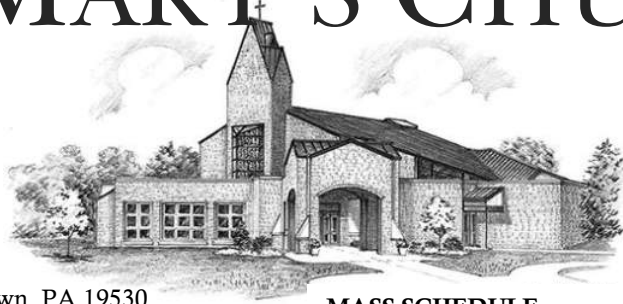




**Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**  
**December 29, 2024**

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

[www.facebook.com/stmaryskutztown](https://www.facebook.com/stmaryskutztown)

Church, Meeting Rooms, Business & Parish Offices:

Phone : 610-683-7443 ▪ Fax : 610-683-7625

Email: [Parish@StMarysKutztown.com](mailto:Parish@StMarysKutztown.com)

Religious Education Center: 610-683-6454

Email: [RelEd@StMarysKutztown.com](mailto:RelEd@StMarysKutztown.com)

## PASTORAL MINISTRY

Pastor	Fr John Maria
Pastor Emeritus	Rev. Msgr Walter T Scheaffer
Permanent Deacon	Dcn. Howard Schultz
Coordinator/Religious Educ	Mrs. Ann Pergosky
Director of Music Ministry and Parish Secretary	Mrs. Anne Sitarik

## PARISH ORGANIZATIONS

Ladies Auxiliary	Theresa Bieak & Deb Massa
Men of St. Mary's	Mr. Tom Cengeri
O.C.I.A.	Fr. John Maria

## DIOCESAN INFORMATION

Diocesan Policies and Procedures on Youth Protection:

[www.allentowndiocese.org](http://www.allentowndiocese.org)

Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator:

Wendy S Krisak, Direct Telephone: (800) 791-9209

Office of Safe Environment Secretary, Youth Protection and Catholic Human Services: Pamela Russo, MSW, MS ; PO Box F, Allentown, 181-5-1538 Tele. 610-871-5200 x2204

Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service: If you have an allegation of abuse against a bishop, please contact the

Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service:

[www.ReportBishopAbuse.org](http://www.ReportBishopAbuse.org) or 800-276-1562



## **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 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month. Baptisms are also scheduled privately upon arrangement with families. Parents must contact the Religious Ed Office to arrange Baptismal Prep sessions and learn all the details.

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION** - Saturday, 3:30-4:20p, Sundays 8:00-8:20; 10:30-10:50 am, Wednesdays 7:00-8:00p and by appointment

**SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK** – Those who are dangerously ill or facing serious surgery may receive this healing Sacrament. Please contact Father John Maria to make arrangements.

**SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY** – Congratulations! Couples must contact Father John at least six months in advance of desired date. Marriage Preparation is required for proper celebration of a valid and Sacramental marriage.

**PROSPECTIVE GODPARENTS/SPONSORS** asked to serve as Baptismal Godparents or Confirmation sponsor must request an eligibility certificate from the parish priest. To serve in this special role parishioners must: Be in full communion with the Catholic Church; Attend Mass weekly; have received Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, Reconciliation & Confirmation; Married individuals need be validly married in the Catholic Church. Please contact the Parish Office and allow 2 weeks to process.

**HOMEBOUND** – Parishioners homebound and unable to attend Mass please contact the Parish Office to arrange visitation, to receive Holy Communion

**HOSPITALIZED** - Call the Rectory to notify of someone in the hospital so we can pray for and possibly visit them. Each hospital in our Diocesan boundaries is either covered by a local parish or has a priest on call at the hospital.

**PARISH MEMBERSHIP** - Welcome to St. Mary's Parish! Please contact the Parish Office to meet with Father John and become registered. We also ask those who move to notify the parish

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION** – Education for parish children occurs September 10 through April. Contact Religious Education office: 610-683-6454 for registration.

### **Center-based**

- Levels 1 to 5 meet every week, Sundays, 9:40-10:50am
- Level 6-8 meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays, 6-8pm
- Youth Group (9-12) Stay tuned for upcoming events.

