

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

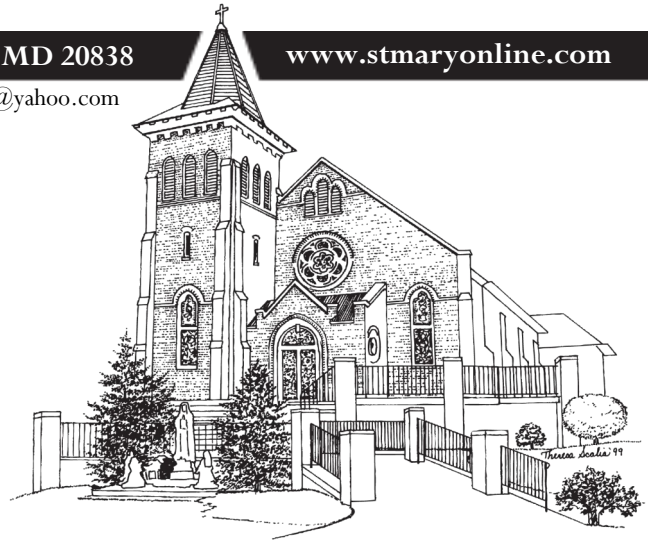
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www.stmaryonline.com

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.*

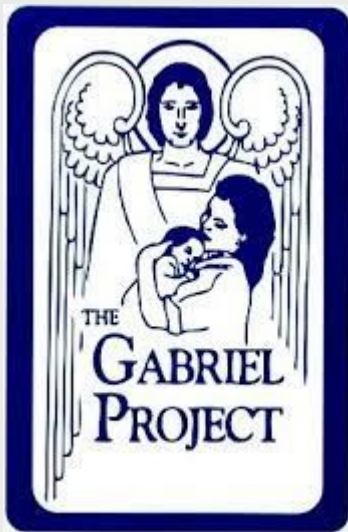


July 16, 2023

15th 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*
Brenda Evans, *Secretary*
Denise Crawford, *Secretary, Notary*
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



Gabriel Project of Montgomery County

Want to put your pro-life beliefs into action? Leroy Carhart has died but the facility where he performed late term abortions is still open for business. Women need to know, before they get pregnant, about the help that the Gabriel Project Cluster of Montgomery provides. You can help a pregnant mother in several ways. Women volunteers (especially bilingual English and Spanish speaking women) are needed to assist client mothers. This includes keeping in touch with them via text, phone, or email during their pregnancy; bringing them needed items, such as diapers, baby clothes, etc., that are provided by the project; and praying for them. The average time commitment would be approximately 1 - 4 hours per month. Men are also needed to set up cribs or to pick up donations once or twice per month. Donations of diapers, formula, baby clothes, children's clothes, and maternity clothes are also appreciated. Please visit our Website for more information at www.gpmoco.org or contact: Brenda Stohlman at blinibrenda@gmail.com.



Please Pray For.... Frank Anderson, Louise Austin, Michael Austin, Christopher Barlow, Lori Bauer, Stanton Boteler, 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, Andrew & Nicholas Diaz, Michael Dillon, Julian Douchard, Steve Drescher, Dennis Edward, Tom Ehart, Jo Evans, Hazel Finney, Timothy Flanders, Sandy Flynn, Dolores Flynn, Mark Fye, Fr. Rich Gancayco, Zachery Gorouch, Kimberly Harris, Bridget Hart, Andrew Howard, Cecilia Hughan & family, Mary Lillian Hewitt, 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, Karla Linn Merrifield, Anna Lozada Martinez, Joy McIntyre, 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, Cynthia Slatum, 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.

Dear Parishioners,

Why did Jesus speak in parables? In part it surely put everyone in his audience on equal footing. The learned had no better access to his riddles than did the simple, and in this case, farm workers had the head start. The disciples were among the curious who learned how to wrangle a special advantage. When they didn't know what it meant, they could ask the storyteller himself. To them, Jesus gave an explanation of each phase of this story. But, because it is a parable, there will be more than even his explanation tells us on first hearing.

Apparently then, when Jesus said, "Whoever has ears to hear, ought to hear," he was not saying that they had to comprehend what he said. The real requirement was that they must want to understand more than they did. When it comes down to it, we know that those who think they have a firm grasp on something will usually be the least likely to enter into genuine dialogue. We can hand it to the disciples in this instance for being humble and caring enough to ask.

