

# St. Mary's Church & Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima

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Mary of Nazareth School: 301.869.0940

*We welcome you to our historic parish family.  
Since 1741 believers such as yourself have built a spirit-  
filled, Catholic faith community here in Barnesville.  
We are privileged to have you join us in our mission to  
share God's blessings.*



January 1, 2023

Mary, Mother of God

Rev. Kevin P. O'Reilly, *Pastor*  
David Cahoon, *Deacon*  
Rev. Msgr. John Macfarlane, *Weekend Asst.*  
Elizabeth Smith, *Dir. of Faith Formation*  
Diane Yendrey, *Dir. of Music*  
Bill Lynch, *Pavilion Manager*  
Brenda Evans, *Secretary*  
Denise Crawford, *Secretary*  
Chris Carey, *Bookkeeper*  
Terry Crawford, *Sodality*  
David Bivens, *Knights of Columbus*

**Daily Mass: Monday - Friday:** 9:00 am  
**Sunday Mass:** Saturday @ 4 pm, Sunday @ 8:30 & 10:30 am  
**First Friday:** Adoration 9:30 am - Noon  
**First Saturday:** 9:00 am with Devotions  
**Confession:** Saturday @ 3:15 pm  
**Baptism:** by appointment  
**Wedding:** by appointment at least 6 months after initial contact  
**Rel. Ed.:** September - May  
**School:** Mary of Nazareth in Darnestown, grades PreK-8



## Dear Parishioners & Friends,

The Lord bless and keep you!

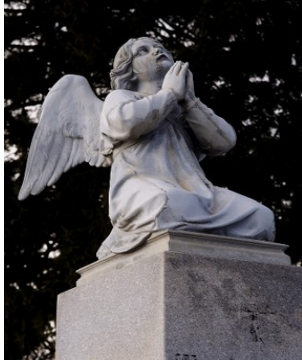
The Lord let his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you!

The Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace!

What better way to begin the new year than with this blessing? The Virgin Mother herself probably heard it pronounced over her and her people. How might she have understood her own blessedness?

The summary phrase of the blessing is "The Lord give you peace." Of course, Mary would have heard the word "shalom" for peace, a word almost exactly replicated by our Muslim brothers and sisters with their word "salaam." "Shalom" expresses the depth of the concept of peace. The Hebrew *shalom* means more than peace; it means peace, justice and integrity in relationships. It implies safety and growth in wholeness as if the entire universe was woven together and functioning as God intended. The blessing of shalom prays that humanity and the entire universe may live the communion God created us to enjoy.

(continues on page 2)



***Please Pray For.....*** Frank Anderson, Louise Austin, Michael Austin, Christopher Barlow, Lori Bauer, Jim Bowie, Donna Brashears, Suzanne Brodt, Linda Burke, Pete Brunner, Maddie Cabatic, Norma Camp, Ada Candor, Gretchen Carrillo, Patrick Carpentier, Eric Carpentier, Pat Chmelik, Alex Chmelik, Sonya Cortez, Bridget Curan, Grant Kraft, Dot Crawford, John Curry, Dana DeLauter, Michael Dillon, Julian Douchard, Dennis Edward, Tom Ehart, Jo Evans, Robert Evans, Timothy Flanders, Sandy Flynn, Dolores Flynn, Fr. Rich Gancayco, Kimberly Harris, Andrew Howard, Cecilia Hughan & family, Mary Lillian Hewitt, Sophie Hoover, Marie Horton, Laura Hutchinson, Eleanor Kelly, Michael Kelley, Brittany, Joe & Ava Marie Koelie, Jeffrey Krohn, Jr., John Kutzi, Ryma Lacks, Cade Lutz, David Liska Sr., Colleen Loss, Sylvia Marshall, Anna Lozada Martinez, Joy McIntyre, Anthony Murdock, Bea Nastacio, Christine O'Connell, Dennis O'Fallan, Patrick Ambrose O'Grady, Jane Parsley, Bob & Donna Pavlick, Frank Pena, Gene Post, Lauren Prete, Dennis Regii, Susan Reid, Elizabeth Renninger, Everly Reed Rice, Andrea Rivas, Misty Runyon, Tom Schwanbeck, Lin Selby, Teresa Silverman, Nancy Slattery, Jerry Stafford, Colleen Thomas, Richard Thompson, Jack Thorp, Corinne Torney, Vicki Tosques, Michael Zahn.

***Please Pray for Our Military Family & Friends...*** Richard Alford, Michael Breslin, Alex & Maxwell Chmelik, Lucas Conway, Adam Fitterer, David Gilliam, Erich Lloyd, Brian Nazarian, Elvin Rivera, Mark Russell, Oliver Weigand.

## **Dear Parishioners**

Today we celebrate the "Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God." That title would have surely overwhelmed the simple woman of Nazareth. But she didn't have to concern herself with theology, dogma, titles and solemnities. Instead, she had a new baby, a confused but faithful husband and unexpected visitors coming to witness the scene where her family was trying to make do in spite of the inhospitable circumstances in which they found themselves.

What do we know of this young woman? First, we learned that God looked upon her kindly, or in Luke's words, she had found favor with God. Then, we witnessed her humble self-description: "Here I am, the handmaid of the Lord." In spite of the inconceivable dimensions of what she had been told, Mary's response exhibited shalom. She trusted, gave birth to her child and simply cared for him.