**Home-based** Arrangements may be made for select grade levels, contact Ann Pergosky

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH, DECEMBER 29, 2024

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

# MASS Intentions

Mon	12-30	7:30a	Kathleen Hicks
Tue	12-31	7:30a	Charles Beck and family
		4:30p	Catherine Falcone
Wed	01-01	8:30a	Loretta Lella
		11:00a	People of the Parish
Thu	01-02	7:30a	Emily Stanley and family
Fri	01-03	7:30a	Mark Oriold
Sat	01-04	8:00a	Judith Hall
		4:30p	Deacon Von George
Sun	01-05	8:30a	People of the Parish
		11:00a	Julie Belle Meares

Altar flowers in memory of Tom and Jane Quirk this week

## READINGS and CELEBRATIONS for the WEEK

Sun	12-29	Feast of holy Family- Sir 3:2-6, 12-14; Col 3:12-21; Lk 2:22-40
Mon	12-30	Solemnity Mary Mother of God- 1 Jn 2:12-17; Lk 2:36-40
Tue	12-31	1 Jn 2:18-21; Jn 1:1-18
Wed	01-01	Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God-Nm 6:22-27; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21
Thu	01-02	1 Jn 2:22-28; Jn 1:19-28
Fri	01-03	1 Jn 2:29—3:6; Jn 1:29-34
Sat	01-04	1 Jn 3:7-10; Jn 1:35-42
Sun	01-05	Solemnity Epiphany of the Lord- Is 60:1-6; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

### THIS WEEK

### NEXT WEEK

### Music Ministry

4:30p	Sitarik, Anne Casey, Peggy	Spanier, Amelia Casey, Peggy
8:30a	Moore, Mark Cebenken, Steve	Spanier, Chris Cebenken, Steve
11:00a	DeWald, H. Skoronski, Kate	Pirnot, Tom Skoronski, Kate

### Extraordinary Ministry

4:30p	Zawaly, Sue Zawaly, Joe	Arentz, Bill Arentz, Stephanie
8:30a	Hilburt, Laura Cengeri, Tom	Pangrazi, Dana Sedlack, Tom
11:00a	Kropf, Walt Pirnot, Ann	Jones, John Wanner, Theresa

### Collection Info: 12/15 OLG Church Expenses

Regular Collection	\$3,536.00	\$8,600.15	12/19:
Building Fund	\$5.00	\$1,000.00	\$17,264.08
Capital Campaign	\$290.00	\$1,176.00	
Parish Partnership	\$90.00		
Other Reg. Collections	\$345.00	\$3,865.50	

### HOW DO I SIGN UP FOR ONLINE GIVING?

1. Visit [www.stmaryskutztown.com](http://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](mailto:secretary@stmaryskutztown.com)



**Remember in your Prayers** Anne Conrad and Michael Foremen who died recently. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. Amen

### 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 DeVal	Dan King	Phillip Talarico
Anthony DiPietro	James Knight	Steve Ziegler

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

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

### EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Sun 12.29 FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Collection – Parish Partnership  
No Religious Education – Christmas Break
- Tue 12.31 Vigil of Mary, Mother of God ~ Mass: 4:30p**  
Parish Office closed
- Wed 01.01 Mary, Mother of God ~ Masses: 8:30 & 11a**  
WORLD DAY OF PEACE  
Parish Office closed
- Thu 01.02 Music Ministry, 7p**
- Fri 01.03 1<sup>st</sup> Friday Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, 8-8:30a**  
Funeral Mass, Michael L. Foreman, 10a
- Sat 01.04 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday Daily Mass at 8a**  
Pray the Rosary, 4p

### EVENTS NEXT WEEK

- Sun 01.05 SOLEMNITY OF EPIPHANY**  
Elementary Religious Education, 9:40a  
Level 2 PARENT meeting, 9:45a  
Young Adults-St. John Neumann, 6p
- Tue 01.07 Faith Sharing, 10a**
- Wed 01.08 Handiwork from the Heart mtg., 10a**  
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, 7-8p
- Thu 01.09 Music ministry, 7p**  
O.C.I.A., 7p
- Sat 01.11 Pray the Rosary, 4p**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Collection – Capital Improvements

**BULLETIN DEADLINE:** Submit bulletin items at least 10 days (& full-page at least 2 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.*

**FR. JOHN MARIA & THE PARISH STAFF** extend heartfelt gratitude to all who shared holiday greetings, sent cards and prayers for the parish this Christmas season. May God bless you and your families richly during this Christmas season and all the coming year!



