

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

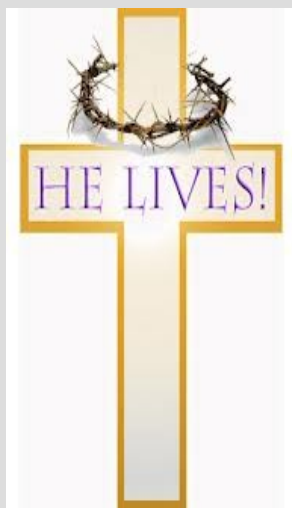
*We welcome you to our historic parish family.
Since 1741 believers such as yourself have built a spirit-
filled, Catholic faith community here in Barnesville.
We are privileged to have you join us in our mission to
share God's blessings.*



April 21, 2024
4th Sunday of Easter

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*
Denise Crawford, *Secretary, Notary*
Brenda Evans, *Secretary*
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



Second Collection The collection next weekend is for the Church Missions in the United States. This goes to help with Indian missions in our country.

Yard Sale Our Knights of Columbus will have a sale next Saturday, April 27 at Anytime Fitness in Poolesville. Anyone wishing to donate items for sale may contact Tom McCartin at 301-758-7557 or tommccartin@verizon.net.

Easter Pictures taken by our photographer Maggie Bartlett are available on line at Pictures are posted on our smugmug pages. Simply go to <https://stmarysbarnesville.smugmug.com/>. The password is StMarysBarnesville.



Please Pray For..... James Abernethy, Frank Anderson, Louise Austin, Michael Austin, Christopher Barlow, Lori Bauer, Jim Bowie, Donna & Fred Brashears, Linda Burke, Maddie Catic, Norma Camp, Ada Candor, Dylan Captain, Gretchen Carrillo, Patrick Carpentier, Eric Carpentier, Pat Chmelik, Sonya Cortez, 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, Mark Fye, Fr. Rich Gancayco, Zachery Gorouch, Gail Hahn, Kimberly Harris, Bridget Hart, Andrew Howard, Cecilia Hughan & family, Larry & Marie Horton, Laura Hutchinson, Louise Jones, Eleanor Kelly, Michael Kelley, Brittany, Joe & Ava Marie Koelie, Jeffrey Krohn, Jr., Betty Kutts, John Kutzi, Ryma Lacks, David Liska Sr., Colleen Loss, Harvey Lovelless, Diane Lynch, Sylvia Marshall, Anna Lozada Martinez, Edwin Mbanude, Joy McIntyre, Joy McCartin, John Mulcare, Anthony Murdock, Bea Nastacio, Christine O'Connell, Dennis O'Fallan, 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, Gene Smith, Jerry Stafford, Rani Taylor, Colleen Thomas, Richard Thompson, Jack Thorp, Corinne Torney, Rex & Trisha Tully, Vicki Tosques, Annette Young, Bob White, 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,

When we were children, one single proclamation was all that was needed to bring a definitive end to any debate about what should be done or to answer any child's whining question, "Why?" That statement was simply: "Because I am Mother." Mom's declaration communicated a degree of authority that required no further explanation.

In the Gospel of John, Jesus makes seven famous statements beginning with the words "I am." Each of them reflects something said about God in the Hebrew Scriptures. Yet, of them all, Jesus' statement "I am the good shepherd" is the only one in which he describes himself with a human role. When Jesus spoke of himself as bread, light, resurrection, etc., those descriptions indicated what he offers humankind. When he said, "I am the good shepherd," he moved into the realm of his own costly freedom and his mutual relationships with his Father and his followers.

When Jesus describes himself as the good shepherd he is telling us a lot more than the typical picture that we might perceive of him amid the flock or with a lamb on his shoulders. First of all, in today's selection we hear Jesus repeat five times that he lays down his life for his sheep. Each time this is stated, he emphasizes the fact that it is his choice to do so. He doesn't just risk his life or even lose his life, he says he lays it down: His entire life is for them. Except for blessing the bread as his body given for his own, Jesus never explained his dedication to his flock more clearly. In this, he is not only the model shepherd, but the model human being who has discovered the purpose of his life and chooses to fulfill it without reservation.

Sandwiched in the midst of his five statements in which he offers his life for his own, Jesus describes the heart of his relationship with them saying, "I know mine and mine know me." Explaining the depth of what he means, Jesus compares his relationship with his own to his relationship with his Father. That sort of knowing involves an intimate sharing of life and of such love that the parties come to understand each other from the inside, becoming freely and inextricably bound to one another. Jesus explains that he has chosen to have an insider's knowledge of his own and offers the same to them.

