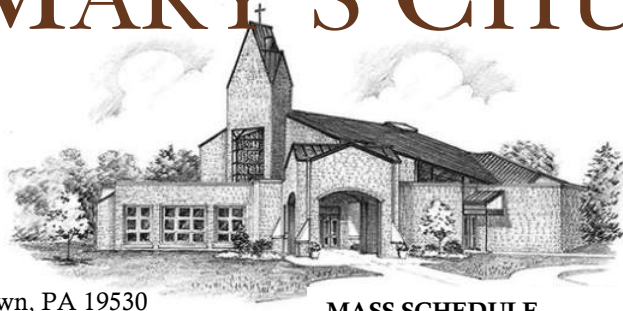


ST MARY'S CHURCH



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 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

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

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has similarly been tested in every way, yet without sin. He 4:15

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

29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, OCTOBER 20, 2024

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

MASS Intentions

Mon	10-21	7:30a	John T. Tucker
Tue	10-22	7:30a	Margaret Nolan
Wed	10-23	7:30a	Andrew Romansky
Thu	10-24	7:30a	Intentions of Mehlretter family
Fri	10-25	7:30a	Julie Belle Meares
Sat	10-26	4:30p	Kathy Swoyer
Sun	10-27	8:30a	Robert Spezialetti
		11:00a	Joseph Andros, Jr.

Altar flowers in memory of Tom and Jane Quirk this week

READINGS and CELEBRATIONS for the WEEK

Sun	10-20	29 th Sunday Ordinary time-	Is 53:10-11; He 4:14-16; Mk 10:35-45
Mon	10-21	Eph 2:1-10; Lk 12:13-21	
Tue	10-22	Eph 2:12-22; Lk 12:35-38	
Wed	10-23	Eph 3:2-12; Lk 12:39-48	
Thu	10-24	Eph 3:14-21; Lk 12:49-53	
Fri	10-25	Eph 4:1-6; Lk 12:54-59	
Sat	10-26	Ro 4:13, 16-18; Lk 12:8-12	
Sun	10-27	30 th Sunday Ordinary Time-	Eph 4:7-16; Lk 13:1-9

MUSIC MINISTRY

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

Income OLG In Church Expenses

Income	OLG	In Church	Expenses
Regular Collection	\$2,979.00	\$5,899.05	\$9,587.80
Building Fund	\$5.00	\$1,000.00	
Capital Campaign	\$150.00	\$1,138.00	
Parish Partnership	\$20.00	\$160.00	
Hurricane Relief	\$605.00	\$5,242.00	
Other Reg. Collections	\$145.00	\$170.00	



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 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
Greg Bradford	Linda Haurus	Ed Pilarski
Monica Bradford	Kathy Henry	Pat Regensburger
Bradford family	Glenn Hertzog	Rosemarie Reimert
William G. Brady	Lillian Karch	Bill Pettit
Nadia Cahill	Michael Karch	Kerry Rauen Zahn
Meaghan Clark	Joanne Kear	Patrick Ritter
David Covey	Jane Kern	Megan Roth
Nancy Devlin-Litinsky	Milton Kern	Nina Hertzog
Dave Ebling	Carol Korbe	Rundle
Trent Eidle	John Korbe	Richard Rusconi
Patricia Farabaugh	Henry Kryeski	Tina Scatamacchia
Ashley Geidner	Edward & Rosemary Law	Jim Sherman
Farhat	Rick Lewis	Barbara Shidisky
Paula Fehlinger	Julie Lindsey	Tracy Snyder
Florentine Firlein	Eva Malanczuk	Nicole Sosik
Joey Flecher	Dennis Martinsen	Arlene Stadalnik
Tammy G.	Barry, Sharon Miller	Todd Tanis
Joe Galantino	Elaine O. Miller	Ralph Touch
Michelle Galantino	Geoff Miller	Amy Turko
Sandra George	Shannon Morris	Christine VanDoorn
Lucy Ginsiorsky	Nikolette Nolte	Paul Vasko
Ken Gorski		Bonnie Wessner
		Colleen Wolff

