

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

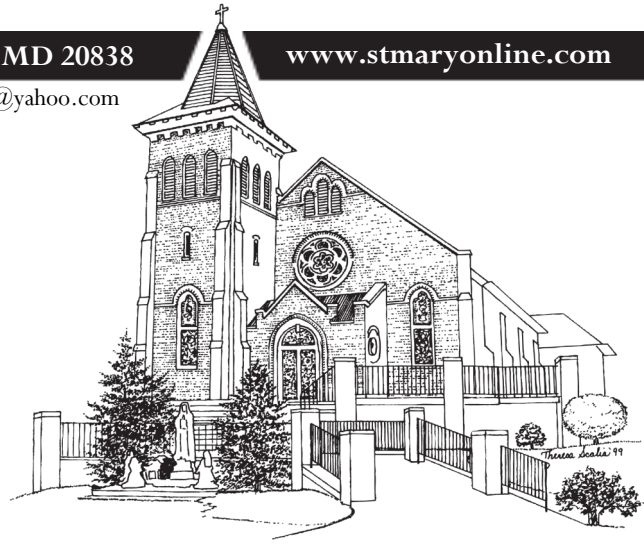
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Mary of Nazareth School: 301.869.0940

*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 7, 2024

Epiphany

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, Notary*
Chris Carey, *Bookkeeper*
Joy McCartin, *Sodality*
Tom McCartin, *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

We offer the following Blessing on this Feast for your homes

EPIPHANY HOUSE BLESSING

The Magi found Jesus "on entering the house." The door to your home is the door to where God lives! You can bless your house - and all who enter by inscribing a prayer above your front door with chalk that has been blessed. Gather your family near the door of your home and mark the door using the blessed chalk with the following: **20 † C † M † B † 24.**

The C, M, and B represent the three initials of the Magi's name written between the numbers of the year separated by four crosses. They are also the Latin abbreviation for "Christus mansionem benedicat," which means "Christ blesses this house." After marking above the door, it is fitting to say the following prayer of blessing:

"Lord God of heaven and earth, you revealed your only begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless this house and all who inhabit it. Fill them with the light of Christ, that their concern for others may reflect your love. We ask this through Christ our Lord."

Blessed chalk is available as you leave Church today.





Please Pray For.....James Abernethy, Frank Anderson, Louise Austin, Michael Austin, Nancy Austin, Christopher Barlow, Lori Bauer, Jim Bowie, Donna & Fred Brashears, Linda Burke, Pete Brunner, Maddie Cabatic, Norma Camp, Ada Candor, Dylan Captain, Gretchen Carrillo, Patrick Carpentier, Eric Carpentier, Pat Chmelik, Sonya Cortez, Bridget Curan, Grant Kraft, Dot Crawford, John Curry, Dana DeLauter, Andrew & Nicholas Diaz, Michael Dillon, Julian Douchard, Steve Drescher, Dennis Edward, Tom Ehart, Jo Evans, Hazel Finney, Timothy Flanders, Sandy Flynn, Dolores Flynn, Mark Fye, Fr. Rich Gancayco, Zachery Gorouch, Kimberly Harris, Bridget Hart, Larry Horton, Andrew Howard, Cecilia Hughan & family, Mary Lillian Hewitt, Marie Horton, Laura Hutchinson, Eleanor Kelly, Michael Kelley, Brittany, Joe & Ava Marie Koelie, Jeffrey Krohn, Jr., Betty Kutts, John Kutzi, Ryma Lacks, Cade Lutz, David Liska Sr., Colleen Loss, Harvey Loveless, Betty MacDonald, Sylvia Marshall, Anna Lozada Martinez, Edwin Mbanude, Joy McIntyre, Joy McCartin, Anthony Murdock, Bea Nastacio, Christine O'Connell, Dennis O'Fallan, 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, Teresa Silverman, Gene Smith, Jerry Stafford, Rani Taylor, Colleen Thomas, Richard Thompson, Jack Thorp, Corinne Torney, Rex & Trisha Tully, Vicki Tosques, Pam Verrity, Michael Zahn.

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

Dear Parishioners,

Throughout the Christmas season, we celebrate the Incarnation. God is made present in the person of Jesus, the baby born among the animals, whose birth was heralded by angels singing hymns of glory. In today's Gospel, we find the juxtaposition of the great and the small again. It is no surprise that in searching for the "newborn king of the Jews" the Magi from the east would first travel to the most important city in Israel and then to the very dwelling of the king. Within the court of King Herod, which was known for its decadence, the Magi likely found all of the trappings of wealth and power one would expect from royalty, but they did not find the king they sought.

