

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

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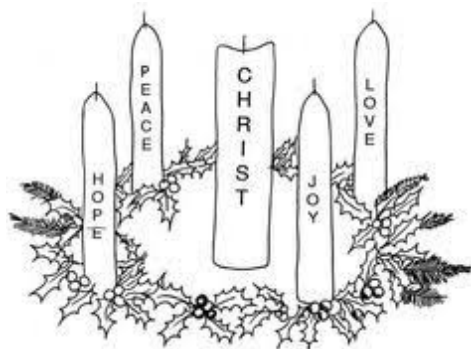
*We welcome you to our historic parish family.
Since 1741 believers such as yourself have built a spirit-
filled, Catholic faith community here in Barnesville.
We are privileged to have you join us in our mission to
share God's blessings.*



December 11, 2022
Third 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*
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



Advent Bible Study Join Fr. Kevin on Tuesday mornings for Scripture study as we look at the coming Sunday's readings at 10:00 am in the Rectory.

Penance Services Your chance for Confession before Christmas is this Wednesday, December 14 at 4:10 and 7:30 pm in the church. Extra priests will be available to hear your confession in preparation for Christmas.



The Sacrament of the Sick takes place, next Sunday, December 18 at the 10:30 am Mass. Anyone in serious illness or facing surgery or in physical or mental distress is welcome to come forward.

Second Collection today is the annual offering for the 35,000 retired religious priests, brothers and sisters in the United States.



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, Billy 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, Brian Nazarian, Elvin Rivera, Mark Russell, Oliver Weigand.

Dear Parishioners,

On this Gaudete Sunday, joy is a natural frame for understanding today's readings. These readings focus on our call to create a world reflective of God's plan.

A quick Google search for the word *joy* provides images of people leaping into the air or with their arms outstretched in victory. These images reflect joy as a temporary rush of positive feelings. Today's Scripture passages offer another type of joy, one that originates from within and keeps us connected to the love of the One who calls us.

These readings outline exactly what that call involves: We are anointed "to bring glad tidings to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners" (Isaiah 61:1-2a). These works of mercy and justice are the mark of our discipleship. They are also quite challenging. Truly practicing solidarity with those who experience injustice can wear at our optimism. We may separate ourselves from the work of discipleship to seek a temporary rush of joy so that we feel refreshed enough to continue.

Thich Nhat Hanh, a Zen Buddhist teacher, offers wisdom about how to avoid this division between discipleship and joy. He draws parallels between the Holy Spirit and the Buddhist practice of mindfulness: Both allow us to tap into the deeper truths that always surround us.

To explain how Buddhists think about mindfulness, he offers a parable in the well-known book, *Living Buddha, Living Christ*:

When the Buddha was asked, "Sir, what do you and your monks practice?" he replied, "We sit, we walk, and we eat." The questioner continued, "But sir, everyone sits, walks, and eats," and the Buddha told him, "When we sit, we *know* we are sitting. When we walk, we *know* we are walking. When we eat, we *know* we are eating."

Today's readings speak of joy in discipleship, just as Thich Nhat Hanh speaks of mindfulness in sitting, walking and eating. As Isaiah acknowledges that he is anointed to proclaim liberty to captives, he also "rejoice[s] heartily in the Lord" (61:10). Mindfully seeking joy in each thing we do allows us to constantly tap into the source of love and goodness; is this not one response to Paul's admonishment to "pray without ceasing"? (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

Jesuit Fr. Gregory Boyle lives a compelling example of the "Gospel joy which enlivens the community of disciples" (*The Joy of the Gospel* #21). In his book, *Tattoos on the Heart*, Boyle shares stories from his work in Los Angeles employing and mentoring former gang members. His advice on practicing joy, as captured in an NPR interview in 2009, speaks of being present in each moment: "You know, you don't really get Jesus saying very often there'll be pie in the sky when you die. He's really talking about now and today ... You're supposed to delight in what's right in front of you. ... If you are paying attention, then the day is going to be pretty joyful, and a lot of delight will fill it."

Finding joy in our work for peace and justice may not come easily. At times, we may wonder whether our "crying out in the desert" will ever yield the world we seek. As in spiritualities rooted in mindfulness, seeking joy in each action is a practice, and the more we practice it, the easier it becomes. As it does, we are continually grounded in joy, which makes us more effective preparers of the way of the Lord.

*Peace,
Fr. Kevin*

WORSHIP



“Who are you.....
What do you have to
say for yourself?”

- John 1:22

Mass Intentions

Sat., 10 4 pm - Parishioners
Sun., 11 8:30 am - Thomas Nielson
10:30am - Rev. Patrick Comerford
Mon., 12 9 am - Jack Dillon
Tue., 13 9 am - Jeanette Taylor
Wed., 14 9 am - Vince & Joan O'Reilly
Thu., 15 9 am - Eucharistic Service
Fri., 16 9 am - Ineke Smallwood



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. The Tree uses Biblical symbols to point the way to the coming Messiah at Christmas. Gifts for D.C. Children are due 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".**



Food Drive Our parish prepares 17 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.

Welcome New Servers We welcome Lydia Henderson and Gi-an Do to our Sanctuary to serve our priests at mass.

2023 Calendars are in the church vestibule, courtesy of The Hilton Funeral Home. Please help yourselves.



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. 18.



Christmas

Welcome to all, especially our visitors. Christmas is a time that brings many people to church to celebrate the birth of Christ, and we're glad you're here! We hope you will come back to visit again.

St Mary's is an active, warm parish, dedicated to following the path of Christ and reaching out to those in need and to one another.

Check us out on Facebook and our website: stmaryonline.com.

The entire staff extends our happiest and holiest holiday wishes to you and your family for the Advent and Christmas Season and throughout the coming year.

Christmas

Sat., December 24

3:30 pm - Prelude
4:00 pm Mass with Pageant
9:30 pm - Prelude
10:00 pm Mass at Night

Sun., December 25

8:30 am & 10:30 am Mass

New Years

Sat., December 31 at 4:00 pm

Sun., January 1, 2023

at 8:30 & 10:30 am

