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If you would like to join our
Church, please call the office at
(814) 653-8586 (SM) or
(814) 894-2772 (ABVM) and
request a registration form .

St. Mary and Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parishes

January 12, 2020 ~ The Baptism of the Lord



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 – Daniel Satterlee

Shared contact information:

Web address: www.stmarysassumption.com

Parish app: search "myParish – Catholic to download app"

Fax number: 814-653-2769

Mass Intentions

Monday, January 13 (St. Mary) Joe McDonald By Michele Korstjens	8:00 AM
Tuesday, January 14 (Assumption) Dorothy Stotish By Father Bill	9:00 AM
Wednesday, January 15 (Assumption) Adeline Manco By Family	9:00 AM
Thursday, January 16 (St. Mary) Rita Leiberton By Delores & Ed	8:00 AM
Friday, January 17 No Mass	
Saturday, January 18 (Assumption) Patty Roy By Family	4:30 PM
Sunday, January 19 (Assumption) All Parishioners of both Parishes	8:30 AM
Sunday, January 19 (St. Mary) Priscilla Stahlman By Michele Korstjens	10:30 AM

Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday Evening 4:30 PM (Jan.-May – Assumption; June-Dec. St. Mary)
Sunday Morning 8:30 AM (Assumption) 10:30 AM (St. Mary)

Sacrificial Giving

<u>Jan. 5</u>	<u>St. Mary</u>	<u>Assumption</u>
Collection	\$3,892.00	\$3,471.00
Electronic Giving	\$ 230.00	\$ 30.00

Thank you for your generosity!

CSA—Catholic Services Appeal

*Thank you for fulfilling the 2019 CSA!
2020 CSA commitment weekend is
February 22/23.*

Sanctuary Candles

<u>In Memory of:</u>
William (Scrub) Anderson By Wife Frances Marie Anderson
Bernard Snyder By Bernie, Kristy, Jacob & Brady
Special Intention for Steven By Aunt Betsy

Ministers Schedule for January 18-19, 2020

	4:30pm (ABVM)	8:30am (ABVM)	10:30am (St Mary)
Altar Servers			C. Uhl M. King
Lector	B. Sonnie	S. Jovenitti	C. Hannah
Eucharistic Ministers	D. Slawson E. Fike J. Pisarcik	K. Roman B. Alexander B. Cook	M. Bobal C. McGranor M. Pothoven
Samaritan Outreach		M. Boboige	

Office Information

Prayer Chain St Mary 653-2752 Assumption 661-3894	Office Hours: (located at St. Mary Church) Monday 7:00AM—2:00 PM Tuesday 7:00AM—2:30 PM Wednesday 8:00AM—2:30 PM Thursday 8:00AM—2:30 PM Friday—Closed
Hospital Visits: Call Fr. Barron 814-503-0028	Bingo: Sunday at 6:00pm at St. Mary
Blue Army Prayer Cell: Tuesday 3:00pm Madelyn Tomasura's home	

The 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 lifelong 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 life saving. 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 hope to offer that experience to our parishes starting this year. Come and see. Try Alpha!

- Luke Renwick

ST. MARY'S / ASSUMPTION'S NEWSLETTER, January 12, 2020

PARTNER PARISH NEWS

THANK YOU: I thank you so much for all of your Christmas Cards and gifts. I try to send a card back to everyone who sends one to me. Sometimes I do not have an address, or I just forget to do so. Your kindness is overwhelming. I hope that you had a wonderful Christmas, and thank you for helping to make my Christmas very special. Fr. Bill Barron

2019 FINANCIAL GIVING STATEMENTS: Due to recent changes in tax deduction law, it is unnecessary to send out church giving reports to everyone who gave a charitable donation in this past year. Statements will not be sent out this year and going forward. Persons who gave large amounts may still find a financial giving statement useful. If you want to request a statement from us, please call the parish office. We will be glad to provide one for you.

DEACON DAN would like to thank parishioners for the cards and gifts he received during Christmas season. Also, thank you for the cards, support and most particularly, your prayers in the recent passing of my Father.

PARISH COUNCIL: There will be a meeting of Parish Council on Tuesday, January 14th at 7 P.M. at Assumption Parish, Sykesville. Elections for new Parish Counsellors will take place in April. Please consider if you are interested in being nominated and contact Moose Rosanna, Parish Council President, if interested. (in case of inclement weather, meeting will be rescheduled to February).

SCRIPTURE SHARING: The Sisters of Mercy from the Rural House of Mercy invite anyone who desires to explore and enter into the Scriptures, particularly the Gospels, to gather with them in the St. Mary's Religious Ed building on the second Wednesday of each month at 10:15 am for an hour of Scripture Sharing. The reading for this month's gathering on Wednesday, January 15 will be Matthew 4:12-25. Anyone is welcome!

RED CROSS BLOODMOBILE will be here at St. Mary's church Social Hall on Tuesday, January 14th from 1:00 – 6:30 p.m. All donors are welcome.

EMERGENCY PARKING: Emergency Parking has been added in front of St Mary's Church on Main Street. The reason is that first responders need a place to park that will not cause them to block Route 322. We also want State Police to periodically park in front the church during mass as a deterrent. What this means is that when you come to Mass, please do not park in the emergency parking space. Its purpose is for Saturday/Sunday Mass, and not as much through the week. Thanks. Fr. Bill

*****ROLLER SKATING PARTY** for all the children and their families of both parishes will be held on Sunday, January 19th from noon to 2:00 p.m. at the Reynoldsville Rollerdrome. There is no charge, just come and have fun! Pizza and drinks will be provided. Snacks are always welcome!

PRAYER SERVICE: On Wednesday January 22, 2020 there will be a prayer service at St. Mary's church in Reynoldsville for the unborn for Roe vs Wade anniversary. This will be from 6pm -7pm. All are welcome to come.

YOUTH GROUP: There will be Youth Group for Grades 5-8 on Jan 17 in McGivney Hall below St. Catherine of Siena Parish from 6-8pm. There will be Youth Group for Grades 9-12 on Jan 12 and Jan 26 in McGivney Hall below St. Catherine of Siena Parish from 6-8pm. There is a Meeting for High School students in McGivney Hall on January 15 for some upcoming events from 6-7pm. For anyone in Grades 9-12

ST. MARY'S NEWS

7TH, 8TH, 9TH, & 10TH GRADE CCD CLASSES are once again collecting food for the "Helping Hands Food Pantry" and they need your help! Please bring any non-perishable items to any Mass until February 2nd. This is a slow time for the food bank after the holidays and they appreciate everything we donate. **Please make sure the items are not out of date as they cannot accept them!** This is a very good service project for our students to help those in need!

*****PARISH APPRECIATION DINNER** for all who are involved in any type of ministry in our parish will be held on Monday, February 3rd at 6 p.m. in the Social Hall. Please sign up on the sheet on the table as you enter the church if you plan to attend so we know how many dinners to prepare. The deadline to sign up is Sunday, January 26th.

ASSUMPTION'S NEWS

ROSARY SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP DUES – Rosary Society Membership Dues for 2020 will be due in January. In your packet of contribution envelopes for January you will find an envelope designated for that purpose. Please use this envelope to pay your dues and place it in the collection basket at any weekend mass. The drive will take place the month of January. New Members are Welcome!