

# ST. MARY'S CHURCH



Church, Business Offices, Meeting Rooms and Rectory

14833 Kutztown Road • Kutztown, PA 19530

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

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

Phone: (610) 683-7443 • Fax: (610) 683-7625

Email: [StMarysKtown@ptd.net](mailto:StMarysKtown@ptd.net)

## PASTORAL MINISTRY

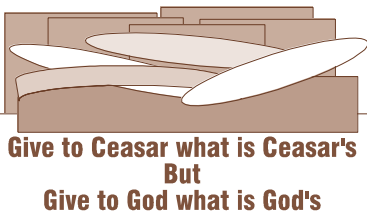
Pastor	Rev. Msgr. Walter T. Scheaffer
Permanent Deacon	Dcn. James Russo
Pastoral Assistant	Sr. Marie Clark, MSC
Coordinator of Religious Education	Mrs. Ann Pergosky
Coordinator of R.C.I.C.	Mrs. Carol Bogansky
Coordinator of Home-Based Religious Education	Mrs. Ann Pergosky
Director of Music Ministry	Mrs. Anne Sitarik
Parish Secretary	Mrs. Anne Sitarik

## PARISH ORGANIZATIONS

Baptismal Preparation	Mrs. Ann Pergosky
Building Committee	Msgr. Scheaffer
Faith Justice Committee	Mrs. Barbe Fogarty
Finance Committee	Msgr. Scheaffer
Ladies Auxiliary	Mrs. Jane Bennett
Liturgy Committee	Msgr. Scheaffer
Men of St. Mary's	Mr. Tom Cengeri
Pastoral Council	Msgr. Scheaffer
Pro-Life Committee	Mr. John Tucker, O.P.
R.C.I.A	Msgr. Scheaffer
Scripture Study	Msgr. Scheaffer
Small Faith Sharing Groups	Mrs. Dottie Boyle

## DIOCESAN INFORMATION

Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator:	Wendy S. Krisak Direct Telephone: (800) 791-9209, not confidential
Diocesan Safe Environment Coordinator:	Sister Meg Cole, S.S.J., M.S., LMFT, Telephone (610) 332-0442 xt. 2019



**Give to Caesar what is Caesar's  
But  
Give to God what is God's**

## LITURGIES

Sunday	9:00, 11:00 AM
Saturday Vigil	4:30 PM
Daily Masses	8:15 AM

## ADORATION

First Friday of the Month, 2PM-4PM  
Third Wednesday of the Month, 7-8 PM

**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM** - Third Sunday of the month at 11AM Liturgy, except during Lent. Baptismal Prep Class required.

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION** - Saturday, 4:05 to 4:25 PM, before Masses, or by appointment.

**SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK** - Call the Rectory to make arrangements.

**SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY** - Contact the Rectory one year in advance. Couples must attend the Marriage Preparation Program or Engaged Encounter.

**CERTIFICATES** - Parishioners in full Communion with the Catholic Church may submit requests to receive sponsorship certificates (for the Rites of Baptism and Confirmation). Please allow two weeks to process requests. One is required:

- to attend Mass regularly.
- to have celebrated the Sacraments of Eucharist, Reconciliation and Confirmation.
- Married individuals should be validly married in the Catholic Church.

**HOMEBOUND** - Call the Rectory to arrange visitations, made once a month by a Priest and at other times by a Eucharistic Minister.

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

**PARISH MEMBERSHIP** - Welcome to St. Mary's Parish. Please register for Parish membership by calling the Business office. Please inform us if you are moving.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION** - Please call the business office for more information:

### *Center-based*

- Levels Pre-K to 5 meet every week, Sunday mornings.
- Jr. High and Sr. High meet every second week, Sunday evenings.

### *Home-based*

- Families share faith at home and come together several times a year.

