

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

18230 Barnesville Road • P.O. Box 67 • Barnesville, MD 20838

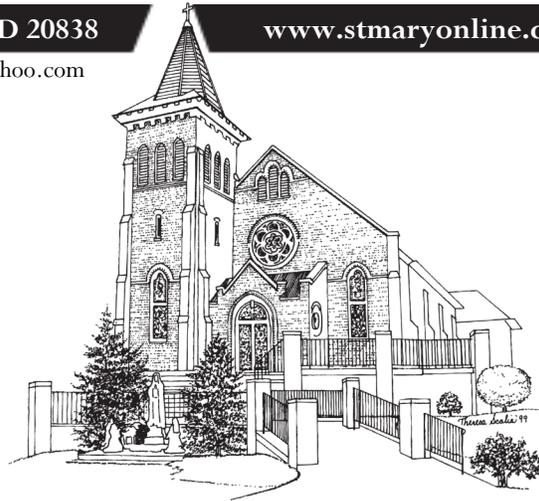
www.stmaryonline.com

Rectory: 301.972.8660 • Rel. Ed.: 301.972.8576 • Email: stmarysb@yahoo.com

Mary of Nazareth School: 301.869.0940

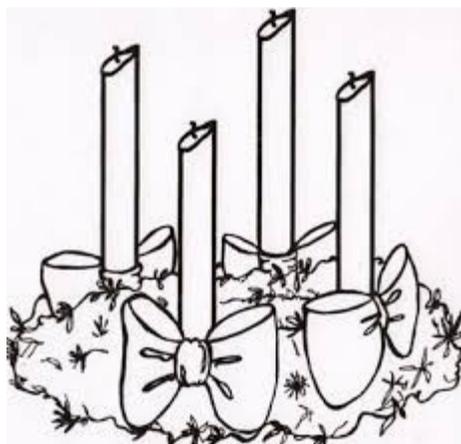
*We welcome you to our historic parish family.
Since 1741 believers such as yourself have built a spirit-
filled, Catholic faith community here in Barnesville.
We are privileged to have you join us in our mission to
share God's blessings.*

December 3, 2017
First Sunday of Advent



Rev. Kevin P. O'Reilly, *Pastor*
David Cahoon, *Deacon*
Elizabeth Smith, *Dir. of Rel. Ed.*
Leslie Poe, *Adm. Asst. Rel. Ed.*
Diane Yendrey, *Dir. of Music*
Kimball Carpentier, *Organist*
Bill Lynch, *Pavilion Manager*
Brenda Evans, *Secretary*
Diane Lynch, *Secretary*
Becky Chmelik, *Sodality*
Steve Corbeille, *Holy Name*
Steve Waechter, *Knights of Columbus*

Daily Mass: Monday - Friday: 9am
Sunday Mass: Saturday Vigil 5pm, Sunday: 8, 9:30, 11am
First Friday: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, 9:30am to Noon
First Saturday: Rosary & Our Lady of Fatima Devotions, follow 9am Mass
Confession: Saturday at 4:15 pm and by request
Baptism: by appointment
Wedding: by appointment at least 6 months after initial contact
Rel. Ed.: Wednesdays Fall to Spring: **K-5**, 4-5:15pm; **6-8**, 7:30-8:30pm
H. S. Youth Group Wednesdays 7 - 8:30pm
School: Mary of Nazareth in Darnestown, grades PreK-8



Advent is Upon Us....Be Watchful! Be Alert!

These words of Jesus open our new church year and this season of Advent. How can we make ready for the coming of the Lord?

Advent Reading Help yourself to The Word Among Us for the season. We also have The Little Books Series from the Diocese of Saginaw. They are all located in the entrance of Church.

Advent Study Join Deacon Dave on Sundays at 7pm in the parish house. Our topic will be a surprise. Come and explore the richness of Scripture. On Tuesdays in the Rectory at 10am we look deeper into the Sunday Scriptures and apply them to our lives today.

Advent Confession Make time to experience God's mercy and love in Confession on Saturday at 4:15pm or on Wednesday, December 13 at our Penance Services with extra Priests at 4 and 7:30 pm.

Advent Ladies Night Out in the Fr. Reid Pavilion next Saturday, December 9, see the flyer for details.

Advent Crafts for Children are today in the Pavilion during Donuts. We will also have the cookie sale, baby shower, and wreath sale, all sponsored by our Sodality. All are welcome.

