

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

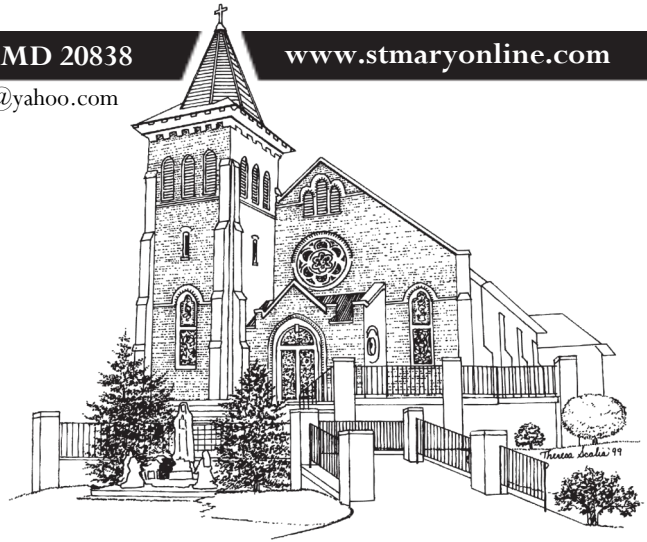
18230 Barnesville Road • P.O. Box 67 • Barnesville, MD 20838

www.stmaryonline.com

Rectory: 301.972.8660 • Rel. Ed.: 301.972.8576 • Email: 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.*

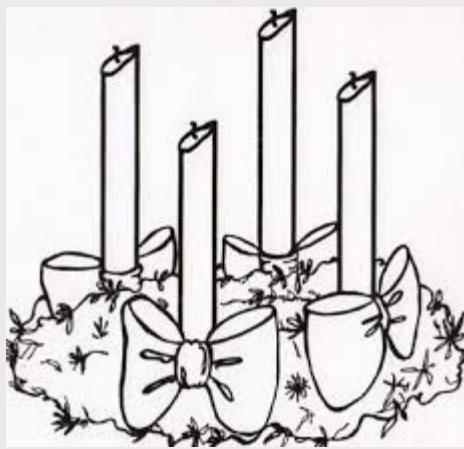


December 10, 2023

Second Sunday of Advent

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



Advent Study Come and explore the richness of Scripture, on Tuesdays in the Rectory at 10am as we look deeper into the Sunday Scriptures and apply them to our lives today.

Advent Confession Make time to experience God's mercy and love in Confession on Saturday at 3:15pm or this Wednesday, December 13 at our Penance Services with extra Priests at 4:15 and 7:30 pm.

The Sacrament of the Sick takes place, next Sunday, December 17 at the 10:30 am Mass. Anyone in serious illness or facing surgery or in physical or mental distress is welcome to come forward.



Calendars for 2024 Courtesy of the Hilton Funeral Home are available in the church vestibule this weekend. Many thanks for the support of the Hilton Family.



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,

Many areas around the world have stone walls constructed by farmers years ago who worked the land to plant crops. Clearing the way took time and back-breaking labor to dig, move and arrange small rocks and large boulders into walls.

In the first reading, Isaiah paints images of clearing the way for the Lord that require work — obstacles must be removed and paths must be made straight and clear. Yet, his message is one of comfort and reassurance to a demoralized people.

Israel is to become a herald of “glad tidings” proclaiming the presence of God to all the cities of Judah. She is to give witness to God’s might, yet tell of the gentleness this same God bestows, feeding like a shepherd, gathering lambs and tenderly leading the flock. Isaiah speaks to a people returning from exile — a people who will soon be on their way home to Jerusalem.

John the Baptist is found in the beginning of all four Gospels. His story is proclaimed on the Second Sunday in Advent in all three Lectionary cycles. This Sunday we hear the beginning of Mark’s Gospel. With no infancy narratives, Mark begins with a powerful proclamation about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Mark then writes about John quoting several texts from the Hebrew Scriptures, including today’s passage from Isaiah.

A forceful herald, John gives witness to Jesus, the one to come after him. Preaching repentance for sins and pointing to the one coming as being more powerful, John proclaims the work ahead: Make ready the path. The Messiah is coming!

