

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

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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 4, 2024

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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, *Sodalitty*
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



Congratulations

to

Finley Richard & Aoife Rose Smith

children of

Joshua & Laura Ann Smith

&

Lexie Jo Normoyle

child of

Richard & Cody Normoyle

Baptized on January 27, 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, 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, Kimberly Harris, Bridget Hart, Larry Horton, Andrew Howard, Cecilia Hughan & family, 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 Lovelless, Diane Lynch, 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, 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 Great Fire of Rome erupted on the night of July 18 in 64 C.E. Reported to have burned for more than a week, the destruction through the city was massive. The historian, Tacitus, wrote that Emperor Nero accused a group of people called "Christians" of starting the fire. As a result, a major persecution of them took place. Many of this small, recently constituted group — roughly 30 years after the death of Jesus — were brutally executed by being thrown to the beasts, crucified, and being burned alive.

Truth be told, at that time the world was experienced by most people as being dark and violent, a world overflowing with immense poverty and untold ruthlessness. It was the world of the Roman Empire — an empire in which the emperor was worshiped as a god. Among the titles he bestowed upon himself were "Lord of the Universe," "Mighty God," and "Prince of Peace" — to name just a few. To many people of that time, demonic forces had the upper hand. Satan was seen to be the ultimate ruler of the world.

But then, something extraordinary, something totally unexpected happened. Amid all this darkness and terror, a whole new literary genre was born. A book, unlike any other ever written, was created — a book that audaciously announced "good news of great joy!" This book, this "beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ," announced that a new beginning, a radical breakthrough had taken place. This book insisted that there was now present the possibility of liberation, of escape from all this fear and brutality, of peace.

The writer of this radically revolutionary story was named Mark, the "interpreter" of the most famous of all apostles: Peter. As inscribed by Mark, the heart of Peter's astounding message positioned the salvific actions of Jesus against the evil of Satan. Yes, Satan is mighty, but Jesus is even more so. Yes, the world is filled with demonic forces, but Jesus has triumphed over all of them. Yes, a darkness does cover the world, but Jesus has generated a bright light of hope that promises a whole new way of living, a whole new way of being.

And, as asserted in Mark's Gospel, the "good news" for everyone suffering so horribly is essentially this: Emperor Nero is not the all-powerful one as he insists; Jesus is. Emperor Nero is not the Lord of the universe as he claims; Jesus is.

From the very beginning of his Gospel, Mark repeatedly highlights Jesus' mighty deeds, the miracles he performs. These phenomenal wonders were so astounding that the people witnessing them proclaimed again and again: "We've never seen anything like this!"

How could Mark make these revolutionary claims about Jesus? A leper is cleansed. A man with a withered hand and a woman with a hemorrhage are made well. A little child who was deemed dead is brought back to life. A raging sea is calmed. A madman is soothed and made whole. And then, in today's Gospel, there is the touching story of Peter's mother-in-law. The tenderness that emanates from Jesus is beautifully stated by these words written by Mark: "He approached, grasped her hand, and helped her up."

This is the good news that Mark so desperately wants us to hear: The God of Jesus, unlike the emperor of Rome, wants only to rescue, to heal, to make well; the God of Jesus, unlike the emperor of Rome, wants only to take each of us by our hand and help us up. This is why Mark reminds us again and again, throughout his entire Gospel, of the people's persistent refrain of joy and awe: "We've never seen anything like this!"

Peace, Fr. Kevin

WORSHIP



"He approached, grasped her hand, and helped her up."

- Mark 1:31

Mass Intentions

Sat.,3	4 pm - Mary Lillian Hewitt
Sun.,4	8:30 am - Parishioners 10:30 am - Russell Ventemiglia
Mon.,5	9 am -
Tue., 6	9 am- Virginia & Lawrence Fisk
Wed.,7	9 am - Mary Pat Breiffelder
Thu.,8	9 am - Eucharistic Service
Fri., 9	9 am - George Brings

Tax Statements for 2023 are available from the parish office. Please call or email us and we can email them to you.

Join the Maryland Catholic Advocacy Network Our state's General Assembly creates laws that affect us, our church, families, and vulnerable neighbors. The Maryland Catholic Advocacy Network keeps you informed and gives you a voice. You will receive action alerts on critical issues plus occasional email updates from the Maryland Catholic Conference: mdcatholic.org/joincan or text MDCATHOLIC to 52886.

"SAVE THE DATE" The Sodality will be hosting a family Tea party in the Pavilion @ 12:00 pm. Sunday Feb 18th. By reservations only! See the flyer in today's bulletin. We will be celebrating the conclusion of the Holy Family Prayer Week initiated by the Knights. The Knights will be handing out prayer cards to each family to pray together in honor of The Holy Family on Feb 10th and 11th after each Mass. Reservation can be made by email to joymccartin@comcast.net

"Vocations Tree" Coming Soon! Here's something simple you and your family can do for Lent. Next weekend, you will see a "Vocations Tree" display in the church with cards hanging on it. Each card has information about a seminarian of The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington. Choose a card (or more than one) and pray for that seminarian each day during Lent. Who knows—you could be praying for a future pastor of our parish!

United in Purpose: The 2024 Annual Catholic Services Appeal. This weekend 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!*



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

February 13, 6-8 pm Pancakes, Sausage & Eggs, Juice, Coffee, Milk - chocolate & white. No charge this year, just a donation. Call 301-972-8660 for more information or to save a spot for planning purposes.

Ash Wednesday is coming on February 14. We will offer Masses with the distribution of Ashes at 9:00 am, 4:15 pm and 7:30 pm.

Gabriel Project Collections St Mary's will be 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.

In discussing Catholic follow on actions to the overturning of Roe v Wade, Bishop Burbage, representing the Conference of Catholic Bishops, states "Each of us is called to [radical solidarity](#) with women facing an unexpected or challenging pregnancy". He further reminded us all that the most immediate way to protect babies and mothers from abortion is to thoroughly surround mothers in need with loving support, '[walking with](#)' them in their journey of motherhood. The Gabriel Project volunteers do just that, with your help. 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.