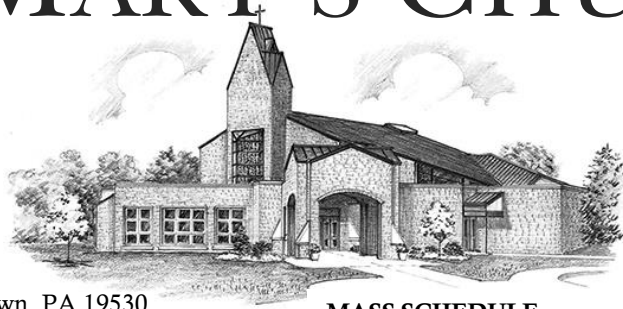


ST MARY'S CHURCH



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

FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD, FEBRUARY 02, 2025

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

0195-1

MASS Intentions

Mon 02-03	7:30a	Julie Belle Meares
Tue 02-04	7:30a	Jack Ford
Wed 02-05	7:30a	Eleanor S. Painter
Thu 02-06	7:30a	Evelyn Pangrazi
Fri 02-07	7:30a	Anthony Muratore
Sat 02-08	4:30p	Msgr. Paul Donovan
Sun 02-09	8:30a	Jack Ford
	11:00a	Dianne Delia

Altar flowers in memory of Tom and Jane Quirk this week

READINGS and CELEBRATIONS for the WEEK

Sun 02-02	Feast of Presentation of the Lord- Mal 3:1-4; He 2:14-18; Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32
Mon 02-03	Feast of St Blaise- He 11:32-40; Mk 5:1-20
Tue 02-04	He 12:1-4; Mk 5:21-43
Wed 02-05	He 12:4-7, 11-15; Mk 6:1-6
Thu 02-06	He 12:18-19, 21-24; Mk 6:7-13
Fri 02-07	He 13:1-8; Mk 6:14-29
Sat 02-08	He 13:15-17, 20-21; Mk 6:30-34
Sun 02-09	5 th Sunday Ordinary: Is 6:1-2a, 3-8; 1 Cor 15:1-11 or 15:3-8, 11; Lk 5:1-11

THIS WEEK

NEXT WEEK

Music Ministry

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

Extraordinary Ministry

4:30p	Ballantyne, Marie Otruba, Pam	Ruh, Mike Klopp, Daryl
8:30a	Schnabl, Janice Sedlack, Tom	Ganser, Steve Hilburt, Laura
11:00a	Neumann, Sue Kropf, Walt	Pirnot, Ann Wanner, Theresa

Collection Ingo

OLG

In Church

Expenses

Regular Collection	\$2,818.00	\$4,077.27	
Building Fund	\$35.00	\$1,000.00	
Capital Campaign	\$30.00	\$34.00	
Parish Partnership	\$185.00	\$105.00	
Catholic Relief Services	\$25.00	1,618.00	
Other Reg. Collections	\$55.00	\$50.00	

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

Contact office to update list: secretary@stmaryskutztown.com



Remember in your Prayers Barbara Shidisky of our parish. Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. 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 O'Donnell
Andrew Barthol	Ryan Flanagan	Menaka Nayyar & Anthony Pirnot
John Boyer	Kale Follweiler	Jake Schmeck
Matthew Boyer	Diane Henry	Phillip Talarico
Jonathan Cardé	Cmdr. Jason Hoch	Steve Ziegler
Timothy DeVall	Dan King	
Anthony DiPietro	James Knight	

Contact office to update list: secretary@stmaryskutztown.com

EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Sun 02.02 4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**
2nd Collection-Lifeline/Mary's Shelter
Elementary Religious Education, 9:40a
Level 2 Family Retreat, 1:30-4:30p
- Tue 02.04 Faith Sharing, 10a**
- Wed 02.05 Handiwork from the Heart, 10a**
Women of Grace, 6p
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, 7-8p
- Thu 02.06 Liturgy Committee mtg, rescheduled to time tba**
- Fri 02.07 1st Friday Adoration of Blessed Sacrament, 8a**
- Sat 02.08 Pray the Rosary, 4p**
2nd Collection – Capital Improvements
Souper Bowl of Caring-Free will collection

