | 08-26 | 7:30a  | Tucker family             |
| Tue | 08-27 | 7:30a  | John McDonnell            |
| Wed | 08-28 | 7:30a  | Jesse and Eleanor Painter |
| Thu | 08-29 | 7:30a  | In Thanksgiving           |
| Fri | 08-30 | 7:30a  | In Thanksgiving           |
| Sat | 08-31 | 4:30p  | Fr. Edward Morris         |
| Sun | 09-01 | 8:30a  | People of the Parish      |
|     |       | 11:00a | Dorothy Boyer             |

Call parish office to sponsor altar flowers in someone's memory

## READINGS and CELEBRATIONS for the WEEK

|     |       |   |
|-----|-------|---|
| Sun | 08-25 | 21 <sup>st</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time- Js 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b; Eph 5:21-32; Jn 6:60-69                |
| Mon | 08-26 | 2 Th 1:1-5, 11-12; Mt 23:13-22  |
| Tue | 08-27 | 2 Th 2:1-3a, 14-17; Mt 23:23-26   |
| Wed | 08-28 | 2 Th 3:6-10, 16-18; Mt 23:27-32   |
| Thu | 08-29 | 1 Co 1:1-9; Mk 6:17-29  |
| Fri | 08-30 | 1 Co 1:17-25; Mt 25:1-13  |
| Sat | 08-31 | 1 Co 1:26-31; Mt 25:14-30   |
| Sun | 09-01 | 22 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time- Dt 4:1-2, 6-8; Jas 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27; Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23 |

## MUSIC MINISTRY

### THIS WEEK

### NEXT WEEK

|        |                                   |                                      |
|--------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 4:30p  | Sitarik, Anne<br>Casey, Peggy     | DeWald, Heather<br>Casey, Peggy      |
| 8:30a  | Spanier, Chris<br>Cebenken, Steve | Skoronski, Nathan<br>Cebenken, Steve |
| 11:00a | Pirnot, Tom<br>Talarico, Tim      | Moore, Mark<br>Skoronski, Kate       |

## Collection info OLG In Church Expenses

|                        |            |            |               |
|------------------------|------------|------------|---------------|
| Regular Collection     | \$3,439.00 | \$3,710.20 | 08/11 & 08/18 |
| Building Fund          |            | \$1,000.00 | \$19,939.21   |
| Capital Campaign       | \$305.00   | \$20.00    |               |
| Parish Partnership     | \$90.00    | \$45.00    |               |
| National Shrine        |            | \$487.00   |               |
| Assumption Feast       | \$205.00   | \$1,090.00 |               |
| Other Reg. Collections |            | \$1,000.00 |               |



## 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 the parish office.

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



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

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

## 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 O'Donnell              |
| John Boyer       | Michael Allen Haak | Menaka Nayyar & Anthony Pirnot |
| Matthew Boyer    | Diane Henry        | Jake Schmeck                   |
| Jonathan Cardé   | Cmdr. Jason Hoch   | Phillip Talarico               |
| Eric Cunningham  | Joshua Joseph      | Steve Ziegler                  |
| Timothy DeVall   | Dan King           |                                |
| Anthony DiPietro | James Knight       |                                |

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

### EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Sun 08.25 21<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
Fr. N. R. Brelinsky celebrant at Masses  
2<sup>nd</sup> Collection-Parish Partnership
- Tue 08.27 Agapè Faith Sharing, 11a
- Wed 08.28 Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, 7-8p
- Thu 08.29 O.C.I.A. Info Nite, 7p
- Sat 08.31 Pray the Rosary, 4p  
2<sup>nd</sup> Collection – Missionary Co Op