Twenty Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time, October 22, 2017

## Twenty Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time, October 22, 2017

Mon	10-23	8:15a	Mass of Thanksgiving, George DelRio
Tue	10-24	8:15a	Rolando Lajo
Wed	10-25	8:15a	Celeste Keller
Thu	10-26	8:15a	Edward and Maryann Guzowski
Fri	10-27	8:15a	Souls in Purgatory
Sat	10-28	4:30p	David Heffner
Sun	10-29	9:00a	For the Parish
		11:00a	Catherine Slodysko

### READING and CELEBRATIONS for the WEEK

Mon	10-23	Ro 4:20-25; Lk 12:13-21
Tue	10-24	Ro 5:12, 15b, 17-19, 20b-21; Lk 12:35-38
Wed	10-25	Ro 6:12-18; Lk 12:39-4
Thu	10-26	Ro 6:19-23; Lk 12:49-53
Fri	10-27	Ro 7:18-25a; Lk 12:54-59
Sat	10-28	Eph 2:19-22; Lk 6:12-16
Sun	10-29	Ex 22:20-26; 1 Th 1:5c-10; Mt 22:34-40

Collection Info from	Income	Expenses
Regular Collection	4,175.00	2,384.83
Building Fund	1,500.00	
Capital Campaign	45.00	
Other Regular Income	150.00	
Parish Partnership	20.00	
World Missions Collection	25.00	

*To sponsor altar flowers in memory of a loved one call the parish office.*

### Please Pray for the Sick, and their loved ones:

Mary Sue Arnold	Eleanor Fry	Barry & Sharon
Sylvia Austermilller	Jim Fry	Miller
Barbara Bellus	Sue Fry	Elaine O. Miller
Mary Beth Benedict	Eric Lee George	Loretta Montagner
Betty Bennett	Sandra George	Nikolette Nolte
Thomas Bennett	Garrett Goebel	Jeff Onopa
Alayna Biltcliff	Jim Goebel	Dorothy Opilla
Sande Blankenbiller	Ken Gorski	Joanne O'Connell
Kayla Brown	Marlow Graff	Kathleen Parker
June Bruno	Jacqueline Hartz	Norma Roche
Ed Caffrey	Linda Haurus	Michelle Rodriguez
Nadia Cahill	Philip J. Haurus	Dawn Rosales
Meaghan Clark	Hayduk, Hannah	Nina Hertzog Rundle
Frank Daddona	Walter Heller	Richard Rusconi
Kolby Jos. Doerr	Kathy Henry	Mary Rutkosky
Christine Dougherty	Jane Hughes	Dannielle Sands
Annabeth Rose Ebert	Joan Hullinger	Karen Schinski
Dave Ebling	Allison Marie Innella	Rev. James Schlegel
Mandy Engleman	Lillian Karch	Gregory Schnabl
Floyd Falcone	Robert Klucharich	Janice Schnabl
Helen Falcone	Henry Kryeski	Mark Sidler
Patricia Farabaugh	Christopher Lengner	Faye Smith
Orchid Fajardo	Edward & Rosemary	William Stadalnik
Jeannette Fayewicz	Law	Ted
Niki Ferrizzi	Julie Lindsey	Amy Turko
Kathleen Fink	Gloria Maturi	Paul Vasko
Ruth Fitterling	Joceline Maldonado	Randall Vresko
Chloe Flowers	Kail Maynard	Susan Wechezak

*To update or add someone to the prayer list, please contact the parish office, [stmarysec@ptd.net](mailto:stmarysec@ptd.net)*