Contact office to update list: 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
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 10.20 29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**
2nd Collection – World Missions
Free-Will *no envelope* collection-Hurricane Helene Relief
Parish Breakfast served, 8:30a-11a
Youth Mass, 8:30a
Holiday Bazaar book/ White elephant drop offs, after Masses this weekend
- Mon 10.21 Kitchen Help: Turkey Noodle Soup, 10a**
Holiday bazaar book/ white elephant drop off 9a-8p
- Tue 10.22 Faith Sharing, 10a**
Holiday bazaar book/ white elephant drop off 9a-8p
- Wed 10.23 Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, 7-8p**
Holiday bazaar book/ white elephant drop off 9a-8p
- Thu 10.24 Music Ministry, 7p**
O.C.I.A., see Fr. John for time/location
Holiday bazaar book/ white elephant drop off 9a-8p
- Fri 10.25 Mary's Café-Special Edition, 6:30p**
Holiday bazaar book/ white elephant drop off 9a-8p
- Sat 10.26 Pray the Rosary, 4p**
Altar Server training, 9a-10:30a
2nd Collection – Parish Partnership
Holiday bazaar book/ White elephant drop off after Masses this weekend, (10/27 last day)

EVENTS NEXT WEEK

- Sun 10.27 30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**
2nd Collection – Parish Partnership
Elementary Religious Educ., 9:40a
Holiday bazaar book/ White elephant drop off after Masses this weekend, (10/27 last day)
Holiday Bazaar SET UP, 12n
Junior High Ministry, 6p
- Mon 10.28 Kitchen help, Turkey Rice Soup, 10a**
- Tue 10.29 Faith Sharing, 10a**
- Wed 10.30 Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, 7-8p**
- Thu 10.31 Make Haluski, 10a**
Vigil Mass for All Saints, 5:30p
- Fri 11.01 Parish Office Closed**
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, 8-9a
All Saints Day Masses, 12n and 7p
- Sat 11.02 All Souls Day Mass, 8a**
Holiday Bazaar, 8:30a-2:30p
Bazaar Clean-up help, 2:30p
Pray the Rosary, 4p

BULLETIN DEADLINE: Submit items for December bulletins at least two weeks in advance. *Thank you!*

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.*

BAPTISM WORKSHOP 7p, Dec. 03 and 10. Contact Ann Pergosky to register/for info: 610-683-6454

HOLIDAY BAZAAR DONATION DATES:

Please bring books/white elephant donations
ONLY SAT. 10/19 THRU SUN. 10/27. Thanks!



BREAKFAST IS SERVED Sunday Oct. 20, 8:30-11a in the Social Hall. Come and enjoy fellowship or get involved! Suzanne: 610-334-5385 or midas8@msn.com

MARY'S CAFÉ-SPECIAL EDITION: 6:30p, Friday, 10/25 in the REC, all are invited to join Dcn. Howard. Our topic will be "Purgatory: The Forgotten Church."

The Catholic teaching on "Purgatory" is often misunderstood by those outside the Church, and even by those inside as well! Friday 10/25 Deacon Howard hosts a video on "Purgatory: The Forgotten Church" produced by EWTN and faithfully presents the Church's teaching. Q&A to follow!

"Mary's Café" is a great opportunity to get together with others in the parish, and grow in your faith. The talk is informal and informative. Light refreshments will be available. Hope to see you 6:30p, Friday, Oct. 25 in the REC!



HURRICANE RELIEF COLLECTION: At the direction of Bishop Schlerl St. Mary's has a free-will, no envelope collection basket for recovery efforts in the South-Eastern US from Hurricanes Helene and Milton. Online Givers may use the fund "Special Diocesan Collection". Catholic Charities will disburse all money received. **Please make checks payable to St. Mary's, by Nov. 03.** Thank you.

WE CONGRATULATE Austin and Katie Bower who were wed in holy matrimony last week. May their marriage witness a lifetime of love, happiness and dreams fulfilled in the sight of God.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION- FR. JOHN MARIA

The readings for the 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time remind us that God's ways are not our ways. As Christians, we often take staggering mysteries for granted. We believe and celebrate year after year that God has become man, in the humility of the manger at Bethlehem. We believe and celebrate year after year that the Incarnate Son of God died on the cross.

Think about that. Christianity is the only world religion that teaches that God underwent suffering for the sake of His creatures. And still, we struggle to see the implications of these great mysteries in our lives. Like James and John in the Gospel, we all tend to revert to worldly ways of viewing power and authority, and suffering.

We should take time to be in awe of the utter uniqueness of Christ, and to be thankful that he founded the Church to faithfully proclaim His death and resurrection.

This week, let's strive with all our hearts to be more closely united to Jesus, who is at once the Great High Priest and the Suffering Servant, both Priest and Victim in the greatest sacrifice of love. In the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, we enter into that mystery of love.

May we faithfully offer up our sufferings in prayer, united with His suffering on the cross!

