

# 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 8, 2023

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*  
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

We offer the following Blessing on this Feast for your homes

## EPIPHANY HOUSE BLESSING

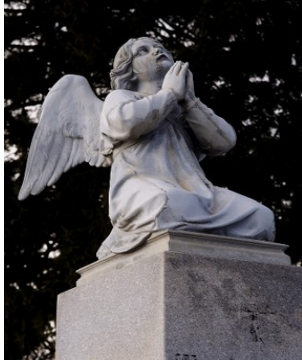


The Magi found Jesus "on entering the house." The door to your home is the door to where God lives! You can bless your house - and all who enter by inscribing a prayer above your front door with chalk that has been blessed. Gather your family near the door of your home and mark the door using the blessed chalk with the following: **20 † C † M † B † 23.**

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.....*** 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, Joshua Miller, Brian Nazarian, Elvin Rivera, Mark Russell, Oliver Weigand.

### **Dear Parishioners,**

Strange, mysterious creatures, these Magi. We briefly wonder about them when we get Christmas cards picturing them in solemn procession headed for Jerusalem, or standing just outside the stable at Bethlehem, or kneeling inside it. Many people formerly called this the Feast of the Three Kings because the items they brought were pricey, so it was assumed they were kings who could afford them. It was likewise assumed that there were three of them because Matthew's nativity narrative mentions three gifts. But it's possible or even likely, according to some traditions, that there were more of them. The Eastern tradition favored 12. It's not likely that they were kings either, but rather priest-scholars from Persia.

They traveled a distance of roughly a thousand miles, most likely by camelback, and when they reached Jerusalem were undoubtedly in sore need of a long soak in Epsom salts. Jerusalem, however, didn't even have a Motel 6, and the Magi had no time for that anyway. They were on a mission to find the person foretold in the stars and in the Jewish Scriptures, which they were probably familiar with. So, they stopped briefly in Jerusalem to confer with King Herod and Jewish scholars, who pointed them toward Bethlehem.

By this time, Joseph and Mary seem to have left the stable and found temporary lodging because Matthew records them as entering the house. We can learn something from this scene. Remember that we have read the script. We know how the story turned out. Mary and Joseph hadn't read the story. They were living the story. In a way, they were writing and making the story up as they went along, based on raw, unshakable faith that went back nine or ten months to the Annunciation. They'd already had their fill of strange events, and here came another one. Who were these strange people who wanted to see their baby? What were their intentions? Could they be trusted? Mary and Joseph did trust, not so much the Magi but God. Over and over, they had to face being uprooted physically and psychologically. They were yanked out of the little comfort they had to deal with.

Gold, frankincense and myrrh were not random items that the Magi happened to have in their saddlebags. In Matthew's story, they are prophetic statements. Gold, a gift given to royalty, says, "This child is a king." Incense, used in prayer, says, "This child is divine." Myrrh, a burial spice, says in the words of the old spiritual, "I wonder as I wander out under the sky, how Jesus the Savior did come for to die." At the time, Jesus certainly did not look royal, divine or on his way to death. Nor did he look that way for most of his life. We, who have heard and read the story, know with faith that he was. We're lucky. So very lucky.

If someone were to write your infancy narrative, what would the Magi — or visitors to the maternity wing — bring with them? What gifts would say who you are? There may have been more than three Magi, so you may select more than three gifts, but don't go with 38! That spreads the idea too thin, and it loses meaning. Perhaps make five the limit. Meditating on who you are was a practice Thomas Merton recommended to the young monks he was training. The closer we come to discovering our true selves, the more accurately we see the picture God has of us — and has had for, well, forever.

Whimsical (although accurate) possibilities might include a package of diapers or a soccer practice schedule. Would that convey part of who you are? Perhaps so — especially when inscribed with, "What you do for others, you do for me."

What would the Magi have brought when you were born?

*Peace, Fr. Kevin*

## WORSHIP



They were overjoyed on seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother.”

- Matthew 2: 10-11

### Mass Intentions

Sat., 7 4 pm - Virginia & Irving Fisk

Sun., 8 8:30 am - Parishioners

10:30am - Anna Rita & Tom McGlynn

Mon., 9 9 am - Jim & Theresa Rizzo

Tue., 10 9 am - Eucharistic Service

Wed., 11 9 am - Eleanor & Lloyd Jones

Thu., 12 9 am - Eucharistic Service

Fri., 13 9 am - Christine DuHonick

**Second Collection** today is for the Archdiocese of the Military Service.



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



**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 [maryofnazareth.org/admissions/visit-us/](http://maryofnazareth.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.

**The Gabriel Project Cluster** of Montgomery County serves mothers and their families in crisis pregnancies. During the past 6 months, 181 mothers have requested assistance. Please help us provide maternity clothes and winter clothing for newborns and older children of our client families. **We especially need girl/boy 0-3 months, girls' size 6 everything, long-sleeve boys' size 5-16.** New or gently used clothing is greatly appreciated, or go to our Website, [www.gpmoco.org](http://www.gpmoco.org). Click on our Amazon *wishlist* and choose from any number of items. We also need women volunteers to serve as Angel Friends. Please pray about joining our team of over 90 Angel Friends who stay in touch with client mothers during their pregnancies. **We especially need bi-lingual women to serve as Angel Friends.** A volunteer photographer is also needed. Questions? Contact Natalie Ray at [natalieanneray@gmail.com](mailto:natalieanneray@gmail.com).

**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.