### EVENTS NEXT WEEK

- Sun 09.01 22<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
2<sup>nd</sup> Collection – Missionary Co Op
- Mon 09.02 LABOR DAY  
*Parish Office Closed*
- Tue 09.03 Faith Sharing, 10a  
Bake Cookies, 12n  
Ladies Auxiliary Covered Dish mtg, 6p
- Wed 09.04 Handiwork from the Heart, mtg., 10a  
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, 7-8p
- Thu 09.05 (*Rescheduled*) Liturgy Committee mtg., 8:45a  
Music Ministry, 7p
- Fri 09.06 Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, 8-9a
- Sat 09.07 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday daily Mass, 8a  
Pray the Rosary, 4p  
2<sup>nd</sup> Collection – Capital Improvements

**BULLETIN DEADLINE:** Submit items for by Monday prior to Sunday, *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.*

### RELIGIOUS EDUC. REGISTRATION now open!

Classes begin Sept. 15.

To get started visit:

[www.stmaryskutztown.com/prep-at-st-marys/  
register now!](http://www.stmaryskutztown.com/prep-at-st-marys/register%20now!)

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR St. Mary's Church picnic-12:30-4p Sept. 15.



**DO YOU HAVE A FEW HOURS** to spare to make pierogies (*for the Nov. 2 Holiday Bazaar*) the Sept. Mondays after Labor Day? Help is needed for a few shifts, and everyone is done by 2p. Haven't helped before?? Friends will 'catch you up', *lunch provided.* Make new friends! Mary Alkons-610-683-5443



**LADIES** The annual Holiday Bazaar, Nov 02, showcases parishioners' talents. Donate handcrafted items - fabric, wood, paper, yarn, etc., small items, using materials you already have, make splendid additions to the Ladies Auxiliary craft table. Bring items to the REC the week before the bazaar. All proceeds benefit the Ladies Auxiliary/St. Mary's Church. Questions? Frances Larash: 610-683-3675



### MISSION COOPERATIVE-DIVINE WORD

**MISSIONARIES:** Divine Word Missionaries face the need of, and act in, countries all over the world. Support our 2024 Mission Co Op partner Aug 31/Sept. 01

**THE NEXT PARISH DIRECTORY:** For many years, St. Mary's has published a parish directory every five years or so. This has been a great way for parishioners to stay connected. To keep this tradition alive, we seek a group of people to help create the next directory. Lifetouch went out of business during the pandemic while working on our 2020 directory, but there are other companies now available.

The directory team will work with a photo directory company to organize photo sessions and content. Fr. John will assist the team by suggesting potential companies and giving input on the directory content. We aim to start in early fall with a release hoped for 2025. As always, extra hands make for lighter work! We seek a small team, including a chair or co-chairs. If interested, please email Fr. John: [pastor@stmaryskutztown.com](mailto:pastor@stmaryskutztown.com) and he will gather a team, and plan a meeting.



Remember in your Prayers Julie Belle Meares and Steven G. Woods. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. Amen

### **SCRIPTURE REFLECTION- FR. JOHN MARIA**

Our Scripture readings for the 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time remind us that following the will of God is not always comfortable. It often involves rejecting the mainstream and accepting truths that are very difficult.

After Moses had died, Joshua led the covenant people of God into the promised land. He reminded the leaders of the tribes that God had already delivered them from false gods. In this new chapter of their history, they would be faced with a choice: cave in to the surrounding culture, or remain faithful to the Lord. In a dramatic scene, Joshua states his own intention: "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord!"

In the Gospel, Jesus had just given stark and authoritative teaching: Those who desire life in Him must eat His flesh and drink His blood. Some of His own larger group of disciples found this to be a "hard saying," and no longer followed Him. Jesus did not call them back or modify His teaching to suit them. This was a truth that was not up for negotiation.

In our individualistic culture, we can be tempted to devise the faith according to our own liking and current fashions – to choose beliefs that are easy and acceptable to the mainstream, and to downplay or reject others that are difficult. This has never been the way of the Lord – neither in the Old Testament, nor in the New. The Lord calls us to accept Him and His teaching with humble faith, even when it is difficult. Let us pray for clarity and grace to follow His will! He can be trusted!



