

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

18230 Barnesville Road • P.O. Box 67 • Barnesville, MD 20838

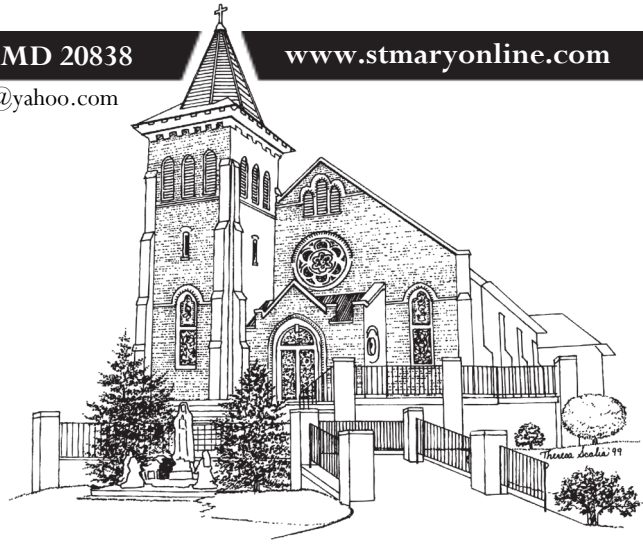
www.stmaryonline.com

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.*

February 18, 2024
1st Sunday of Lent



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*
Denise Crawford, *Secretary, Notary*
Brenda Evans, *Secretary*
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

Gabriel Project Collections St Mary's is supporting the Gabriel Project with your donations during the entire month of February. We are collecting baby items needed for mothers in crisis pregnancies and their families who have chosen LIFE. During the past year, the Montgomery County Gabriel Project has served several hundred families who requested assistance. Angel Friends accompany and provide for them during their pregnancy and after the baby's birth. Cash donations help with supplies and with medical assistance. Older siblings also receive needed items for families struggling to make ends meet while choosing Life.

Please generously support the unborn babies, their toddler siblings and their mothers and fathers in need who are current and future clients of the Gabriel Project. Place items in our sanctuary, near the baptismal font. Your donation of baby (diapers, formula (Similac Advance)) and toddler items, clothing, shoes, coats, small toys), grocery cards (from Giant supermarket), checks (Payable to Gabriel Project Cluster of Montgomery County) will help so much. Especially requested are girl/ boy 0-3 months diapers and clothes (gently used clothing is greatly appreciated). A full list of items needed can be found on the list in the sanctuary. The list can may also be found at www.gpmoco.org (click the the Amazon wish list link). Contact Chris Miller (cmillerusn@gmail.com) of our parish with any questions.



Please Pray For.....James Abernethy, Frank Anderson, Louise Austin, Michael Austin, Nancy Austin, Christopher Barlow, Lori Bauer, Jim Bowie, Donna & Fred Brashears, Linda Burke, Maddie Cabatic, Norma Camp, Ada Candor, Dylan Captain, Gretchen Carrillo, Patrick Carpentier, Eric Carpentier, Pat Chmelik, Sonya Cortez, 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, Mark Fye, Fr. Rich Gancayco, Zachery Gorouch, Gail Hahn, Kimberly Harris, Bridget Hart, Larry Horton, Andrew Howard, Cecilia Hughan & family, Marie Horton, Laura Hutchinson, Louise Jones, 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, Diane Lynch, 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, 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,

I remember vividly the day my high school theology teacher introduced the concept of "social sin." The more I began looking for evidence of social sin around me, the more I began to recognize the reverberating effects of my choices. When I buy a t-shirt, do I know whether those who made it were treated with dignity and paid a fair wage? When I decide whether to drive or take the bus, do I weigh my contribution to environmental degradation and its disproportionate impacts on poor communities and communities of color?

I could no longer think about sin only in terms of my direct interactions with other people. In our complex, global world, we must recognize that we are integrally involved in the systems that reproduce social sin.

The U.S. Catholic Bishops' statement, "Communities of Salt and Light," defines social sin as sin that "exists within any structure in society that oppresses human beings, violates human dignity, stifles freedom and/or imposes great inequity." In other words, it is about how our society structures injustice into the networks of relationships that make up our day-to-day lives.

Once we see our own participation in social sin, no matter how inadvertent, what are we to do? When we are speaking of a more conventional definition of sin, the answer is fairly straightforward: Avoid the sinful behavior. Does this mean that we should avoid any action that contributes to social sin? A brief reflection reveals the impossibility of this. In essence, we would have to withdraw from society entirely, living as hermits, to accomplish it.

The bishops include in their definition of social sin that "once we have recognized these patterns and structures that are sinful, we need to move toward action on behalf of justice and the common good."

