

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT, DECEMBER 08, 2024

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@StMarvsKutztown 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 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



Waiting in peace

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT, DECEMBER 08, 2024

2-09 12:00n John R. Zimmerman People of the Parish

Mon	12-09	12:00n	John R. Zimmerman
		7:00p	People of the Parish
Tue	12-10	7:30a	Joe G. Garza
Wed	12-11	7:30a	Intentions of Abby Regensburger
Thu	12-12	7:30a	In Thanksgiving
Fri	12-13	7:30a	Dorothy Schnabel
Sat	12-14	4:30p	Stanley and Margaret Nolan
Sun	12-15	8:30a	People of the Parish
		11:00a	John and Patricia Callahan

To spo	onsor altar	flowers	call the	parish	office

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	READINGS and CELEBRATIONS for the WEEK			
Sun	12-08	2 nd Sunday of Advent- Bar 5:1-9; Phil 1:4-6, 8-11; Lk 3:1-6		
Mon	12-09	<i>Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception-</i> Gn 3:9-15, 20; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38		
Tue	12-10	Is 40:1-11; Mt 18:12-14		
Wed	12-11	Is 40:25-31; Mt 11:28-30		
Thu	12-12	Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47		
Fri	12-13	Is 48:17-19; Mt 11:16-19		
Sat	12-14	Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Mt 17:9a, 10-13		
Sun	12-15	<i>3rd Sunday of Advent-</i> Zep 3:14-18a; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18		

5.10 10			
	THIS WEEK	NEXT WEEK	
Music Ministry			
4:30p	Sitarik, Anne	Spanier, Amelia	
	Moore, Mark	Casey, Peggy	
8:30a	Sitarik, Anne	Spanier, Chris	
	Moore, Mark	Cebenko, Steve	
11:00a	Moore,Mark	Pirnot, Tom	
11.00a	Talarico, Tim	Talarico, Tim	
	Extraordina	ry Ministry	
4:30p	Arnold, Ellen	Arentz, Stephanie	
	Arnold, Vince	Ruh, Mike	
8:30a	Hilburt, Laura	Cengeri, Tom	
	Tucker, John	Pergosky, Ann	
11:00a	Jones, John	Wanner, Theresa	
	Volunteer	Kropf, Walt	

Income OLG & Church	11/24	12/01	Expenses
Regular Collection	\$7,447.10	\$10,830.00	Exp. 12/01:
Building Fund	\$1,000.00	\$1,035.00	\$28,261.44
Capital Campaign	\$100.00	\$140.00	
Parish Partnership	\$205.00	\$450.00	Exp. 12/08:
Dioc. Poverty Relief	\$1,557.00	\$198.00	\$5,773.87
Christmas Flowers	\$195.00	\$1,742.00	
Other Reg. Collections	\$65.00	\$550.00	

HOW DO I SIGN UP FOR ONLINE GIVING?

- 1. Visit www.stmaryskutztown.com & choose online giving.
- 2. Complete the online registration form. It's that simple! For more info or help setting up your account please contact the parish office.



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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	ChristinaVanDoorn
Joe Galantino	Geoff Miller	Paul Vasko
Michelle Galantino	Shannon Morris	Bonnie Wessner
Sandra George	Nikolette Nolte	Colleen Wolff
Contact office to une	lata list: secretary@stm	arvekutztown com

Contact office to update list: secretary@stmaryskutztown com

Please Pray for all those serving our nation

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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

EVENTS THIS 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

Mon12.09 SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE **CONCEPTION**

Solemnity Mass times, 12n and 7p

Tue 12.10 Faith Sharing, 10a Baptism Workshop, 7p

Wed12.11 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

EVENTS NEXT WEEK

Sun 12.15 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

2nd Collection – Capital Improvements

Return Soup Kitchen donations

Youth Mass, 8:30a

Parish Breakfast with Santa 8:30-11a

Tue 12.17 Faith Sharing, 10a

Wed 12.18 Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, 7-8p

Thu 12.19 Cook for Soup Kitchen, 10a-3p Music Ministry, 7p

O.C.I.A., 7p

Sat 12.21 Serve Soup Kitchen

Petrillo-Curran wedding, 1p

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.