Come Follow Me

**THE LORD CALLS EVERY SOUL TO KNOW HIS LOVE AND MERCY.** Each of us is called to strive to know Him in the *fullness* of Truth; not *settle* for partial truths, passing fads or imitations that won't satisfy our heart's longing.

He founded His Church upon the Rock of Peter to teach with His authority. He sent the apostles forth to baptize in the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. He entrusted these truths and graces to the Catholic Church.

**Do you have a friend or loved one who is open to hearing this call of Christ, and to being received into the Catholic Church? Might YOU be that someone who's been a friend of St. Mary's parish, but have hesitated to take the step toward becoming Catholic?**

**Jesus is still calling!** Weekly meetings begin in Sept. There is no pressure or obligation to commit immediately.

The **Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA)** is a prayer and study journey, culminating in union with Christ at Easter 2025.

**For more info, no need to wait 'til Sept!** Attend an OCIA EARLY BIRD Session 7pm, Thursday Aug. 29, Rm. 117/122 in the Rel. Ed. Center. Contact Fr. John Maria: 610-683-7443. We'd love for you to join us!

**DIVORCE RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUP:** 9-10a, the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturdays, monthly; next meeting Sept 07 at St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Whitehall. Meet in 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of parish office. If you suffer a divorce or separation, or grieve a past divorce, join prayer and conversation. Learn more: 505-688-8663.

**DAILY MASSES WITH BISHOP SCHLERT, BECAUSE WE ARE CATHOLIC:** All are invited to celebrate with the Bishop: Sept. 12, 8:00a - Holy Guardian Angels, Reading

**YOUR LIFE RETREAT** Malvern Retreat House. For men (Sept 06-08) and women (Sept. 13-15) a period of refreshment, support, and reassurance. Learn and focus on the gift of your life—reflect, and improve personal communion with the Lord. Info: Anthony Scarselletti, [OLPH.ascarselletti@gmail.com](mailto:OLPH.ascarselletti@gmail.com) or 610-393-4671

**CASINO NIGHT:** 6-10p, Sept. 13 at Sts. Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Banquet Hall, Wyomissing. **Proceeds benefit Mary's Shelter.** Tickets: \$80pp/\$150 couples; Must be 21 and older. Sponsorships available. Info/tickets: 610-603-8010 / [www.marysshelter.org/casino](http://www.marysshelter.org/casino)

**MATT MAHER CONCERT:** 7p, Sept 15, Notre Dame HS, hosted by United Hearts Life Mission. Hear this 9-time Grammy nominee. Proceeds benefit United Hearts Life Mission life-affirming care in Lehigh Valley. Tickets: [www.itickets.com/events/479761](http://www.itickets.com/events/479761)

**HERE I AM! SEND ME:** Sept 16, St. Francis Retreat House. Monday mini-retreat; 6p dinner; 7-9p presentation. By Sept 06 register: [www.stfrancisretreathouse.org/retreats/](http://www.stfrancisretreathouse.org/retreats/)

**DIOCESAN ANNIVERSARY MASS:** 3p, Sunday Sept 22. Doors open 2p. Each year the Diocese of Allentown offers a Mass for married couples celebrating a milestone anniversary at the cathedral. Couples are invited to renew their vows and thank God for the gift of the Sacrament of Marriage. Info: [rtulloch@allentowndiocese.org](mailto:rtulloch@allentowndiocese.org) and RSVP: [www.allentowndiocese.org/anniversarymass](http://www.allentowndiocese.org/anniversarymass)

**PENNSYLVANIA MARCH FOR LIFE:** Assemble on the steps of our state capitol in Harrisburg on Monday, Sept. 23 for the 2024 PA March for Life for a 10a concert; an 11a rally; and 12n march. Learn more or register for updates: [marchforlife.org/pennsylvania/](http://marchforlife.org/pennsylvania/)

**KNOW THE FACTS - VOTER REGISTRATION IN PA:**


Are you registered to vote? If not, here's how. Check with your county voter registration office. The last day to register is usually a month before the election.