Jesus explained the parable to them, summarizing the fate of his teaching about the kingdom of heaven by describing four ways people responded to his message. Some folks simply don't understand, and the evil one robs them of the little they might have grasped if they had bothered to ask. Others are originally delighted with a Gospel of prosperity, the miracles, and great dinners that everyone loves, but take away the carte blanche and they can't find it in themselves to pay the price. Then, there are those who from the beginning have been in it for the prestige; before long the desire to get ahead or to guarantee their fortune chokes the little life there was in their fledgling faith. Finally, Jesus says there are those who hear and understand and bear fruit to such a degree that even the very least of them enjoys a miracle harvest.

It really isn't such a good record. Jesus didn't talk about quantities, but his story indicates that he had something like a 25 percent success rate. That's pitifully far below a failing grade. But, today's Scriptures put two caveats on that lack of success. One comes from Isaiah's reflection on the word and the other from the very nature of seed and harvest.

Isaiah proclaims that the word of God is as effective as the rain or snow; it always produces results. That certainly cannot mean that the word of God always brings conversion, otherwise, our world would not be as it is. Isaiah is talking about God's word as a word of dialogue. He's saying that the God of Judeo-Christianity desires and initiates relationship with creation. Our God speaks to us in our own tongue inviting us into communion.

Once heaven reaches out to earth, the horizon has changed and earth can never be the same. The coming of the word of God invites humanity into the possibility of relationship with God, something that no person can achieve on her or his own. Whether or not we accept the offer, the possibility will forever be there. Like an open window cut in what used to be a solid wall, we need not go through it, but everything is different because we could. That is Isaiah's message: Once the word of God has come, nothing is the same.

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WORSHIP



"The seed sown among thorns is the one who hears the word, but then worldly anxiety and the lure of riches choke the word and it bears no fruit."

- Matthew 13:22

Mass Intentions

- Sat., 15** 5 pm - Elizabeth Tralka
Sun., 16 8:30 am - Patrick Austin
10:30 am- Parishioners
Mon., 17 9 am - Special Intention
Tue., 18 9 am - Fr. Greg Wilkinson
Wed., 19 9 am - Mike Sutherland
Thu., 20 9 am - Eucharistic Service
Fri., 21 9 am - Virginia & Irving Fisk



Congratulations to

Paolo Stefano Melegari
child of
Alessandro Melegari
&
Marta Stohlman
Baptized on July 8

Shady Grove Pregnancy Center Annual Benefit Banquet with Keynote speaker, Abby Johnson. Help them celebrate 40 years of service with a gourmet dinner & dessert, games, and an inspiring message on Thursday, October 26 at the Rockville Hilton. Reservations are required to attend. Please call 301-963-6223 to RSVP by October 13.

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Then, although Jesus explained the details of the parable, it remains a parable, a teaching with more to it than meets the eye. A parable never fits in one simple lesson plan. What he left unsaid had to do with the future of the miraculous harvest. We can assume from the type of sowing, that the seed was grain — fruit would entail a different process. What happens when grain is harvested? It becomes, as Isaiah said, seed for the sower and bread for the hungry. The success of Jesus' sowing, even with only a small portion coming to fruition, is astounding and ongoing. Every disciple who has ears to hear must realize that there is a vocation involved in fruitful hearing. Those in whom the word has taken root are called to be seeds for the next sowing and grain to feed the hungry.

Jesus' parable about sower, seeds and soil invites us to think more about what happens to us when we hear the word of God. Isaiah tells us that the word comes as an invitation to allow God to permeate our life as water saturates soil. Jesus promises that if we allow the seed of the word to grow in us the results will be incalculable. The parable tells us to keep listening and asking because there will always be more.

Fr. Kevin



Chicken Dinner, Saturday, July 29, 2023 This weekend we continue accepting your donations to help defray the cost of our dinner.

Crafts Wanted Please consider making or donating crafts for the craft table, for our 148th annual event on July 29. New ideas and neat things are always welcome. Wooden crafts, candles, soap, summer decorations, baby blankets and baby items, are some ideas. Maybe you have some new ones. For more information contact Joy McCartin at joymccartin@comcast.net.

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.**

Sign-up sheets are available outside after Mass. Choose your favorite spot and time early!

Cake and Pie Boxes are available after mass. Help yourselves.

Posters are available after Mass today.