THIS WEEK		NEXT WEEK
<b>MUSIC MINISTRY</b>		
4:30	Talarico, Tim Casey, Peggy	Gralinski, Jim Casey, Peggy
9:00	Spanier, Chris Cebenکو, Steve	Strzelecki, Tom Cebenکو, Steve
Youth	Skoronski, Mary	Spanier, Julia
11:00	Pirnot, Tom Lazar, Anne	Henry, Kathy Lazar, Anne
<b>EXTRAORDINARY EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS</b>		
4:30	Arentz, Bill Arentz, Stephanie Bennett, Jane Crossley, Karin Hadnagy, Muriel Otruba, Pam	Arnold, Ellen Arnold, Vince Gralinski, Robyn Ruh, Mike Shurilla, Donna Stadalnik, Arlene
9:00	Bogansky, Carol Dunkle, Kim Klopp, Daryl Pangrazi, Dana Snyder, Pat Spanier, Amelia	Bucci, Nancy Cengeri, Tom Gray, Bob Kokinda, Jeff Quinn, Devin Spevak, Joe
11:00	Brooks, Michael Cook, Bradley Jones, John Neumann, Sue Pangrazi, Marco Pirnot, Ann	Hosterman, Ed Hosterman, Eileen Marakovitz, Hannah Morris, Shannon Reimert, Rosemarie Wanner, Theresa
<b>LECTOR MINISTRY</b>		
4:30	c- Eshbach, Valetta l- Zawaly, Patty	c- Zettle, Steve l- Hertzog, Darlene
9:00	c- Pangrazi, Ron l- Pettit, Bill	c- Quinn, John l- Quinn, Doreen
11:00	c- Thomas, Dan l- Kopchick, Karen	c- Jones, Anne l- Augustin, Loretta
<b>ALTAR SERVER</b>		
4:30	Crossley, Carson Crossley, Evangeline Roth, Owen	Beals, Juliet Pritchard, Jessica Stitzel, Amaris
9:00	Costello, Ann Neeka Skoronski, Thomas Skoronski, Zachary	Cebenکو, Bohdie Cebenکو, Marlayna DelRio, Mike
11:00	Cook, Celeste Fullington, Jesse Gow, William	Fortna, Jacob Schmerhorn, Maren ?
<b>GREETERS</b>		
4:30	?	?
9:00	Sedlack Family	Osenbach Family
11:00	Fullington Family	Schmerhorn Family
<b>9:00A-CHILDREN'S LITUGY of the WORD</b>		
Leader	Skoronski, Wendy	Phillips, Rita
Reader	Skoronski, Mary	Phillips, Makala
<b>ROSARY LEADER - SATURDAY</b>		
4:05	Eshbach, Valetta	Arentz, Stephanie

### EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Sun 10.22 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection-World Missions**  
**Children's Liturgy of the Word, 9a**  
Elementary Relig. Educ., 10:30a  
Junior High ministry, 6p  
Senior High, Giving From Our Bounty, 6:30p
- Mon 10.23 Kitchen Help, Turkey Noodle Soup, 10a-3p**
- Tue 10.24 Faith Sharing, 9:30a**  
**Men's Spirituality-A Way To God, 7p**
- Thu 10.26 Choir practice, 7p**  
**Scripture Study, 7p**
- Sat 10.28 Pray the Rosary, 4:05p**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Collection-Parish Partnership**

### NEXT WEEK

- Sun 10.29 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection-Parish Partnership**  
**Ladies Auxiliary Liturgy, 9a Mass**  
Elementary Relig. Educ., 10:30a  
Lvl 8 Tipton Bingo trip, 2:15p  
Eucharist Day Holy Hour, 4p  
Junior High ministry, Levels 6 and 7, 6p
- Mon 10.30 Kitchen Help, Turkey Rice Soup, 10a-3p**  
**Staff meeting, 12:30p**  
**Liturgy meeting, 1:15p**
- Tue 10.31 Vigil of All Saints, Mass 6:30p**
- Wed 11.01 ALL SAINTS DAY, HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION,**  
**MASSES 12N AND 7:30P**
- Thu 11.02 COMMEMORATION OF ALL SOULS, MASSES 8:15A**  
**AND 7:00P**  
**Kitchen Help, make haluski, 10a-2p**
- Fri 11.03 Adoration of Blessed Sacrament, 2-4p**  
**Baked Goods drop off, 6-8p**
- Sat 11.04 Ladies Auxiliary Holiday Bazaar, 8:30a-2:30p**  
**Stump-Soga Wedding, 1p**  
**Pray the Rosary, 4:05p**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Collection-Capital Improvements**  
*End Daylight Savings Time after midnight - "Fall Back"*

**BULLETIN DEADLINE:** For Sunday publication please submit items by 12 noon of the prior Monday. *Submit full-page information a full two weeks in advance.*

