

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

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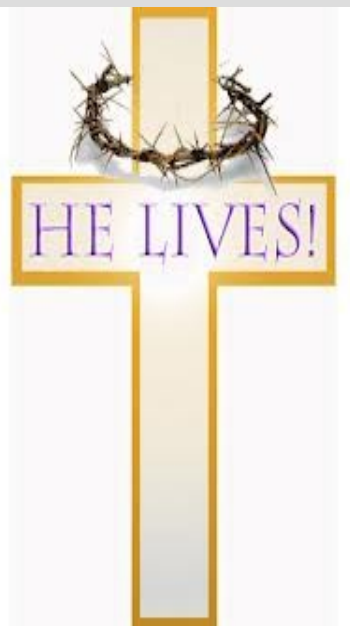
*We welcome you to our historic parish family.
Since 1741 believers such as yourself have built a spirit-
filled, Catholic faith community here in Barnesville.
We are privileged to have you join us in our mission to
share God's blessings.*



April 7, 2024
2nd 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



Divine Mercy Sunday (also known as the **Feast of the Divine Mercy**) is celebrated on the Second Sunday of Easter, which concludes the Octave of Easter. The feast day is observed in the Roman Rite calendar, as well as some Anglo-Catholics of the Church of England (it is not, however, an official Anglican feast). It is originally based on the Catholic devotion to the Divine Mercy that Faustina Kowalska reported as part of her encounter with Jesus, and is associated with special promises from Jesus and indulgences issued by the Catholic Church.

The feast of Divine Mercy, according to the diary of Kowalska, receives from Jesus the biggest promises of grace related to the Devotion of Divine Mercy, in particular that a person who goes to sacramental confession (the confession may take place some days before) and receives holy communion on that day, shall obtain the total expiation of all sins and punishment. That means each person would go immediately after death to heaven without suffering in purgatory. Additionally, the Roman Catholic Church grants a plenary indulgence (observing the usual rules) with the recitation of some simple prayers.



Please Pray For.....James Abernethy, Frank Anderson, Louise Austin, Michael Austin, Christopher Barlow, Lori Bauer, Jim Bowie, Donna & Fred Brashears, Linda Burke, Maddie Cabbatic, 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, 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 Loveless, 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, 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 I was in third grade, my teacher told the class that St. Thomas the Apostle was from Missouri. Seeing our skeptical faces, she continued, "That's why it's nickname is the Show-Me State!"

I don't remember if we laughed or groaned at the corny joke, but since then I have always felt a sense of kinship with Thomas. Many of us probably experience the longing Thomas expressed in today's Gospel — if not to literally put our fingers in the nail marks of Jesus' hands, at least to be confronted with some sort of concrete, undeniable proof that Jesus is risen. It can seem difficult, even unfair, to be expected to believe what we have not seen.

Today's Gospel reading does not vindicate this attitude, but it does offer some hope. Jesus rebukes Thomas for not believing before he has seen, but he is also merciful. He gives Thomas a second chance by offering him the proof that he requested. And Thomas does not waste the opportunity. He not only accepts that Jesus is risen, but immediately realizes what that means, responding "My Lord and my God!" According to church tradition, Thomas' faith was so strong that it eventually led him to martyrdom.

Consider applying Thomas' story to the modern struggle to have faith. Several points can be made. First, Thomas remained part the community, even while he was doubting. Thomas was still there when Jesus returned because the other disciples did not reject him for his lack of belief and he didn't leave to seek out more like-minded individuals.

How do we react when our family, friends or members of our parishes disagree with us, seem too skeptical or too naively credulous? Do we separate ourselves from them or try to remain in community, trusting God can work with the situation?

Second, Thomas clearly stated what would compel him to have faith — and he got it! We should not demand signs from God and expect to receive them, but we can always reflect on, and ask God for, what we need to make our faith stronger. Is it an experience of God's presence in prayer, a greater understanding of Scripture, the ability to see God in our neighbors? How can we be more open to the gift of faith?

Finally, once Thomas does have faith, he does more than admit he was wrong. Instead, he accepts the Resurrection as a reality that will change his priorities and his actions, eventually leading him to die as a martyr for his faith.

Even those of us not called to martyrdom are called to recognize that Jesus reverses the typical measures of success — and to let that recognition change our behavior. This is difficult. One can believe Jesus when he says we can only save our lives by losing them; that we will be judged on how we treat our neighbors in need; that being poor, hungry, sorrowful or despised are reasons for rejoicing while being rich, well-fed or celebrated are reasons for woe. But do we behave as if those teachings are the truth? If we don't, can we really say we believe them?

Today's first two readings present examples of faith in action. In Acts, we see the early Christians behave in a way that would not make sense without their faith, selling their property and giving the proceeds to the apostles to distribute. The author of the second reading is convinced, against literal appearances that faith "conquers the world."

If we truly had faith, what would we do and how would we think? Would we sell our possessions, change the way we spend our time, take greater risks in the service of the kingdom of God, pursue righteousness rather than comfort and prefer peace to prestige?

This Easter season, Thomas' story can inspire us to take the next opportunity for our faith to transform our lives.

Peace, Fr. Kevin

WORSHIP



“Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.”
- John 20:30

Mass Intentions

Sat., 6	5 pm - Beth Hoytink
Sun., 7	8:30 am - Parishioners 10:30 am - Anneke Sengers
Mon., 8	9 am - Joe Luny
Tue., 9	9 am - Virginia & Irving Fisk
Wed., 10	9 am - Bishop Gonzalez
Thu., 11	9 am - Eucharistic Service
Fri., 12	9 am - Michael DuHonik

Mark your Calendars The annual Chicken Dinner and Jousting Tournament will be Saturday, July 27, 2024. We will serve the chicken dinners and have all the other popular events. We will hold White Elephant, Games, etc.



Easter Thanks We are grateful to all who helped make our Holy Week and Easter Celebrations so special. Our Music Ministry for the uplifting music. Our Decorators for the beautiful church. Thanks to our Altar Servers, Lectors, Ushers, and all of you for being here with us.



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.

Blessed Easter Water is available in the Sanctuary in bottles bearing the image of our Shrine Church, or you may bring in your old bottles and fill them from our font.

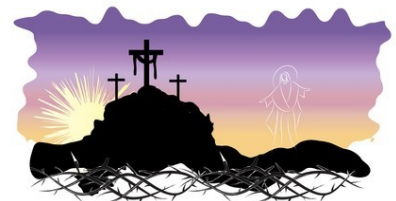
Firehouse Bingo All are invited to Bingo at the Beallsville Fire House on April 12 & May 3. Admission is \$20. Doors open at 5:30 pm and games begin at 7:30. For more information call (301)972-8719.

The Blue Army In honor of Our Lady of Fatima you are invited to Rosary, Mass, Confession, the Divine Mercy Chaplet and healing prayers on Saturday, April 13 at 1:00 pm in the Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel in the Basilica of the National Shrine.



“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.



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