

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

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www.stmaryonline.com

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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.*

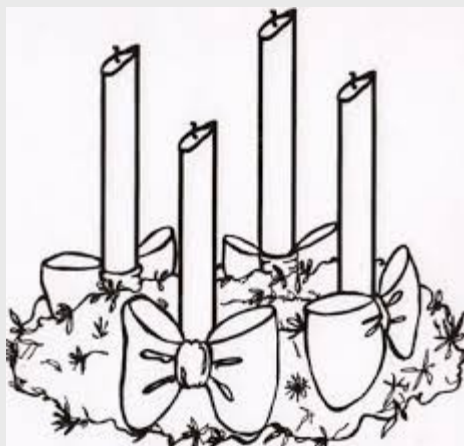


December 3, 2023

First 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 is Upon Us....Be Watchful! Be Alert!

These words of Jesus open our new church year and this season of Advent. How can we make ready for the coming of the Lord?

Advent Reading Help yourself to The Word Among Us for the season. We also have Advent Magnificat. They are all located in the entrance of Church.

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 on Wednesday, December 13 at our Penance Services with extra Priests at 4:15 and 7:30 pm.

Advent Ladies' Night Out in the Fr. Reid Pavilion Saturday, December 9, see the flyer for details.



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,

Advent — if we pay attention — can be complex and has been like that for much of human history. It is easy for us to see Advent as a wreath with purple candles, familiar hymns of anticipation and, of course, shopping and preparations for Christmas. But Advent is a whole “season” of life, more than just these four weeks.

In the first reading, we find hopeful and exuberant words from the prophet Jeremiah. Jeremiah was prophesying about the advent of peace and stability for the Jewish people. They had been struggling in exile after the destruction of Jerusalem generations before. The people had become despondent of ever returning and having a temple again.

God calls Jeremiah to proclaim a message of hope. Theirs was a very long season of Advent. Yet with mercy and hope proclaimed, they could endure until the eventual restoration of Jerusalem and the coming of the Messiah.

In Luke's Gospel, we find Jesus instructing the disciples to prepare themselves and those who come after for a further long season of advent. That time will precede the return of Christ. As humankind heads toward the end of the ages, there will be catastrophic signs in the heavens and the seas. Nations will be in turmoil. Jesus says, “People will die of fright in anticipation of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of Heaven will be shaken.”

Are we not living in that very season this Advent? What signs do we see in the heavens, on the earth and in the seas? What signs do we see in nations? Or what signs do we see in relations among peoples in the neighborhoods where we live as well as around the globe?

Jesus offers us hope. “When these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand.”

Finally, we consider the season of Advent in our own lives. Paul says it so well: “May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we have for you. [May that love] strengthen your hearts, to be blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus.”

Challenges, conflicts, decisions, uncertainties —these things and many others will be part of our season during this Advent. Giving every person selfless love may seem out of the realm of possibility at times.

But with the hope offered by Jeremiah and with the redemption brought by Jesus Christ, we can live in the strength of God in our own season of Advent, however long that may be. Jesus' words to us are, “Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the Son of Man.”

Peace,

Fr. Kevin

Advent Crafts for Children is today, December 3 in the Pavilion during Donuts. We are also having the cookie sale, baby shower, and wreath sale, all sponsored by our Sodality. All are welcome.

WORSHIP



"There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars."

- Luke 21:25

Mass Intentions

- Sat., 2** 4 pm - George Brings
Sun., 3 8:30 am - Sr. Patrice Wales
 10:30 am - Parishioners
Mon., 4 9 am - Lloyd & Louise Jones
Tue., 5 9 am - Florence Middleton
Wed., 6 9 am - Virginia & Lawrence Fisk
Thu., 7 9 am - Eucharistic Service
 7 pm - George Brings
Fri., 8 9 am - Parishioners

The Haiti Committee thanks the bakers and buyers of pies and breads from the bake sale. More than \$1,500 was raised to benefit our twinning parish of St. Joseph's in Carcasse, Haiti.

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



The Sacrament of the Sick will take place in two weeks on December 17 at the 10:30 am Mass. Any-

one in serious illness or facing surgery or in physical or mental distress is welcome to come forward and receive the anointing after the homily.

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 over the next month.

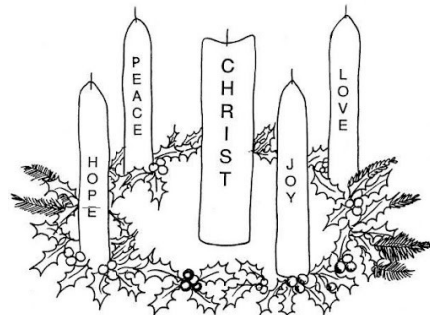


Feast of the Immaculate Conception is Friday, December 8. We will have mass on Thursday evening at 7:00 pm and Friday morning at 9:00 am. This is a holy day of obligation this year.

Fatima Devotions at the Basilica

to make reparation for the offenses committed against the Immaculate of Heart of Mary 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



Jesse Tree The Tree is in the Sanctuary with tags indicating gifts for local families, supplied by WUMCO, patients at Springfield Hospital, and chil-

dren in St. Martin's Church in Washington. The Tree uses Biblical symbols to point the way to the coming Messiah at Christmas. Gifts will need to be returned by December 10, 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.

2024 Calendars Courtesy of Hilton Funeral Home are available in the Fr. Reid Pavilion today.