



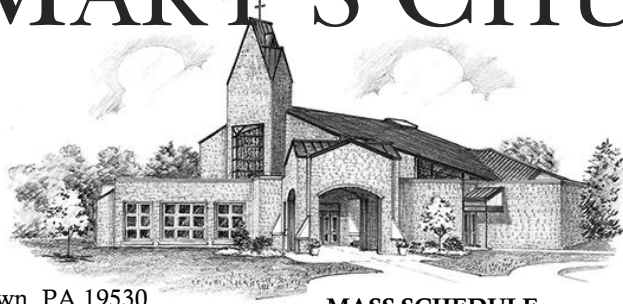
LOVE

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, DECEMBER 22, 2024

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

0195-1

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.allentowndioocese.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



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, DECEMBER 15, 2024

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0195-2

MASS Intentions

Mon 12-23	7:30a	Gregorio Pilandas
Tue 12-24	4:00p	For the intention of Our Parish Family
	10:00p	For the intention of Our Parish Family
Wed 12-25	10:00a	For the intention of Our Parish Family
Thu 12-26	7:30a	Neil Zimmerman
Fri 12-27	7:30a	Jennifer and Christopher Schappell
Sat 12-28	4:30p	Judy Sherman
Sun 12-29	8:30a	People of the Parish
	11:00a	Jerry Bowen

Flowers in memory Msgr. Immanuel Vernon
Blessed Sacrament candle in memory of all deceased children

READINGS and CELEBRATIONS for the WEEK

Sun 12-22	4 th Sunday of Advent- Mi 5:1-4a; He 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45
Mon 12-23	Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Lk 1:57-66
Tue 12-24	2 S 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Lk 1:67-79
Wed 12-25	Is 52:7-10; He 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14
Thu 12-26	Ac 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22
Fri 12-27	1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a, 2-8
Sat 12-28	1 Jn 1:5—2:2; Mt 2:13-18
Sun 12-29	Feast of the Holy Family- Sir 3:2-6, 12-14; Col 3:12-21; Lk 2:22-40 or, in Year C, 1 S 1:20-22, 24-28; 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; Lk 2:41-52

THIS WEEK

NEXT WEEK

Music Ministry

4:30p	Spanier, Chris Casey, Peggy	Sitarik, Anne Casey, Peggy
8:30a	Talarico, Tim Cebenken, Steve	Moore, Mark Cebenken, Steve
11:00a	Thomas, Cathy Talarico, Tim	DeWald, H. Skoronski, Kate
Extraordinary Ministry		
4:30p	Klopp, Daryl Otruba, Pam	Zawaly, Sue Zawaly, Joe
8:30a	Ganser, Steve Schnabl, Janice	Hilburt, Laura Cengeri, Tom
11:00a	Gallagher, John Neumann, Sue	Kropf, Walt Pirnot, Ann

Collection Info: 12/08 OLG Church Expenses

Regular Collection	\$3,677.00	\$4,089.06	12/13:
Building Fund	\$10.00	\$1,000.00	\$18,706.91
Capital Campaign	\$70.00	\$25.00	
Parish Partnership	\$10.00	\$30.00	
Retired Religious	\$215.00	\$1,532.00	
Immaculate Concept.	\$145.00	\$1,238.00	
Other Reg. Collections	\$205.00	\$1,466.00	

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.

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



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

Contact office to update list: secretary@stmaryskutztown.com

O come, divine Messiah, the
world in silence waits the day

Please Pray for all those serving our nation

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

Contact office to update list: secretary@stmaryskutztown.com

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EVENTS THIS WEEK

Sun 12.22 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
 Serve at Soup Kitchen, 9a-1p
 Elementary Religious Education, 9:40a
 Decorate Church for Christmas, 12n
 Reconciliation Service, with 4 priests, 3p
 Junior High ministry, 6p

Tue 12.24 Christmas Eve Masses: 4p and 10p
 Christmas Eve – Parish Office Closed

Wed 12.25 Christmas Day Mass: 10a
 Christmas Day – Parish Office closed

Thu 12.26 Parish Office closed

Sat 12.28 Pray the Rosary, 4p
 2nd Collection – Parish Partnership

EVENTS NEXT WEEK

Sun 12.29 FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY
 2nd Collection – Parish Partnership
 No Religious Education – Christmas Break

Tue 12.31 Vigil of Mary, Mother of God ~ Mass: 4:30p

Wed 01.01 Mary, Mother of God ~ Masses: 8:30 & 11a
 WORLD DAY OF PEACE
 Parish Office closed

Thu 01.02 Music Ministry, 7p
 O.C.I.A., 7p

Fri 01.03 1st Friday Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, 8-9a


Sat 01.04 1st Saturday Daily Mass at 8a
 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.*

DECORATING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:
12:05p Dec 22 to decorate the Church for Christmas. Meet after 11a Mass in the gathering area. Stick around to help!



