

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 31, 2023

Feast of the Holy Family

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



Holiday Greetings

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 Christmas Season and throughout the coming year. Thank you for your kind thoughts and gifts this holiday season. Thank you for your tremendous support of the needy of St. Martin's in D.C. and in our local community. Thanks from the patients of Springfield Hospital.

We truly appreciate our parishioners for all their dedication and stewardship to our community throughout the year. May God bless you all!

The Parish Office will be closed until 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, Rani Taylor, 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,

The fifth joyful mystery of the Rosary meditates on the story of finding Jesus in the Temple. It could also be called the first of Mary's "mysteries of protest." Those mysteries come together in a litany where the repeated refrain is, "Dear God! The angel never warned me about this!"

Plaster statues aside, we assume that Mary did not pray the rosary. But as a Jewish woman schooled in the tradition of the prophets, she knew that searing complaints are prayers as genuine as praise and petition. Searching the Gospels, we can find a good number of the mysteries of protest she could have taken to prayer.

After the interchange in the Temple, "mystery No. 2" might be expressed as: "Will someone explain why he went alone into desert amid the wild animals?" No. 3: "I know he said his time had not come, but weddings need wine!"

No. 4: "He called them all his mother?" And so on. Undoubtedly there were more than five or 15 or even 20. These "mysteries" don't really surprise experienced parents; they just nod and say, "You never know what to expect." Those who reflect deeply on their experience might add, "The struggles of family life have brought me great growth." The feast of the Holy Family offers the opportunity to reflect on the mystery of family life. In reality, every family and community share the perplexing, frustrating, demanding challenge Luke described. Put most simply, Mary and Joseph faced the difficult discovery that Jesus was not going along with them every step of the way. It is a real story of a family conflict and is symbolic of all kinds of relationships.

Every family and community have its share of the challenges summarized here. We know what it is like when family members do not go along with us on the journey. When Mary and Joseph confronted Jesus in the Temple, they confronted the fact that he would have to discover his own path in life. No matter what they might hope for him, he did not belong to them.

The story reminds us that love is rooted in profound reverence for the mystery of the other. Such reverence cultivates profound respect for the other's mysterious freedom. In that, we learn to desire that the other will become who they are meant to be rather than what we would have them be.

Hannah and her son Samuel offer an extreme example of this. The unexpected dimension of Hannah's longing for a child was that even as she prayed to become a mother, she promised to give her child to God. Strange as her example may seem to us today, Hannah saw her son as belonging to God and God's plan for the world rather than as her claim to fame or an old-age insurance policy.

When we take reflection time to celebrate this feast, we can enjoy contemplating the most important relationships in our lives. Obviously, the theme of the day is familial love. But the readings direct us to reflect specifically on how love nurtures each person's freedom to become ever more deeply who they are.

In today's Gospel, Luke tells us that Mary and Joseph were a day's journey out of Jerusalem when they discovered that Jesus was not with them. Luke describes their consternation as they looked among the people they journeyed with but did not find him. But according to Luke, they did not return to search all over Jerusalem, checking out the markets and recreation spots that might have interested a budding adolescent. They went to the Temple and found their curious child listening to the scholars who spoke of the things of God.

They knew their son and had a good idea where they might find him. They understood him; they were his first teachers. As they taught him what every child needs to learn, they had seen his fascination with the things of God — which for him included everything.

That day in the Temple, it was Mary's turn to say "Your time has not yet come." But even as she said that, she had to know that his time would come. Like John the Baptist, she and Joseph had to accept that their roles would decrease as Jesus' captivation by the things of God increased. *(continues on page 3 column 1)*

WORSHIP



“After three days they found him in the temple.”

- Luke 2:46

Mass Intentions

- Sat.,30** 4 pm - Clif & Betty Martin
Sun.,31 8:30 am - Parishioners
10:30 am - Adele Moore & Josef Rizk
Mon.,1 10 am - Mary & Calvin Martin
Tue., 2 9 am - Adele Moore
Wed.,3 9am - Saleem & Wadeha Rizk
Thu.,4 9 am - Eucharistic Service
Fri., 5 9 am - Mike Conley (L)

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@oulook.com or visit our website for more information at www.gpmoco.org.

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)



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



Donuts Join us next Sunday for donuts and fellowship. Haiti coffee will be available.

(continued from page 2)

The feast of the Holy Family invites us to celebrate our relationships with those we love most deeply. It reminds us that the greatest gift we can give others is to respect and nurture their freedom to become all God has created them to be. Whether it is with children, spouses, siblings or members of our communities, we know it will not be easy. But with Mary, we can pray, “Dear God! You never warned me!” and remember the only assurance she was ever given: “Nothing will be impossible for God.”

Peace, Fr. Kevin

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.



Pageant Thank you Many thanks to all the children in Religious Education who participated in their pageant on Wednesday, Dec. 20 and many again on Christmas Eve for the 4:00 Mass. It was truly inspirational. The sheep were great. To all the Angels, Shepherds, Sheep, Kings, Messengers, Mary, Joseph and the Innkeeper and the Donkey - Thank you. Special thanks to their teachers, costumers, helpers, Diane Yendrey for music and Andrew Parsley the narrator. Helen Trainor and Jill Conley for costumes. Kathleen Opincar for audio-visual help, Holly Henderson for Program Assistance and Liz Smith and Brenda Murtha for directing.