**PROJECT HOPE** October contact: Laurel Delaney: 610-683-5882. Info/join HOPE: [LOLCSW@ptd.net](mailto:LOLCSW@ptd.net)

**YOUTH MUSICIANS:** Youth thru grade 5 come prepare to sing a Communion Meditation for each month's Youth Mass. Meet weekly after 9a Mass weekly in church at the piano. Call: Anni Sedlack-610-682-0820

**PUERTO RICO SUPPORT:** To support those in Puerto Rico affected by Hurricane Maria you may make a contribution to the October Parish Partnership 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection October 28/29. Catholic Charities expects an increased demand in coming months as diocesan families welcome island residents awaiting local Puerto Rico reconstruction.



**W**e welcome these children who were baptized into the family of God, and the family of St. Mary's.

Willow Jaclyn Fluck

Joseph Daniel Novakovich

Nadyha Skylar Toledo

May we all share our faith with them.




**BLOODMOBILE DRIVE:** 8a-12n, Sunday Nov. 12.

Donating blood is a way to live our Catholic faith and reach out directly to our brothers and sisters in need. Sign up in the gathering area Oct. 28/29 & Nov 4/5 to help.

**THE LADIES AUXILIARY WISHES TO ACKNOWLEDGE** Ramona Kemp for the ABC Cookie recipe, below. Many years ago Ramona, of our parish, generously shared this recipe. The cookies are always welcome in the Holiday Bazaar Baked Goods room, and the Ladies Auxiliary remembers Ramona most fondly this year, the year of her passing.

**Holiday Bazaar Cookies:** Rolled, decorated cookies are very popular at the Holiday Bazaar. Here is an easy recipe. Bring donated cookie dough to Relig. Ed. Center for Oct. 10 and 11 baking nights, 6-8:30p. Call Carm: 610-683-5931 or Valetta: 610-926-3910 for info.

#### ABC Cookies

5 c flour	3 eggs		1 tsp cream of tartar
2 c sugar	1 tsp baking soda		½ tsp vanilla
	¾ lb melted butter		

Mix all ingredients together and divide into 3 patties. Wrap in waxed paper and chill overnight. Roll out and cut into shapes. Decorate and bake at 350° for 8-10 minutes.

**PLEASE SUPPORT THE ANNUAL FUND FOR RETIRED AND INFIRM**

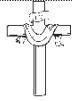
**PRIESTS OF THE DIOCESE OF ALLENTOWN-** Please take advantage of the opportunity to offer support to the retired priests of our Diocese and help provide for their retirement care! Your donation helps serve those who have faithfully served us. You will receive a request letter in the mail, or find brochures and giving envelopes in the gathering area. Return your gift in the mail or drop it in the collection basket at Mass. Thank you in advance for your generous support!

**SCRIPTURE REFLECTION:** All things belong to God but God is willing to share with others like kings or government when what they receive is used for the good of his people. The dilemma that most people have to face is how and what do we give to God. When governments or humans make demands of us they specify very clearly what they want. When it comes to God we have choices and freedom to determine what we will give and when and where. It is God's desire that we respond out of thanksgiving and love not force or law. We have to ask how much of our time, talent and treasure will we give go God? People often develop false gods in their lives and give their time, treasure and talent to those gods which in the end benefit no one, even themselves. Let us develop integrity in our giving to God out of love and thanksgiving.

***Please Pray for these persons serving our Nation.***

Keenan Albright	Timothy DeVall	James Knight
Kyle Albright	Anthony DiPietro	Nick Marakovits
Michael Barron	Charles Douglass	Melissa Marks
Andrew Barthol	Timothy DuShaw	Laura Miller
Frank M. Bieda	Keith Essig	Heather O'Donnell
John Boyer	Michael Allen Haak	James Quinn
Matthew Boyer	Diane Henry	Phillip Talarico
Jonathan Cardé	Joshua Joseph	Steve Ziegler
Eric Cunningham	Dan King	