 **PARISH BREAKFAST-3RD SUNDAYS THRU MARCH!** Come enjoy Sunday breakfast with parish friends, 8:30-11:00a in the Social Hall 01/19; 02/16; & 03/16. Or help, call Tom: 610-207-5831.

Pray for those at the Soup Kitchen this weekend, Dec. 21 and 22. Soup Kitchen volunteers are the eyes and hands of Christ, who said:



As often as you did it for one of my least brothers, you did it for me.

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Christmas Mass Schedule

St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church
 14833 Kutztown Road, Kutztown, PA

Dec. 21 & 22 4th Sunday of Advent
 4:30pm Saturday Vigil Mass
 8:30am Sunday Mass
 11:00am Sunday Mass
 3:00pm Reconciliation service (4 priests)

Dec. 24 & 25 Merry Christmas
 4:00pm Christmas Eve-Vigil Mass
 10:00pm Christmas Eve-Vigil Mass*
 *Sing Carols at 9:30 pm
 10:00am Christmas Day Mass



The Word became flesh, and dwelt among us!
 Come home to St. Mary's. Celebrate our Savior's birth!

OUR BEAUTIFUL NATIVITY SCENES: You may have noticed, our parish was blessed to add a new Nativity Set two years ago, through the donation of the Ladies Auxiliary proceeds from our wonderful holiday bazaar. This gift was further enhanced through the skill of some men of St. Mary's who built a stable. We've decided that this "medium-size" set will be the perfect size to move inside the sanctuary for all to appreciate during the Christmas season.

This year, you'll notice a new addition outside the church. The Ladies Auxiliary have donated funds toward the purchase of a larger set of figures outside the main entrance. Many thanks to all for your dedication and support of the parish. It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas!

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION- FR. JOHN MARIA

On this 4th Sunday of Advent, our Gospel gives the account of the visitation of Mary to her cousin Elizabeth. You might recognize this as the 2nd joyful mystery of the Rosary.

We meditate upon the unselfish love of Mary - herself with Child, carrying the incarnate Word of God – going out to help her elderly cousin with her own miraculous pregnancy. We see Elizabeth calling her “blessed among women”, and “mother of her Lord”. And we see the unborn prophet, leaping in the womb in the presence of His unborn Lord and Messiah.

The scene inspires us to consider the preciousness of human life from the womb, and beckons us to imitate Mary in her selfless concern for another. It reminds us that all the promises of old are coming to fruition in Jesus Christ our Lord!

As we draw close to Christmas, we are reminded that this is the cause of joy beyond all telling. And yet sometimes, our hearts lag behind with heaviness and anxiety. In the days ahead, let us draw near to the heart of Mary, seek her intercession, and ask the Holy Spirit to renew in us the joy of the staggering reality that Lord God is near!

PS: In this Gospel, we see that Mary is the Ark of the New Covenant – that holy vessel who carries the Presence of the Lord. For a full treatment of this Scriptural reality, check out this article on the web!

www.catholic.com/magazine/print-edition/mary-the-ark-of-the-new-covenant

Mary, Mother of God

Masses: 4:30p Dec. 31 and 8:30 and 11a January 01, 2025

The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God falls exactly one week after Christmas, the end of the octave of Christmas. It is fitting to honor Mary as Mother of Jesus, following the birth of Christ. When Catholics celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God we not only honor Mary, chosen among all women throughout history to bear God incarnate, but also honor our Lord, who is fully God and fully human. Calling Mary “mother of God” is the highest honor we can give Mary. Just as Christmas honors Jesus as the “Prince of Peace,” the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God honors Mary as the “Queen of Peace.”

This solemnity of Mary, the patron Saint of the United States, falling on New Year’s Day, is also designated the **WORLD DAY OF PEACE**



ABOUT THIS HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

This Holy Day is also a Holy Day of obligation, meaning all Catholics are obligated to attend Mass. We will have our parish Masses at 4:30p Dec. 31 and 8:30 and 11a Jan. 01. What a beautiful way to start the new year, praying with Mary, the Mother of God!

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

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.

HOLY GUARDIAN ANGELS REGIONAL SCHOOL. Join our supportive, family-centered school with Catholic traditions cherished, and students nurtured to love, respect and serve God, themselves and others. Find a commitment to high academic standards in a diverse and fun-filled environment—every child thrives. Enroll today: kelpre@hgaschool.org or 610-929-4124.

Because we
are Catholic



DIOCESE OF
ALLENTOWN

APPEAL IS UNDERWAY! We are still short of our parish goal as the year draws to a close! We’re almost there! To date 136 pledges, (out of 800 families) have been received. If you have yet to contribute, every penny helps! If you already have, thank you for your generosity. Visit www.BecauseWeAreCatholic.org select “Donate Now” and “St Mary-Kutztown” as your parish. Or visit Gathering Area Display. Thank you!