WEEK-at-a-GLANCE

Sun., 3	Donuts, Crafts, Cookie Sale 10:30 am - Sodality
Mon., 4	7:30 pm - RCIA
Tue., 5	9 am - Exercise
Wed., 6	4 pm & 7:30 pm - Religious Education
Thu., 7	9 am - Exercise
Fri., 8	9 am & 7:30 pm - Holy Day Mass
Sat., 9	9 am - Leaf Raking 4:15 pm - Confession 5 pm - Mass 6 pm - Ladies Advent by Can- dlelight Dinner & Talk



Please Pray For... Frank &

Louise Austin, Christopher Barlow, Lori Bauer, Robert Baumler, Sallie Benson, Pattie Bittner, Pete Bruner, John Buckley, Reese Burdette, Linda Burke, Maddie Cabatic, Ada Candor, Brian Carnahan, Gloria Carrico, Donna Cartwright, Dot Crawford, John Curry, A. & V. D'Amore, Nancy Daughtry, Dana DeLauter, Kevin Dorsey, Bro. Edwin Dupre, Carma Eggers, Gary Evans, Martha Anne Gehring, Kate Gowans, Mary Lillian Hewitt, Marie Horton, Doris Jeffers, Steve Jones, Michael Kelley, Jeffrey Krohn, Jr., John Kutzi, Jim Lambert, Bernice Lewandowski, David Liska Sr., Mary White Lok, Colleen Loss, Carolann Mannix, Anna Lozada Martinez, Joy McIntyre, Gary Mann, Gaile McBride, Bea Nastacio, Dennis O'Fallan, Lauren Prete, Trevor Pu, Brooke Randle, Rex Reed, Susan Reid, Elizabeth Renninger, Everly Reed Rice, Andrea Rivas, Salvatore Romano, Misty Runyon, Mary Kate Schneider, Lucille Schultz, Teresa Silverman, Jim Slagle, Nancy Slattery, Angela Smith, Mary Lou Smith, Kyra Sosna, Jerry Stafford, Hai Tran, Jean Trotter, Mary Kate Truesdale, Rich Volpe, Darlene Watson, Wilbur Watkins, Harold Watson, Gertrude White, Donald Williams, Michael Yin, Michael Zahn.

Please Pray for Our Military Family & Friends... Michael Breslin, Alex & Maxwell Chmelik, Lucas Conway, Dennis Davio, Chase Garrett, David Gilliam, Erich Lloyd, Joshua & Noah Miller, Brian Nazarian, Elvin Rivera, Mark Russell, Kyle Twitchell, Michael Weigand.

Dear Parishioners,

Welcome to another liturgical year ... another Advent ... a new opportunity to prepare our minds and hearts for the coming of Jesus into the world on Christmas Day. Much like parents who wait, hope, dream and prepare for the arrival of their first child, there is an excitement that surrounds these days leading up to Christmas. But, guess what? We are not waiting for Jesus to come and save us. Jesus came! Jesus saved! Jesus lovingly showed us how to live in relationship with God and one another. And Jesus' promise of the Holy Spirit is present today, guiding us. So, what can we learn from today's passages?

In Isaiah's time, people turned away from God; he described them as "unclean," "withered" and guilt-ridden, comparing their deeds to "polluted rags." Likewise, in today's psalm, the words, "Lord, make us turn to you," are filled with resignation and desperation. It's humanity who repeatedly turns away from God, never God from humanity. Both Isaiah and the psalmist recognized this and begged God to step in and return the chosen people into right relationship with one another and with God. Jesus was God's loving answer to their pleas.

In contrast to these two readings, Paul's letter to the Corinthians offers hope. Paul, living in the light of Christ's resurrection, assures us we are not lacking in any spiritual gift. As we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Savior, Paul reminds us that our faith will provide us with guidance and strength to endure any hardship. Unfortunately, as we journey through life, we accumulate bad habits and insecurities that cloud our spirits and keep us from recognizing and utilizing our spiritual gifts that lay dormant.

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, a 20th-century Jesuit priest, scientist and mystic, beautifully articulated the connection between the human condition and the spiritual life. In *The Phenomenon of Man*, he affirmed: "We are not human beings having a spiritual experience; we are spiritual beings having a human experience." We all have days when it's hard to feel like a spiritual being. We are bombarded with so many earthly distractions, especially during this season. World catastrophes, political unrest, technological distractions, illness, family/work stressors, violence and addictions are just a few things that clutter our minds and hearts and keep us from living fully as spiritual beings.

In today's Gospel, Mark emphatically tells us what we must do: Watch! We are neither to watch nor judge what others are doing, but rather to watch and be alert to what we are thinking, doing, feeling, giving and taking. We can examine our actions and interactions to see if they align with those of Jesus. Do our thoughts, words and actions reflect a spiritual existence or a human existence?