Before anyone makes a claim to the exclusivity of their tribe or flock's participation in God's love, Jesus says that he has other sheep in other folds who share the same relationship with him. When he says that they will follow and all will become one flock, he is giving a subtle but pointed warning to any who would try to set the boundary lines. He tells people who pride themselves on being his own — both in his day and in ours — that he is the shepherd. Membership in his flock depends only on hearing and following his voice; it can't be defined by rituals or formal membership in any special group.

When Jesus said "I am the good shepherd," he used the language of his tradition to proclaim not only that he had freely chosen the course of his life, but also that he was a faithful reflection of God, the Father of all. His self-description as the good shepherd summarizes Christian theology; it tells us the purpose of creation and the Incarnation was to bring all into one in God.

Where does this leave us? How are we to determine which voices speak for the shepherd? How are we to discern who is leading us toward God? That's where Jesus' description of mercenaries and wolves comes in. The hired herder's first concern is personal comfort and safety — we might see prestige and profit as additional expressions of that. Mercenaries consistently choose themselves and their own kind, seemingly unwilling or unable to accept or comprehend the concept of one flock composed of diverse folds.

The wolves, too, are recognizable by their priorities. They specialize in fear and division. They possess the powers of strength and stealth and prey on the weak. While a relationship with the good shepherd is characterized by ever-increasing knowing and being known, wolves specialize in lies and disguise (as Little Red Riding Hood would tell us) all for the purpose of eating up their victims.

(continues on page 3)

WORSHIP



"I am the good shepherd, I know mine and mine know me."

- John 10:14

Mass Intentions

- Sat., 20 5 pm - Joe Lunny
 Sun., 21 8:30 am - Parishioners
 10:30 am - Andre Hoffmeister
 Mon., 22 9 am - Joe Lunny
 Tue., 23 9 am - Virginia & Irving Fisk
 Wed., 24 9 am - Shelley Richardson
 Thu., 25 9 am -
 Fri., 26 9 am - Eucharistic Service

(continued from page 2)

Many voices claim to tell us what should be done and why. Jesus claimed the authority of being the Good Shepherd who gave everything to bring humanity to the goal of sharing divine life.

We can always recognize his voice in those that call us into love and freedom and ever-broader solidarity. If we ask "Why?" his simple answer might be, "Because you are mine."
Peace, Fr. Kevin



Congratulations

to
Stephen Craig
and
Henry Walter
children of
Walter Gordon & Kerri Ann
Kowalewski

Baptized on April 14



Vacation Bible School Plan ahead for this summer's VBS which will be July 8 - 12. The theme is Desert Bible Stories. For more information

contact Terri Phipps at ok-oni.tp@gmail.com. Teen and Adult volunteers are needed.

Grass Cutting Reservations are now being taken. An opportunity awaits you to enjoy the fresh country air at St. Mary's while helping the parish as a grass cutter. Reservations are currently being accepted for the season. Reserve the weeks of your choice by calling the parish office or emailing us at stmarysb@yahoo.com; anyone above the age of 16 is welcome.

Mother's Day Remembrance
We are offering mass cards for Mothers on Mother's Day. Intention envelopes are in the back of church. Fill one out and return it, quickly, then send the card to your mother, grandmother, etc. The names will be printed on Mother's Day and you will be given a special mass card to give to a loved one. Deadline for turning in envelopes is Sunday, May 5.

Welcome to

Peter, Martha, Ivy & Violet Driscoll
of Germantown
&
Robert, Kathleen, Connor & Lorelei
Taylor
Of Poolesville
Who have joined our parish family



"To Jesus Through Mary"

Our Lady of Fatima Sodality

Scholarship Members of St. Mary's Parish, Barnesville are invited to apply: Applicants must have received the Sacraments through Confirmation; and are currently graduating high school or continuing attendance in a trade school or 2-4 year college.

Application deadline is May 19, 2024. Complete the following and email to Alice Tung, Sodality Chair for Scholarships: alicetungviola@gmail.com Name / Address / Phone Number / Email / Trade school or college intended for the upcoming semester / List of activities in church, community, and school / and a typed 500+ word essay on the following topic: "How will I apply what I learn through my college education, to spread my faith and to help others?" Winners will be notified in early June 2024 and will receive funds by August 1st.

Communion Breakfast The Sodality is hosting the annual communion breakfast on Sunday, May 5 after the 8:30 am Mass in the Father Reid Pavilion. All are invited. This is our opportunity to congratulate all of our new communicants. We will be featuring a guest speaker on "The Flame of Love Rosary". You can make reservations by signing up after every mass the this weekend. Price of admission is \$15.00 per person payable at reservation time. Check or cash appreciated. First Communicants are free.