Individuals applying to register to vote must be:

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

**Details about voting in PA:** [www.votespa.com](http://www.votespa.com)

**Holiday Bazaar Cookies:** Rolled, decorated cookies are very popular at the Holiday Bazaar. Here's an *easy* recipe. **Donate cookie dough to REC in time for baking** 12n-3p Tuesdays Sept 03—Oct 08. Call Carm 610-683-5931 or Valetta: 610-926-3910.

ABC Cookies 

|           |                     |                       |
|-----------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 5 c flour | 3 eggs              | 1 tsp cream of tartar |
| 2 c sugar | 1 tsp baking soda   | ½ tsp vanilla         |
|           | ¾ lb. melted butter |                       |

Mix all ingredients together and divide into 3 patties. Wrap in waxed paper and chill overnight. Roll out and cut into shapes. Decorate & bake, 350° for 8-10 minutes.

**HGA REGIONAL SCHOOL DINE OUT EVENT:** 3-9p, Aug 28 at Margherita's Pizza, 3600 Kutztown Rd, Reading, 19605. Mention HGARS and your purchase supports the school!

**MASS WITH BISHOP SCHLERT-MEMORIAL OF ST. MONICA:** 6p, Aug. 27, St. Theresa Church, 1408 Easton Rd, Hellertown. Join as we pray for the return to the Church of our fallen-away loved ones. Buffet dinner in Friendship Hall follows, dinner tkts \$7 per person. RSVP: [stmonicaministry27@gmail.com](mailto:stmonicaministry27@gmail.com)

**HISPANIC MEN'S CONFERENCE (in Spanish)** We invite the entire community of Hispanic men to the Men's Conference taking place 7a-3p, Sept. 7, at St Mary's Parish in Hamburg. *This conference will be entirely in Spanish.* Bishop Schlert will celebrate the 8a Mass. Presenters: Fr. Eder Estrada, Fr. Eduardo Rodriguez and Fr. Angel Garcia. Register: [allentowndiocese.flocknote.com/signup/169404](http://allentowndiocese.flocknote.com/signup/169404) Info: Freddy Morales, [freddymorales1533@yahoo](mailto:freddymorales1533@yahoo), Felix Pereira, [borinken.fp@gmail.com](mailto:borinken.fp@gmail.com).

### **BONUS REFLECTION! - EPHESIANS 5 – FATHER JOHN**

For this Sunday, there are two options for the second reading from St. Paul. One of which is Ephesians 5:21-32. A recent study revealed that 90% of all rib and elbow injuries among Catholics occur during Mass where this passage from Ephesians is read. Apparently, it begins with husbands nudging their wives, and then, things escalate quickly.

This is a challenging reading for modern ears. But we need to be reminded that this is no mere storybook, or even a script from a 1950's TV show, but the inspired Word of God – out of ancient contexts, we receive timeless truth – but sometimes it takes a little work.

In this reading, there are two ideas that serve as interpretive keys for the whole passage. First, we have the initial verse that is so often missed. “Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ.” (Eph 5:21) In the larger context, Paul is telling the Ephesians to renounce pagan ways, and this verse is his transition to his particular discussion of the Christian family. Be subject to one another. The phrase “be subject” or “be subordinate” might be better translated as “defer to,” because it suggests a mutual attitude that is voluntary. It is meant to be reciprocal, but it is not identical. Men and women are absolutely equal in dignity, yet they possess unique gifts and different roles. We have been created by God to be male and female, made to be complementary for living in communion.

With that initial verse understood, we can better understand the second big key of the passage: the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony is meant to image the love between Christ and His Bride, the Church. This relationship is about total self-giving. Christ the Bridegroom was willing to suffer and die for love of His Bride. The Church flows from His pierced side, and follows Him in the way of sacrificial love.

