

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 17, 2024
5th 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 @ 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

Baby Bottle Campaign Shady Grove Pregnancy Center helps pregnant women facing difficult choices with options counseling, ultrasounds, parenting classes, and material aid (diapers, cribs, infant car seats, and baby clothes). Your donation enables us to provide these services free of charge to women who desperately need to hear about alternatives to abortion. 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 March 24. To give online, use the link to get to your church's unique giving page: <https://donate.givedirect.org/?cid=16092&n=77071>



Confession Join us for our Lenten Penance Services this Wednesday, March 20 at 4:15 and 7:30 pm. We will have two priests to hear your confession. Come and get ready for Easter.



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, 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, 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, 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 story is told of a blind merchant selling his wares in the middle of a busy train station, when a group of children bump into the table and knock much of his nicely stacked merchandise to the floor. As the story goes, the merchant gets down on his hands and knees in an attempt to retrieve his scattered goods. Another man, clearly in a hurry, rounds the corner to see the sight-impaired merchant on the floor.

The man stops for a moment, looks at his watch, his expression indicating his dilemma: If he takes the time to help this young man, he will likely miss his train. With only a moment's hesitation, he drops his briefcase, gets down on the floor, and helps the merchant gather and re-stack his goods. When all is in order, and the man walks away, the merchant calls out after him: "Hey Mister, are you Jesus?"

Now chances are this story is not actually true. But true or not, this story could well be a modern-day parable. It comes to my mind each time I hear the Greeks say to Philip, as we hear in today's Gospel, "Sir, we would like to see Jesus."

What was it about the man that caused the merchant to ask him if he was Jesus? Was it the fact that he died to himself in order to help a man he did not know and who would never be able to repay him? Might it have been that this busy man loved the merchant more, in those few moments, than he loved his own life, sacrificing his travel plans for another? Surely anyone who has traveled by train or air knows the inconvenience, not to mention the cost in time and dollars, of rebooking a trip or a ticket. Could it have been because the man got down on the floor and chose to serve the merchant in the same way Jesus served the poor, the marginalized, the outcast and disciples whose feet he washed?

In today's Gospel, Jesus responded with similar words when told that the Greeks wished to see him. "Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies," Jesus says, "it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit." Jesus continued, "Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life." And finally, "Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be."

Jesus' response to Philip and Andrew almost seems like a non-sequitur. What does any of that have to do with the Greeks' desire to see Jesus? And yet, as I think of the merchant's question, "Hey Mister, are you Jesus?" it seems to me that Jesus' answer to Philip and Andrew has everything to do with the question.

It was the Greeks who asked to see Jesus, Greeks who did not look or worship like the Jews. And I wonder, who are "the Greeks" who want to see Jesus today?

Might they be living in the cellblock of a crowded prison?

Perhaps they are a single-parent family receiving government aid or a drug addict living on the street?

Are they refugees from a Muslim country, undocumented people from Mexico, a couple in an unconventional marriage?

And I wonder, if we responded to these people today like the man responded to the blind merchant in our modern-day parable, if we, too, would come to see, like Jesus came to see in today's Gospel that "it was for this purpose that I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name." And, perhaps we, too, would hear a voice come from heaven saying, "I have glorified it and will glorify it again."

Peace, Fr. Kevin

WORSHIP



"I am troubled now,
Yet what should I say?
'Father, save me from
this hour'? But it was
for this purpose that I
came to this hour"
- John 12:27

Mass Intentions

Sat., 16 5 pm - Clementine Blonquist
Sun., 17 8:30 am- Patti Wilson
 10:30 am - Parishioners
Mon., 18 9 am - Cirila Gamarra
Tue., 19 9 am - Jim Rizzo
Wed. 20 9 am - Joe Luny
Thu., 21 9 am - Eucharistic Service
Fri., 22 9 am - Theresa Rizzo



Join Us this Friday
from 5:30 - 7:00 pm
in the Fr. Reid Pa-
vilion, for the last
Lenten meal. 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 ex-
tra charge of \$7. The meal is sponsored
by our Knights of Columbus.

Stations of the Cross The final Friday
evening stations are on this week at 7:00
pm in the Church.

Sodality Invitation Join the ladies at
the First Saturday Mass on April 6 at 9:00
am. when they will remember and honor
deceased Sodality members. Light
Breakfast fare and coffee will be offered
after Devotions and the Rosary. All are
welcome.

**Keep Praying for our Semi-
narians** Thanks to all who picked
a card from the "Vocations Tree."
Please keep up the daily prayers
for seminarians throughout Lent—
and beyond, if you wish.

Easter Children's Choir Atten-
tion children who are available to
sing for Easter Sunday Mass @
10:30 am. Students in Grades 2 - 8
and Choristers are invited to March
rehearsals. Please email Director of
Music, Mrs. Yendrey for more infor-
mation: dyendrey98@gmail.com.



**Easter We need
Egg your help!
Hunt** It will be on

March 31 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.

Vacation Bible School Plan
ahead for this summer's VBS which
will be July 8 - 12.

Second Collection next weekend
will be for Catholic Relief Services.



Is next weekend. One of the
masses may begin outside with the
blessings of Palms and procession.
Weather permitting. Consult an
usher on arrival to see if it is your
mass.



Easter Flower
envelopes are in
the back of
church and in
your packets.
Please use them
to donate in
memory or cele-
bration of a loved one and return
them to the Office by today. You
may place them in any collection
as well.

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

Lenten Reminders Fridays during
Lent are days of Abstinence. All
Catholics 14 and older are to abstain
from eating meat on all the Fridays of
Lent. Good Friday will be a day of
Fast.

**United in Purpose: The 2024
Annual Catholic Services Ap-
peal.** We have been asked prayer-
fully to consider making a gift to the
*2024 Annual Catholic Services Ap-
peal*. Please complete or take a com-
mitment 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 par-
ticipate this year. All gifts will be cred-
ited towards our parish goal. Thank
you in advance for your generous re-
sponse to the *2024 Annual Catholic
Services Appeal!*