## 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!

### SCRIPTURE REFLECTION- FR. JOHN MARIA

Merry Christmas! Our commemoration of the Nativity of our Lord continues throughout the “octave” of Christmas. And so, we continue to celebrate each day until the Epiphany as though it is still Christmas Day. Don’t be in a hurry to take down those decorations! Our families ought to continue to rejoice that our God is with us. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and the world will never be the same.

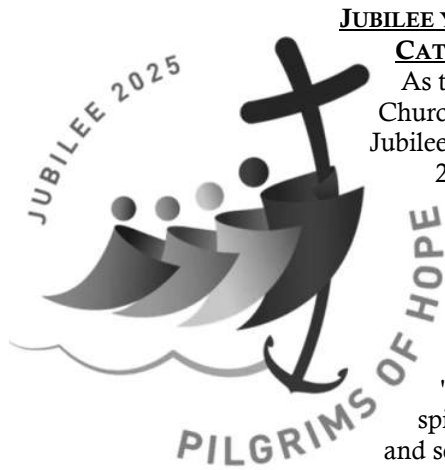
In His plan to redeem humanity, God could have chosen any means He desired, but He chose to enter into the human family. He reveals Himself as Father, and sent His Divine Son to be raised in a family, nurtured and educated by Mary and Joseph - a truly Blessed Mother and a holy foster father specially chosen for the task. They would form the newborn King for His divine mission on earth. Amazing!

God has sanctified the human family by His incarnation. In all of our imperfections, He desires to remain among us, and calls us to remain in Him – from our Baptism until our dying day, and every moment in between. Rejoice and rededicate your efforts to consecrate your family to Christ our Divine Savior!

**Y**ou may be sure that of all the moments in your life, the time you spend before the divine Sacrament will be that which will give you strength during life and more consolation at the hour of your death and during eternity.

St. Alphonsus Liguori

*I beg you, by your Resurrection, make me rise glorious with you on the last day*



**JUBILEE YEAR OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH:**  
As the Universal Church looks toward the Jubilee Year 2025 (the 2,025th anniversary of the Incarnation of our Lord), parishes are thrilled to join the Holy Father in this "event of great spiritual, ecclesial, and social significance in the life of the Church."

Pope Francis stated in his February 2022 letter announcing the Jubilee 2025:

"We must fan the flame of hope that has been given us and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision. The forthcoming Jubilee can contribute greatly to restoring a climate of hope and trust as a prelude to the renewal and rebirth that we so urgently desire..."

Bishop Schlert celebrated a special Mass December 28, in solidarity with Catholics around the world. The Bishop stated: "We pray that this Jubilee Year of Hope will serve as a spiritual salve for the scars of division in our world. May the People of God see a future of great promise and of great hope."

**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



**PARISH BREAKFAST-3<sup>RD</sup> 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.

**ST. MARY'S SPRING HOAGIE DATES:** Mark your calendars for the two Spring hoagie sale dates: **March 12/13** and **April 30/May 01**. Ask your neighbors and coworkers if they'd like some!



**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, 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:smwilson0913@gmail.com)

**POPE FRANCIS WORLD PEACE DAY MESSAGE FOCUS:**

## Hope and Forgiveness

The Catholic Church begins every calendar year with the World Day of Peace. In 2025 it will coincide with the celebration of the Holy Year, so Pope Francis chose a theme focused on hope and forgiveness, including the forgiveness of debt.

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**DIVORCE RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUP:** 9-10a, Jan. 04, St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Whitehall *2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

**FOLINO'S DATE NIGHT 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](http://allentowndiocese.org/date-night) Questions: [rtulloch@allentowndiocese.org](mailto:rtulloch@allentowndiocese.org)

**NEW YEAR'S DAY:** This New Year offers your family a new beginning. Consider making a family commitment (aka resolution). Make it simple, for all to be able to do. Put it on the refrigerator door. Pray for the grace to follow through!



