

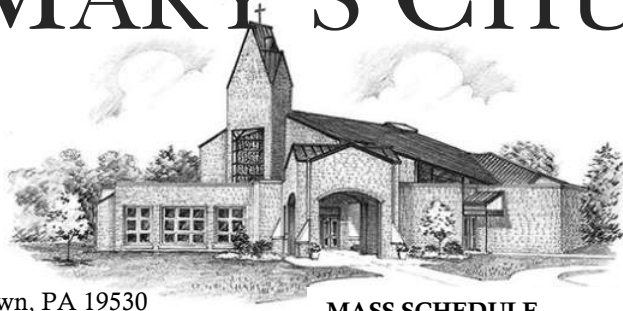


HOPE

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT, DECEMBER 01, 2024

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

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

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



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT, DECEMBER 01, 2024

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MASS Intentions

Mon	12-02	7:30a	Julia and Rudy Bretz
Tue	12-03	7:30a	Sue Fry
Wed	12-04	7:30a	Bill Boyer
Thu	12-05	9:00a	Joseph C. Krovisky
Fri	12-06	7:30a	William and Celestina Keller
Sat	12-07	8:00a	Marie Cassery
		4:30p	Mary Ehrets
Sun	12-08	8:30a	People of the Parish
		11:00a	Mary Noel

Altar flowers in memory of Tom and Jane Quirk this week

READINGS and CELEBRATIONS for the WEEK

Sun	12-01	1 st Sunday of Advent-Jr 33:14-16; 1 Th 3:12—4:2; Lk 21:25-28, 34-36
Mon	12-02	Is 2:1-5; Mt 8:5-11
Tue	12-03	Is 11:1-10; Lk 10:21-24
Wed	12-04	Is 25:6-10a; Mt 15:29-37
Thu	12-05	Is 26:1-6; Mt 7:21, 24-27
Fri	12-06	Is 29:17-24; Mt 9:27-31
Sat	12-07	Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8
Sun	12-08	2 nd Sunday of Advent- Bar 5:1-9; Phil 1:4-6, 8-11; Lk 3:1-6

THIS WEEK

NEXT WEEK

Music Ministry

4:30p	Spanier, Chris Casey, Peggy	Sitarik, Anne Moore, Mark
8:30a	Skoronski, Nathan Cebenکو, Steve	Sitarik, Anne Moore, Mark
11:00a	DeWald, Heather Skoronski, Kate	Moore, Mark Talarico, Tim

Extraordinary Ministry

4:30p	Arentz, Bill Zawaly, Joe	Arnold, Ellen Arnold, Vince
8:30a	Ganser, Steve Sedlack, Tom	Hilburt, Laura Tucker, John
11:00a	Pirnot, Ann Wanner, Theresa	Jones, John <i>Volunteer</i>

Income

OLG

In Church

Expenses

Regular Collection			
Building Fund			
Capital Campaign			
Parish Partnership			
Other Reg. Collections			

Collection information not available at print deadline

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	Lucy Ginsiorsky	Diana Novi
Evie Barletta	Ken Gorski	Joanne O'Connell
Caleb Bauer	Bijou Greenwood	Benedicta Otchere
Christopher Bennett	Muriel Hadnagy	Rick Padilla
Greg Bradford	Devon Hanna	Ed Pilarski
Monica Bradford	Jacqueline Hartz	Pat Regensburger
Bradford family	Linda Haurus	Rosemarie Reimert
William G. Brady	Kathy Henry	Bill Pettit
Nadia Cahill	Glenn Hertzog	Kerry Rauenzahn
Meaghan Clark	Lillian Karch	Patrick Ritter
Collene	Michael Karch	Megan Roth
David Covey	Joanne Kear	Nina Hertzog
Nancy Devlin-	Jane Kern	Rundle
Litinsky	Milton Kern	Richard Rusconi
Dave Ebling	Carol Korbe	Tina Scatamacchia
Trent Eidle	John Korbe	Tina Schmeck
Anthony & Cecilia	Henry Kryeski	Jim Sherman
Evangelista	Edward & Rosemary	Barbara Shidisky
Patricia Farabaugh	Law	Tracy Snyder
Ashley Geidner	Rick Lewis	Nicole Sosik
Farhat	Julie Lindsey	Arlene Stadalnik
Paula Fehlinger	Eva Malanczuk	Todd Tanis
Florentine Firlein	Dennis Martinsen	Ralph Touch
Joey Flecher	Barry, Sharon Miller	Amy Turko
Tammy G.	Elaine O. Miller	Christina VanDoorn
Joe Galantino	Geoff Miller	Paul Vasko
Michelle Galantino	Shannon Morris	Bonnie Wessner
Sandra George	Nikolette Nolte	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	Spencer Morris
Andrew Barthol	Ryan Flanagan	Heather
Frank M. Bieda	Kale Follweiler	O'Donnell
John Boyer	Michael Allen Haak	Menaka Nayyar &
Matthew Boyer	Diane Henry	Anthony Pirnot
Jonathan Cardé	Cmdr. Jason Hoch	Jake Schmeck
Eric Cunningham	Joshua Joseph	Phillip Talarico
Timothy DeVall	Dan King	Steve Ziegler
Anthony DiPietro	James Knight	

