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If you would like to join our
Church, please call the office at
(814) 653-8586 (SM) or
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request a registration form .

St. Mary and Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parishes

August 22, 2021 - 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Everyone has questions.

Exploring is good. We're
built for it. Explore more
about life, faith and
meaning with Alpha.

Alpha



St. Mary Parish
607 East Main Street
Reynoldsville, Pennsylvania 15851
814-653-8586
Email: stmaryschurch2@verizon.net

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish
20 Shaffer Street (P.O. Box J)
Sykesville, Pennsylvania 15865
814-894-2772 Social Hall 814-894-7981
Email: abvmchurch20@gmail.com

Pastor – Father William R. Barron

Deacon Stephen D. Rowan

Shared contact information:

Web address: www.stmarysassumption.com

Parish app: search “myParish – Catholic” to download app

Fax number: 814-653-2769

Mass Intentions

Monday, August 23— St. Marys	5:00pm
Deceased members of the Deegan Family By Family	
Tuesday, August 24— Assumption	5:00pm
Ann Bonavita By Antoinette	
Wednesday, August 25—Assumption	5:00pm
Edward Manco By Family	
Thursday, August 26 — St. Marys	5:00pm
Joanne Rocco By Gordon & Mona Lou Toven	
Friday, August 27 - No Mass	
Saturday, August 28 -St. Marys	4:30pm
Dave Rupert By Wojtaszek Family	
Sunday, August 29- Assumption	8:30am
Alan Towns By Betty Beemel	
Sunday, August 29- St. Marys	10:30am
All Parishioners of both Parishes	

Sacrificial Giving

<u>Aug 15</u>	<u>St. Mary</u>	<u>Assumption</u>
Collection	\$2,298.00	\$2,613.60
Electronic Giving	231.00	296.60

Thank you for your generosity!

CSA—Catholic Services Appeal

	<u>St. Mary</u>	<u>Assumption</u>
CSA Goal	\$20,301.00	\$19,312.00
CSA Paid	\$16,959.68	\$13,922.81

Thank you for your continued support.

Sanctuary Candles

In Memory of:

Raymond & Irene McGreevey By: Family

Special Intention By: Betsy Rugh

Information

Prayer Chain

St Mary 653-2752
Assumption 661-3894

Anointing of the Sick :

Call Fr. Barron 814-503-0028

Parish Spotlight — Alpha

In 2014, at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church in Plymouth, Michigan, my wife Kristin and I first heard about Alpha. I don't remember any specifics other than how life-changing it was, and that the parish was making it a priority above all other programs. Kristin and I were just two of 12,000 members at the parish, and we wanted to try something out of our comfort zone and hopefully meet some new people. We are both "cradle Catholics," essentially meaning that we grew up in the church. Catholicism was not something we pondered or challenged. It was handed down to us by our families. We "went to church" every Sunday, I was an altar boy growing up and served as a Eucharistic minister in college at Penn State, and Kristin was even more obedient in her Catholic upbringing. She had just finished medical school, where she was president of their active campus Catholic group. I thought we were pretty good Catholics, and we would be raising our future children to be Catholic. Looking back now, I would say I was operating on a faith that had maxed out at a 6th grade Sunday School maturity level. I didn't spend my time thinking about what it truly meant to be a Christian, what role Jesus Christ had in my life, what made the Catholic church unique or true, or whether my faith in God needed to be shared with others.

Kristin and I ultimately took the leap to try Alpha. We nervously attended the first session, not knowing what to expect. We were the young couple at the table, surrounded by smiling strangers. We had dinner to break the initial awkwardness, watched a good recorded talk that raised questions about our purpose in life, and finished with some simple icebreakers. We quickly realized this was something different than we had ever experienced. Each week my eyes were opened more to an awareness of how little attention I was giving to my faith prior to Alpha. It was like I was learning the building blocks of Christianity for the first time. God was bursting into our lives. Kristin and I would leave each week with so much to talk about. We were growing together in our newfound interest in knowing Jesus, and we were gaining life-long friends at our table in the process. After eleven weeks of Alpha sessions, a powerful Saturday retreat focusing on the Holy Spirit, and a final celebration dinner, we were changed.