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



Sept/Oct we're busy preparing the delicious food you can purchase at the annual Holiday Bazaar, Nov. 2. Walk-in helpers welcome! Call Mary Alkons for info: 610-683-5443. Here is the food prep schedule:

Mon	Oct 21	10a	Turkey Noodle Soup
Mon	Oct 28	10a	Turkey Rice Soup
Thu	Oct 31	10a	Haluski (<i>Bring electric fry pan?</i>)
Fri	Nov 01	10-3p	Set-up
Sat	Nov 02	7:30a-3:30p	Bazaar kitchen help: sign-up for help thru-out the day

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.



CALLING ST. MARY'S BAKERS: Consider sharing your baking talent at the Holiday Bazaar. Bring your favorite baked good—cake, brownies, pie, breads—to the REC Baked Goods Room **Friday, 9a-5p, Nov. 01.** Info-Valetta: 610-568-4985

RELIGIOUS ITEMS FROM THE WAY TO EMMAUS: The Holiday Bazaar sponsors a table of items from The Way To Emmaus store annually. Merchandise will include Sunday Missals for the new year, Advent calendars, rosaries and other religious items and books on consignment; a percent of sales proceeds benefiting the church. To request items to be considered for this table call Frances Larash by Oct. 28 for possible inclusion, 610-683-3675.

A Word About: World Missions

On this World Mission Sunday today, it's important to remember the legacy of missionary work. The Church in the United States was once mission territory, supported by the generosity of Catholics worldwide. Today, we continue this legacy by supporting the Pontifical Mission Societies, ensuring that the Gospel reaches the ends of the earth.

Our contributions help build and sustain communities of faith in places where the Church is still growing or facing persecution. This mission is a testament to our faith in action, reflecting the universal call to share Christ's love. As we reflect on this year's theme, "Go and invite everyone to the banquet," let us recommit to supporting our global Church family.

Your support this week is most appreciated

SOLEMNITY of ALL SAINTS: Nov. 01 – on this day



November 1st

we celebrate the lives and work of the vast majority of the saints of heaven who do not have a specific feast day. Celebrate the lives of the lives of these models of our faith at 5:30p Oct. 31, 12n and 7p Nov. 01. We have the obligation of attending Mass on this day.

COMMEMORATION of ALL SOULS: 8a, Nov. 02. We



will pray for our beloved dead, and pray for the redemption of all souls waiting sanctification and moral perfection. Join in prayer for your beloved who have died.

MASS INTENTIONS: As Catholics we believe souls united in Christ remain connected-even after death, seek the prayers of the saints, and pray for the souls of loved ones who have died in Christ. It's a most powerful prayer and act of love to request Mass be offered for the souls of loved ones.

The 2025 Mass book is open for Saturday/Sunday and weekday Mass requests. Contact the parish office to schedule a mass intention. Because of the increased demand for scheduled Masses:

- † The book is open for the whole year until dates are full.
- † Please request no more than 1 weekend Mass per month.
- † There are no limitations on daily Masses.
- † Personal Mass intentions not available for: Holy Thursday, Easter, Christmas, Mothers' nor Father's Day

ARE YOU A SNOWBIRD? If you travel south for the winter, inform the parish office (phone/email). We'll put a hold on mailings until you return. Bon voyage!



“Responsible citizenship is a virtue, and participation in the political life is a moral obligation.”

PA Catholic Conference

KNOW THE FACTS - VOTER REGISTRATION IN PA:

Registered to vote? No? Check your county voter registration office. **The last day to register for November 2024 elections is Oct. 21.**

Details about voting in PA: www.votespa.com

THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY AND THE ROSARY:

6p, Oct. 20, Queenship of Mary, Northhampton. Presenter: Fr. Wade Menezes, CPM, TB hose and writer for National Catholic Reporter, and other publications.



HOLIDAY BAZAAR

Sponsored by St. Mary's Ladies Auxiliary
Saturday, Nov 2 ~ 8:30 am-2:30 pm

VOLUNTEERS & DONATIONS URGENTLY NEEDED:

Set up: Stacey Breiner, 484-769-0318

- **Sunday, Oct 27 starting at 12 pm**
- Oct 28-Nov 1, various hours

Help during the Bazaar: Stacey Breiner, 484-769-0318

Tear down/clean up when Bazaar ends: Tom Cengeri, 610-207-5831, or Stacey Breiner, 484-769-0318

Serve food during the Bazaar: Mary Alkons, 610-683-5443

DROP OFF packing material in marked boxes in church Gathering Area & Religious Ed. Bldg.