EVENTS NEXT WEEK

- Sun 02.09 5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**
2nd Collection – Capital Improvements
Souper Bowl of Caring-Free will collection
Elementary Religious Educaiton, 9:40a
Level 3 Parent meeting, 9:45a
Men of St. Mary's meeting, 10a
NO JUNIOR HIGH MINISTRY TODAY
- Tue 02.11 Faith Sharing, 10a**
- Wed 02.12 Women of Grace, 6p**
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, 7-8p
- Thu 02.13 Music Ministry, 7p**
O.C.I.A., 7p
- Fri 02.14 Happy St. Valentine's Day**
- Sat 02.15 Pray the Rosary, 4p**

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.*



PARISH BREAKFAST-3RD SUNDAYS THRU MAY! Come enjoy Sunday breakfast with parish friends, 8:30-11:00a in the Social Hall; 02/16; & 03/16, *not in April*, & May 18. To help: Lisa: 610-462-9289

ANNUAL GIVING STATEMENTS: Annual giving statement can be picked up in the parish office (8a-1p M-F) or mailed upon request: 610-683-7443. Thank you for your continued parish generosity.

ST. MARY'S SPRING HOAGIE DATES: Mark your calendars for the two Spring hoagie sale dates: **March 19/20*** and **April 30/May 01**. Ask your neighbors and coworkers if they'd like some! **new date*

Watch/visit WFMZ TV Stormcenter for parish cancellation notices due to winter weather.



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

A Word about... Lifeline Berks Co. & Mary's Shelter, Reading

Lifeline of Berks County and Mary's Shelter serve the needs of pregnant women and their children. Mary's Shelter offers housing and social services addressing pregnancy, parenting and youth homelessness via proactive prevention, crisis intervention and stabilization. Your support this week, **Feb. 01/02** will help so many.

HGA REGIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL: St. Mary's parish is proud to be a part of HGA Regional Catholic School on 3125 Kutztown Road in Reading. Fr. John and the three pastors of the other feeder parishes serve as a member of the Governing Board of Pastors.

We live in challenging times. The dominant secular vision of morality is becoming increasingly opposed to traditional Catholic morality. Providing our children with a *sound and solid grounding in Catholic values - and an excellent education* - is more urgent than ever. HGA Regional School is an outstanding source! For info about receiving an excellent Catholic K-8 education ask Fr. John and visit www.hgaschool.org ! For a visit: 610-929-4124

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION- FR. JOHN MARIA

Ordinarily, this Sunday would be the Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time. However, since the day falls on an important feast of the Lord, the Church throughout the world celebrates the Feast of the Presentation.

Some 600 years prior to the birth of Christ, as the Babylonian Empire was nearing Jerusalem and the Temple to destroy it, the prophet Jeremiah took the Ark of the Covenant to a place where it would not be desecrated. This sacred vessel (containing some of the manna, and the tablets of the commandments) had been the focal point of God's Presence in the Temple – the Glory Cloud rested upon it. With the impending attack, the prophet rescued the ark from corruption. Sadly, the glory of the Lord had left the Temple. In our first reading, Malachi – perhaps in the 5th century BC – prophesied a time when the Lord would come suddenly to the Temple.

In our Gospel, the glory has returned – in the form of a little baby. To the great majority of people there, they just saw a poor family fulfilling the ancient law. Under the Old Covenant, the firstborn son belonged in a particular way to God. And so, Jewish parents would present their sons to the Lord, along with an offering to sacrifice – a prayerful token to “buy back” – to redeem their son, back into their own care.

It is Divine Irony, that the One who would be the Redeemer of the world, would first be redeemed in the Temple, at the beginning of His life. All the prophecies of the Old Testament would come to fulfillment in this Child, but the Holy Family fulfilled the law in obedience.

As the holy Simeon recognized the Presence of the Glory of God in Jesus, may we imitate his awe and wonder before the Lord's Presence in the Most Blessed Sacrament!

