

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

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Mary of Nazareth School: 301.869.0940

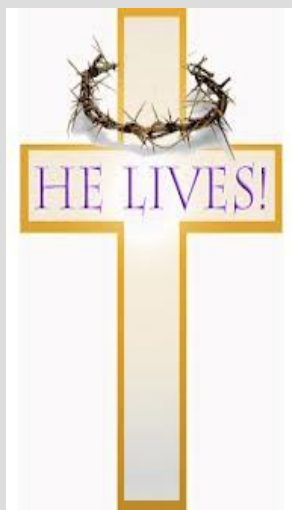
*We welcome you to our historic parish family.
Since 1741 believers such as yourself have built a spirit-
filled, Catholic faith community here in Barnesville.
We are privileged to have you join us in our mission to
share God's blessings.*



April 28, 2024
5th 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*
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 today is for the Church Missions in the United States. This goes to help with Indian missions in our country.

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.

No First Saturday Due to First Holy Communion and Confirmation being this Saturday, May 4 we will not be having 9:00 am Mass or Devotions. You are welcome to the First Communion Mass at 10 am or Confirmation with Bishop Menjar at 1:30 pm.

Second Collection On May 4 & 5 all parishes will be taking up a special collection to commemorate the centennial celebration of the First Mass being celebrated in the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. Please help to preserve Mary's Shrine for generations to come.



Please Pray For..... James Abernethy, Frank Anderson, Louise Austin, Michael Austin, Christopher Barlow, Lori Bauer, Jim Bowie, Donna & Fred Brashears, Linda Burke, Maddie Cabatic, 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 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, 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,

Picture a master gardener, whistling, in a floppy hat, pruning shears in hand, smiling. God is laboring. Snip. Clip. God is involved in our lives. Even God's name is God with us. God the gardener, from Genesis on, ever at work. Nurturing. Caring. Never leaving us unattended or untended.

God takes hold of me, studies me, and helps me to see areas where I could produce more fruit. Snip. Clip. I'm tempted to grab the pruning shears out of God's hands, and get to work ... on my neighbor!

But the pruning is complete, Jesus says he already bore all our sins. We're already forgiven.

Forgiveness, like shears, has two sides. One blade alone wouldn't function. I must accept forgiveness, even though God has already offered it. On one blade is the "word offered." On the other blade "accepted." What other words might you imagine on the clippers? Justice/mercy? Love/compassion?

The Father took away every branch not bearing fruit. Some days I may feel withering and dry. But we all have a place on the vine. Some of us have to be grafted back on.

That's what we hear about in today's first reading. Paul is ostracized when he tries to graft into the Christian community. Barnabas, his advocate, stands in Paul's defense. How am I an advocate for others?

Vintners graft in different grapes to create new flavors in wine. Paul would bring new flavor to the true vine, and they were afraid of him. Who am I afraid of?

With the revitalizing blood of Jesus coursing through him, Paul soon contributed new fruit to the church. We read: "The church ... was at peace. ... It was being built up ... and with the consolation of the Holy Spirit's consolation, it grew ..."

It's no accident that this Sunday's Gospel is part of the Last Supper discourse. Pruning leads to what vine-growers call "bleeding" of cut surfaces or wounds. This has a positive effect on the vine.

Soon, liquid pouring from the cut heals the branch. In spring it will be able to draw up water with enormous force. This is a metaphor for discipleship.

Jesus, the vine, stretches his arms out — on the cross; and lifts us up to the Father, supporting us. The vine's sap gushes from the love of Christ, coursing through us. When we cut ourselves off from love, we're in trouble. Strewn on the ground we see dying branches. The mystery of evil confronts us.

Pruning happens seasonally. Clip. Snip. Pruning encourages new growth in us. It's a gift! Seeing our potential, God removes barriers. I may prefer not to grow, cling to dead ways, and desire personal comfort.

"Without me you can do nothing." The opposite is also true: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Phil 4:13, NKJV). And isn't that good news?

The psalm reminds us to praise God for this good news. The lowly shall eat their fill of the fruits we provide. We glorify God when we "bear much fruit" by doing acts of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, etc. — fruits of the Holy Spirit!

To remain in union with Jesus means to keep the commandments to love. John says this so that our joy may be complete. Knowing you are loved is joyous.

The second reading underscores these themes. This is the fourth week we have been hearing from John's love-letter. In short, it says: Love in deeds.

God's commandments are these: Believe. Love. Like two blades of pruning shears.

Peace,

Fr. Kevin

WORSHIP



"I am the vine, you are the branches."

- John 15:5

Mass Intentions

- Sat., 27** 5 pm - Jack Dresher
Sun., 28 8:30 am - Parishioners
10:30 am - Larry Horton (L)
Mon., 29 9 am - Matthew Lee
Tue., 30 9 am - Lloyd & Eleanor Jones
Wed., 1 9 am - Thomas Hale
Thu., 2 9 am - Eucharistic Service
Fri., 3 9 am - Joe Luny

First Friday Join us for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament this Friday, May 3 from 9:30 am until Noon.

Donuts for May will be on May 12, Mother's Day, due to the Breakfast on May 5.



Congratulations

to

Eleanor Ann Egan

child of

Robert & Brittney Egan

Baptized on April 20

and to

Sebastian Eoin, Linus Henry & Madeline
Louise Beggs

children of

Andrew & Jaye Lynn Beggs

Baptized on April 21



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 okoni.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 the Little Sisters of the poor who will be with us next weekend, May 4-5 for their annual visit. Their ministry to the poor exists totally on our generosity.

Farewell to our part time parish secretary for the past 20 years. Brenda Evans has served our parish faithfully. She has retired this past week. Blessings on her future journeys.



"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.