DROP OFF gently used White Elephant Items, Collectibles & Books (please, *NO encyclopedias, dictionaries or VHS tapes*):

- Sat-Sun, Oct 19-20, 26-27, after Masses
- Mon, Oct 21, 9a-4p; Tues-Wed, Oct. 22-23, 9a-8p; Thur-Fri, Oct. 24-25, 9a-4p

HELP ORGANIZE & SELL

White Elephant: Cindy Krutsick, 610-987-0795

Books: Marcia & Steve Zettle, 610-944-1838

Auxiliary Table of Handmade Items: Frances Larash, 610-683-3675

Baked Goods (*home-baked items ONLY*): Valetta Eshbach, 610-568-4985 (label items; put your name on returnable containers)

Cookies: Carm Sosik, 610-683-5931

CASH & GIFT BASKET RAFFLES

Tickets sold *after Masses Oct 12, 13, 19, 20, 26 & 27* and at the Bazaar.

****Please return tickets mailed to you.****



***Please help us continue our parish's
Holiday Bazaar traditions!***

SUPPORT HGA REGIONAL SCHOOL: Donate \$5 and get **25% off shopping pass** for Boscov's Friends Helping Friends sale, date **Oct. 22**. Contact 610-929-4124 or email HolyGuardianAngelsRegionalSchool.square.site

ANGELORUM Women's Diocesan choir: 3p, Oct. 27 at Notre Dame of Bethlehem Church. Enjoy hymns honoring our Blessed Mother and her Son. Angelorumvoices.com
Info: bevmcdevitt2@gmail.com

ELECTION CANDLELIGHT PRAYER SERVICE: 6:30p; Oct. 29, Assumption B.V.M., Bethlehem. Join in prayer for the election process. Info: Mary 610-867-7424 x16

DIVORCE RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUP: 9-10a, Nov 02, St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Whitehall 2nd floor of parish office. Suffering a divorce or separation, or perhaps grieving a past divorce? Join us for prayers, donuts and conversation. *Bring your own coffee*. Info 505 688-8663.

LIVING WITH LOSS: 6 week grief support group, 6-7:30p, beginning Nov. 04 at Ludwick Funeral Homes, 333 Greenwich St, Kutztown. Find help and hope and meet others living with loss. Facilitator MaryAnn Hamm. No cost to attend. Please register at 610-683-8111.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE CAMPAIGN: The International 40 Days for Life Campaign began Sept. 25 and runs until Nov. 3. No sidewalk counseling experience is needed. The goal of this campaign is to simply be present in prayer and fasting. Your presence outside the clinic can make abortions go down by as much as 75%. This feedback comes directly from former abortion facility workers.

Join at Prayer at the Allentown Planned Parenthood- email Mary Vigilante schedule40dfl@gmail.com Going out for the first time? To be connected with a buddy email Annaleigh.Gidosh@gmail.com

WOMEN'S ADVENT RETREAT: 9a-1p, Dec. 14 at St. Francis of Assisi, Allentown, FINDING HOPE THROUGH PRAYER hosted by Bishp's Commission for Women. Register by Nov. 26. \$15 pp; Rtulloch@allentowndiocese.org

WORD OF LIFE: "I would now like to say a special word to women who have had an abortion. The Church is aware of the many factors which may have influenced your decision, and she does not doubt that in many cases it was a painful and even shattering decision. The wound in your heart may not yet have healed. ...But do not give in to discouragement and do not lose hope. ...The Father of mercies is ready to give you his forgiveness and his peace in the Sacrament of Reconciliation." ~ Pope Saint John Paul II, Evangelium vitae, no. 99. © 1995, Libreria Editrice Vaticana. Used with permission. All rights reserved.

OCTOBER IS RESPECT LIFE MONTH: Join thousands of Catholics praying a **Respect Life Month novena Tuesday, October 22 – Wednesday, October 30**. Get daily prayers, reflections, and more. Sign up at respectlife.org/celebrate

DIOCESAN-WIDE BLOOD DRIVE: Miller-Keystone Blood Center and the Diocese of Allentown are hosting a diocese-wide blood drive in honor of Saint Januarius, the patron saint of blood banks. We are encouraged to donate blood at one of MKBC's donor centers beginning on the Feast Day of Saint Januarius, Sept. 19- Dec. 16, one of the miracle dates of his blood liquification. In addition to saving lives, all donors who provide the parish's Sponsor Code "4547" at the time of their appointment will receive a Saint Januarius medallion, blessed by Bishop Schlert. To schedule an appointment 800-223-6667 xt 2 or scan code.