Contact office to update list: secretary@stmaryskutztown.com

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

EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Sun 12.01** FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
2nd Collection – Christmas Flowers
NO RELIGIOUS EDUCATION – THANKSGIVING BREAK
- Tue 12.03** Faith Sharing, 10a
Ladies Auxiliary Christmas covered dish, 12n
Baptism Prep Workshop, 7p
- Wed 12.04** Handiwork from the Heart meeting, 10a
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, 7-8p
- Thu 12.05** Music Ministry, 7p
O.C.I.A., 7p
- Fri 12.06** Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, 8-9a
- Sat 12.07** 1st Saturday daily Mass, 8a
Pray the Rosary, 4p
2nd Collection – Retired Religious

EVENTS NEXT WEEK

- Sun 12.08** SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
2nd Collection – Retired Religious
Elementary Religious Education Advent Family Session, 9:40a
Men of St. Mary's meeting, 10a
Junior High ministry, 6p
- Mon 12.09** SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
Solemnity Mass times, 12n and 7p
- Tue 12.10** Faith Sharing, 10a
Baptism Workshop, 7p
- Wed 12.11** Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, 7-8p
- Thu 12.12** Music Ministry, 7p
O.C.I.A., 7p
- Sat 12.14** Pray the Rosary, 4p
2nd Collection-Capital Improvements

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.*

NEXT BAPTISM WORKSHOP 7p, Dec 03 and 10. Contact Ann Pergosky: 610-683-6454, reled@stmaryskutztown.com

ST. MARY'S NEXT SOUP KITCHEN project is Dec 21/22. See gathering area donation table. Return All items by Dec 15. Cook for the soup kitchen on Dec. 19 (10a-3p). Info: Mary Alkons 610-683-5443



PARISH BREAKFAST-3RD SUNDAYS THRU MARCH!

Come enjoy Sunday breakfast with parish friends, from 8:30-11:00a in the Social Hall 12/15; 01/19; 02/16; & 03/16. Or get involved, call Tom: 610-207-5831.

Join us for Breakfast with Santa on Dec. 15!

GIVING FROM OUR

BOUNTY: This *bountiful* project, supported by our Junior High Youth, **concludes Dec 08.** Please be **sure to return your gifts for** Lifeline, Friend, Inc., and Willow Brook by Sunday, **Dec 08**, with tags securely attached, into the Gathering Area large boxes. No tag needed for Food Items. Gifts preferred **unwrapped.** *However gift bags and wrapping paper donations welcomed.*



SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION:

Mon. Dec. 09 St. Mary's will celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception.

On this feast, we celebrate Mary's conception free from the stain of Original Sin, and we recognize that Mary's life began the moment she was conceived in the womb of St. Anne. This holy Day of Obligation is transferred from Sunday Dec. 08. **Mass times: 12n and 7p Dec. 09.**



CHRISTMAS OPLATKI: The parish has purchased a limited supply of "oplatki" - the wafer bread included in many family gatherings with East European traditions at Christmas. We ask \$3 per package to cover expenses. First come, first serve! We may order more, if our supply is depleted quickly. To purchase, contact reled@stmaryskutztown.com or 610-683-6454

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION- FR. JOHN MARIA

Today we celebrate the first Sunday of Advent. Everybody knows this is a time to "get ready for Christmas", but if that's all it is, we're not doing it right.

Advent is a season of waiting – of reflection and expectation. During the latter part of Advent, we remember the first coming of Christ – when the Eternal Son of God became Man, born of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

But during this first part of Advent, the Church leads us to turn our eyes, and our hearts and minds, to look forward to the Second Coming of Christ at the end of time.

Our readings today are all about preparation, with strong words and vivid images. The Lord Jesus Himself speaks to our hearts: "Beware that your hearts don't become drowsy from drunkenness, and the anxieties of daily life." We are called to be vigilant and be blameless in holiness. How are we doing with that task?

As we begin Advent, let's resolve to turn down the noise of the culture, and tune in to the Voice of the Lord, the One who will come again. Let us be vigilant in preparing our souls! He IS coming. May we strive with St. Paul to be "blameless in holiness."