Alpha ultimately opened us up to having a personal relationship with Christ. It also put us on a path to learn more about our Catholic faith and formed a desire to share this experience with others. Above everything else, we realize that life can offer wealth, pleasure, power, and honor in many ways, but that pleasure cannot compete with the love and joy of knowing Jesus. This joy is life changing and lifesaving. We see people hurting all around us. On the surface, they seem happy, but underneath everyone has a story. We're all struggling with something that puts a hole inside us. No new job or car or award or sum of money can seem to fill that hole. As one Catholic author puts it, that is a "God-sized hole." Only he can personalize your journey to fill that hole with his love so that it spills over and bursts forth to be given to others. Alpha kick-started that journey for Kristin and I, and we are able to offer this experience to our parishes beginning in mid-September with our next course. Registration is available on our partnered parish website. Come and see. Try Alpha!

- Luke Renwick

Ministers Schedule for August 28-29, 2021

	4:30pm	8:30am	10:30am
	(St. Mary)	(ABVM)	(St Mary)
Altar Server	M. King		
Eucharist Minister	B. Stover	D. Laukitis	C. Hannah
	B. Murray		C. McGranor
Lectors	M. McCluskey	P. Roman	D. Dennison



INCREASED
OFFERTORY
PROGRAM



PARTNER PARISH NEWS

MASS & A MEAL: Fr. Bill would like to thank the Altar Rosary Societies of both parishes and the Knights of Columbus for feeding our guests for the meals after both the 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Masses this Sunday.

FR. BILL ON VACATION: I will be on vacation out of state, leaving Sunday evening, August 29th and returning Tuesday, September 7th. Please refer to the parish bulletin for the changes in the Mass schedule for these days. The weekend that I am away, the masses will be covered by visiting clergy.

CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL: Thank you to all who are supporting this year's Diocesan Services Appeal, the CSA. We are making good progress on receiving your pledge payments. Please note that if you made a pledge and intend to fulfill your pledge, you need to do so by the end of the calendar year 2021. Fr. Bill

PASTORAL PLANNING COMMITTEE: As you may know, St. Bernard's, St. Michael's, St. Catherine's, Assumption, and St. Mary's Parishes have begun a pastoral planning process to plan for what we will do when the number of priests in the area drop. We have had the first meeting of the pastoral planning committee. It was held at St. Mary's Social Hall on Wednesday, August 11th. The meeting consisted of introductions of team members and discussion about forming a mission statement for the committee. This meeting was taking the first steps in collaboration between our parishes. Over the next few months, the committee will not be making any major recommendations about parish restructuring. The committee's work should run into 2022, when more significant recommendations will likely be made. Communication with the larger group of parishioners of the 5 parishes is being discussed as well. The next meeting will be held at St. Bernard's Church on Wednesday, September 15th. Fr. Barron

REGISTRATION FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION can be done by picking up a form in the sacristy after any Mass or by calling Barb Murray at 814-653-8648. The first class for both parents and students will be on Sunday, September 19th at 9:30 – 10:15 a.m. Parents will be receiving a letter in the mail soon.

POLISH PLATTER dinner tickets are on sale now for a dinner is made by the volunteers of St. Michael and St. Catherine churches in DuBois. It consists of one golumpki/stuffed cabbage, one scoop of haluski/cabbage & noodles, kielbasa, and three pierogies. Drive-thru pick up is Sunday, Sept. 5, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the St. Michael Church parking lot, DuBois. Cost is \$12 per dinner, and tickets must be bought in advance. Call 814 371 8556.

ALPHA: We are excited to announce that the parishes will be offering the Alpha course this fall! After starting two sessions off strong in 2019-2020, Alpha will begin the week of September 13th and will wrap up the week of Thanksgiving. Alpha is a wonderful opportunity to journey through the foundational teachings of the Christian faith and form community with others. It allows us to discuss the big questions of our faith like, “Who is Jesus? How Can I Pray? How Can I Tell Others? Is There More to Life Than This?” Each night is a dinner (yes we feed you!), a short presentation, and a small group discussion. We will be making announcements through several different media platforms in the upcoming weeks to invite as many guests as we can to attend. Please see the website for more information and instructions on how to sign up or call Luke at 724-822-0157. Luke and Kristin Renwick will also be available to answer questions at the August 22nd “Mass and Meal.”

LIVE STREAMING: Changes to the Live streaming of Mass: effective August 14/15, Live streaming of Mass will occur only for the Tuesday, 5 p.m. Daily Liturgy. If new COVID restrictions are put in place by the government, or the Bishops dispense Catholics from obligatory Mass attendance, I will once again expand the livestreaming to weekend liturgies. Fr. Bill Barron

BULLETINS & MISSALS: Effective the weekend of August 14/15, bulletins and missal books will be located only inside the churches. You are welcome to continue to use the mail slot of the office door to drop off collection envelopes.