CHURCHES OF KUTZTOWN OPEN HOUSE:

1-5p, Jan. 05. Visit participating Churches, see the buildings, learn about their history and enjoy the decorations!

- *Kutztown Bible Fellowship;
- *Mt. Zion Evangelical Lutheran on Long Ln;
- *St. Barnabas Center Kutztown;
- *St. John’s Lutheran Kutztown;
- *St. John’s UCC Kutztown;
- ***St. Mary’s Kutztown;**
- *St. Paul’s UCC Kutztown;
- *Trinity Lutheran, Kutztown;
- *Zion’s Union Church, Maxatawny.

YOUNG ADULT GROUP AT ST. MARY’S: 6p, Jan. 05. Attn all young adults! Need a New Year’s resolution? Resolve to go deeper in your faith this year, with other young adults. Sunday, January 5 at 6p in the Parish Office Meeting Room we’ll learn more about a local saint! Saint



John Neumann was Archbishop of Philadelphia in the 19th century and founded many institutions in our diocese. Join us as we discuss a very real and ordinary man, who led an extraordinary life! Any questions? Sarah: smwilson0913@gmail.com

DIVORCE RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUP: 9-10a, Jan. 04, 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.

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FOLINO'S DATENIGHT for Engaged & Married Couples:
Jan 24, 2025. Cocktail hour, live music, dinner buffet and reflection by Greg and Heather Maigur. Tkts \$100/couple, limited to 25 couples, includes a wine bottle favor! Register: allentowndiocese.org/date-night Questions: rtulloch@allentowndiocese.org

RETROUVAILLE: Rediscover the Love in your Marriage. at Retrouvaille (retru-vee). Get help for marriage problems, difficulties or crises. Learn to build communication skills and increase intimacy. **Next weekend program: Feb. 14-16** at the Family Life Center in Malvern. Info or Register: 215-766-3944 or 800-470-2230. All inquiries strictly confidential. www.HelpOurMarriage.org

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.

PILGRIMAGE FROM PARIS TO LOURDES: 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 Chateaufeuf du Pape and visit the grotto of Lourdes. Learn more: Fr. Stokes, Holy Family, Minersville: 570-544-4741

WORD OF LIFE: "O St. Bakhita, assist all those who are trapped in a state of slavery; Intercede with God on their behalf so that they will be released from their chains of captivity. Those whom man enslaves, let God set free." ~ USCCB, "Prayer to St. Josephine Bakhita"

Christmas Gift Blessing

Every generous act of giving and every perfect gift are from above.
They come down from you, dear Father of Light.
You give birth to us by your Word, so that we might be born of a new creation.
Bless now these presents that we give and receive in joy at the birth of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.
Bless us and bless the whole world with thankfulness and peace, for you are the giver of all good gifts.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



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

REFLECTION... by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

Christmas is all about connections. When you stop and think about it there are many. There are the personal ones, of course. And then there are the biblical ones. The latter come from God the Holy Spirit, and they complete the picture.

The personal connections, I trust, are those happy memories of past Christmases, when we were "young and foolish" as the song says. Perhaps it was our first encounter with Santa, when we walked nervously toward the smiling gentleman with our list of wants and desires lined up in memory. Usually, a photo was taken of that event, which found its way into the family album. Today's photos likely wind up on a phone collection.

Or maybe it was that Christmas when the one toy we really wanted stayed hidden for a while until Mom or Dad prompted us to look behind the tree.

Or maybe it was the Christmas eve you proposed to the girl of your dreams and offered her a ring that sparkled almost as much as her eyes when she said "Yes!"

I must give a nod here to the strong possibility of a possibly unhappy Christmas memory because the big day came too close to the funeral of a beloved parent. That one happened to my beloved Mom when she was a little girl.

The biblical Christmas connections are those annual scenes and memorable words that come around each year, often enriched with our personal meanings. For example, there is that visitation of Mary to her cousin Elizabeth which highlights the Blessed Mother's charity and concern. Something we have come to depend on also as our life moves on.

Underneath that obvious one is the deeper Scriptural message about the two baby boys awaiting their birth. These cousins will be connected more powerfully than usual. John the Baptist is connected spiritually with all the great prophets who preceded him in the Old Covenant times. John is the last of their kind, and he connects the New Covenant with the Old. John will also be the precursor of Jesus when both reach maturity.

Admittedly it can be a struggle at this time of year to stay focused on the spiritual. So many secular accumulations have come along over the centuries to our celebration of Christmas, either from our nationalities or those special family traditions that we must maintain our faith connection with the story. Our personal connection with Christ remains the ultimate reason for our joy at this holy time.

Perhaps the best help is one attributed to Stephen Covey. He said, "Always remember that the main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing."

A blessed Christmas to you and yours!