

# 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.*



December 18, 2022

Fourth 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.

**The Sacrament of the Sick** takes place, today, 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.

**An Invitation** Is there someone in your life who has been away from Church for awhile or may not have a place to celebrate faith this Christmas? Christmas Mass is a beautiful moment to help others reconnect to the Catholic faith and many people are waiting for a personal invitation from someone like you!

**Parish Office** will be closed for Christmas Holiday from December 23, 2022 - December 28, 2022. For New Years the office will be closed December 31, 2023 - January 3, 2024. A Blessed Season to all.

## WORSHIP



“Do not be afraid,  
Mary, for you have  
found favor with God.”

- Luke 1:30

### Mass Intentions

- Sat., 17** 4 pm - Marilyn Green
- Sun., 18** 8:30 am - Parishioners  
10:30am - Rizk Family
- Mon., 19** 9 am-Josef Rizk & Adele Moore
- Tue., 20** 9 am - Loretta Oehler
- Wed., 21** 9 am - Lloyd & Louise Jones
- Thu., 22** 9 am - Eucharistic Service
- Fri., 23** 9 am - DuHonick Family



**Jesse Tree** gifts  
are due in by today.  
Gifts for children in  
Washington, D.C.  
were due in last  
week.

**2023 Calendars** are in the church  
vestibule, courtesy of The Hilton Fu-  
neral Home. Please help yourselves.



**Mary of Nazareth Catholic  
School** An open house will be held  
on Sunday, January 29 between 1 -  
3 pm. Children and parents are wel-  
come to join our classrooms, meet  
our talented faculty, and tour our  
beautiful campus. RSVP at [maryof-  
nazareth.org/admissions/visit-us/](http://maryof-nazareth.org/admissions/visit-us/) to  
attend open house or to schedule a  
tour. For additional information,  
please call 301-869-0940.

**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 dona-  
tions marked “food baskets” in any collec-  
tion this month.



**Christmas Flower  
Memorials** Remem-  
ber a loved one, cele-  
brate 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  
today, Dec. 18.



## Christmas

Welcome to all, especially our visi-  
tors. 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](http://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

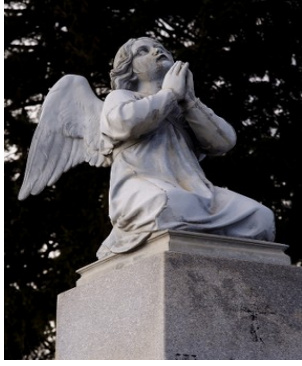
## New Years

**Sat., December 31** at 4:00 pm

**Sun., January 1, 2023**

at 8:30 & 10:30 am





***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,**

It's that special time again — that time of wonder and joy and miracles.

Christmas is coming. It's nearly here. We know that because there's seasonal music everywhere, and family celebrations being planned, and holiday parties that demand our attendance, and gifts that must be wrapped.

But we also know it because of another big hint — every media outlet is issuing its top ten of the year songs, movies, TV shows, books, pet names and so on.

That listing started me wondering about what would be included if you and I identified our top ten Gospel quotations. If we did, which ones would make it on to your list?

I know that right at the very top of mine would be this marvelous, breathtaking statement: "May it be done to me according to your word," the words spoken by Mary to the angel Gabriel in today's Gospel. These words opened the door to the possibility of you and me entering into an entirely new kind of relationship with God. These very words changed history.

One of the things I treasure most about this story of Mary and the angel is that before Mary is presented with God's astounding request, Mary is first told: "Do not be afraid."

Imagine. Why wouldn't she be afraid, even terrified?

In the Philadelphia Museum of Art, there is an unusual painting by Henry Tanner of this classic Annunciation scene. In it, Mary is not depicted as a totally serene girl kneeling in prayer with a glowing halo above her head as we usually find. Rather, Mary is shown sitting on her disheveled bed with unkempt hair, eyes frozen as if in awe or even terror. The look on her face is that of someone both stunned and utterly confused.

And why wouldn't she be?

God is asking the unimaginable of this young, uneducated, thoroughly unprepared girl. She is being visited by an angel — and she is being asked to do what?

Of course, she was afraid, speechless, astonished, dazed.

After all, Mary was being asked to make a decision: Act out of fear or act out of faith; respond with terror or respond with trust.

In a way, we're all asked by life's demands to make similar decisions — just not ones so unique and exceptional. All the major sins that you and I commit in life are ultimately grounded in fear. Fear is the number one "hostage-taker" for all of us — the fear that I won't get enough love, enough affection, enough attention, enough power, enough money, enough of anything we hold dear.

Mary's response is really all about a reversal, a re-write: The "No" of Adam and Eve becomes a "Yes." The world is offered a new model, a new blueprint, a new design upon which human lives can be based.

Mary chose trust. She chose to allow the angel's words — as daunting as they were! — to soothe her anxieties, to calm her immediate fright, to enable her to reach out in confidence.

That's why Mary is our Mother in faith. That's why she is her Son's ultimate disciple. Mary chose trust over fear, belief over doubt, freedom over being held hostage.

And the result was the birthing of Jesus, God's beloved Son.

We are now challenged by Mary's example to do the same in each of our lives: trust, believe, hope, love.

That's why I would put these words at the very top of my ten Scripture quotes: "May it be done to me according to your word."

*Peace, Fr. Kevin*