PASTORAL PLANNING: As you know, St. Bernard's, St. Michael's, St. Catherine's, Assumption, and St. Mary's Churches have begun a pastoral planning process to plan for what we will do locally when numbers of priests in the area drop. Thus far, the only significant development in this process has been the formation of a pastoral planning committee. This committee will be composed of 3 members from each of the 5 parishes, as well as the clergy assigned to the 5 parishes. The business of the committee will be run by the Bishop's appointed facilitator, Jenn Zaffuto. The committee's first task will be to gather data relevant to assess our situation. The committee has yet to meet. Ultimately, this committee

will make some recommendations for a plan to help us fulfill the Church's mission in this local area. For a more detailed run-down of the planning process's steps, please visit our parish website. Fr. Bill

INCREASED OFFERTORY/STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM: This year's offertory pledges, which were made in September, 2020, end in September 2021. Please review your pledge amount and, if possible, fulfill your pledge by this September. Thanks so much. Fr. Bill

VOCATIONS CROSS - Since 2018, we have been sending around to parish homes a Vocations Cross. This Cross comes with a binder that contains prayers to be said with the Cross. When the Cross becomes available at the beginning of every month, would you please consider taking it home with you? It is a small thing to ask, just some simple prayers that God may bless His church with more seminarians. Thanks for your consideration. Fr. Bill Barron

SACRED HEART AND IMMACULATE HEART HOME ENTHRONEMENT BLESSINGS: The World Apostolate of Fatima (formerly known as the Blue Army) offers these special home blessings for home, marriage, and family. They are properly referred to as Home Enthronements or Home Consecrations. They ask that Jesus and Mary enter the life of the family in a special way. Fr. Bill Barron is the priest to perform these consecrations in this area. He can perform the Home Enthronement for anyone in the Sykesville or Reynoldsville parish territory, or for any St. Mary's/Assumption parishioner wherever they may live. The priest to perform the Home Enthronements for people who live in the Dubois/Falls Creek/Brockway area is Fr. David Whiteford. If you would like to schedule a Home Enthronement with Fr. Bill, email stmarysabvmhomeenthronements@gmail.com. One Home Enthronement Blessing per month will be scheduled, up to 3 months in advance if need be. Fr. Barron

25TH ANNUAL DIAPER DRIVE DO-OVER. Last year would have been the 25th diaper drive, but was postponed to this year because of COVID. Catholic Charities Counseling and Adoption Services will be having the monthlong drive collecting disposal diapers, gently used and new infant clothing up to size 24 months, baby shampoo, wash, ointment, and wipes. Donations can be dropped off at the entrance of the churches during the month of July.

THE 2021 DIOCESAN ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION LITURGIES for couples celebrating 25, 50, 60, or more years of marriage will be held at two locations in the diocese: Sunday, August 1, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. at Immaculate Conception in Clarion and Sunday, August 8, at 2:00 p.m. at St. Jude in Erie. To register, please go online to <https://www.eriercd.org/familylifeoffice/anniv.html> or contact your parish office or the Family Life Office at (814) 824-1261.

HOSPITAL VISITATION: The hospital has resumed the normal procedure for priests visiting patients. Fr. Matias has resumed his role as chaplain. Fr. Walk is no longer chaplain. Parish priests are now allowed to visit the hospital as well.

FUNERAL DINNERS: Effective immediately, both the Rosary Societies of St. Mary's and Assumption Parishes will be providing funeral dinners after the funeral masses, upon request. You are no longer required to get a caterer to use the hall for a funeral dinner.

CONFESSIONS: Confessions will be available after all masses at both churches with the exception of Sunday 8:30 a.m. Mass at Assumption because I need some travel time and set up time for 10:30 a.m. Mass at St. Mary's. Fr. Barron

SIGN UP FOR THE PARISH APP: Text APP to 88202 to download our parish app. 1) Download my Parish App 2) Select our Parish after opening.

ONLINE GIVING: Visit our parish website on the homepage and click on your parish icon to take you to the portal for online giving registration, or press the icon on the myParishApp called giving to take you to the portal.

ASSUMPTION’S NEWS

ROSARY SOCIETY FALL BAZAAR – The Rosary Society Fall Bazaar will take place on Thursday, October 7th in the church Social Hall. **This year the prizes that will be on the raffle ticket are:** EG Heavy Duty 24” Charcoal Grill, Bissell ProHeat 2x Revolution Carpet Cleaner, Lenovo Laptop, Philips 32” Roku TV & Keurig K-Compact. The tickets this year will be \$2 a ticket and will be available to sell within a few weeks. Thank you for your support in our annual fundraiser!