

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. Find form and info at www.stmaryskutztown.com/godparent-requests/ 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,

5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, FEBRUARY 09, 2025

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

MASS Intentions

Mon 02-10	7:30a	People of the Parish
Tue 02-11	7:30a	William and Celestina Keller
Wed 02-12	7:30a	Valetta Rohrbach Smith
Thu 02-13	7:30a	Venceslaus Fernando
Fri 02-14	7:30a	John C. Zimmerman
Sat 02-15	4:30p	People of the Parish
Sun 02-16	8:30a	Bill Stadalnik
	11:00a	Mary Louise Tucker

Call the parish office to sponsor altar flowers weekly

READINGS and CELEBRATIONS for the WEEK

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
Mon 02-10	Gn 1:1-19; Mk 6:53-56
Tue 02-11	Gn 1:20—2:4a; Mk 7:1-13
Wed 02-12	Gn 2:4b-9, 15-17; Mk 7:14-23
Thu 02-13	Gn 2:18-25; Mk 7:24-30
Fri 02-14	Gn 3:1-8; Mk 7:31-37
Sat 02-15	Gn 3:9-24; Mk 8:1-10
Sun 02-16	6 th Sunday Ordinary time- Jer 17:5-8; 1 Cor 15:12, 16-20; Lk 6:17, 20-26

THIS WEEK

NEXT WEEK

Music Ministry

4:30p	Sitarik, Anne Moore, Mark	Spanier, Amelia Casey, Peggy
8:30a	Talarico, Tim Moore, Mark	Skoronski, Nathan Cebenko, Steve
11:00a	Moore, Mark Talarico, Tim	Thomas, Cathy Talarico, Tim

Extraordinary Ministry

4:30p	Ruh, Mike Klopp, Daryl	Zawaly, Sue Zawaly, Joe
8:30a	Ganser, Steve Hilburt, Laura	Pangrazi, Dana Pergosky, Ann
11:00a	Pirnot, Ann Wanner, Theresa	Jones, John Kropf, Walt

Collection Ingo

OLG

In Church

Expenses

Regular Collection	\$5,263.00	\$6,029.00	<i>Last week:</i>
Building Fund	\$2,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$12,655.83
Capital Campaign	\$74.00	\$135.00	
Parish Partnership	\$119.00	\$60.00	<i>This week:</i>
Lifeline/Mary Shelter	\$205.00	\$2,450.70	\$19,838.94
Other Reg. Collections	\$85.00	\$70.00	

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

Contact office to update list: secretary@stmaryskutztown.com



Remember in your Prayers Robert J. Adam 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
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

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

EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Sun 02.09 5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**
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
- Sat 02.15 Men's Formation Group, 7:30a**
Pray the Rosary, 4p
2nd Collection – Capital Improvements

EVENTS NEXT WEEK

- Sun 02.16 6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**
2nd Collection – Capital Improvements
Parish Breakfast served, 8:30-11a
Youth Mass, 8:30a
Level 6 Retreat, 8:30a-1p
- Mon 02.17 Presidents Day – Parish Office closed**
- Tue 02.18 Faith Sharing, 10a**
- Wed 02.19 Women of Grace, 6p**
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, 7-8p
- Thu 02.20 Music Ministry, 7p**
O.C.I.A., 7p
- Sat 02.22 Pray the Rosary, 4p**
2nd Collection – Parish Partnership

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



It began as an ecumenical teen service project. Here it is 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. Monies 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!**

TEMPORARY INCONVENIENCE & PERMANENT

IMPROVEMENT: On Feb. 06, work will begin to replace the water damaged Gathering Area drop ceiling. The project is to be complete in 10-14 days. Thanks for your patience!

MEN OF THE PARISH-CHRIST IS CALLING! In our Sunday Gospel, Jesus gets into the boat with Peter and says: "Put out into deep water!" All too often, men become experts in all kinds of things, but are content to remain in shallow waters when it comes to their faith—stuck in the baby pool! Christ wants more for you. The Church needs more from you.

7:30am, Saturday Feb. 15 we'll begin a new men's formation group at St. Mary's. The meeting is expected to last 60-75 minutes; coffee will be available. The first meeting will focus on upcoming Sunday readings. We'll also discuss format and frequency of future meetings, perhaps one per month. Please consider joining Dcn. Howard, Fr. John and other men of the parish. It's time to get out of the baby pool and put out into the deep!

MARY'S CAFÉ: Friday, February 21, in Room 117/122 of the Religious Ed Center, all are invited to join Father John at "Mary's Cafe". For those available during the day, there will be a morning session at 10am. For all others, we will also have an evening session at 7pm.

By popular request this month's tope will be "Q & A with Father John". You may submit questions in writing or verbally. As always, personal questions should be handled separately. Is there a burning question about the faith that you have always wondered about, but were afraid to ask? Bring it to Mary's Café February 21!



