

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.*



November 19, 2023

33rd 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 @ 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,

In reading the Frederick News Post each day, I notice not many churches host a fall dinner anymore. As we know, the cost of food remains high. This does not diminish our need to raise funds throughout the year to meet our expenses which, as you know in your own households, continue to rise.

During this past year we have invested a significant amount of funds in renovations to our old parish house. This structure is nearly 100 years old. We have installed the new handicapped-accessible restroom and ramp and upgraded much of the outdated plumbing and electrical systems in the basement. We have spent funds expanding our cemetery. Our social concerns outreach to needy families within our community continues to grow. I have been forced to turn people away who are in need of rental and utility expenses as well as those in need of food or medicine.

We are blessed in your generosity and stewardship. Various parishioners give their time and talent in many ways that save our budget over \$50,000 per year. This may not always continue as people age and move on.

Please prayerfully consider an extra donation before the end of November in Thanks to God for all he has blessed your family and our church family with. Place donations in an envelope and write "fall fundraising", then place it in any collection or mail it to the parish office. May God Bless all of you.

Fr. Kevin



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, 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,

I remember asking my high school theology class to reflect on their personal image of God. Their initial descriptions of God are fairly typical and obviously scriptural: father, shepherd, dove, Jesus. But they also list several images from culture; the two most popular are an old man with a white beard sitting on a cloud and, of course, Morgan Freeman. The exercise gets a bit more interesting when I challenged my students to figure out how their dominant image of God was formed. Often, the image is literally just that — an image, usually in the form of a painting hanging in a grandparent's home. The students were surprised when we perused the vast scriptural images of God. Pointing out examples of a feminine image of God really blows their minds. They began to make a connection between their personal understanding of God and how they, in turn, respond.

Today's Gospel is a familiar one. We have a traveling master who entrusts his possessions to servants. Two clever servants use the original sum to make more money for their master. The third one did not fare so well; he made the ill-advised decision to bury the one talent given to him. A seemingly obvious question can be directed toward the third servant, "What were you thinking?" The servant himself answers the question: "Master, I knew you were a demanding person, harvesting where you did not plant and gathering where you did not scatter; so out of fear, I went off and buried your talent in the ground."

We have a clear contrast in the Scriptures today between a group of hard-working and God-fearing people and the lone slacker. The readings are pretty straightforward about the blessings granted and taken away from each. What is the motivation for those that do the work and for the servant who does not? In Proverbs and Psalm 128, we are told that the motivation is "fear of the Lord." Paul tells us that it is an anticipation of the "day of the Lord" that is sure to come when least expected. Each person who labors is assured a reward. The worthy wife is praised at the city gates, the psalmist promises fruit in the form of family, and Matthew's servants are heaped with hefty praise and greater responsibilities. It is only the parable's third servant who is left with nothing. He was not rewarded because he did not do the work required. In fact, he was chastised and stripped of the little he did have. But how did the servant miss the mark by so much? Are we not told that he also "feared" his master?

The servant's failure to fully understand who his master is and what is most important to him leads the servant to think that burying his treasure is the correct course of action. His misconception of what the master demanded caused the servant to act out of fear, a fear so deep he was afraid to even try and do the work expected.

We, like all the people in today's readings, are called to work with the talents our master has given us. This requires us to look at our image of God. Do we have a "fear of God," meaning awe that inspires a desire to double God's treasures? Or is it a fear and misunderstanding of a punishing God that causes us to doubt our own abilities? What image of God, be it a good shepherd or even Morgan Freeman, can we carry forward that will help us discover and use the gifts we are given so we, too, can hear our master's voice saying: "Well done, good and faithful servant!"

Fr. Kevin

Worship



“Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities.”

- Matthew 25:21

Mass Intentions

- Sat., 18** 4 pm - Parishioners
Sun., 19 8:30 am - All Souls
10:30 am - Betty Martin
Mon., 20 9 am - All Souls
Tue., 21 9 am - All Souls
Wed., 22 9 am - All Souls
Thu., 23 10 am - In Thanksgiving
Fri., 24 9 am - All Souls



Food Drive Collection

Our parish pledges 20 meals for local families from WUMCO for Thanksgiving and Christmas. We always welcome

donations of cash to provide these meals. As we reach the Holiday season we ask for your help to provide food baskets to local needy families. Please place donations marked “food baskets” in any collection over the next month.

Reverence Please remember as you receive Our Precious Lord in Holy Communion to hold your hands reverently and place Him gently on your tongue. If receiving Him on the tongue, please extend your tongue, so the minister may clearly know of your desire. Also, as you pass the Precious Blood of Our Lord at mass bow your head in reverence, whether or not you are receiving from the cup.

Christmas Dinner The Order of Odd Fellows will host their annual Christmas Dinner for age 55 plus, widows and widowers on December 9 from 12:30 - 3:00 pm at Memorial UMC Fellowship Hall in Poolesville. Please RSVP by November 28 to Grace Sheppard 301-639-3638 or Charles Glass 240-447-3037.



Join us as we open **Thanksgiving Day** with Mass at 10:00am. There will be beautiful music as we meet at our

Lord's table to celebrate the great meal of Thanksgiving. Come as we pray too for our country and for peace in our world. We will take up an offering to assist with our Thanksgiving and Christmas food and gift baskets for needy families in our community.

We are
Thankful for
YOU!



Haiti Baking Our committee has been baking this past week and is offering Cheese Bread and Pies after mass this weekend. Get them while supplies last. Bread for a minimum donation of \$12 and Pies for a minimum donation of \$20.

You know about the critical shortage of priests, sisters and brothers. Here's the rest of the story...

Every year, thousands of priestly and religious vocations are unable to answer God's call for one simple reason: outstanding student loans. It may come as a surprise, but nearly half of the estimated 10,000 individuals discerning a vocation in the US each year are prevented from entering seminaries and religious institutions for financial reasons. Most people today graduate from college carrying heavy fiscal burdens; unfortunately, dioceses and orders, desperately in need of new vocations but already stretched to the limit, are unable to assume their debt.

Our own Reid Robilotto is one such vocation working to continue formation unencumbered by student loans. To overcome this obstacle, together the diocese and Reid, have partnered with the Labouré Society, a Catholic 501c3 nonprofit. To find out how you can help deliver this next generation of future priests, sisters, brothers and help Reid answer God's call please contact Reid by email: reid@rescuevocations.org or by phone (240-374-9622). Thank you and God Bless.

Lector Workbooks are in the sacristy for those lectors who asked for them. Please pick one up after Mass today. A new cycle of readings begins in 2 weeks.

Rosary Repair Jim Bowie, a parishioner, repairs rosaries. If you have one in need of repair, place it in an envelope with your name and contact information and leave it in the container in the church vestibule. He will contact you when repairs are completed.