Our response, they say, must be to work within the sinful systems to make them less sinful. The work of changing systems is slow. And it is true that the more setbacks we encounter, the more the life of a hermit might begin to look enticing.

Jesus, too, lived in a complicated time, under a government and social system that oppressed his community. In the Gospel today, Jesus retreats into the desert for 40 days. Though Mark's version of the story is sparse on detail about why Jesus journeyed into the desert, we could imagine that perhaps Jesus himself was struggling with the hermit-versus-changemaker conundrum. Was struggling against the established order better than retreating from participation in sinful systems?

In the end, Jesus returns to Galilee and calls on people to repent and believe in the Gospel. He had made his choice: to re-engage with the challenging systems of his society and continue his work to reform them.

Jesus was an integral member of his community; his choices did not affect just him. We hear this truth echoed in the first reading, in which God establishes a covenant with Noah. This is a three-way covenant: "the covenant between me and you and every living creature with you," God says (Genesis 9:12).

Ultimately, this covenant that God makes with us is the answer to the aforementioned conundrum. We are connected to every other living creature, and this is what continues to call us back out of the desert.

Being in relationship with God is about being in relationship with other people. This means we must engage with the systems of social sin in our communities and work to bring them more in line with God's vision.

Peace, Fr. Kevin

WORSHIP



“The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert...”

- Mark 1:12

Mass Intentions

- Sat.,17 4 pm - Pete Brunner
- Sun.,18 8:30 am - Fr. Jim Downs
10:30 am - Parishioners
- Mon.,19 9 am - Our Nation
- Tue., 20 9 am - Special Intention
- Wed.,21 9 am - Christine Drescher (L)
- Thu.,22 9 am - John Procopchak
- Fri., 23 9 am - Eucharistic Service



Lenten Meals

Join Us this Friday from 5:30 - 7:00 pm in the Fr. Reid Pavilion. The menu includes Salmon, Fish Sticks, Macaroni & Cheese, Baked Ziti, large Salad Bar and more. The cost is \$15 per person and \$50 for a family of over 4. The Crab Cake is an extra charge of \$7. The meal is sponsored by our Knights of Columbus.



The St. Patrick's Party

is Saturday, March 16 from 6 - 9 pm in the Pavilion. The band, the food, the fun will all be back. The dinner is by reservation only this year, so call or email the parish office at stmarysb@yahoo.com. The cost is \$25 per person, \$75 for a family of four. No sales at the door.

Presidents Day is Monday. Mass will be at 9 am and the office will be closed.

Pray for our Seminarians It's not too late to choose an archdiocesan seminarian and commit to praying for him each day during the remainder of Lent. Stop by the "Vocations Tree" in the narthex and support the men called to serve as priests with your prayers. Don't let any of them go without our prayers! You might be praying for someone who will someday serve you as a priest in our parish.

United in Purpose: The 2024 Annual Catholic Services Appeal.

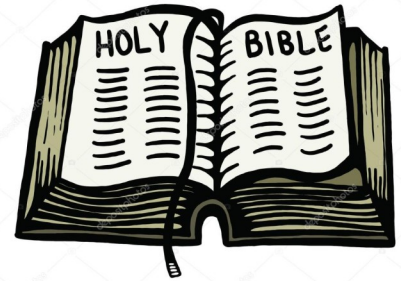
We have been asked prayerfully to consider making a gift to the *2024 Annual Catholic Services Appeal*. Please complete or take a commitment form at Mass this weekend, or make your gift at give.adw.org. Visit appeal.adw.org to learn more about how the Annual Appeal benefits our parish and serves people in need throughout the archdiocese. It is our goal that every parish family will participate this year. All gifts will be credited towards our parish goal. Thank you in advance for your generous response to the *2024 Annual Catholic Services Appeal!*

Cross International Visit Next weekend we welcome Fr. Richard Kunzman who will be visiting our parish to speak at all the masses on behalf of Cross Catholic Outreach which was founded to create a meaningful link between parishes in America and the priests and nuns working in the Church overseas in the Caribbean, Africa, Asia, Central and South America.



Lenten materials including the **The Word Among Us** for Lent, and **The Magnificat** are available in the church this morning.

Bible Study Join Fr. Kevin on Tuesdays at 10 am in the Rectory for a look into the coming Sunday's Scripture.



Stations of the Cross are on Friday evenings during Lent at 7:00 pm in the Church.

Holy Water is removed from Church for Lent to remind us of our parallel journey with Jesus in the desert for these 40 days.

Welcome

To

Walt, Kerri, Stephen & Henry

Kowalewski

of

Clarksburg

who have joined our parish family.