

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

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

www.stmaryonline.com

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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.*



May 21, 2023

Feast of the Ascension

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*

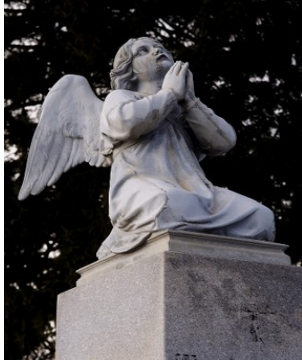
Daily Mass: Monday - Friday: 9:00 am
Sunday Mass: Saturday @ 5 pm, Sunday @ 8:30 & 10:30 am
First Friday: Adoration 9:30 am - Noon
First Saturday: 9:00 am with Devotions
Confession: Saturday @ 4:15 pm
Baptism: by appointment
Wedding: by appointment at least 6 months after initial contact
Rel. Ed.: September - May
School: Mary of Nazareth in Darnestown, grades PreK-8

Dear Parishioners,



When I was in college we celebrated an Ascension Thursday liturgy that culminated in a fantastic light show on the ceiling. At first it was subtle, and then as vocal music yielded to instrumental, we all began to notice the intertwining, dancing lights above our heads. It must have lasted almost a minute when suddenly a voice boomed out, "Why are you standing there looking up? Go tell the world what you have seen!" It was a fabulous "gotcha" moment — and the message stayed with us. Getting down to the mission is surely part of the message here; the scene reminds us of the transfiguration when Jesus told Peter that they didn't have time to camp out on the mountain, there was work to do and much to learn. Nevertheless, we could imagine an alternative scene at the end of the Ascension story. What if one or two of the disciples had the nerve to answer back when the angels spoke? (We can tell by their outfits that they were both angels.) Speaking back is not out of the question. After all, at the very beginning of the Gospel of Luke, Mary questioned an angel — as did Zachariah with less positive results.

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Please Pray For.... Frank Anderson, Louise Austin, Michael Austin, Christopher Barlow, Lori Bauer, Jim Bowie, Donna Brashears, 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, Hazel Finney, 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, Harvey Loveless, Sylvia Marshall, Anna Lozada Martinez, Joy McIntyre, Anthony Murdock, Sr. Barbara Murtha, 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, Lin Selby, Teresa Silverman, Gene Smith, Jerry Stafford, 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.

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A Peter or Martha might have said, "He told us it's not yet time! We're supposed to stick around for whatever's coming next." Others might have gotten the courage to chime in: "Why are we looking up? Because we don't know what's about to happen!" "Where else are we supposed to look? We need to see beyond this spot where our feet are sinking in the mud of fear and confusion. All around us we see nothing but signs of all that went wrong in the past few weeks."

If there were anyone on the side of the angels, it might have been Mary Magdalene. Having understood that she couldn't cling to Jesus, she could have encouraged the rest: "Come on guys, I know you can't just take it from me, but he said he would remain with us ... Don't you get it? This is just like when Elijah went off in the fiery chariot ... he left Elisha with a double dose of his spirit. So, for once, let's try doing what he told us!"

While that's imaginary, Luke's story does portray the tension between looking heavenward and getting down to earth. Thinking about it, we can well imagine how unprepared those disciples must have felt for their mission.

The Letter to the Ephesians offers a description of the gifts the disciples needed to move forward. In today's selection from that letter we hear the prayer "May the God of our Lord ... give you a Spirit of wisdom and revelation resulting in knowledge of him. May the eyes of your hearts be enlightened that you may know the hope that belongs to his call ... the surpassing greatness of his power for us who believe." What a prayer for semi-willing, mostly confused disciples!

That prayer begins by grounding us in our faith, reminding us that the will of God the Father, "our Lord," and the Spirit is always for our good. When it asks for a "Spirit of wisdom and revelation," it opens us to the Spirit that gives us the ability to read the signs of the times, to recognize how God is luring us forward through the people and events of our days. To pray that "the eyes of our hearts be enlightened" pleads for a God-sized vision, for hope that will go further than all our imaginations put together.

