

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

18230 Barnesville Road • P.O. Box 67 • Barnesville, MD 20838

[www.stmaryonline.com](http://www.stmaryonline.com)

Rectory: 301.972.8660 • Rel. Ed.: 301.972.8576 • Email: [stmarysb@yahoo.com](mailto:stmarysb@yahoo.com)

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.*

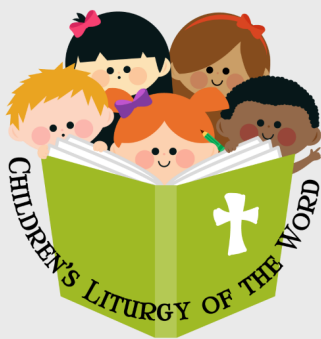


October 8, 2023

27th 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



The joyous ministry of sharing God's Word with the youngest of our parish, ages 3 years old to 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade, is returning next Sunday during the 8:30 am 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](mailto:smithstmarysb@gmail.com) for more information. Training will be provided.



**Blessing of Animals** Today, October 8, near the Feast of Francis of Assisi, we will have a Blessing of Pets and livestock at Noon outside the Rectory. All are welcome.



***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, Donald & 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, Cynthia Slatum, 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.

## **Dear Parishioners,**

The readings begin to sound an apocalyptic tone as the focus turns toward the end-times of another year, certainly not the best year. The parables and stories Matthew will tell us from now through November are all situated in the last week of Jesus' life, a detail that tells us to listen to them with a particular urgency.

Today's parable of the landowner and tenants used a situation familiar to the audience. A wealthy landowner wanted his due, the tenants rebelled and got the crazy idea that if they eliminated the owner's servants and son, they would be the winners taking all. Jesus wove this tale as an indictment of religious leaders who rebelled against God and ignored all the servants sent to call them to task. We can easily apply Jesus' parable to church and state leaders, critiquing their lack of faithful stewardship. But, like it or not, using a parable to point a finger at another is a self-righteous distortion of Jesus' message. He wouldn't tolerate it from us anymore than he did from his contemporaries.

If we have the courage to listen for a Gospel message and not just seek self-affirmation, we must ask how this applies to us and not just to authorities. Suppose we listen to Isaiah's song of the vineyard as a depiction of God's vantage point on human life and the earth we have been given. We hear of God's tenderness for all of creation, the loving gaze with which God watches over evolution with all its green growth and painful transformations. We then hear of God's heartbreak.

The wild grapes of bitterness and discord sprout where all had been designed to bring forth fruit to transform into the good wine of joy and harmony.

When we listen to the parable of the mutinous tenants, instead of thinking of "those people," suppose we heard it addressed to all of us as the stewards of our earth. What would happen if we interpreted this parable through the lens of Pope Francis' encyclical "*Laudato Si'*," on Care for Our Common Home"?

Francis tells us that God's vineyard, our sister Earth, is crying out to us "because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the goods with which God has endowed her" (LS #2). There can hardly be a more direct way of implicating us as tenants just like those in Jesus' parable.

Jesus told the story of tenants who had forgotten who they were. Instead of acting like servants or collaborators with the owner, they decided that they should be the sole masters, beholden to no one, privileged to eliminate anyone who got in their way. Francis describes our misguided understanding of our relationship to the Earth saying, "We have come to see ourselves as her lords and masters, entitled to plunder her at will. The violence present in our hearts, wounded by sin, is also reflected in the symptoms of sickness evident in the soil, in the water, in the air and in all forms of life" (#2).

Francis warns us that we have disrupted the harmony between the Creator, humanity and creation "by our presuming to take the place of God and refusing to acknowledge our creaturely limitations" (#66). As a result, the originally harmonious relationship between human beings and nature became conflictual (#66). When Jesus asked the chief priests and Pharisees what the owner would do to his tenants, they answered, "He will put those wretched men to a wretched death and lease his vineyard to other tenants." Jesus softened their verdict. He said, "The kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that will produce its fruit."

Jesus didn't call for the elimination of the rebellious tenants, but for others to take their place and do what needed to be done. Francis tells us: "The Creator does not abandon us; he never forsakes his loving plan or repents of having created us. Humanity still has the ability to work together in building our common home" (#13).

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## WORSHIP



“Therefore, I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that will produce its fruit.”

- Matthew 21:43

### Mass Intentions

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| Sat., 7  | 4 pm - Parishioners                                    |
| Sun., 8  | 8:30 am - Bobbie Jamison (L)<br>10:30 am - Eric Daniel |
| Mon., 9  | 9 am - Charles Breeden (L)                             |
| Tue., 10 | 9 am - Meghan Faith Massey                             |
| Wed., 11 | 9 am - Lloyd & Anna Jones                              |
| Thu., 12 | 9 am - Eucharistic Service                             |
| Fri., 13 | 9 am - Deacon Robert Price                             |

**New Cemetery Sections** are now open starting at the top of the hill. If you wish to purchase graves, please contact All Souls Cemetery Office to arrange an appointment. Their number is 301-428-1995.

**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](mailto:blinibrenda@gmail.com).

### Mary of Nazareth Golf Outing

Will be held on Monday, October 30 with a 9:00 am start Four Player Scramble, Best Ball Format. Registration is \$225 for individual / \$800 for foursome and includes lunch with 2 drink tickets, Green's fees and golf cart. Sponsorships are available. Registration deadline is October 16. Competitions include closest to the pin, and longest drive (men/women) For details, contact Alvin Duque at [alvinduque@gmail.com](mailto:alvinduque@gmail.com).

**Gabriel Project Cluster:** Want to put your pro-life beliefs into action? Women need to know, before they get pregnant, about the help that the Gabriel Project Cluster of Montgomery provides. You can help a pregnant mother in several ways. Clothes gently used or new are needed, especially fall and winter items. Maternity clothes, infant clothes, children's clothes, children's shoes, etc., are all appreciated. Women volunteers (especially bilingual English and Spanish speaking women) are needed to assist client mothers. This includes keeping in touch with them via text, phone, or email during their pregnancy; bringing them needed items, such as diapers, baby clothes, formula, etc., that are provided by the project; and praying for them. The average time commitment would be approximately 1 - 4 hours per month. Men are also needed to set up cribs or to pick up donations once or twice per month. Please visit our Website for more information at [www.gpmoco.org](http://www.gpmoco.org) or contact: Brenda Stohlman at [blinibrenda@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://Www.Brides4haiti.com).

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This week's readings ask us how we are tending God's creation. In his September 1, 2015 letter establishing a "World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation," Francis tells us that today's ecological crisis is a summons to profound interior conversion. Calling us to become a people who produce the fruit of the kingdom of God, he says: "Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience." There is still time.

**Fr. Kevin**



*"To Jesus Through Mary"*  
**Our Lady of Fatima Sodality**

The Sodality is having a fast-track 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.



**Altar Flowers  
this Weekend  
are in Memory of  
Eric Daniel**

**by his Mother, Marsha**