*Call the office to add/remove names from this list*



**PRAY** for the repose of the soul of Alice Chmielewski of our parish, who died recently.

**LADIES AUXILIARY:** Just a reminder... \*The Ladies Auxiliary Mass is 9a, Sunday, October 29. \*The deadline for Longwood Gardens sign-up is Sunday, October 29. \*The next Ladies Auxiliary meeting is 6:30p Tuesday, November 7

**Holiday Bazaar Volunteers/Donations Needed:**

- Set-up 6:30-8:30p, Mon.-Thurs. Oct 30-Nov 2, Tear Down & Clean Up Nov. 4. Contact Marcella Brinker 610-683-6239 or Janice Schnabl 610-756-6119
- Drop off donations Sun. 10/29 after Masses; 6:30-8:30p, Mon.-Thurs. Oct. 30-Nov 2.
- Cook/Serve in the Kitchen. Contact Mary Alkons 610-683-5443
- Help Organize & Sell:
  - **Used Book Room** - Contact Marcia and Steve Zettle 610-944-1838
  - **White Elephant Room** - Contact Cindy Krutsick 610-987-0795
  - **Baked Goods Room** - Home-baked items only (please label & put name on returnable containers) - Contact Valetta Eshbach 610-926-3910
  - **Auxiliary Table of homemade items** - Contact Frances Larash 610-683-3675
  - **Cookie Room** (please bake at home and label cookies. Contact Carm Sosik 610-683-5931

**KITCHEN HELP:** Since 1995 a dedicated group of people has made over 30,000 pierogies and other delicious foods for St Mary's Holiday Bazaar. Our group of kitchen help has continued to turnover and we need some new helpers this year. Could you spend a couple of hours with us? We make \*Make **Soup and BBQ Mondays in October;** \*Make **Haluski the Bazaar week.** With fresh faces like YOURS can continue to make these sought-after, homemade foods. Call Mary Alkons to help. (610) 683-5443.

**PARISH BAKERS!!** Consider sharing your talent with the parish by donating your specialty to the Holiday Bazaar Baked Goods Sale November 4. You may drop off items 6-8p, Friday November 3 in the Parish Hall. Any questions? Call Valetta at 610-926-3910.



**ATTN CRAFTSMEN/WOMEN:** The Nov. 4 Holiday Bazaar, is an excellent opportunity to showcase parishioners' talents. Consider making handcrafted items to be sold at the Ladies Auxiliary craft table. Any handcrafted items, made from fabric, wood, paper, yarn, etc. are welcome. Small items, using materials you may already have, would be wonderful! Crafty adults or teens are needed to sort donations before the bazaar and to help sell the day of the bazaar. Bring items to the Religious Ed Center the week before the bazaar. Questions? Contact Frances Larash: 610-683-3675



**LONGWOOD GARDENS**

**BUSTRIP:** 8a-4:30p(?), Dec. 05, sponsored by St. Mary's Ladies Auxiliary.

\$45 p/p includes transportation, admission, and driver gratuity. Enjoy lunch on your own. Leave St. Mary's 8a and arrive Longwood Garden @10; depart Gardens 2:30p. Tickets are non-refundable. Make checks payable to St. Mary's Ladies Auxiliary no later than Oct. 29; seats are limited. Sign up in the gathering area or contact Gena Strzelecki 610-682-7593 or Jane Bennett 484-646-9670

**THE WAY to GOD: a GUIDE for MEN-** Oct. 24 begins St. Mary's Men's Spirituality Group new program. Find a path for nurturing faith and sustaining a truly spiritual approach to life. Men of all ages, cultures, and positions will find tremendous spiritual insight with Rev. James Clarke, Ph.D. Topics explore a man's unique approach to God and "things spiritual." And the ways in which spirituality makes connections and enables you to see the divine in the human. Attend and see if this guide to God is for you.

**Gethsemane Cemetery ALL SOULS DAY MASS:** 3p, Nov. 05 at Gethsemane's Chapel of Resurrection. Rain or Shine, all are welcome.