"Mary's Café" is a great opportunity to get together with others in the parish, and grow in your faith. The talk is informal and informative, allowing time to ask questions on the topic at hand, and others as well! Light refreshments will be available. Hope to see you Friday, February 21, at either 10a or 7p, in the Religious Ed Center!

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION- FR. JOHN MARIA

Our readings for the 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time illustrate that God will call all kinds of people to further His plan to draw all souls to Himself.

We are given three examples: Isaiah, Paul and Peter. Each were painfully aware of their sins and limitations, but were overwhelmed by the power of God's grace. These are great stories of real people, whose lives were changed, and their lives changed history. What can we learn?

We can be sure that the Lord has a special role for each of us, perhaps not as dramatic as the saints in our readings, but a role designed for us by the Lord.

We ought to be humbled by His call and His presence, and our unworthiness, but we should not use it as an excuse to shy away. The Lord will make up for our shortcomings, if we humbly allow Him to do so. He seems to prefer to call the humble and unlikely!

May we also be clear on the majesty and glory of God, and the reverence we owe to our Lord Jesus Christ. In our time where so many have lost a sense of sin and a sense of the sacred, let us pray for the humility to confess our sins, and to bow down before Him in adoration and love. He is truly Present in the Most Blessed Sacrament, and truly present in our lives.

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

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.

World Day of the Sick, February 11, 2025



The World Day of the Sick, Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, "is an opportunity to devote special attention to the sick and to those who provide them with assistance and care both in healthcare institutions and within families and communities," *Pope Francis, 2021*

SR. KATHLEEN WHITE MEMORIAL SPAGHETTI DINNER

SUCCESS! Thank you to all who volunteered! And thank you also for your generous donations raising over \$1,800 for Heifer Project providing livestock and training to help communities become self-sufficient. All had a good time, good food and fellowship. Junior High youth will select the animals to sponsor in classes.

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 & youth homelessness via proactive prevention, intervention and stabilization.

Your support last week raised **\$2,655.70**. Thank you!!

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*

PARISH CARD & GAME NIGHT: 5:45-9p, March 15 in the Social Hall. Open to youth (12 & up) and all Adults. \$3 per person includes Hot Roast Beef sandwiches, chips/pretzels & water/soda. Bring a favorite game and/or treats to share. See sign-up by 03/09 in Gathering Area. Questions? Tom Cengeri 610-207-5831.



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



ST MONICA MINISTRY HOLY HOUR: 6-7p Feb. 11. Bring your petitions before the Most Blessed Sacrament. Ask the intercession of St. Monica for fallen-away loved ones in this Jubilee year of Hope. Join monthly St. Theresa Church, Hellertown. Info: Celest StMonicaMinistry27@gmail.com

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

HGA PARISH BINGO: Bingo held most Sundays in school social hall. Doors open 12:30p, 1st game 2p. Player packs \$20 & \$25 (kids packs \$10. If under 18 adult required). In Feb. 02, 09 and 23. Info: 610-763-4929

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 GLA: 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

RETROUVILLE: 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

HGARS PA DUTCH POT PIE DINNER: Dinner served 4:30-6:30p Feb. 22 in HGA Social Hall (take-out only from 4-4:30p). Mail or drop off *required* order form at Rectory 9a-4p M-Th by Feb. 17. Order form: www.hgaparish.com

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 W/PA POLICE TROOP M: Overnight summer camp June 08-13 at Camp Fowler, Orefield. Boys & 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/

SAVE THE DATE: June 12, Faith Night at the Reading Phillies. Keep the date open, watch here for details, and join other parishioners at the game!

PILGRIMAGE TO FATIMA AND LOURDES WITH ST.

AMBROSE CHURCH: Oct. 15-Oct. 25, 2025. Includes pilgrimage to Fatima and Lourdes, Lisbon and Barcelona. All inclusive: \$5,395 pp. Details: stambrosehaven.com or 570-385-1031. **Info mtg 6p, Feb. 24 at St. Ambrose, Schuykill Haven.**



BOWL-A-THON! 3-5p, March 16, Berks Lanes, supports Mary's Shelter. Register and reserve a lane at www.marysshelter.org. Fun for a great cause!

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

READY, WILLING & ABLE-PARENTS PODCAST from the Diocesan Office of Education. Find content to support and be empowered parents as primary educators of the faith for your children. Host Genevieve O'Connor has an MTS in Moral Theology, Univ. of Notre Dame. She invites guests to explore a wide range of topics, including: family prayer, politics, faith, and parenting, and bringing Advent alive for kids. Visit: www.buzzsprout.com/2410685, or on your favorite podcast streaming platform.



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

Save the Date!

MEN'S LENTEN REFLECTION: 8a-12n, March 01, St. Catharine fo 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

MARDIGRAS BEFORE LENT: 7-9p, March 4, Holy Family Parish Ctr, Nazareth. Young Adults enjoy conversation, community and eats/drinks we might give up during 40 days of Lent. Info: zhodgskin@allentowndiocese.org Register: allentowndiocese.flocknote.com/signup/194678

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

Daily Marriage Tip

One of the spiritual works of mercy is "counsel the doubtful." Does your spouse feel doubtful or unsure about work or a big decision? Take time to listen, understand and (if requested) offer advice.