If we were to proclaim at the top of our voices, “Here is your God,” where in the world would we begin? Where would we cry out against sin and evil and proclaim glad tidings of God’s salvation and loving care? Would we start in our neighborhoods or with estranged family members? Would we shout the good news to our country or to the world?

Where would we offer the blessings and justice of God? Would we proclaim good news to the marginalized and those who experience the brunt of governmental program cuts? Can we do that without doing the work of clearing the way?

Would we offer blessings to immigrants, refugees or undocumented workers? Would we spread good news to prisoners who are on death row? Would we bless those who are both pregnant and unmarried? Where would we echo the message of God’s blessings? Where are we willing to work?

Mark’s Jesus will suffer as he struggles to bring the good news into the world, and his suffering will lead to the cross. John himself will be put to death because of his message about repentance and sin (6:14-29). In countless parables and encounters, Mark’s Jesus will preach about the coming reign of God, telling disciples how they must search within their own hearts to bring God’s reign to fruition.

Mark’s community believed the reign of God was imminent, so there was an urgency about the message. God is coming now. Jesus reminded followers of the work that must be done, the hearts that must be cleared — beginning with their own.

As we light another Advent candle, we remember the fire lit in us by bringing the word of God to the world. We stand again in awe of a God who became flesh, who entered human history as one of us. We make our own the message of John and the prophets: God is coming! Clear the way. Remove the obstacles. Make straight the path! Here is your God!

Peace, Fr. Kevin

WORSHIP



"A voice of one crying out in the desert: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths'."

- Mark 1:3

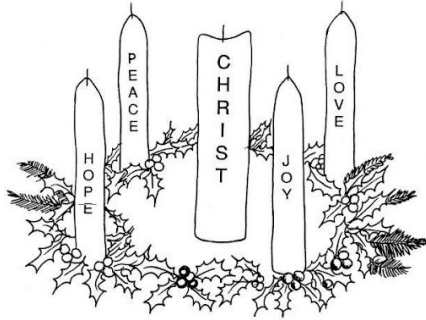
Mass Intentions

- Sat.,9** 4 pm - Sr. Patrice Wales
Sun.,10 8:30 am - Robert Gallo
10:30 am - Parishioners
Mon.,11 9 am - Virginia & Irving Fisk
Tue., 12 9 am - Virginia & Lawrence Fisk
Wed.,13 9 am - Jeanne Crossland
Thu.,14 9 am - Eucharistic Service
Fri., 15 9 am - George Brings

Second Collection for retired religious priests, brothers and sisters takes place today. Please be considerate of these men and women who served our schools, hospitals, nursing homes and more for generations.

Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest Break out your markers, crayons, paints and pencils - the annual poster contest sponsored by our Knights of Columbus 6901 is for students in grades 1 - 8. There are \$200 in prizes. Create a unique poster (no larger than 12x18") reminding people that Christmas is all about Jesus. Posters are due by December 14. For more information contact Dave Bivens at 301-977-4734, or email him at dnlbivens34@verizon.net.

Food Drive Collection Our parish pledges 20 meals for local families from WUMCO for Christmas. We always welcome donations of cash to provide these meals. As we have entered 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 this month.



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.



Jesse Tree The Tree is in the Sanctuary with tags indicating gifts for local families, supplied by WUMCO, patients at Springfield Hospital, and children in St. Martin's Church in Washington. Gifts will need to be returned by TODAY, with a tag or copy of a tag attached securely to each box so we get it to the right destination. In giving gift cards - PLEASE write the store and amount on the outside. No high end stores, please. **Gifts for Springfield Hospital should not be wrapped. Monetary donations for the Hospital should be made payable to "Auxiliary of SHC/CFCC".**

Christmas Flower Memorials

Remember a loved one, celebrate a special event. Help us enjoy the beauty of the coming holidays with your donations toward Christmas flowers. Use the envelopes in the back of church and turn them in or drop them in the basket by Dec. 17.



Fatima Devotions at the Basilica

The World Apostolate of Fatima, Archdiocese of Washington Division, "The Blue Army" Invites you to Rosary, Mass, Confession, Divine Mercy Chaplet, Brown Scapular enrollment, and healing prayers. Wednesday, December 13 at 1:00pm in the Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel, Basilica of the National Shrine, Michigan Ave, DC.

For more information call 301-595-1770.