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



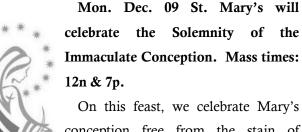
PARISH BREAKFAST-3RD SUNDAYS THRU MARCH!

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: Please be sure to return your gifts **no later than Dec. 08** And thank you all for your generosity.

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.



We are happy to announce on Dec. 21, 2024, Gina Petrillo and Jeff Curran will be joined in Holy Matrimony at St. Mary's Church. Please keep them in your prayers.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION- FR. JOHN MARIA

Today we celebrate the second Sunday of Advent, this beautiful season of reflection upon God's promises – those that have been fulfilled in past events and those that have yet to come. This reflection should draw us more deeply into the mystery of God's active involvement in our lives, and in our history.

Too often, we are tempted to view our Christian faith as a collection of pious platitudes, dropped down upon us from the clouds. Nothing could be further from the truth! God has entered human history, so as to draw mankind to Himself.

In our first reading from the Old Testament Book of Baruch, the people of God were in mourning and misery, lamenting the collapse of their earthly prestige. In the midst, God promised a time of splendor, when all the nations from east to west would be gathered to the word of the Holy One.

In the Gospel, the fulfillment of this promise was drawing near. John the Baptist was about to begin his mission. Note well the details provided in Luke 3:1-6: the fixed time in history, the particular rulers of the Empire, the region and its religious leaders. Into the mess and dramatic details of human history, God enters in to redeem His people.

As He enters into the broad sweep of human history, He comes to enter into our hearts. Each and every one of us was born -- for this time and this place, to know Him and give witness to Him. Prepare the way of the Lord!



St. Mary's will join with parishes around the world in celebrating Bambinelli Sunday. We invite each family in the parish to bring the figurine of Jesus from their family crib to all Masses on December 14/15 where they will be blessed.

* if possible, for the blessing seat the member with the Jesus figurine at the end of the pew.

You can find your own Baby Jesus figurine or Nativity at a Catholic/Christian store or online. Or select from a limited supply of baby Jesus figurines at church Dec. 14/15 for a donation.

What is this initiative? The Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday) has for many years been the day when the children of Rome bring the figurine of Baby Jesus from their family cribs to St. Peter's Square to be blessed by the Pope during the Angelus. The day is affectionately known as "Bambinelli Sunday." Instituted by St. Pope John Paul II during his Papacy, the tradition has continued and has grown in popularity across the universal Church. Children are invited to wrap the blessed figurines in Christmas wrapping when they return home, and to place them under the tree, to be opened as the first gift of Christmas; thus encouraging young children to make the connection between the gifts they receive on Christmas Day and the greatest gift that any of us can receive, Jesus; and the connection between the Nativity set at home and the local Church where they worship each weekend.

A Word About: Retired Religious collection SUPPORT THOSE WHO HAVE GIVEN A LIFETIME. Women and men religious have dedicated their lives to service—praying, teaching, and caring for those in need—usually for little to no pay. Today, their religious communities do not have enough retirement savings. Your donation provides for the essential care, medicine, and daily needs of thousands of senior women and men religious. Please give generously

Your support today is most appreciated.

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 <u>reled@stmaryskutztown.com</u> or 610-683-6454

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. <u>Contact the parish office to schedule a Mass intention</u>. 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

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!

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!

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

For pilgrims of hope: We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthen our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

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.

ST MONICA MINISTRY HOLY HOUR: 6-7p Dec. 10. Bring your petitions to the Blessed Sacrament, and invoke the intercession of St. Monica for fallen-away loved ones. Meet monthly at St. Theresa Church, Hellertown. Info: Celest StMonicaMinistry27@gmail.com

BETTER TOGETHER-Widow/Widower Social Group: 1p, Dec. 11 (2nd Wed. monthly) allows widows and widowers to connect with others in the same circumstance. All are welcome, Assumption Church, 4101 Old Bethlehem Pike, Bethlehem, in the Jubilee Center. Info: Mary Williams 610-867-7424 x 16.

