

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

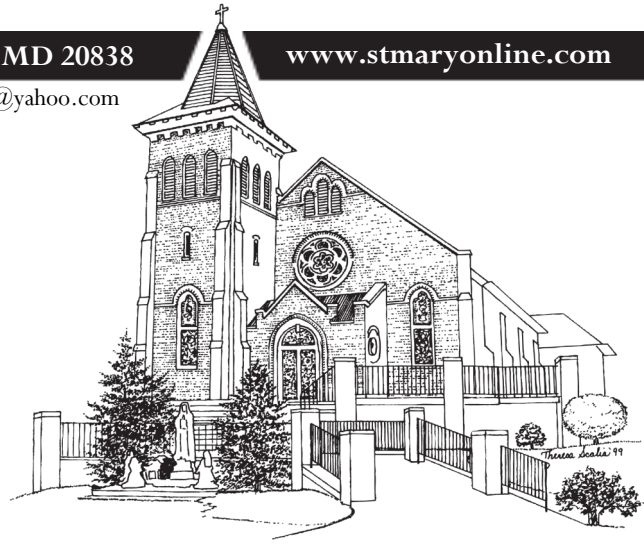
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www.stmaryonline.com

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.*



August 27, 2023

21st 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



We are getting ready for another Faith filled year at St. Mary's. We hope you are having a spectacular summer. We are beginning registration and encourage you to complete your family's registration promptly. The registration for the School of Religion is in the vestibule of the Church, and on the Parish Web site.

Our classes begin on Wednesday, September 6, 2023. Grades Kindergarten through 5th meet at 4:00pm- 5:00pm. Our Middle School program for Grades 6-8 will meet from 7:30 to 8:30pm. All classes are held on the Parish grounds.

Home School and Parochial School students are to complete a registration form for children receiving the Sacraments of Penance and First Holy Communion. The preparation for Confirmation is a two-year program. Please complete a registration for you to receive information regarding the Sacrament of Confirmation, if the student is in 7th or 8th Grade. The tuition need not be paid, only the \$25.00 Sacrament fee. Your student will only join us for activities pertaining to the requirements of the Sacrament, Retreats, Parent Meetings, and rehearsals. They will receive their instruction through their schools.

We are a Parish supported by volunteers! The last section on the application regarding volunteering, *is not optional*. In order to offer our children every opportunity for growth in their faith and enhance their experience, we need volunteers to help.

We are in need of staff for 4th and 6th Grades. Please consider accepting one of these positions. All lesson plans and teaching materials will be provided. We have a wonderful group of young people in our Parish. Call Liz Smith, 301-651-3353 for more information.



Please Pray For..... James Abernethy, 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, Jennifer Gilbert, Zachery Gorouch, Kimberly Harris, Bridget Hart, Larry Horton, 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 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,

For the Israelites, whose history includes a long sojourn in the desert, the image of driving a peg into the sand to establish an encampment of tents was of no small significance.

In today's first reading from the Book of Samuel, when the Lord passes authority over the House of David to Shebna, master of the palace and keeper of the keys, he is designated a well-placed peg to give stability and continuity to God's promises.

In Matthew's Gospel, Peter is chosen by Jesus to serve as that same guarantee for the church. He is the bedrock of the faith and the keeper of the keys. He is the peg placed in the shifting sands of history to safeguard that we have a sure witness to the mystery of Jesus.

Why does Jesus choose Peter? When we look at Peter, we find him described by the evangelists not as the strongest and most reliable of the disciples, but as a boastful man who folds in a crisis, is slow to learn and so weak that he denies he even knows Jesus on the night he is arrested.

Jesus chooses Peter to lead the other apostles for two reasons. First, his Father chooses Peter at Caesarea Philippi by revealing to him what flesh could never know, that Jesus was the Christ, God's Messiah. Peter is the only one who knows the answer to Jesus' question: "Who do you say that I am?"

Second, Jesus understands that Peter can only preach God's reconciling love if he first experiences it himself. It is because Peter will fail so completely and weep so bitterly over his denial of Jesus that, when he is finally reconciled with Jesus at the Sea of Tiberius, he will truly understand God's message of mercy (Jn 21:15-19).

In that heart-rending scene, Jesus will walk Peter back through his denials by asking him three times, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" To be the rock on which the church is founded, Peter must first experience the breaking open of his proud heart, like the rock Moses struck in the desert to yield water (Nm 20:11). Peter's tears were his baptism of mercy. It is because of his suffering that he was able to proclaim God's unconditional love to sinners. He was a sinner saved by that love.

It may seem ironic that today's Gospel passage is often used to assert the superiority of the Catholic church over other Christian denominations. Based on this text, the primacy of the popes and apostolic succession are emphasized as proof for the authority of Catholic teaching.