When the shepherds appeared on the scene they knew far more than Mary could have expected. Delighted to discover her son in the manger, they started spreading the word as if they understood exactly what was going on. Like many of us, those shepherds were quick to make proclamations about what they thought God was up to in their midst. Like Jesus' own disciples, these first witnesses may well have had the right vocabulary, but it's highly unlikely that they fully comprehended what they had encountered. The shepherds talked, others were "amazed," and we don't hear a single word from Mary.

Luke tells us that "Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart." Her name would be remembered in the scriptures of Christianity and Islam. Generations to come would call her blessed, and the Fathers of the Church would defend her title as "Mother of God." But, from the day of Jesus' birth until his death, the little we hear from her amounts to no more than one question, a subtle request on behalf of others and a reflection of her own discipleship: "Son, why have you done this to us?" "They have no wine," and "Do whatever he tells you."

When Luke tells us that Mary kept things in her heart, the word he uses indicates a long process of mulling, a life of discernment, trying to put together disparate pieces of a mystery. While the process didn't lead to quick conclusions, it doesn't mean she gave up on it. Luke's statement about her ongoing reflection is one of the reasons some conclude that Mary herself gave Luke the Nativity story.

Whether or not the narrative originated with Mary, Luke portrays her as the contemplative in action. Mary had more to ponder than anyone else in this story. She had to question her experience and her response. She had to make sense of all that she had encountered while balancing it with the traditions of her people. She must have accepted living with more questions than answers and far more hope than certainties. In addition to all of that, she had to change the diapers and fix dinner.

Mary, Mother of the God who came in the flesh of a needy infant, learned to remain open to God's shalom, to allow her faith to exceed her uncertainties and her hope to give her resolve beyond her power to imagine. She sought to do God's will as she baked their daily bread. We look to the Mother of God to teach us how to live simply as contemplatives in action.

*Peace, Fr. Kevin*

## WORSHIP



"All who heard it were amazed at what had been told them by the shepherds."

- Luke 2:18

### Mass Intentions

- Sat., 31** 4 pm - Vincent & Joan O'Reilly  
**Sun., 1** 8:30 am - Parishioners  
10:30am - Leroy & Dorothy Elston  
**Mon., 2** 9 am - George Brings  
**Tue., 3** 9 am - Eucharistic Service  
**Wed., 4** 9 am - Sonya Pleisse (L)  
**Thu., 5** 9 am - Eucharistic Service  
**Fri., 6** 9 am - Loretta Oehler  
**Sat., 7** 9 am - Eucharistic Service



**Join us Friday**, January 6th for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 9:20 am until Noon.



**Come for Fatima Devotions** this Saturday morning, January 7th following a 9:00 Eucharistic Service.

**Second Collection** next weekend is for the Archdiocese of the Military Service.

**Fr. Kevin, Deacon Dave and all the Staff** thank you for your kind thoughts and gifts during the Holiday Season. May God Bless us all for the New Year!

**2023 Calendars** are in the church vestibule, courtesy of The Hilton Funeral Home. Please help yourselves.

**Mary of Nazareth Catholic School** An open house will be held on Sunday, January 29 between 1 - 3 pm. Children and parents are welcome to join our classrooms, meet our talented faculty, and tour our beautiful campus. RSVP at [maryof-nazareth.org/admissions/visit-us/](http://maryof-nazareth.org/admissions/visit-us/) to attend open house or to schedule a tour. For additional information, please call 301-869-0940.

**Weather Policy** If Montgomery County schools close or delay then there is no morning Mass and our offices may close. If they are closed, then all activities for that day are cancelled. Our lots are not always plowed right away. We must wait on the kindness of our parishioners.



**Donuts** Join us next Sunday in the Pavilion for food and fellowship.

**Pageant Thank you** Many thanks to all the children in Religious Education who participated in their pageant on Wednesday, Dec. 21 and many again on Christmas Eve for the 4:00 Mass. It was truly inspirational. The sheep were great. To all the Angels, Shepherds, Sheep, Kings, Messengers, Mary, Joseph and the Innkeeper and the donkey - Thank you. Special thanks to their teachers, costumers, helpers, Liz Smith and Brenda Murtha for directing. To Kim Carpentier and Diane Yendrey for their music.



**The Knights of Columbus** are proud to announce the winners of the "Keep Christ in Christmas" poster contest for 2022.

6-8th Grades: Inuli Tilakarante, Liam Gosselin & Stella Volpe

3-5th Grades: Avin Tilakarante, Kyle Bejo & Mackenzie Laffey

K-2nd Grades: Elizabeth VanCise

High-scoring posters were submitted to the Maryland State poster competition.

### Mother Teresa Vocation Society

The 19th Annual Day of Recollection will take place on January 21, 2023, from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Church of the Annunciation, 3810 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC. You do not have to be a member to attend. Bring your family and friends. Fr. Mark Ivany, Director of Priest Vocations, will present a reflection, "Spending Time with God, How to Pray before the Eucharist." The morning will begin with the celebration of Mass at 9:00 AM. Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament and Fr. Ivany's reflection will follow Mass. Jim Towey will be our keynote speaker. His presentation is on "Mother Teresa of Calcutta's Secrets for a Happy Life and Peaceful Death." Mr. Towey is the author of the biography, "To Love and Be Loved: A Personal Portrait of Mother Teresa." Mr. Towey was an advisor and personal friend of Mother Teresa for twelve years. His book is an inspiration and it will be a delight to hear his stories in person. Lunch will be served. There is no charge for the day. Fr. Ivany will end the day with an update on vocations in our Archdiocese and a final blessing. May you continue to have a Blessed Christmas season filled with joy and peace.