

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

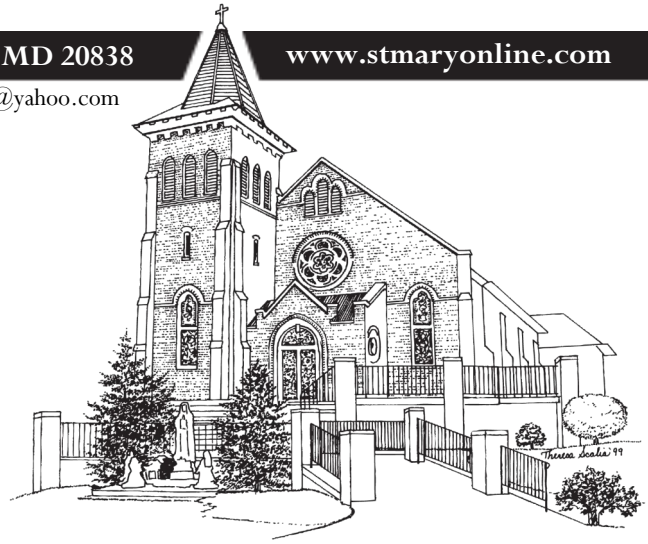
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Mary of Nazareth School: 301.869.0940

*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.*



December 24, 2023

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, 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



- As we approach the celebration of Christmas, offer thanks to God this week for the greatest gift of all, Jesus Christ. And, in celebrating Christmas, strive to focus your attention on Jesus, rather than the consumerism and commercialism of this time of year. Take time in prayer to give thanks for the blessings you have been given, especially the gift of salvation.
- 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!
- The Parish Office will be closed from December 23, 2023 - January 2, 2024.



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, Pam Verrity, 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,

“Mary: The Most Powerful Woman in the World” was the stunning headline in a recent publication. To the surprise of many, these were not the words of a Catholic newspaper, or a religious publication. Instead, this headline announced the lead article featured in the December, 2015 issue of *National Geographic* magazine!

The article is written by journalist, Maureen Orth, who spent three years traveling throughout the world trying to understand more fully why Mary, the mother of Jesus, is so crucially important to millions of people. Here are a few of Maureen's words:

Mary is everywhere: Marigolds are named for her. Hail Mary passes save football games. The image in Mexico of Our Lady of Guadalupe is one of the most reproduced female likenesses ever. Mary draws millions each year to shrines such as Fatima, in Portugal, and Knock, in Ireland, sustaining religious tourism estimated to be worth billions of dollars a year and providing thousands of jobs. She inspired the creation of many great works of art and architecture (Michelangelo's “Pieta,” Notre Dame Cathedral), as well as the spiritual confidante of billions of people, no matter how isolated or forgotten.

What was it about this young girl that attracted and enticed, not only Joseph in today's Gospel story, but even God?

I'd like to suggest two possible answers, with the reservation that there are surely a number of others. First, she wasn't a preacher. She wasn't an evangelist. She wasn't an activist. Instead, Mary was a listener who embraced simplicity. She was one who paid attention, who reflected, who meditated. All those Advent qualities...

Present. Open. Available. Receptive. Quiet. That's the kind of person Mary was. Perhaps it was that collection of gifts that most enticed God, and Joseph, and so many people down through the centuries.

But perhaps there is another appeal of Mary – her life experiences are being repeated continuously by millions of people even today. Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem for a census that is now being mirrored by countless numbers of people displaced from their ancestral homes. The family's flight into Egypt to avoid the death threats of a tyrannical king, just as today millions of refugees are doing the same. Mary's loss of her child by an unjust state execution paralleled today in the disappearance and murder of beloved children under dictatorial regimes – the Herods of today.

Women, in particular, may possibly find in Mary a sister for marginalized women in oppressive situations throughout the world – women who are without food or clean drinking water, without housing, without education or healthcare or employment, without security from rape, without human rights.

To all of them, Mary offers words of hope to the neediest – such as these words from her great prayer, the Magnificat: “... *O my God ... You have shown strength with your arm ... You have put down the mighty from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly.*”

When asked what Mary meant to him, Pope Francis answered with one word, “She is my *mama*.”

May our “*mama*,” the one who is “*blessed ... among women*,” assist each of us in birthing anew the Child that falls from heaven into our arms ... our hearts ... our souls.

Peace, Fr. Kevin

WORSHIP

"I am the Lord's servant, may your word to me be fulfilled."

-Luke 3:38

Mass Intentions

- Sat.,23** 4 pm - Nan & William Kerlin
Sun.,24 8:30 am - Parishioners
4:00 pm - Anne & Kaleel Rizk
10:00 pm - Celebrant's Intention
Mon.,25 10 am - Adele & Joseph Rizk
Tue., 26 9 am - Lucie Walker (L)
Wed.,27 9 am - Susan Rizk & Elizabeth Tralka
Thu.,28 9 am - Eucharistic Service
Fri., 29 9 am - Anna & Michael DuHonick

2024 Calendars are in the church vestibule, courtesy of The Hilton Funeral Home. Please help yourselves.



Gift giving Thanks

to all who donated so generously to the charities of our annual giving tree. Local families from WUMCO, inner city youth from St. Martins and patients at Springfield Hospital thank you!

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.

February 10, 2024 Annual Wedding Anniversary Mass
On February 10 at 10:00am Bishop Evelio Menjivar-Ayala will celebrate the Annual Wedding Anniversary Mass at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception. To register, please contact the parish office. Registration deadline to attend the Mass and/or to receive a certificate is January 27, 2024.

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

Sun., December 24

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

Mon., December 25

10:00 am Mass

Feast of the Holy Family

Sat., December 30

4 pm Mass

Sun., December 31

8:30 & 10:30 am

New Years

Mon., January 1, 2024

10:00 am

(Not a Holy Day of Obligation)

