

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

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www.stmaryonline.com

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Mary of Nazareth School: 301.869.0940

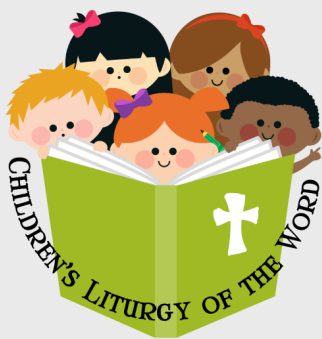
*We welcome you to our historic parish family.
Since 1741 believers such as yourself have built a spirit-
filled, Catholic faith community here in Barnesville.
We are privileged to have you join us in our mission to
share God's blessings.*



September 24, 2023
25th 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 October during the 8:30 am Mass. 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, Donald & Betty MacDonald, 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 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,

In the passage just before this reading, the rich young man went away sad, his question answered. The apostles ask "Who then can be saved?" Jesus responds, "What's impossible for people is possible for God." Jesus tells them that they will sit on thrones and judge Israel. Any who gave up parents, children, or land for him will receive 100 times more (Matthew 19:26-29).

In today's parable, Jesus likens the kingdom of heaven to a person: a living, breathing, decision-making landowner who gives to everyone equally. Are the apostles being called to be this kind of judge? Are we?

Jesus is teaching the flipped-on-its-head rules of the kingdom. He did it often before: Wash each other's feet. Take last place. Practice humility.

Jesus reminds us that God is free to do whatever God likes. God's response to workers hired at dawn reminds me of God's conversation with Job, "Who do you think you are?" Or, as Scripture says, "Who then dares stand before me? ... Everything under heaven is mine" (Job 41:2-3). Am I envious because God is generous to someone else? Do I resent people who seem to be less deserving or have what appears to me to be less skin in the game? Which workers do you most relate to?

Isaiah talks about mercy in the first reading. A forgiving, relenting God. Do any of us deserve this kingdom from this God of compassion and loving-kindness? God is generous, even if it seems to me that some people deserve less. Today's parable isn't about what I am worth. It's about what *she's* worth — Does *she* deserve the kingdom?

God invites us to imitate divine generosity: the extravagant God, who gives and forgives without limit. The early-hires complain. "You have made *them* equal to *us!*"

Imagine for a moment that you are one of the people hired in that final hour. What's your reaction to seeing the ones who worked all day get the same pay as you? What was God thinking to pay you first? Why not pay those hired at dawn *first*, and let them leave, and more privately lavish generosity on you? Was God showing off?

But what if everyone hired in the Gospel is in one family? The second reading calls us "brothers and sisters." Would the landowner's pay-scale be more palatable if the one hired at the end of the day is my sister, my mother? Would we feel more lenient?

The landowner promises to pay what is just, but on a pay-scale we don't anticipate, or use ourselves: God is good to all; generous to a fault. Extravagantly merciful, allowing rain on the good and the bad (Matthew 5:45).

God seeks out workers constantly. All day God goes to *our* town squares and invites — through us. Workers are passively standing around. They don't approach the landowner. What does this say about God? In Isaiah, we are commanded to seek God while God may be found. But what if we don't search for God? The landowner will come looking. God seeks me out.

Today's readings are an invitation for *us* to go looking for God's forgotten ones. To treat them not with a human standard of fairness, but with a holy abandon of love, compassion and un-earned generosity. Why? Because we have seen the effects of bottomless compassion — thoughts very much unlike our own.

Fr. Kevin

WORSHIP



“Take what is yours and go....Are you envious because I am generous?”

- Matthew 20:14-15

Mass Intentions

Sat., 23 5 pm - Clara Dupre
Sun., 24 8:30 am - Larry Gaffigan
10:30 am - Lucie Walker
Mon., 25 9 am - Fr. Jerry Trancone
Tue., 26 9 am - Eucharistic Service
Wed., 27 9 am - Eucharistic Service
Thu., 28 9 am - Eucharistic Service
Fri., 29 9 am - Lloyd & Anna Jones

Ministry Fair - Donuts Make plans to stop at Donuts next Sunday and view our ministries and organizations. Haiti coffee will be available for sale. This is the best time of year to see if you would like to participate as a lector, server, sodality or holy name member, or maybe to sing!



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. Saturday evening mass on October 7 will be at 4:00 pm.

New in 2024 for our children. Young Family Life Ministry Join 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.

Mary of Nazareth Golf Outing

Will be held on Monday, October 30 with a 9:00 am start Four Player Scramble, Best Ball Format. Registration is \$225 for individual / \$800 for foursome and includes lunch with 2 drink tickets, Green's fees and golf cart. Sponsorships are available. Registration deadline is October 16. Competitions include closest to the pin, and longest drive (men/women) For details, contact Alvin Duque at alvinduque@gmail.com.

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.