NATIONAL MARRIAGE WEEK- FEBRUARY 07-14

Prayer for Married Couples

Almighty and eternal God,
You blessed the union of married couples so
that they might reflect the union of Christ
with his Church:

look with kindness on them.

Renew their marriage covenant,
increase your love in them,
and strengthen their bond of peace
so that, with their children,

they may always rejoice in the gift of your
blessing.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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 vocations to the priesthood and religious life: Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life.



It began as a teen ecumenical service project. At St. Mary's, it's sponsored by the Junior High Religious Ed classes. Feb. 08/09 we invite you to give a \$1, the cost of a can of

soup, as you leave church today. The money will be given to the Greater Berks Food Bank, which donates more than 7 million lbs. of food annually to over 100,000 people in our area. The Greater Berks Food Bank can provide \$20 worth of food for every \$1 donated. Your \$1 makes a difference!

WORLD DAY FOR CONSECRATED LIFE Sunday, Feb. 2. Please pray for all the women and men who've committed themselves to God and His people in the consecrated life. Be sure to thank them for their witness and service on their special day. May they continue to be inspired by Jesus Christ and respond generously to God's gift of their vocation.

MASS FOR WORLD DAY OF CONSECRATED LIFE: 10:30a, Feb. 16, at St. Thomas More, Allentown. A Mass in honor of the World Day for Consecrated Life (Feb. 2), all are welcome.

SUPPORT THE ANNUAL CATHOLIC SCHOOLS FUNDRAISER- MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE! Thru Feb. 23 view school videos and vote for your favorite! See what they are up to & support our schools! Visit WeLoveOurCatholicSchools.com

SETON SHRINE TOUR: Feb. 03, at 10a, 11a and 12n. Interactive 30-45 minute virtual tour. Info: 301-447-6606 or erica.delp@setonshrine.org Receive a link to view upon registration.

SURVIVING DIVORCE: Feb 03 thru April 21, 7-8:30p, St. Benedict's, Mohnton. Find hope and healing. Info: Joe Boylan 610-781-6415/ joeboylan@breksfoods.com

DESIGNED WITH PURPOSE NFP INFO NIGHT: 6:30-8:30p, Feb. 06 at Building 24 Kitchen and Bar, Wyomissing. What is "Natural Family Planning" and why does the Church promote it? Speakers will discuss science and women's health. For single, engaged, married, or to learn more. Refreshments provided. allentown.nfp@gmail.com RSVP allentowndiocese.flocknote.com/signup/191358

Winter Cornhole Tournament: 10a, Feb. 22 at HGA, Reading. Bracket Tournament: Pro (\$50/team); Novice (\$50/team); and Junior (\$25/team). Cash prizes to be awarded. Registered teams receive T-Shirt and Cup. **Register by Feb. 10:** hgaparish.com/post/throwing-with-the-angels-2025 for rules/info and to register.

ST. PAUL'S, READING 7TH ANNUAL FAMILY GALA: Feb. 23, Redner's Event Center, 1st Energy Stadium (Rt. 61) Reading, honoring Phillip Fromuth, PH. D, retired Diocesan Superintendent of Catholic Education. Cash bar opens 5p, Dinner at 6, bakset raffle. Tickets \$75 each, table sponsorships available. **RSVP by Feb. 10:** 610-372-1531 or StPaulsRCChurch@comcast.net

FOURFOLD LOVE EVENT: 7-9p, Feb. 13, St. Elizaabeth, Whitehall. A young adult discussion on the Four Loves by C.S. Lewis with Father Eidle. Food and beverages provided. Info zhodgskin@allentowndiocese.org Register: allentowndiocese.flocknote.com/signup/194669

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

STRENGTHEN YOUR FAITH: KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

VIDEO SERIES: Men and women, young and old, strengthen and grow in family and faith with their five short videos called the "Mission of The Family". Find them (free!) at: kofc.org/en/campaigns/ The *Knights* also offer the original "Into the Breach" video series about what it means to be a man in today's world at the same link.