BECAUSE WE ARE CATHOLIC: Thanks to all who have contributed to the 2024 Because We Are Catholic annual appeal! As you know, our contributions go to support many valuable programs, right here in our diocese. This includes food for the needy, seminarian assistance and special learning centers. To date, 136 pledges (out of 800 families) have been received from our parishioners. If you have yet to contribute, please visit www.BecauseWeAreCatholic.org select "Donate Now" and "St Mary-Kutztown" as your parish. Or visit the Gathering Area display. Thank you!

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; 9 weekend Masses per year.
- † There are no limitations on daily Masses.
- † Personal Mass intentions not available for: Holy Thursday, Easter, Christmas, Mothers nor Fathers Day

**RETIRED AND INFIRM PRIESTS ANNUAL FUND,
"CHOSEN, BLESSED, SHARED":**

Thank you to those who've given so generously to the annual fund. If you haven't yet, it isn't too late to support retired diocesan priests. Make a gift to the Endowment Fund, used to directly support retired priests in good standing including future costs of healthcare, insurance, and housing and sustenance. Return your gift in the envelope mailed to you, either by mail or in the Sunday collection. Learn more: www.weloveourpriests.org. Your generosity supports retired priests from all 5 counties of our Diocese!

**HOW TO GIVE TO THE ENDOWMENT FOR THE CARE OF
RETIRED PRIESTS**

- Make an outright gift of cash.
- Or you may gift The Endowment through your will or through other means such as a charitable gift annuity that could be a source of income for you.

Please know that any amount you wish to contribute to The Endowment, no matter how great or small, will be accepted with great appreciation. *All gifts to The Endowment are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.*

CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIALS: This week, Dec. 01 is the Christmas Flowers collection. Please remember print memorial names clearly on your envelope.

- † If you use St. Mary's Online Giving, you may include names in the Online Giving form.
- † If you do not receive envelopes, use a plain envelope; write names memorial names clearly on, or include names in, the envelope.



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!

A FEW SPOTS REMAIN at Holy Guardian Angels Regional School. (5th & 8th gr. full). Committed to high academic standards in a diverse, fun-filled environment, every child thrives. Enroll: kelpre@hgaschool.org or 610-929-4124.

"SING WE NOEL" CHRISTMAS CONCERT: 2p, Dec. 01 at Cathedral in Allentown with the choirs of the Cathedral. Preludes begin at 1:40 PM. All are welcome. Free will offering will benefit choir needs.

DATE NIGHT FOR NFP COUPLES: 6:30p, Dec. 02, at Hops at the Paddock, Allentown, 18104. Learn more about Natural Family Planning and enjoy time with other faithful couples! allentowndiocese.flocknote.com/signup/188291

A DAY OF MERCY: 8a-6p, Dec. 04, St. Theresa of the Child Jesus, 1408 Easton Rd, Hellertown. 8a Mass, 8:30a Exposition and Confession. 6:30p Liturgy of Healing with homilist Msgr. Myron Grabowsky, Archeparchy of Phila., Spiritual Director & Exorcist. Light refreshments to follow.

DIVORCE RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUP: 9-10a, Dec. 07, St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Whitehall 2nd floor/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.

HGA CHRISTMAS CRAFT BAZAAR: 9a-2p, Dec. 07. Vendors, food, basket raffle, book fair, Santa, and cash raffle! Drawings at 1p, so arrive early!

CHRISTMAS CONCERT/BASKET RAFFLE: 3p, Dec 08 Precious Blood Convent, Welsh Rd, Reading 19607. Constantia Male Quartet performs; bake sale and raffle follow concert. Free Will offering. Info 610-777-1624

ALL THINGS IN HER HEART: 5p, Dec. 08, St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Whitehall. Share in the Advent Evening of Scripture and Song: Musical Meditations on the Joyful Mysteries. Prelude at 4:30p; free will offering at the door.

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, patron saint of blood banks. Donate blood at one of MKBC's donor centers up until Dec. 16 and save lives. Provide the parish's Sponsor Code "4547" and receive a blessed St. Januarius medallion. For appointment 800-223-6667 xt 2 or scan code.



TIME IS RUNNING OUT

WWW.WREATHSACROSSAMERICA.ORG/PA0893

Gethsemane Cemetery participates in coordinating veteran wreath laying at US cemeteries. Ensure all veterans receive a wreath this year, help reach 5,000 wreath goal. Visit site or call 610-929-2613 **by Dec. 03.**

STRUGGLING WITH SEXUAL ADDICTION? Help is available. There is now a Sexaholics Anonymous Group in central Berks County. For more info or to speak with a member of the Lumen Christi Commission (LCC), the diocesan response to issue of pornography, please contact LCC Commission Chair Fr. Allen Hoffa at 610-921-2729 ext. 2205 or adlumenchristi@allentowndiocese.org All inquires are confidential.