Jesus' greatest gift while he walked among us was his loving, healing presence. Who would benefit most this season from the gift of your loving presence? If we truly lived our earthly lives as the spiritual beings we were created to be and lived as Jesus lived, what would we have to change?

Advent challenges us to be alert to the ways we turn our minds and hearts away from God and others.

Take this time to clear out any earthly distractions. Unplug! Simplify! Unleash those spiritual gifts! Share them and thus bring Jesus more fully into our lives and our world. Only then will there be space for God's grace to enter. Only then will we be ready for a spiritual awakening like never before.

Fr. Kevin

WORSHIP



“What I say to you, I say to all: ‘Watch!’”

- Mark 13:37

Mass Intentions

- Sat., 2** 9 am - Maria & Alex Abracas(L)
5 pm - Parishioners
- Sun., 3** 8 am - Mike Sutherland
9:30 am - Michelle Drain
11 am - Maximus Bao Pena
- Mon., 4** 9 am - Msgr. Ralph Kuehner
- Tue., 5** 9 am - Adela Cabrera deSalina
- Wed., 6** 9 am - Theresa Rizzo
- Thu., 7** 9 am - Eucharistic Service
- Fri., 8** 9 am - Steve Poe
7:30 pm - Kristen Gorman



Jesse Tree The Tree is in the Sanctuary with tags indicating gifts for local families, supplied by WUMCO, children at St. Martin's Church in D.C. and patients at Springfield

Hospital. The Tree uses Biblical symbols to point the way to the coming Messiah at Christmas. Pick your tags today. Gifts will need to be returned by December 17, with a tag or copy of a tag attached securely to each box so we get it to the right destination. Yellow Tags are for Children in Washington D.C. In giving gift cards - PLEASE write the store and amount on the outside. No high end stores, please.



The Sacrament of the Sick will take place next Sunday, December 10 at the 9:30 am

Mass. Anyone in serious illness or facing surgery or in physical or mental distress is welcome to come forward and receive the anointing after the homily.



Christmas Flower Memorials Remember a loved one, celebrate a special event. Help us enjoy the beauty of the

coming holidays with your donations toward Christmas flowers. Use the envelopes in the back of church and turn them in or drop them in the basket by Dec. 18.

Rosary Repair Jim Bowie, a parishioner, repairs rosaries. If you have one in need of repair, place it in an envelope with your name and contact information and leave it in the container in the church vestibule. **Please try and put all the beads and broken parts, if you have them, in the envelope.** He will contact you when repairs are completed.

Picture Directory If you did not get your picture taken for our directory and perhaps you had a family photo taken over Thanksgiving, you are in luck. You can email that photo to Jill Conley and still make it into our directory! Email photo to jcmo- mo6@verizon.net.



The Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary, a Holy Day of Obligation is Friday, Dec. 8. Mass will be at 9 am and 7:30 pm.



In Remembrance Of

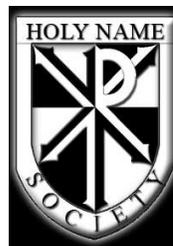
Aristides Espinosa

Husband of Floripa

May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

Dresses for Haiti Please donate your beautiful evening dresses and bridal gowns to help our twin parish in Carcasse. Tax exempt receipts are available. Email Susanfo@msn.com. Find us on Facebook: Brides for Haiti.

Food Drive We always welcome donations of non-perishable food items for WUMCO. As we have entered the holiday season we ask for your help to provide food baskets to local needy families. We are pledged to feed 20 local families for Christmas. Please leave donations in the entranceway of church. Monetary offerings to defray the cost of the turkeys are welcome also. Place them in an envelope marked 'food baskets' and drop them in the collection basket.



TO ALL MEN of St. Mary's You are invited to St. Mary's Holy Name Breakfast Club.

For all men and sons, please join us for our monthly fraternal breakfast.

This is NOT an invitation to join a club that obligates you to any duties whatsoever! This is strictly an opportunity to enjoy a wonderful breakfast and some fraternity with your fellow parishioners. Breakfast will be served at 9am on Sunday, December 10th, 2017. Bring your sons! Cost is \$5. RSVP: scorbeille@aol.com.

Second Collection next Sunday is the annual offering for the 35,000 retired religious priests, brothers and sisters in the United States.

Leaf Raking Join Mark Ryba and others next Saturday, December 9 at 9 am to clear the leaves from behind the pavilion. Donuts and Coffee will be provided. Many hands make light work.