

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.*



October 15, 2023

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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 @ 5 pm, Sunday @ 8:30 & 10:30 am
First Friday: Adoration 9:30 am - Noon
First Saturday: 9:00 am with Devotions
Confession: Saturday @ 4:15 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,

In ancient Peru, long before the days of the marauding Spaniards, the Inca's preferred method of conquest was to overcome people with kindness. Emissaries of the Inca would go to a place not yet in the empire with an overabundance of gifts, signs of what the people could expect if they would become part of the Inca realm. Those who refused the offer learned some hard lessons from the Inca armies. They became the unfortunate subjects of a policy of dividing and exiling rebellious people from their home territory, neutralizing their threat to the empire. Long before the days of the mafia, the Inca made offers nobody should refuse.

That history sounds like a replay of the offers we hear in today's readings, except for the fact that Isaiah and Jesus outdid the Inca. When Isaiah gives us a picture of God's feast on the peak, he wants our mouths to water. Picture chocolate cake, lemon meringue pie, creamy pastries, fresh fish, roasted lamb and beef on the spit, berries and cherries, milk and honey. The wine selection is like no other — aged to perfection.

This isn't just any celebration of a victory or national holiday. This is God's surprise party for humanity, specially planned for people who have been trapped in chaos and tragedy. Natural disasters and war have left them devastated. They've also failed to live their own ideals. According to Isaiah, they arrive veiled in mourning garb. This party is the last thing they expect.

(continues on page 2)



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, Alex 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, Jennifer Gilbert, 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., John Kutzi, Ryma Lacks, Cade Lutz, David Liska Sr., Colleen Loss, Harvey Loveless, Betty MacDonald, Sylvia Marshall, Karla Linn Merrifield, Anna Lozada Martinez, 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, Colleen Thomas, Richard Thompson, Jack Thorp, Corinne Torney, Rex & Trisha Tully, 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.

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Then they encounter God. Whatever their conception of the Almighty, they hardly expected God to hurry out like a mother and wipe the tears from their faces. They came, scarred from their battles, guilty of everything human beings could imagine, and God invited them in. When no penalty could compensate for their wrong, God made no reproach. The whole earth was coming under the judgement of love. Nothing less. That's Isaiah's story.

Jesus too talks about a party. He tells of a king (guess who?) who's prepared a wedding feast for his son. When everything is all set, the clergy, nobles and artists snub the servants bearing the invitation. Not to be dismayed, the king tries again. This time the fancy folk beat and kill the servants. So, the king sends them a marauding army. He sent more servants to find people worthy of his feast. This time they succeeded, and the banquet hall brimmed with a motley crowd gathered from the streets.

The simple folk in Jesus' audience surely got a good chuckle from the story. The chief priests and elders probably found it a bit less enjoyable. But Jesus hid a riddle in the middle. After a moment of consideration, the listeners start scratching their heads asking what counts as worthy? The feasters included bad and good alike. What was the entrance requirement?

Jesus hid a couple of cryptic hints in the afterword to the story, the scene where the king caught sight of somebody who didn't dress for the party. The king went right to him to ask why. Obviously, if everybody from the streets had been able to present themselves appropriately, he could have done so as well. When the guy refused to respond, the king treated him like the folks who refused to come at all — he cast him out into the darkness. Then, as if a proverb would explain it all, Jesus says, "Many are invited, but few are chosen."

Who are the chosen? Like the people who accepted the Inca's invitation, they are the ones willing to receive God's surprising and free offers. Their religious role or social position means so little that the higher the rank, the less likely they are to be at the banquet. Moral standing is hardly a qualification as Jesus made quite clear with the words, "bad and good alike." (Oh, how that word "alike" can gall the ones who think they're good!) The only difference between the banqueters and those gnashing their teeth in the dark was the partygoers' whole-hearted acceptance of the invitation.

Jesus prefaced this parable saying that he was going to talk about the kingdom of heaven. As is obvious to anyone who has read Isaiah, Jesus used images from his tradition and gave them his own particular twist.

Today, we see the banquet as a symbol of Communion and our celebration of the Eucharist. This parable invites us to consider who God is inviting and with whom we are willing to share the communal bread and wine. At each Eucharist we pray, "Lord I am not worthy." That doesn't matter to God. All that counts is our willingness to receive what we don't deserve. It's a surprising offer nobody should refuse.

Fr. Kevin

WORSHIP

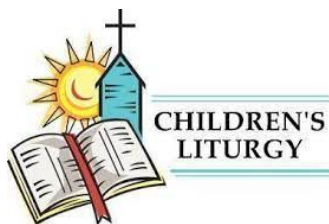


“The servants went out into the streets and gathered all they found, bad and good alike, and the hall was filled with guests.”

- Matthew 22:10

Mass Intentions

- Sat., 14** 5 pm - Charles Breeden (L)
- Sun., 15** 8:30 am - Greg Jordan
10:30 am - Parishioners
- Mon., 16** 9 am - George Brings
- Tue., 17** 9 am - Lloyd & Anna Jones
- Wed., 18** 9 am - Virginia & Lawrence Fisk
- Thu., 19** 9 am - Eucharistic Service
- Fri., 20** 9 am - Virginia & Irving Fisk



Liturgy of the Word for Children


The joyous ministry of sharing God's Word with the youngest of our parish, ages 3 years old to 2nd Grade, returned on Sunday during the 8:30am Mass. Please consider volunteering to be a part of this ministry. The obligation is one Sunday a month. During Children's Liturgy of the Word, young children leave the sanctuary during the Liturgy of the Word to hear the scripture readings proclaimed and explained at an age-appropriate level. These sessions are not faith formation classes, arts-and-crafts activities, or babysitting during Mass. Rather, the children hear the same Mass readings as adults – but in simpler terms that are easier to grasp. Please contact Liz Smith at 301-651-3353 or smithstmarysb@gmail.com for more information. Training will be provided.

New in 2024 for our children.

Saint Mary's will be offering The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd method of faith formation for the three to six-year-old children of our parish beginning in the fall of 2024. The catechist who works with the children participated in nearly 100 hours of formation and will prepare a special environment for the children, which is called the Atrium. In order to do this, we need your help! If you are good with woodworking, sewing, painting or thrift shopping, please reach out to Brenda Stohlman at this email address: blinibrenda@gmail.com.

Haiti Bridal Shop Looking for a top designer wedding dress for \$499 or even less and help Haiti too? Try St. Mary's Brides for Haiti Bridal Shop. Many 5 star Google reviews. 5% discount with this bulletin. www.Brides4haiti.com.

World Mission Sunday Next weekend the second collection will be for World Mission Sunday. Monies collected assist the Society for the Propagation of the Faith in its works around the globe.



Altar Flowers

are in Celebration
of the Wedding
of
Bryan Griffith & Caterina Matheus




“To Jesus Through Mary”
Our Lady of Fatima Sodality

The Sodality is having a winter coat drive for Father Michael's Mission which helps the poor in Southern Maryland. Pick ups/drop offs are welcome. Please text Susan Jamison at 301-525-1255 or leave your clean good condition coats, scarves, gloves, etc. in a bag and leave it in the container in the vestibule of the church by the end of October.

Event Photos Pictures from [parish events] are posted on our smugmug pages. Simply go to <https://stmarysbarnesville.smugmug.com>. The password is StMarysBarnesville.

Reverence Please remember as you pass the Precious Blood of Our Lord at mass to bow your head in reverence, whether or not you are receiving from the cup.



**In Remembrance
Of**

Ella Marie Burke
Child of
Sean Burke

May her Soul and the Souls of all our
faithful departed Rest In Peace.