CAMP CADET WITH PA POLICE TROOP M: Overnight summer camp June 08-13 at Camp Fowler, Orefield. For boys and girls 12-15 yrs old, Camp Cadet introduces them to the diverse criminal justice system and a positive relationship with law enforcement. Interested? Info: Trooper Nathan Branosky: nbranosky@pa.gov or 610-807-3395. **Register now thru the month of Feb. or til filled.** Troopmcampcadet.org/

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



NUN RUN 5K
April 12 at 10:00 AM
 Join us to support the mission & lives of our MSC Sisters:
Sponsorships
Live & Virtual Options
 Visit: MSCreading.org
CWhitmoyer@mscreading.org
T-SHIRT DEADLINE 3/17

MSC Sisters
www.MSCreading.org

Save the Date!

2nd Collection NEXT Week



Mary's Shelter
 25TH ANNIVERSARY
 1995 - 2020

Lifeline
 OF BERKS COUNTY, INC.

Please be generous

MEN'S LENTEN REFLECTION: 8a-12n, March 01, St. Catharine of Siena, Reading. A (free) MEN ALIVE IN CHRIST event includes Mass, refreshments and Confession. Speakers: Bishop Schlert, Rev. Philip Maas, and Mr. Larry Bonino. Info Mike: maikens1@hotmail.com or 610-914-0382. allentowndiocese.flocknote.com/signup/194012

PILGRIMAGE FROM PARIS TO LOURDES: April 27-May 06, 2025. Highlights: Mass at **Notre Dame Cathedral**, tours, dinner in the Eifel Tower, Papal Vineyards wine tasting and visit the grotto of Lourdes. Learn more: Fr. Stokes, Holy Family, Minersville: 570-544-4741

FATIMA/LOURDES RETREAT: June 07-16, 2025 led by Fr. John Frink. Itinerary and details: 206tours.com/cms/frfri

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: "A society is all the more human to the degree that it cares effectively for its most frail and suffering members, in a spirit of fraternal love. Let us strive to achieve this goal, so that no one will feel alone, excluded or abandoned." ~ Pope Francis, Message for the 29th World Day of the Sick 2021 © 2020, *Libreria Editrice Vaticana*. Used with permission. All rights reserved.

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

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

REFLECTION... by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson
 You may know the long-running TV series 'Law and Order' and its trademark 'plink plunk' sound between scenes. Each show featured an incident of law violation followed by the court trial. Evidently a winning formula as the franchise has continued to produce spin-offs.

Generally speaking, in real life, most people prefer to live under authentic law and consistent order. It's the criminal element among us who "ply their trade," so to speak.

Joseph and Mary, the holy parents of a Holy Child, certainly knew the law of their nation and kept them in good order. That is why they entered the great Temple on a day long ago to participate in the established rite of presentation that all Hebrew mothers had to go through forty days after the birth of their male child. Obviously, Mary did not have to undergo any purification, but she, with Joseph, did so to preclude any scandal. So, in all humility they lined up with the other couples and their boys.

The topic of law and order enters our thinking from time to time. It often proceeds from "something out there" to something personal. We believe that Our Lord Jesus provided us guidelines. He fulfilled the Old Testament Law. He passed on the same to what would eventually become His Catholic Church through His Apostles and their successors. Twenty-one centuries later the obligation to obey remains, even if the idea of obedience these days is culturally foreign.

Sad to say, a growing number of those who call themselves Catholic have chosen not to agree. So, we note their absence from Sunday Mass in a downward trend that underscores the prediction of our late pope Benedict XVI that the Church will grow smaller and poorer.

It is difficult to understand how a rational person could decide to ignore Christ's words 'Do this in memory of Me,' spoken at the Last Supper to His Apostles is beyond the scope of this reflection. I will just say the words "relativism" and "self-referential morality" for the time being. You can explore them.

Honestly though, a person's bias against law in general certainly threatens order. How safe would it be to cross a busy street? Or board a plane? Or ride a New York City subway?

I began this piece with reference to a popular TV show. Let me close with some homespun wisdom I found that recognizes the problem. "Many people believe in law and order as long as they can lay down the law and give the orders."

God love you and give you His peace.