WWW.WREATHSACROSSAMERICA.ORG/PA0893

Gethsemane Cemetery announces participation in this effort to coordinate veteran wreath laying at US cemeteries. Ensure all our veterans receive a wreath this year, help reach 5,000 wreath goal. Visit website or call 610-929-2613.



SAVE THESE DATES IN 2025:

- o **PILGRIMAGE TO ITALY WITH BISHOP SCHLERT-** 03/25 to 04/03/25. Follow the Footsteps of Sts. Peter and Paul. Florence, Assisi and Rome. Fr. Hoffa: ahoffa@allentowndiocese.org 610-921-2729 x2205
- o **NATL. SHRINE OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION:** 10/27/25, Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, held every four years. Fr. Hoffa: ahoffa@allentowndiocese.org 610-921-2729 x2205

Our Lord in the Blessed
Sacrament has his hands full of
graces, and he is ready to
bestow them on anyone who
asks for them.

--St. Peter of Alcantara
*Sacred Host, in which we partake
of Christ, have mercy on us!*

EXPLORE *NEW* DIOCESAN EMPLOYMENT OPENINGS

Visit: www.allentowndiocese.org/about/employment

BERKS ENCORE seeks **VOLUNTEERS** for our **FRIENDLY VISITORS** program. We have several male clients who are looking for a friend to visit with and check in with once per week. Make a difference in someone else's life - become a friendly visitor! You may change your own life for the better too. For info: Michelle Goodhart 610-374-3195 ext. 225 Read about Friendly Visitors <https://berksencore.org/>

DAILY SUBSTITUTES K-8TH GRADE: Work with Holy Guardian Angels Regional School family. Submit cover letter, resume, and all certifications and clearances. Email: kelpre@hgaschool.org

READY.SET.READ! VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Tutor 2nd grade students needing extra support. No previous teaching experience required. Topton Elementary 3:30-4:20p OR Kutztown Elementary 3:30-4:30p; One hour/week, Oct. thru May. Background clearances require; training provided. Info: Darby Wiekrykas, United Way 610-685-4574 darbyw@uwberks.org

REFLECTION... by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

Devotees of daytime TV know all about "The Price is Right." I found out that it happens to be TV's longest running game show. The gist of it is that participants try to win cash and prizes by guessing the prices of various merchandise. In order to win, their decision can neither be too low nor too high.

Coincidentally, we come across in today's Gospel from Mark about 2 "contestants" vying for the prize of glory with no idea of the price to pay. Their names are James and John, two of the twelve Apostles. To their way of thinking, glory involves sitting on thrones next to Jesus. So, it is worth their while to "play the game."

Before reflecting on His answer, please note that Jesus does not snap at His questioners or call them out for their selfish and disrespectful request. Instead, He simply tells them, "Fellas, you don't know what you are asking." Then he quotes the "price": undergoing a painful "baptism" of suffering. True discipleship has a price. They (and we readers of this gospel) are meant to understand that for all time. Of course, by now we know this from life experience.

Quite naturally, the other ten Apostles were indignant at their comrades' behavior. They had asked a crude and manipulative question of the Master. We could well ask ourselves the conscience troubling question: "Have we ever tried to manipulate God? Turned Him into some kind of good luck charm that puts Him at our beck and call to grant us some favor we crave?"

Worse still, have we ever turned against Him when He doesn't respond as we would like? That underlies such thoughts as "Well, I'm not going to believe in Him (or His Church) anymore because He didn't give me what I wanted!" But doesn't that read like a petulant toddler at worst, or a fair-weather friend at least?

The dialogue between Jesus and the 2 petitioners James and John leads Jesus to give the whole group (and us) the real "price" of discipleship: wholehearted giving of ourselves in service to others. It is amply illustrated by the nearest crucifix. The resurrection of Jesus tells us the price was right. Still, the way to greatness is life's labor. As the poet asks:

"Why are people great? Well...
The heights by great people reached and kept
We're not attained by sudden flight
But they, while their companions slept,
We're toiling upward in the night."

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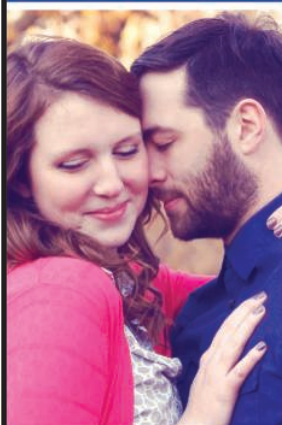
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