The chief priests and scribes sent the Magi to Bethlehem where the star which had guided them along their journey "stopped over the place where the child was." In a simple house in a small village, they come face-to-face with Emmanuel — God-with-us. Immediately, the Magi bowed down in worship before presenting their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. In the figures of the Magi, the revelation of Jesus, the light of the world, is brought to the people outside of the land of Israel. Their way of coming to this moment has been different from their Jewish counterparts. While angels proclaim Jesus' birth to Mary, Joseph and the shepherds in the fields, creation itself proclaims the good news to the Magi in the form of the star that they follow.

Later in Matthew's Gospel, Jesus will turn to his closest disciples and ask them, "Who do you say that I am?" (16:15). In today's readings, we find many answers to this question. Jesus is the light by which nations shall walk, as prophesied by Isaiah. He is Lord of both the Jews and the Gentiles as Paul writes to the community in Ephesus. And he is the humble child in a home in Bethlehem who will soon have to flee all he has ever known to seek shelter and safety in a foreign country.

As Christians, we are called to proclaim the life of Christ, not only in our words but also in our actions. In studying the Gospels, we find that Jesus' 33 years on Earth contain many paradoxes. The Son of God lives most of his life in the backwater town of Nazareth where he is known as "the carpenter's son" (13:55). Proclaimed as Messiah and Lord by the angels at his birth, the only crown Jesus ever wears is the crown of thorns given to him by his tormentors before his execution. In order to proclaim Christ truly, we must be comfortable with both his perfect humility and his supreme glory.

The word epiphany in common parlance means a sudden revelation or stroke of insight that usually catches one unaware. In today's Gospel, we could deduce many different epiphanies. Herod comes to the sudden (and troubling) realization that he is not the sole, or even the most important king in Israel. The Magi discover the light of the world at home with his mother in Bethlehem. Mary most likely received another affirmation of her marvelous child's identity.

Each Christmas season we are introduced to this child anew, the God of creation in the vulnerable guise of a newborn child, the one who is Emmanuel. In the year to come, how will we proclaim this child to all we meet? Perhaps we will have the opportunity to bring his light to places of darkness. Perhaps we will recognize him in the faces of the ones our society has cast aside. Perhaps in our ventures into the great outdoors, creation itself will bring us new insight into our Creator God.

If we are attentive, we will find that every moment of our lives our God is longing to reveal himself to us.

Peace, Fr. Kevin

WORSHIP



“And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them.”

- Matthew 2:9

Mass Intentions

- Sat.,6 4 pm - Kim Bojac
- Sun.,7 8:30 am - Parishioners
10:30 am - Anne Rizk
- Mon.,8 9 am - Virginia & Lawrence Fisk
- Tue., 9 9 am - Eucharistic Service
- Wed.,10 9 am - Eucharistic Service
- Thu.,11 9 am - Eucharistic Service
- Fri., 12 9 am - Deborah Sacramo (L)

Gabriel Project Cluster (founded in 1996 to help struggling pregnant mothers in Montgomery County)

Urgent: Men volunteers are needed. Want to put your pro-life beliefs into action? You can join one of four men's teams. (Some men volunteers serve on more than one team.)

Crib Team: Men volunteers meet an Angel Friend woman volunteer at the client mother's home and assemble a new crib. **Transport Team:** Items needed by Angel Friend volunteers are transported between the north and south parts of Montgomery County.

Shed Team: Donated items are picked up usually on Tuesday and Friday mornings and brought to a shed in Silver Spring. **Money-**

Counting Team: Change for Life Baby Bottle collections are held at various parishes. A team of men coordinate counting and depositing the collected funds into the Cluster bank account. Please contact: Brenda Stohlman at stohlmanbrendagp@outlook.com or visit our website for more information at www.gpmoco.org.



Donuts Join us today, Sunday for donuts and fellowship. Haiti coffee will be available.

Pageant Thank you Many thanks to all the children in Religious Education who participated in their pageant on Wednesday, Dec. 20 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, Diane Yendrey for music and Andrew Parsley the narrator. Helen Trainor and Jill Conley for costumes. Kathleen Opincar for audio-visual help, Holly Henderson for Program Assistance.



2024 Calendars are in the church vestibule, courtesy of The Hilton Funeral Home. Please help yourselves.



February 10, 2024 Annual Wedding Anniversary Mass

On February 10 at 10:00am Bishop Evelio Menjivar-Ayala will celebrate the Annual Wedding Anniversary Mass at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception. To register, please contact the parish office. Registration deadline to attend the Mass and/or to receive a certificate is January 27, 2024.

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.

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!



Welcome

to

Ronald, Carey, Nicholas & Caroline Yaros

of

Ijamsville

Who have joined our parish