**40 DAYS for LIFE:** Sept 27—Nov 5, our community joins with many from coast to coast for this major simultaneous pro-life Campaign. It is a focused pro-life campaign with a vision to access God's power through prayer, fasting and a peaceful vigil to end abortion. A daily prayer vigil will be held at Reading Planned Parenthood, 4<sup>th</sup> and Franklin St. 7a-4p, M-Sat. Info: [40daysforlife.com/Reading](http://40daysforlife.com/Reading)



"Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done wondrous deeds! (today's Psalm). Let God help you discover ways to fill your relationship with love and joy at a **WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER** weekend. For info:1-732-904-9636 or [www.aweekendforyourmarriage.org](http://www.aweekendforyourmarriage.org)

**ICF 106-The Church:** provides a brief overview of the origins of the Church; Her identity as One, Holy Catholic and Apostolic; and what it means to be "the Body of Christ" on earth. Meets 7-9p, Oct 23-Nov 13, Berks Catholic HS. Info/register <http://www.allentowndiocese.org/icf>

**HEALING MASS:** 6:30p Oct. 23, for those who've experienced trauma. All are invited to join at this Mass with The Most Reverend Alfred A. Schlert, celebrant, and Msgr. Walter Scheaffer, homilist, at Sacred Heart Parish, 117 Washington St., Bath. Holy Hour and Confession follows Mass. 8:30p Benediction concludes the evening.

**STAND UP for LIFE ESSAY CONTEST 2017:** is open to all grade 7-12, public, private and home-school students in the Allentown Diocese. Find themes and submission instructions: [www.allentowndiocese.org/essaycontest](http://www.allentowndiocese.org/essaycontest) Submit essays to the Knights of Columbus Deanery Coordinator in your region by Nov. 3. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> prize winners will be awarded a monetary gift in each division.

**LORD, to WHOM SHALL WE GO:** 9a-5p, Nov. 4, DeSales Univ., Center Valley. Diocesan Men's Conference shows men transformation is possible when they abide in His word. Explore living and growing in the Spirit and the challenges men face; keynote speakers, Adoration and Reconciliation and Saturday Vigil Mass. Spanish track also offered. Info/Register: [www.cmfd.org](http://www.cmfd.org) or 610-289-8900 ext. 2028

**FRANCE TRIP 2018:** Is France, even Lourdes on your bucket list? Join the MSC Sisters and experience its beauty from a spiritual perspective, Paris to Richelieu, Issoudun, Bourges, Paray-le-Monial and Rocamadour then final destination of Lourdes. Request mailed brochure 610-929-2802, details/reservation info: [mscreading.org/](http://mscreading.org/)

**WORD of LIFE:** "If someone shared with you she was pregnant and hadn't ruled out having an abortion, would you know how to respond... in a loving way that is life-affirming for both her and her baby? Consider the four steps of the L.O.V.E. Approach™: Listen and Learn, Open Options, Vision and Value, and Extend and Empower." USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities "What to Do When a Friend is Considering Abortion," [www.goo.gl/Tb2khB](http://www.goo.gl/Tb2khB) The L.O.V.E. Approach™ is trademarked by Heartbeat International, Inc. and is used with permission

**PROLIFE:** The abortion ruined my self-esteem. I do not stand up for my beliefs and rely heavily upon what others think I should do and or be, and especially if they are well-educated, I feel they are more knowledgeable and are able to make better decisions than myself. -- Linda @ Rachel's Vineyard.org

**ESL TEACHER WANTED:** The Mother Veronica Resource Center, 449 S. 6<sup>th</sup> Street in Reading, sponsored by the Bernardine Franciscan Sisters, seeks a volunteer to teach a 6:30-8p ESL class Monday & Wednesday evenings. Also needed: substitute ESL volunteers teachers or tutors who can teach in English/Spanish for GED prep students. Sr. Cara Garofalo: 484-516-2138 [mveronicacenter@gmail.com](mailto:mveronicacenter@gmail.com)

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** at Clare of Assisi House, a transitional home for women returning citizens, 325 S. 12<sup>th</sup> St. Reading, 19602. Needs include: Driving, household tasks, clerical help, yard work and gardening, fundraising,

evening hour presence. Interested volunteers, please call Sr. Eileen Doherty, 484-869-5719 or [edohertyosf@gmail.com](mailto:edohertyosf@gmail.com)

**REFLECTION...** by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

If I were asked to identify an all-encompassing theme for 2017, as we find ourselves this weekend deep into its tenth month, one word springs to mind: violence. We've seen it in our streets, and on the screens of our many devices, large and small.