Foryourmarriage.org

WORD OF LIFE: "Married love differs from any other love in the world. By its nature, the love of husband and wife is so complete, so ordered to a lifetime of communion with God and each other, that it is open to creating a new human being they will love and care for together." ~ USCCB, *Married Love and the Gift 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 family. Submit cover letter, resume, and all certifications and clearances. Email: kelpre@hgaschool.org

REFLECTION... by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

If you were to research the notion of "The Peter Principle" you would find it is ultimately just a theory first recognized by a Canadian educator named Dr. Laurence J. Peter. Admittedly light in his proposal, he wrote that in any corporate structure a person tends to be promoted until he or she gets to one rung above his or her level of competence. You can be the judge of whether or not this has happened where you work. I know it happens in the Church.

What I propose is "the St. Peter Principle," It was initiated by the lovable man who become our first pope. Christ's choice of him put Peter where he was most competent, as leader and bulwark against heresy. Yes, he was imperfect, but he always kept intact his beautiful humility. Evidence of this we have in today's Gospel.

With transparent frustration, Peter resists Jesus' command to lower the nets in deep water. "We've been at this all night, Lord!" he says. But out of respect for the carpenter's son, He lowers the nets. When the miracle happens, Peter immediately kneels before Jesus and urges Him to leave sinful company.

Now just freeze the moment and savor it. Note both the power and the beauty. Here a rough and ready fisherman, tired from a hard night's work, still manages to convert to a ready penitent. Please allow me to stretch this tidy conclusion with a more elusive one. Do you recognize the fact that all Peters, not just St. Peter, can be surprised by God? He frequently supplies something positive and wonderful in our lives, and we routinely forget those when we complain to Him about the inevitable negatives. I leave it to you to name them from your life experience so far.

I prefer it if you were to list the items you acknowledge on Thanksgiving morning. Things like meeting the person you eventually fall in love with enough to bind your life with theirs. This one is most appropriate to think about on this "World Day of Marriage" in our Church calendar. Or the happy diagnosis given one by the cancer specialist. Or the unexpected raise given you by the boss. Or the return to the faith by a non-practicing family member, to name a few. But note how the "St. Peter Principle" kicks in. It is your humility showing when you compose such a list. It urges you kneel and be grateful that God does not run away from you. Listen to the great Pope Gregory the Great: "God first gathered the unlearned, afterwards philosophers, nor has he taught fishermen by orators, but has subdued orators by fishermen."

God love you and give you His peace.



Women's Lenten Retreat

A Time of Forgiveness & Healing



Here at St. Mary's, Kutztown

8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

March 08, 2025

Featured presenters include:

Most Reverend Bishop
Alfred Schlert

Denise Yarrison
of Hope's Garden

Philadelphia Auxiliary Bishop
Keith J. Chylinski

Fee: \$35

Info/register with Valetta:

610-568-4985 *or*

ValettaEshbach@hotmail.com

See gathering area

Neighborhood Ozgood's Grill & Bar

2 Locations! Open Sunday!

Locally owned and operated, Ozgood's Neighborhood Grill & Bar in Robesonia, PA and Kutztown, PA has been serving great food and beverages since 1997. Both locations offer our unique menu and friendly casual dining scene the whole family will enjoy!

Seafood, Steaks, Chicken, Burgers, Sandwiches, Wings and More!

**Banquet Facilities ♦ Weekly Specials
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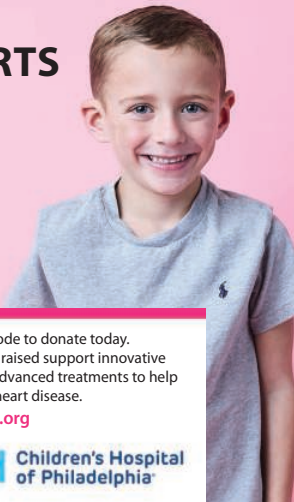
#WHATSMYNAME



RIDE FOR LITTLE HEARTS

Saturday & Sunday
March 8-9, 2025

Help hearts like Luca's
Philly Spin-In Ambassador,
Luca, 6, dreams of becoming
a personal trainer - or
flying like Iron Man.



Scan this QR code to donate today.
100% of funds raised support innovative
research and advanced treatments to help
children with heart disease.
PhillySpinIn.org



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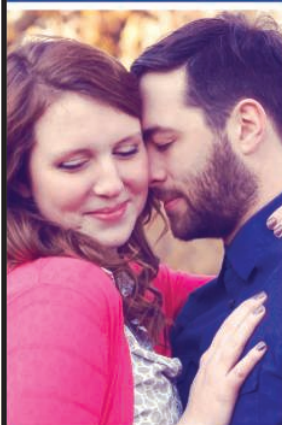
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