ADVENT HOLY HOUR & CHRISTMAS CONCERT: 7p, Dec. 13 AND 14 at Holy Guardian Angels parish, Reading. Friday Advent Holy Hour (free event) and Saturday concert. Sat. hear Irish tenor Mark Forrest (*tickets required*). Preorder Saturday tickets \$20 adults/\$10 children (\$25 at the door). Preorder: www.hgaparish.com/post/advent-holy-hour-christmas-concert-with-mark-forrest

ADVENT DAY OF PRAYER: 9a-4p, Dec. 14, Mariawald Renewal Center. This Advent, halt; hear the hush, the whisper of God's voice.Sr. Nancy Iampietro, Missionary Sister of the Precious Blood guides the day. **Register by 12/10** \$40. 610-777-0135, MariaWaldCenter@gmail.com

UPDATE: 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.

PILGRIMAGE TO ITALY WITH BISHOP SCHLERT:

Reservations are open for the JUBILEE YEAR PILGRIMAGE TO ITALY with Bishop Schlert & Fr. Hoffa: **Tue. March 25, 2025-Sat. April 3, 2025**. The first Diocese of Allentown International 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.

<u>PILGRIMAGE FROM PARIS TO LOURDES:</u> April 27-May 06, 2025. Highlights include daily Masses, *including at Notre Dame Cathedral*, tours, dinner in the Eifel Tower, wine tasting at Papal Vineyards of Chateauneuf du Pape and visit the grotto of Lourdes. Learn more: Fr. Stokes, Holy Family, Minersville: 570-544-4741

WORD OF LIFE: "Perhaps one of your friends has become pregnant unexpectedly. As someone who has been there, I encourage you to support your friend in her new journey of being a mother." Learn how at <u>respectlife.org/support-her</u> ~ *USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities; "10 Ways to Support Her When She's Unexpectedly Expecting"*

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

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

REFLECTION... by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

Fans of TCM (Turner Classic Movies) will have no problem imagining the opening fanfare of the Twentieth Century Fox studio productions. The theme is complete with trumpets and searchlight beams reflecting off the call letters. If that scene doesn't resonate with you, then consider instead the NFL (National Football League) theme song heard on most Sunday afternoons in the Fall. Whenever I read St. Luke's opening sentence about the arrival of St. John the Baptist and his message about the Messiah, Jesus Christ I hear the Fox theme for sure. As we believers know, the announcement heralds what will prove to be an earth-shattering event. It will have far-reaching consequences for John's world and still has them for our own.

As the commercial world around, us hypes up its preparation for Christmas, already begun last July, the Church asks us to do something different. It wants us to be quiet; slow down and take at least a little time each day of Advent to prepare our hearts and minds to celebrate Christ's first coming. The bible tells us it will not take place with pounding drums and clashing cymbals, but with hushed silence until we hear a tiny infant cry on a Bethlehem night.

I realize that the Church's Advent plea for some extra prayer and a little preparatory penance is tough to do. What with shopping, decorating, baking and required partying all crammed into 24 days, slowing down seems next to impossible. But then we are called to be different from the world as Christians, are we not?

So, we should try when we can, perhaps in the morning, or when the house quiets down at night, to light an Advent wreath candle, and think about the seasonal Scriptures. That should lead us to pray in wonder at the love of God for us that that brought Him down to earth in the nick of time. What follows is more than just a relaxed heartbeat. We regain our composure. We recharge our patience with all that's going on. We appreciate our young ones and are less likely to snap at our older ones. We avoid nasty behavior toward restaurant servers, harried store clerks and fellow drivers. We can exude joy rather than jumpiness in our preparations. After all, joy is what Christmas is about.

We read today of the joy offered to the exiled Jewish ancestors of Christ as they are finally released and able to return home. We also hear it in St. Paul's words to his Philippian community. And certainly, it resounds in Luke's notable opening announcement.

Certainly, the Blessed Mother felt joy deep in her heart as she had nine months to reflect on what Archangel Gabriel had told her about her baby. The calendar compels us to celebrate her faith and humility in an Immaculate Conception feast day moved to tomorrow.

For all of us, her children, I offer the best "spelling" of joy that I ever heard from a preacher that offered it long ago: "J" is for Jesus. "Y" is for you, and the "O" is for nothing in between.

God love you, and experience true joy.