On a graph, I could say that "road rage" between individuals starts at the bottom. Then, rising quickly to street protests about political differences, and presidential decisions. Then come the so-called "hot button" issues like immigration, sexual preferences, and racism. All of this not to omit the verbal assaults between the leaders of our country and those of other regimes. The graph of violence is more depressing than any we might see drawn up for the stock market.

These matters tempt us to turn the news off in whatever form we receive it. Yet our instinct to know what's new draws us back. We somehow recognize that an ostrich approach to reality is unhealthy. But where, we ask, can we turn for perspective as well as peace? For Christian believers, the answer is the same as it has been for twenty-one centuries: turn to Jesus.

Right away, should we say such a thing in certain quarters, the reaction is predictable. First there is the shoutdown of the cynics, the atheists and not a few agnostics. Not to omit the editors of secular publications. With a certain subtlety, they soften the base sentiment underneath but they let us know they strongly disagree. They would never actually write: "Drop your sentimental tripe!"

This kind of reaction has been going on since Jesus Himself was personally present announcing His new way of thinking and doing things. Such rejection always seems to be the fate of people with a fresh idea. Or a different take on the prevailing wisdom. Inventive geniuses come to mind. As do certain philosophers and teachers of the arts and sciences.

In the scenario Matthew presents this weekend, the "powers that were" (which remind us so much of the current "powers that be") try their well-worn tactic of making Christ look defenseless, and a prey to naivety. But He turns the tables on them. Or should I write "He flips a coin on them?"

It is crucial for us to remember when we think of Jesus that He is truly God in the flesh, "the one and only Lord", as Isaiah writes. There is nothing beyond His power, for He can "subdue mountains and make kings run in His service." Fortified by the Holy Eucharist, our certain task is not to lose confidence in Christ, or let violence have the last word. We are a people of hope. "Hope is putting faith to work when doubting would be easier."

# THE ENDOWMENT FOR THE CARE OF RETIRED PRIESTS



*Dear Friends,*

Each year, the Diocese of Allentown conducts our *Chosen, Blessed, Shared* appeal to support those retired priests who have spent a lifetime living out the words of St. Paul, “*It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.*”

As part of their lifetime of service, our priests have built schools, parishes, Catholic Charities, family ministries, and more in cities, towns, and neighborhoods throughout the five counties served by the Diocese of Allentown. More importantly, our priests lead us in prayer and in worship. Quite simply, they make it possible to live our lives in communion with Christ.

As you’ll see in the brochure, the Diocese of Allentown is committed to caring for those priests who care for us. With your help, the Endowment for the Care of Retired Priests can grow so that it will fully support the health and long-term care for our elderly and infirmed priests in good standing, who, as you probably know, generally continue in their service to our families, to our Diocese, and to the Lord well past any kind of ordinary retirement age.

This year, I hope you will respond to this appeal and support The Endowment for the Care of Retired Priests with a personal contribution. Together, we can continue to keep our promise to care for those who care for us.

Thank you for your kindness, remembrance, and recognition of our priests’ long tradition of prayerful service within the Diocese of Allentown.

*Gratefully in Christ,*

*Paul Acampora*

*Secretary for Stewardship & Development*

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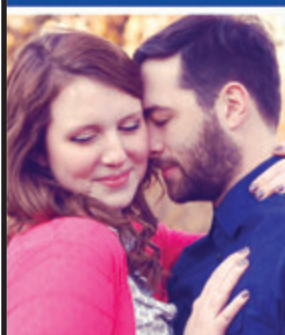
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