WORD OF LIFE: *"The Gospel of Life recognizes the full range of threats against human life, from poverty and malnutrition to murder and war. Particular emphasis, however, is placed on threats to life at its beginning and end—precisely when it is most in need of protection. In modern times, children in their mothers' wombs and those approaching the end of their lives are certainly among the 'least of these' in our world's estimation."* ~ USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities respectlife.org/live-the-gospel-of-life

EXPLORE *NEW* DIOCESAN EMPLOYMENT OPENINGS
Visit: www.allentowndiocese.org/about/employment

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

Blessing an Advent Wreath

All make the Sign of the Cross as the leader says:

Our help is in the name of the Lord.

R/. Who made heaven and earth.

Then Scripture, Isaiah 9: (lines 1-2, 5-6) or Isaiah 63 (lines 16-17, 19) or Isaiah 64 (lines 2-7) is read:

Reader: **The word of the Lord.**

R/. Thanks be to God.

With hands joined, the leader says:

**Lord our God, we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ:
he is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples, he is the
wisdom that teaches and guides us, he is the Savior of
every nation.**

**Lord God, let your blessing come upon us as we light the
candles of this wreath.**

**May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ's promise
to bring us salvation.**

May he come quickly and not delay.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

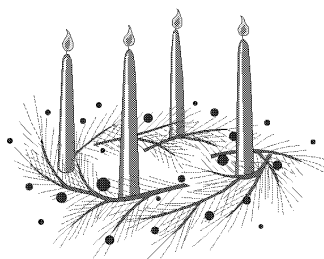
R/. Amen.

*The blessing may conclude with a verse from
"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel":*

**O come, desire of nations, bind
in one the hearts of
humankind;**

**bid ev'ry sad division cease
and be thyself our Prince of
peace.**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.**



REFLECTION... by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

One contemporary mode of thinking about the two parts of today's Gospel passage is to call to mind both a "Jumbotron" and a cell phone. For those who need a definition, a "Jumbotron" is a very large monitor screen measured in feet, and often seen in sports stadiums or any large outdoor event with crowds of people in attendance. There happen to be several of them mounted in place in St. Peter's square at the Vatican.

I want to classify those happenings at the end of the world that Jesus describes today as a "Jumbotron event." Of course, when it will happen is known only by Jesus. He doesn't tell us. It could be 10,000 years from now or 10 days. The main point Our Lord makes clear is that history is always on the move, and never stagnant. It's heading toward some goal. That goal is Jesus Himself as King of the universe.

Now I ask your indulgence as I classify the happenings in our little lives as "cell phone events." Despite our often-inflated sense of ourselves, we are actually just a tiny part of the created world. We too are on the move, heading toward the same goal as the universe: union with Jesus as our King. The date that ends our earthly lives is also one of God's best kept secrets. We can only wonder when. All things being equal, I am a lot closer to it at 80 than I was at 18. But only our loving Creator knows for sure.

As a result of these dual mysteries, there is only one healthy conclusion that Jesus urges on both first disciples and on us: "Be prepared!" It seems to me that the biggest mistake most people make is to be unprepared. They try to avoid even thinking about their potential end.

I remember a chapter in a book of meditations for seminarians in which we were to imagine our funeral! This for guys just entering their twenties! The point was not to be macabre but mindful. In a dark chapel in the pre-dawn of a Winter morning, however, it was "heavy duty" stuff.

In her wisdom, Mother Church has presented the facts in the Scriptures of last week and today, to make sure we know that our death is not a matter of fiction. This is definitely not to scare us. Nor to belittle us. But to wake us up. Only a "drowsy" Christianity would invest all its hope in the things of this passing world. We are made for more. Much more.

If thoughts like these make you fearful, try to acquire the perspective of God's love for you. His love truly drives out fear. What proof do we have of Love's existence? It is the Holy Eucharist. That's really why we come together for it each Sunday and holy day. It is for sure to give God thanks for gifting us with Faith, Hope and Love. But it also is to renew a positive attitude toward life. It is to remind ourselves of the outlook that Holy Scripture provides for us about our destiny. What we receive for sure is a clear picture of God's love for us, giant size or small, depending on our need. How wise then it is to "Prepare and prevent instead of repair and repent."

God love you and give you His peace.

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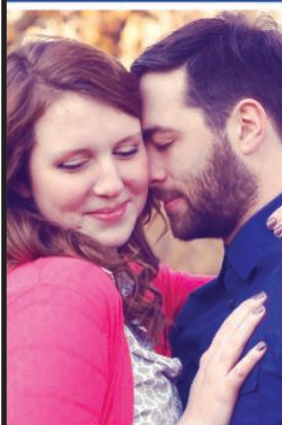
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