

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.*



July 23, 2023

16th 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



Chicken Dinner, this Saturday, July 29th

Noon - 6:00 pm or until sold out

Carry Out Dinners

Items Needed for Our Stands

Baked Goods - cakes, pies, cookies, breads, brownies, etc. Boxes located in Church.

Unwanted Treasures - Bring all of your saleable items to the White Elephant Stand Pavilion.

Garden Produce - tomatoes, beans, squash, etc.; canned goods, fresh cut flowers or plants. Please take to Country Store on Saturday morning.

Cole Slaw Makers Needed Friday, July 28 at 9:00 am in the kitchen.

Workers Needed - See page three for areas that still need helpers..

Please contact the parish office if you can help.



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, Joe 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, Teresa Silverman, Cynthia Slattum, 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,

Many names are used to address Jesus in the Gospels. He is known as Emmanuel, Christ, Son of God, Son of Man, Master, Logos, Son of David, Lamb of God, Light of the World, and Rabbi. From today's Gospel we might add another title: Storyteller. Not just any storyteller. Jesus tells a particular genre of stories known as parables. Jesus spoke to his first listeners, and continues to speak to us today, in simple images that invite us into the great mystery of the kingdom of heaven.

Parables were not unknown in the Jewish world. Amy-Jill Levine, a Jewish scholar of the Christian Scripture, tells us in her book *Short Stories by Jesus* that at the time of Jesus, "[Parables] would have been told at home in the evening after dinner or in the workshops and the fields and the synagogues." Though familiar, parables, in Jesus' culture, were not meant to be entertaining children stories or moralistic fables; instead, Levine says, Jesus' first listeners would have known "that parables and the tellers of parables were there to prompt them to see the world in a different way, to challenge, and at times to indict." Today's Gospel offers three such parables.

In the Gospel, Jesus begins each parable by saying "The kingdom of heaven is like ... " It is important for us to remember that this mystery that Jesus speaks about — the mystery of the kingdom of heaven — cannot be reduced to just one image. It is a mystery so vast and incomprehensible as to require a multiplicity of similes to explore as we grapple with what it might mean. Unlike proclamations or definitions, which can be passively received, teaching through parables requires active participation on the part of the listener. In the parables, answers and insights aren't doled out in neatly packaged portions; instead, we have to work for them.

What might be the meaning today as we listen again to the familiar words of the parables of the wheat and the weeds, the mustard seed, and the leaven? All three parables speak of a slow, silent growth. Almost in secret, wheat and mustard seeds planted in the ground crack open to allow a sprout of new life to take hold in the soil.

By the time the tiniest green shoot is visible to a passing human, a vast system of roots has already firmly established itself below ground. Nourished by the roots the plant grows and grows, day by day transforming itself into something that can bring forth fruit and offer shelter. What might this everyday transformation tell us about the kingdom of heaven's silent growth in the here and now?

The vast majority of Jesus' parables deal with everyday occurrences such as a merchant buying pearls, a woman searching for a coin, or a traveller in need of help. Instead of pointing to the fantastical, Jesus calls attention to reality. As he tells the crowds in Luke's Gospel, "the kingdom of God is among you" (17:21). In order to live in this kingdom, we need only eyes to see it and ears to hear.

To enter into a parable, one must be willing to let go of the security offered by answers and definitions. What might we discover if we dare to open ourselves to the incomprehensible mystery of the kingdom of heaven? Perhaps like the seeds of mustard and wheat, we will also experience transformation. The only way to find out is to trust Jesus, the parable teller, as he gently calls us to become "parable people."

Fr. Kevin

WORSHIP



"No, if you pull up the weeds you might uproot the wheat along with them."

- Matthew 13:29

Mass Intentions

- Sat., 22** 5 pm - Elaine Hemby
Sun., 23 8:30 am - Sr. Jeanne McGlone
10:30 am - Sr. Barbara Murtha
Mon., 24 9 am - Nancy Lynch
Tue., 25 9 am - Denise Crawford (L)
Wed., 26 9 am - Alexandra Grussing
Thu., 27 9 am - Eucharistic Service
Fri., 28 9 am - Alma Partyka
Sat., 29 4 pm - Our Guests

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.

Mass Change for this weekend!

Please take note that the Saturday vigil mass this weekend will be at 4:00 pm due to the Chicken Dinner. **No 5 pm on July 29.**

Parish Office will be closed this Friday, July 28. Our staff will be busy with last minute dinner preparations.

Annual Barnesville Picnic Chicken Dinner

We will welcome all of our visitors this weekend. For 148 years they have been supporting our mission as the parish in the shadow of Sugarloaf. We are deeply appreciative. Let us keep them in our prayers throughout the year.

We celebrate a barbecue which is always a time for good food and drink. We will have tented seating outside and limited indoor seating with greeters to sanitize tables and chairs as people finish dining.

When our guests are here we want them to feel they are sharing a meal with friends in faith and love.

St Mary's is an active, warm parish of 450 families, dedicated to following the path of Christ and reaching out to those in need and to one another. We are happy to host all our friends, and visitors, and to share in our mission of evangelization.



The 148th Chicken Dinner

This Saturday

Noon - Close

Jousting - 1 - 4 pm (approx.)

Games, Country Store, Baked Goods, Cake Wheel, Crafts,

Snack Bar

Live Music of "Sookey Jump"

White Elephant

Carry outs: \$20

Tented Outdoor and Indoor Seating

Our Largest Fundraiser of the Year! We Need Your Help!

Help Needed...

Friday, July 28

- Prepare coleslaw at 9:30 am

Saturday, July 29

Critical Needs for

- Chicken Flickers
- Tent & Dining Room 2nd shift
- Dishwashers