**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](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.org)

**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 Chateaufort du Pape and visit the grotto of Lourdes. Learn more: Fr. Stokes, Holy Family, Minersville: 570-544-4741

**WORD OF LIFE:** "Dearest St Joseph... Help us to faithfully commit ourselves to the service and defense of human life—especially where it is vulnerable or threatened. Obtain for us the grace to do the will of God in all things." ~ *USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities; A Prayer to St. Joseph, Defender of Life* [www.respectlife.org/prayer-to-st-joseph](http://www.respectlife.org/prayer-to-st-joseph)

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

My calling precludes me from experiencing the stomach-churning fear of a parent dealing with a lost child. This was the case for Mary and Joseph as Jesus is temporarily lost among the crowds heading home from the Passover celebration in Jerusalem. Having made this annual trip 11 times before, traveling with the same caravan each time, at first the holy couple presumed that their boy was in the company of boys and girls his age. But He wasn't. What a shock it was to find that out.

When they did meet up with Jesus at the end of their search, right back at the Temple, Blessed Mother Mary had every right to offer a scold. The elderly teachers gathered around Him had cause to be astonished. Mary the mother could only ask: "Why?" St. Joseph let her ask the question.

Instead of offering excuses, Jesus forthrightly but respectfully countered her His question: "Why? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" We are not told what Joseph's reaction was.

Yet, for all of Jesus' adolescent assertion, which we know caused His parents to be confused, He nonetheless "goes down" from the Temple mount with them. He enters that long period of what we later would call His "hidden life" where He was "obedient to them for some 30 years.

At this point I ask you to use a little imagination to consider what Mary and Joseph might answer to some present-day correspondent interviewing them on the subject of family life, and asking them, "Is it sometimes difficult?"

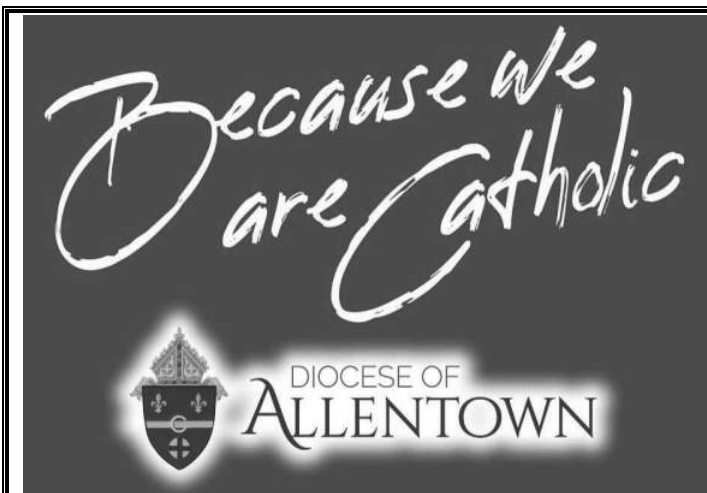
Their ready answer "Yes, at times" would be followed by their admission, supplied by St. Luke when he wrote that "they did not understand what He said to them." Jesus was a different kind of child to parent.

Even though there is a vast difference between the Holy Family and our own, the common element is that difficulty that inevitably arises when offspring are offbeat with their parents. Such happenings can usually be worked through successfully when there is a context of love present. That's the encouraging ingredient of today's feast. We are right within the Christmas season when Love itself came to earth and entered human history.

One other element that deserves attention in today's Gospel excerpt: obedience. Sad to say, that is a nearly forgotten concept in today's world. With all the cultural push for self-referencing and self-conviction that the only true judge of our behavior, is ourselves, who is to obey whom? Who has the right to command? Well, just open your bible and you will have your perfect example in Jesus' life of obedience to His divine Father.

If an objective analysis of your family yields mixed results in the matter of obedience, don't be downhearted. Try to think positively; forgive generously; and remember lovingly. A good closing thought: "It takes about five or six years for a tree to produce nuts, but this doesn't apply to a family tree."

God love you and your family.



**APPEAL IS UNDERWAY! 2024 Appeal is drawing to a close, but there is still time to contribute!** 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](http://www.BecauseWeAreCatholic.org) select "Donate Now" and "St Mary-Kutztown" as your parish. Or visit Gathering Area Display. Thank you!

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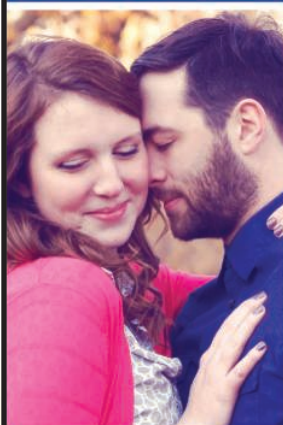
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