

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

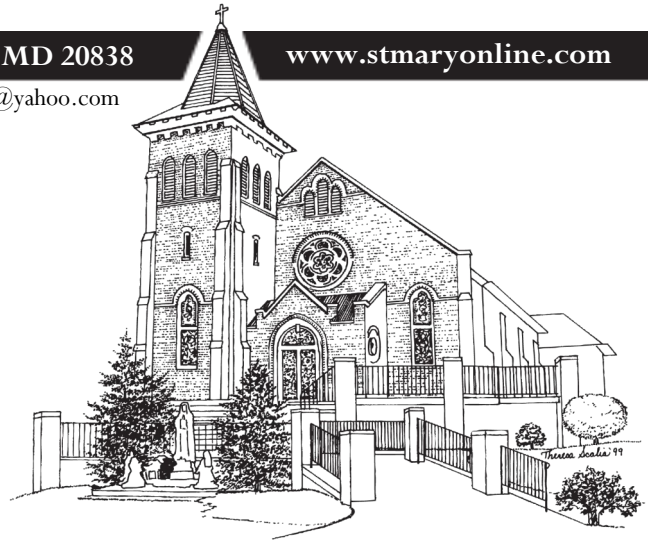
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Mary of Nazareth School: 301.869.0940

*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 26, 2023  
Fifth 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



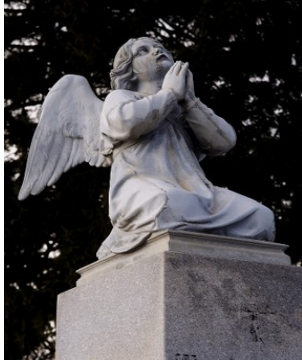
**Pray for our Seminarians and Those in Consecrated Life** Please continue to pray for our seminarians each day during Lent. Make it a beautiful offering to the Lord this Lent to pray for those whom He calls to give their lives in service of the Church.

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

**Formed.org** is a wonderful faith-based website that our parish pays for to provide good family content. Check it out for Lent.

**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.

**Friday Lenten Dinner** sponsored by our Knights of Columbus. The last one is this Friday from 5:30 - 7:00 pm in the Fr. Reid Pavilion. The menu features Salmon, Fish Sticks, Mac-n-cheese, Salad bar, Ziti, Fries & Garlic Bread. Crab Cake for an up charge. The cost is \$14 per person.



***Please Pray For....*** Frank Anderson, Louise Austin, Michael Austin, Christopher Barlow, Lori Bauer, Jim Bowie, Donna Brashears, Suzanne Brodt, Ida Brown, 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, Sr. Barbara Murtha, 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, 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,**

Poor Martha. Experiencing utter exhaustion, she and her sister, Mary, cared for Lazarus while he was ill. But now, Martha steps into leadership, picking up the practical pieces of the job at hand. We imagine her making food for scores of visitors, overseeing funeral arrangements, providing necessities for burial as she tries to control her grief. Culture and tradition suddenly have given Martha many stones to carry.

We all carry stones that block the light of God. We pray for a clean heart, a heart where God's light can continuously shine inwardly and radiate outwardly in service to others.

We pray to be released from our prejudices, our stereotyping and dishonest inclinations. Every stone we carry can turn outward into falsehoods about others. We become so buried beneath our own cynical notions that our stones turn into hypocrisy, growing larger until they entangle us in an empty grave where the light of faith gets blocked.

When Martha hears that Jesus is near, she goes out to see what she can do for him, ready to care for another's need. She doesn't give in to cynical thoughts. Instead, through these words, she hands him her stone of grief: "If you had been here, he might have been able to withstand it."

Seeing the pain of the stone she carries, Jesus asks her: "Do you believe what I've told you? Me. Not those others, but me." Again, Martha refuses to give in to cynicism and doubt. She tells him her answer: "Yes."