We can celebrate the Ascension as an invitation to imagination that leads us to ask for such a blessing. We are invited to stand with the disciples who heard the promise, who knew they wouldn't see Jesus anymore but who were still charged with carrying on his mission. Like them, we must face the very real dispiriting events of our times, the circumstances that cannot and should not be ignored. We may share their desire to simply stand, looking heavenward for a solution, but we will also hear angels or prophets who remind us that prayer is only one part of the equation.

If we have the audacity and courage to pray for the blessings of wisdom, revelation, knowledge of God, enlightened hearts and Christian hope, we will be impelled to action. The really good news is that Christ has promised that as we go to the ends of the earth, he will be with us until the end of the ages.

Peace,

Fr. Kevin

WORSHIP



"The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had ordered them."

- Matthew 2:16

Mass Intentions

Sat., 20 5 pm - Louise Cook
Sun., 21 8:30 am - Parishioners
10:30 am - Patrice Morace (L)
Mon., 22 9 am -
Tue., 23 9 am - Fr. George Wilkinson
Wed., 24 9 am - Joe Chmelik
Thu., 25 9 am - Eucharistic Service
Fri., 26 9 am - Lloyd & Louise 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 today. Complete the following and email to Alice Tung, Sodality Chair for Scholarships: 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.

Event Photos Pictures from the Communion Breakfast, Easter Vigil, and the Little Sisters of the Poor visit are posted on our smugmug pages. Simply go to <https://stmarysbarnesville.smugmug.com/>. The password is StMarysBarnesville.

Second Collection next weekend will be for the Catholic Communication Campaign and the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. Thank you for your generosity.

Holy Hour for Vocations In preparation for the June Ordination of Priests for our Archdiocese we will host a Holy Hour on First Friday, June 2 as part of our First Friday Adorations. The exact time will be in next weeks bulletin.

Spring Cleaning? White Elephant time is upon us. The Chicken Dinner will be here before we know it. Please place your slightly used items in the storage room under the sun room. Please donate items that you would want to buy if you needed them. We always need decent donations. **No tires, clothing, or electronics please.**

Young Family Ministry All families with young children are invited to spend a morning together on Saturday, Saturday, June 10th, 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 Ordinary Time together. We will have a children's songs, stories, and games. 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



Vacation Bible School Save the date! July 10 - 14 for Bible River Adventures! This is a fun, faith filled time for all. For more information contact Terri Phipps at okoni@hotmail.com. Teen and Adult volunteers are needed.

Refugee Meal Packing St. Mary's Parish in Rockville is hosting this **Event on Saturday, June 24 from 11:00 am - 3:00 pm.** Meal kits packed will be delivered quickly to Poland for Ukrainian Refugees and to Turkey and Syria for earthquake victims. Please consider donating to support the purchase of food to be distributed. A goal of \$21,000.00 raised to package 60,000 meals is desired. Donations will be gratefully accepted thru PayPal: <https://bit.ly/3ww14n1>. **Checks payable to: The Outreach Program** may be mailed to St. Mary's Parish 520 Veirs Mill Rd. Rockville, MD 20852. Many volunteers are also needed on June 24th. Signup via <https://bit.ly/3MUhVHv> Any questions, contact Mary McCormick at mary.e.mccormick22@gmail.com.

Come support our local Knights of Columbus by dining in or out at the **Hornets Nest Grille** (Damascus) on Wednesday, May 24th (all day)! Just mention "Knights of Columbus" when ordering and 20% of your check will be donated to our local Assembly supporting local activities and families in need.

The Odd Fellows annual picnic for Seniors (55 plus) is on June 24 at Memorial UMC Fellowship Hall in Poolesville from 12:30 - 3:00 pm. Please RSVP by June 17 to Pat Ferris 240-252-8919.