

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.*



March 12, 2023

Third Sunday in 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*
Brenda Evans, *Secretary*
Denise Crawford, *Secretary*
Chris Carey, *Bookkeeper*
Terry Crawford, *Sodality*
David Bivens, *Knights of Columbus*

Daily Mass: Monday - Friday: 9:00 am
Sunday Mass: Saturday @ 5 pm, Sunday @ 8:30 & 10:30 am
First Friday: Adoration 9:30 am - Noon
First Saturday: 9:00 am with Devotions
Confession: Saturday @ 4:15 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

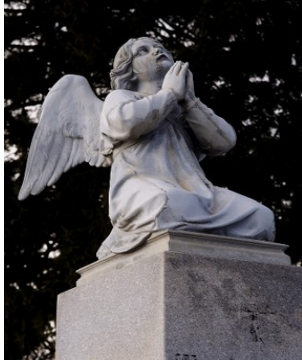
Dear Parishioners,

Nobody would be surprised to hear that the account of the Samaritan woman at the well is called a conversion story. Some will compare her to the woman caught in adultery or other famous women in Scripture. In reality there are many similarities among them all, but they don't necessarily lead to traditional themes of repentance and penance.

If we start by looking at the Samaritan woman as an apostle in her hometown, we might ask about the message she took to her people. After all, she had engaged in quite a theological discussion with Jesus, going from questions about whether he had something better than Jacob's well (tradition) to where people should really worship (liturgy) and ending with hearing Jesus identify himself as the Christ (theology). So, what was her message? "He told me everything I have done." That is all that we hear from her. In discussion with Jesus she had said that the coming Messiah would "tell us everything," but there was no hint that "everything" would be primarily personal information.

What we have in this story is a rather complex encounter in which Jesus first approaches this woman on the level of human need. He asks her for water. But oh, how the simplest things can be complicated! The Samaritans now owned Jacob's well, a symbol of the common roots and tradition they shared with the Jews. But how could a Jew ask a Samaritan for anything? The Jews had destroyed the Samaritans' temple on Mount Gerizim, they disdained the Samaritans for being backwoods idolaters whose intermarriage with non-chosen people had contaminated the bloodlines.

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Please Pray For.... Frank Anderson, Louise Austin, Michael Austin, Christopher Barlow, Lori Bauer, Jim Bowie, Donna Brashears, Suzanne Brodt, Linda Burke, Pete Brunner, Maddie Cabatic, Norma Camp, Ada Candor, Dylan Captain, Gretchen Carrillo, Patrick Carpentier, Eric Carpentier, Pat Chmelik, Alex Chmelik, Sonya Cortez, Bridget Curan, Grant Kraft, Dot Crawford, John Curry, Dana DeLauter, Michael Dillon, Julian Douchard, Dennis Edward, Tom Ehart, Jo Evans, Timothy Flanders, Sandy Flynn, Dolores Flynn, Fr. Rich Gancayco, Kimberly Harris, Andrew Howard, Cecilia Hughan & family, Mary Lillian Hewitt, Sophie Hoover, Marie Horton, Laura Hutchinson, Eleanor Kelly, Michael Kelley, Brittany, Joe & Ava Marie Koelie, Jeffrey Krohn, Jr., John Kutzi, Ryma Lacks, Cade Lutz, David Liska Sr., Colleen Loss, Sylvia Marshall, Anna Lozada Martinez, Joy McIntyre, Anthony Murdock, Bea Nastacio, Christine O'Connell, Dennis O'Fallan, Patrick Ambrose O'Grady, 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, Lin Selby, Teresa Silverman, Gene Smith, Jerry Stafford, Colleen Thomas, Christy Thomsen, Richard Thompson, Jack Thorp, Corinne Torney, Vicki Tosques, Rosalie Weller, 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.

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In short, they were antagonistic peoples inextricably related to one another at the deepest level of their religious history. Jesus was taking on all of that with his simple request for a drink.

As the exchange progressed there was great theological discussion about living water, Jacob's importance, correct worship, prophets and the coming Messiah. But what really counted was that Jesus revealed himself to the woman and revealed her to herself. We don't know the extent of their dialogue, we only know that she came to believe he had come from God and proclaimed, "He told me everything I have done."

What's interesting about this in the context of Lent is that we have a conversion story that doesn't focus at all on sinfulness or even traditional repentance but rather on being known and accepted. When the conversation about husbands began, the woman said she had none, and Jesus replied that she had known at least five. But there is no follow-up on the topic. No talk about straightening out her life, no discussion about laws concerning divorce and remarriage, nor about whether she could commune with him in her current state.

She told her people, "He told me everything I have done." One gets the sense that Jesus explained her to herself. The symbolism of five husbands speaks to a person seeking something on a human level. Her discussion about where to worship, about prophets and the coming Messiah showed that she was well versed in the tradition and had real theological questions and religious hopes. But the message she took home spoke of none of that. She had been accepted for everything she was, just as she was. That fulfilled a need that no affair of the flesh or the mind could ever satisfy.