This passage in John's Gospel says Jesus arrived in Bethany and is perturbed by what he sees. He is bothered, dismayed, maybe even agitated by the scene of insurmountable public hypocrisy his friends and followers are encountering. In the background are the whispers of the hypocrites, waiting to trap Jesus. "See how he loved him!" they cry out followed by their caustic mockery, "Yes, but, if he really did, then ..."

"Take away the stone," Jesus says to the community. A simple command to stop placing stones in each other's way of light and faith. The stone before the tomb traps Lazarus; he is unable to come into the light.

Jesus exclaims, "Unbind him, free him!" as if to say "Let Lazarus be active in his community once again."

The stone is taken away, not by Lazarus, but by others. Given the responsibility for making sure that Lazarus is whole again, it is the community who was told by Jesus to remove the barrier of the tomb, to release him from the trappings that hold him back.

Their hearts have been changed, resurrected in order to help him. As Jesus prays to his Father in their midst, it is the community that is also receiving a new beginning.

Listen again to the words of the prophet Ezekiel: "O my people, I will open your graves and have you rise from them. I will put my spirit in you that you may live."

Our God is a God of mercy, kindness and forgiveness. We are bound up by our sins as well as the sins of others — the ones they have inflicted and those we have inflicted on them.

When resurrection is given, it comes as mercy. Do we become communities of grace as a result of the mercy we have been shown? Do we allow our hearts to be transformed, opened to welcome those who have suffered and struggled?

All communities can be resurrected by mercy, forgiveness, charity. Resurrection gives us clean hearts and ready hands. Those hands are sorely needed by the Martha's among us as together we care for what would follow the day after our brother's resurrection.

***Fr. Kevin***

## WORSHIP



“So Jesus, perturbed again, came to the tomb...Jesus said “take away the stone.”

- John 11:38-39

### Mass Intentions

- Sat., 25** 5 pm - Rizk Family  
**Sun., 26** 8:30 am - Parishioners  
10:30 am - Kaleel Rizk  
**Mon., 27** 9 am - Betty Martin  
**Tue., 28** 9 am - George Brings  
**Wed., 29** 9 am - James Miedzinski  
**Thu., 30** 9 am - Eucharistic Service  
**Fri., 31** 9 am - Eleanor & Lloyd Jones

### Student Applications for the 2023 Sodality Scholarship

Members of St. Mary's Parish, Barnesville are invited to apply: applicants must have received the Sacraments through Confirmation; and are currently graduating high school or continuing attendance in a trade school or 2-4 year college.

Application deadline is May 21, 2023. Complete the following and email to Alice Tung, Sodality Chair for Scholarships: [alicetungviola@gmail.com](mailto:alicetungviola@gmail.com)

Name/Address/Phone Number/ Email / Trade school or college intended for the upcoming semester / List of activities in church, community, and school; and a typed 500+ word essay on the following topic: “How will I apply what I learn through my college education, to spread my faith and to help others?” Winners will be notified in early June 2023 and receive funds by August 1st.

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

**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.



### Easter Egg Hunt

**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.



**Donuts and Coffee** are next Sunday, April 2 after mass. Haiti coffee is available.

**Young Family Ministry** All families with young children are invited to spend a morning together on Saturday, April 15th, from 10am-12pm in the Parish Pavilion. This event is designed to help parents and children ages 2nd grade and younger live the season of Easter together. We will have a children's songs, stories, and games with an Easter center. Coffee and bagels will be provided in the morning. Please pack a lunch. To RSVP or learn more, contact Brenda Stohlman at [blinibrenda@gmail.com](mailto:blinibrenda@gmail.com)

**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>



**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.

**Palm Sunday** is next weekend. The 10:30 am Mass will begin with a procession from the outdoor altar, weather permitting.

**First Saturday Devotions** will be this coming Saturday, April 1 following a 9:00 am Mass.



“To Jesus Through Mary”  
Our Lady of Fatima Sodality

**Sodality** All ladies of the parish are welcome as our Sodality meets next Sunday in the Fr. Reid Pavilion after the 10:30 am Mass. Elections will be held.