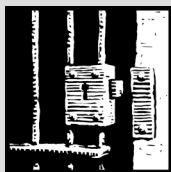
Yet, the real drama in this story is that Peter has primacy because he is first in failure, first in suffering, first in his need for God's mercy in order to serve the church.

Pope Francis began his time as pope by acknowledging that he was a sinner and that God had first "merced" him before choosing him. His papal motto, *miserando atque eligendo*, defines his entire ministry. Throughout his papacy, Francis has sought to model leadership for all bishops as merciful shepherds willing to lay down their lives for their flocks.

Isn't this the point of today's Gospel? Isn't this the call that comes to all of us? "Be merciful, for God has shown you mercy." Perhaps the greatest obstacle to showing mercy is that so many Christians feel they have never needed it.

Conversion begins here, with the grace to know ourselves deeply enough to acknowledge our sinfulness and need for God's forgiveness and love. Without this, especially in our human relationships, where all of us fail repeatedly, we will miss the very meaning of the Gospel and the joy of sharing it with others.

WORSHIP



"Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

- Matthew 16:19

Mass Intentions

Sat., 26 5 pm - Sr. Ellen Glavey
Sun., 27 8:30 am - Parishioners
10:30 am - Anna DuHonik
Mon., 28 9 am - Cliff Martin
Tue., 29 9 am - Lloyd & Louise Jones
Wed., 30 9 am - Eucharistic Service
Thu., 31 9 am - Eucharistic Service
Fri., 1 9 am - Jon Slattery
Sat., 2 9 am -

Event Photos Pictures from the the Chicken Dinner are posted on our smugmug pages. Simply go to <https://stmarysbarnesville.smugmug.com/>. The password is StMarysBarnesville.

Church Picnic



Outdoor Mass & Pot Luck

St. Mary's Parishioners and their families and friends are invited to join together for an outdoor Mass on **Sunday, September 17, at 11 am**. Bring your lawn chairs or blankets for the Mass. We will celebrate Catechetical Sunday. Please bring 8-10 servings of YOUR FAVORITE DISH to share with your fellow parishioners. Meats, drinks and paper goods will be provided. There will be live music and fun for all.

Mary of Nazareth Catholic Young Family Life Ministry join us for a great start of the year! Save the date for Saturday September 30, 10 am. Weather permitting, we will hike together Sugarloaf Mountain with our children. Pack your lunch and be ready for some singing at the top of the mountain. In case of rain, we will get together in the Pavilion for some story time, games, crafts and songs. Hope to meet you and see you soon! Details on meeting point at Sugarloaf TBE soon. If you have any questions or want to RSVP, please email us at blinibrenda@gmail.com

Food For The Poor Hear inspiring testimony and stories of faith-filled people living in some of the most impoverished countries in our hemisphere. Our Food For The Poor clergy speakers have witnessed the suffering, and the inspiring faith, of those who sometimes have only their trust in the Lord as their daily bread. Please welcome Father Joseph Monahan, T.O.R. is visiting St. Mary's this weekend.

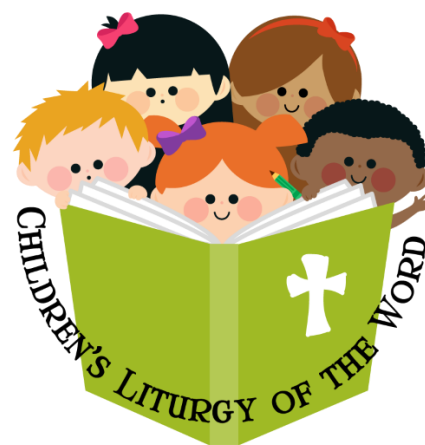


Join Us for Donuts and fellowship next Sunday, September 3. Haiti Coffee will be for sale.



"To Jesus Through Mary"
Our Lady of Fatima Sodality

We're launching exciting plans for the coming year in St. Mary's Sodality! Next meeting: Sept. 3rd after 10:30 Mass. Get your coffee and donut in the Pavilion, and meet us in the Sun-room for all the details. All parish ladies are welcome.



The joyous ministry of sharing God's Word with the youngest of our parish, ages 3 years old to 2nd Grade, is returning in September. Please consider volunteering to be a part of this ministry. The obligation is one Sunday a month. During Children's Liturgy of The Word, young children leave the sanctuary during the Liturgy of the Word to hear the scripture readings proclaimed and explained at an age-appropriate level. These sessions are not faith formation classes, arts-and-crafts activities, or babysitting during Mass. Rather, the children hear the same Mass readings as adults – but in simpler terms that are easier to grasp. Please contact Liz Smith at 301-651-3353 or smithstmarysb@gmail.com for more information. Training will be provided.