This story is about thirst, about God seeking and finding beloved humanity. Whatever her social status, whether she was the town reject or a popular figure, the Samaritan became an apostle, an evangelizer. In *Evangelii Gaudium* ("The Joy of the Gospel"), Pope Francis writes, "Every Christian is a missionary to the extent that she or he has encountered the love of God in Christ Jesus." That is exactly what happened to the Samaritan woman. Theology, liturgical correctness and the question of who has the better tradition are no more than distractions in the face of an encounter with Christ. Her interaction with Jesus filled her with the living water (the Spirit) that made her an apostle, one who enticed others into a similar encounter.

The church offers us this story in this third week of Lent and invites us to meditate on the woman and her transformation. It reminds us that our faith is based on a personal encounter with Christ, the one whose effect on us is like cascading water. Water filling us and bubbling over into joyful expressions of being so loved just as we are, that we are impelled to continue the relationship and share it. The conversion revealed here is about focusing on Jesus and God's love, nothing more and nothing less.

After all is said and done, the reading does leave us with a blaringly unanswered question: Did she ever give Jesus that drink of water?

Peace,

Fr. Kevin

WORSHIP



"How can you, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?"

- John 4:9

Mass Intentions

- Sat., 11 5 pm - Nancy Watson
Sun., 12 8:30 am - Parishioners
10:30 am - Russell Ventimiglia
Mon., 13 9 am - Ron Jacobs
Tue., 14 9 am - Albert Camut, Sr.
Wed., 15 9 am - Lloyd & Louise Jones
Thu., 16 9 am - Eucharistic Service
Fri., 17 9 am - George Brings



Easter Flower envelopes are in the back of church. Please use them to donate in memory or celebration of a loved one and return them to the parish office by April 2.

Sodality Applications for the 2023 Sodality Scholarship Entrants must be a member of St. Mary's Parish in Barnesville, received the Sacraments through Confirmation, and is a graduating high school Senior or currently enrolled in a trade school or 2-4 year college. Provide the following information: Name, Address, Phone Number, Email, Trade School or College you plan to attend or are attending and List of Activities in Church, Community and School. Also submit a typed, minimum 500 word essay on the following topic: "How will I apply what I learn through my college education to spread my faith and help others?" DEADLINE for submission is Sunday, May 21st, 2023. Please email applications to: alictungviola@gmail.com. Winners will be notified by the beginning of June and receive their funds by August 1st. If you have any questions, email Alice Tung at alictungviola@gmail.com.

Mass Schedule Change With the time change this weekend, the Saturday Vigil Mass has moved to 5:00 pm. Confession are held at 4:15 pm.

Stations of the Cross Join Us on Friday evenings of Lent at 7:00 pm in the church.

Shady Grove Pregnancy Center Ultrasound models are needed! Are you pregnant? Thinking of becoming pregnant? Please join us for a free ultrasound during our week of Nurse Sonographer Training. March 27 - 31. We need women who are not pregnant, and pregnant women at every stage for a limited OB/GYN ultrasound. Note: this is not a diagnostic sonogram to rule out pregnancy complications. You will receive a picture of your ultrasound and be entered into a raffle for an awesome gift card basket. Call 301-963-6223 to sign up.

Young men interested in the Priesthood and who are in high school are invited to join the Vocations office on March 26 for a day that includes mass, lunch, and hiking. Spend time with seminarians, priests, and other high-school guys who are open to exploring the priesthood. This event will be held in Black Hill Regional Park. For more information contact Fr. Mark Ivany at 202-636-9020 or vocations@adw.org.

Easter Egg Hunt - we need your help! It will be on April 9 after the 8:30 am Mass. If you would like to help out hiding the eggs, and watching over the event, please call or email Fr. Kevin in the parish office.



The St. Patrick's Party is this Saturday, March 18 from 6:00 - 9:00 pm in the Fr. Reid Pavilion. Make plans to join us.

The band, the food, the bread, and new dancers from the Maple School will be on hand. Call or email the office to sign up. This years cost is: \$25 per person and \$75 for a family of four. No sales at the door. Reserve your spot now.

Baby Bottle Campaign Shady Grove Pregnancy Center helps pregnant women facing difficult choices with options counseling, ultrasounds, parenting classes, and material aid. Women considering abortion can come to the center and make a life-affirming choice instead, thanks to your support. Pick up and fill a baby bottle with coins, currency, or a check made out to Shady Grove Pregnancy Center. Put "St. Mary's BBC" in the memo. Please return all bottles by April 9. To give virtually, use the link to get to your church's unique giving page: <https://donate.givedirect.org/?cid=15687>



Anointing of the Sick We will offer this Sacrament of Healing on Sunday, March

26 at the 10:30 am Mass. Join us and consider bringing homebound neighbors to share in God's healing grace.

Bible Study with Fr. Kevin continues on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 am in the Rectory.

No Friday Fish Dinner this week! This is due to cooking for the St. Patrick's Dinner.