

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

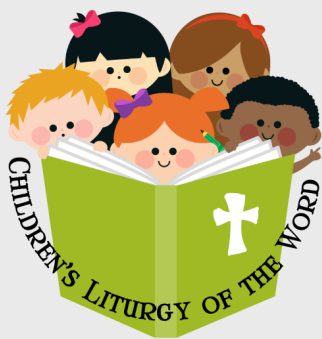
*We welcome you to our historic parish family.
Since 1741 believers such as yourself have built a spirit-
filled, Catholic faith community here in Barnesville.
We are privileged to have you join us in our mission to
share God's blessings.*



September 17, 2023
24th 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



The joyous ministry of sharing God's Word with the youngest of our parish, ages 3 years old to 2nd Grade, is returning in soon. 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.

It's not too late to Register for our School of Religion. Classes began Wednesday, September 6 for Grades K – 8. We are blessed to have catechists for all grades. It is never too late to register your children. Please contact Liz Smith, with any questions at 301-972-8576 or 301-651-3353.

RCIA Are you interested in learning more about our Catholic Faith or want to consider joining the Catholic Church? Our RCIA program will begin soon, If interested contact Fr. Kevin or Deacon Dave.



Please Pray For.....James Abernethy, Frank Anderson, Louise Austin, Michael Austin, Nancy Austin, Christopher Barlow, Lori Bauer, Jim Bowie, Donna & Fred 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, Joy McCartin, 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,

In Matthew's Gospel, we hear Jesus' response to Peter's question, "Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus answered, "I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times." Jesus further emphasizes his position on forgiveness by instructing Peter: "Each of you forgives your brother from your heart."

Granting forgiveness for minor offenses is attainable: the neighbor who gossips about us, the driver who cuts us off in traffic, or the friend who hurts our feelings. As Christians, we are called to forgive all grievances, including the most heinous, brutal, savage crimes against humanity. This level of forgiveness is not only difficult, but can be tricky when dealing with anger, especially when anger is the result of a vicious abuse. As human beings, it is unhealthy not to feel hurt or anger. Not recognizing and acknowledging feelings can lead to depression or even suicide.

Yet, in today's reading from Sirach we hear wrath and anger described as hateful things and "the vengeful will suffer the LORD's vengeance." And, we hear Jesus' response to Peter. In John's Gospel, we are called even beyond that. Not only are we expected to forgive, but we are called to love: "I give you a new commandment, says the Lord; love one another as I have loved you" (13:34).

Easier said than done. Before we can begin to forgive, and eventually love, we need to heal. In order to heal, we have to live and work through the pain and anger. We pray for the gift of faith. Faith is a most powerful companion. Faith grows hope. Hope recognizes part of the pain will subside, eventually. Faith and hope grow wisdom. In time, we realize this current pain can't be rushed. We need to embrace the stages of depression. Our self-pitying evolves into self-love.

We begin to do external healing: exercising, socializing, nutrition, self-care and counseling. In order to heal, we realize that we must love ourselves — not a self-centered, myopic love, but rather a healthy acceptance of all our feelings. Internal healing appears when we realize that the love we feel for ourselves is actually the love of God. The love of God has power over everything. It is in this realization, this power of self-love through God's love, that we are able to forgive. We might never forget the crisis, and maybe we should not forget. Remembering might be necessary to avoid a repeat of the original crisis.

As difficult as it is to forgive an offender, forgiving one's self may be more strenuous. There can be so many mental blocks to overcome and we may hear condescending, negative voices from past pains.

A classic example is the adult-child placing an aging parent into a nursing home. If the parent dies alone, the adult-child might be riddled with guilt. Since the parent is now deceased, the adult-child cannot ask for forgiveness. Healing may require counseling. But, the journey to healing from shock, through depression, through anger, to love and eventual forgiveness surely can be glimpsed in Psalm 103, "The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion. He pardons all your iniquities, heals all your ills. He redeems your life from destruction, crowns you with kindness and compassion."

Forgiving can be challenging. The ability to forgive and love is definitely arduous. But, being "crowned with kindness and compassion" makes forgiveness and love possible.

Fr. Kevin

WORSHIP



"You wicked servant! I forgave you your entire debt because you asked me to. Should you not have had pity on your fellow servant, as I had pity on you?"

- Matthew 18:32-33

Mass Intentions

- Sat., 16** 5 pm - Kathleen Dupre
Sun., 17 8:30 am - Doreen Smith
10:30 am - Parishioners
Mon., 18 9 am - Lloyd & Anna Jones
Tue., 19 9 am - Joan O'Reilly
Wed., 20 9 am - Fr. Fred McIntyre
Thu., 21 9 am - Eucharistic Service
Fri., 22 9 am - Edwin Dupre

High School Youth Group for St. Mary's & Presentation will begin the fall season this Wednesday, September 20 and meet twice a month from 7 - 8:30 pm. Dinner will be served.



Haiti Festival Our Haiti Committee will host a Saturday evening Food Truck Festival, with live music on Saturday, October 7 from 4:30 - 7:30 pm. There will be raffles, children's games, face painting and more. Free admission. Proceeds support our twinning ministry at St. Joseph's Parish in Carcasse.

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 to be determined soon. If you have any questions or want to RSVP, please email us at blinibrenda@gmail.com

School offers an introduction to ballroom dancing and social grace training for eighth-grade boys and girls. Students enjoy the opportunity to learn basic dance steps and etiquette skills from professional instructors. For more information, dates and registration, please go to <https://irp.cdn-website.com/bf0619bf/files/uploaded/MON%20Cotillion%20Flyer%20Update.png>.

New in 2024 for our children.

Saint Mary's will be offering The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd method of faith formation for the three to six-year-old children of our parish beginning in the fall of 2024. The catechist who works with the children participated in nearly 100 hours of formation and will prepare a special environment for the children, which is called the Atrium. In order to do this, we need your help! If you are good with woodworking, sewing, painting or thrift shopping, please reach out to Brenda Stohlman at this email address: blinibrenda@gmail.com. Please join us in praying for those who are called to help with this ministry. To learn more about the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd check out www.CGSUSA.org

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.

Gabriel Project Cluster: Want to put your pro-life beliefs into action? 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. Clothes gently used or new are needed, especially fall and winter items. Maternity clothes, infant clothes, children's clothes, children's shoes, etc., are all appreciated. 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, formula, 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. Please visit our Website for more information at www.gpmoco.org or contact: Brenda Stohlman at blinibrenda@gmail.com.