So these two key themes – the call to mutual deference, and imitation of the love of Christ and the Church – show that any interpretation of this passage that suggests domination is tragically wrong. Domination and resentment are the consequences of original sin. They're like poison. The antidote is self-giving Love that pours itself out in humility.

These key themes should then guide our understanding of the tough parts of this passage. Husbands are called to imitate Christ, who did not dictate or abuse, but emptied Himself, that His Church might be saved. He cleanses and sanctifies, loving His Church as His own Body.

Gentlemen, this is what you're called to imitate. Still nudging her in the ribs?

Wives are called to defer to their husbands, to respect and be subject. This is not about duress or even passivity, but an active expression of love. Another interesting note about the term “be subject.” It is also used by St. Paul to describe the relation of Christ, to God the Father. The Divine Persons of the Trinity are equal. Between them, there is no competition. So it is with husband and wife.

Similarly, the husband is called to be Head in the family, just as God the Father is Head of His Divine Son. So when the Church refers to husband and wife as Head and Heart, this is NOT a call to domination and resentment. This

analogy of “head and heart in ONE flesh” is a call to communion. Men and women are equal in dignity, but different in roles. They work together, as they pour out themselves to one another in marriage, in life-giving love.

**EXPLORE DIOCESAN EMPLOYMENT OPENINGS:**  
[www.allentowndiocese.org/about/employment](http://www.allentowndiocese.org/about/employment)

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

The cause of our disappointment can be anything from a car to a carnival; a rest stop or a restaurant; a movie or a meeting. The frustration with whatever letdown happened ultimately makes us say, at least to ourselves, “I’m never going to buy, or buy into, that item again.

Something akin to that decision must have formed in the minds and hearts of many of Our Lord’s early followers on that fateful day when He announced the Eucharist. It was altogether “too much” for them to accept what He said. Time to walk away, back to their former way of life.

In the wake of their shuffling sandals and their overheard murmurs, the Apostles were stunned into silence and confused by the mystery. Then Jesus asked: “Do you also want to leave?” For a few moments, there was a “loud silence,” if you get my meaning. The birds still chirped overhead; the breeze still tousled their hair; images still troubled their thoughts. Eating flesh and drinking blood broke every law of Moses they knew.

But in the nick of time, our bold, brash, and impetuous first pope St. Peter broke the silence and asked the same question we sometimes ask, “Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.” Indeed, He did and still does forever.

Yet, here was the perfect opportunity for Jesus to ease their minds and say: “My people, I was only speaking figuratively!” Or “I mean for the bread and wine to be symbols. Not my actual body and blood!” But He never did. In fact, that mistaken understanding is the very one that anchors every non-Catholic Christian church up to today. With due respect for the goodness in those churches, their founders exemplify what happens when hearers of the truth don’t like what they hear.

The Bible stands strong here, when human weakness finds this teaching of Jesus unacceptable. How ironic that fundamentalists, who prefer to take literally what they read in Scripture, will not do so with words that Jesus said on Holy Thursday night.

At any rate, here is a powerful quote from the talk that Pope St. John Paul II gave at Phoenix Park during his three-day visit to Ireland in the Fall of 1979. He unknowingly but prophetically describes the situation we find right now in our own country:

“When the moral fiber of a nation is weakened, when the sense of personal responsibility is diminished, then the door is open for the justification of injustices, for violence in all its forms and for the manipulation of the many by the few. The challenge that is already with us is the temptation to accept as true freedom what in reality is only a new form of slavery. And so, it becomes all the more urgent to steep ourselves in the truth that comes from Christ...It is especially in the Eucharist that the power and the love of the Lord are given to us”

Thank you, St. John Paul, for pointing out the locus of true Love.

*Save the Date!*



**Fundraiser Night**  
**6-8p, Wed. Sept 11**  
478 W Main St,  
Kutztown

**Mention St. Mary's *Sept. 11* and  
20% of your purchase will  
support St. Mary's Ladies  
Auxiliary. Come out & enjoy!**



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

0195-6