

The Encourager

The Mission of St. Barnabas Church is to live and spread the Gospel of Christ as disciples making disciples.

Saint Barnabas Church
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A Message from Father Jim

There is an old saying that has been around for some 2700 years and it is generally attributed to Aesop as the moral of his fable of the Fox and the Lion. The saying is "Familiarity breeds contempt." What it means is that real extensive knowledge of or close association with someone or something can easily lead to a loss of respect for them or it. Even if this extensive knowledge or close association does not lead to loss of respect it can certainly lead to us taking people for granted.

I was thinking about how for me this saying is so completely far from the truth as I continue my ministry to and with you here at St. Barnabas. The more time I spend with you the more I come to love you. I am aware of this as I come into the midst of the congregation to read the Holy Gospel while the Sequence Hymn is being sung. I look around at you all and just want to burst into a smile. I feel warmth in my heart as the children loudly break into the words of the Lord's Prayer or come and stand with me at the altar rail on Youth Sunday. I sometimes have difficulty not breaking into tears as you come and kneel or stand at the altar rail to receive your Lord in the bread and wine of Holy Communion.

I hope and pray that for every priest in every parish the real saying is "Familiarity breeds love and dedication and faithfulness and that love breeds love in return.

May you continue to have a Holy Lent.

Jim+

How Do We Find Out if Church Has Been Cancelled in Case of a Storm?

As you are aware, we ended up cancelling church services on February 15th due to the severe snowstorm that hit on Saturday evening into Sunday morning. There was no way to know if the parking lot would be plowed and the city had declared a parking ban. So as much as I hated to do it, discretion dictated that we cancel Sunday services and we had the bishop's blessing to do so.

The question remains, how do we know if church is cancelled in the future? First of all there will be a message on the answering machine to that effect. Second, we will publish the cancellation through the RI Broadcasters Association. If you have a computer you can log onto "Turn to 10, or the Providence Journal and go to "delays and cancellations." We will be listed. Please be aware that some churches do not use the period for abbreviating the word "saint" as in (st) while others (including us) do. Unfortunately using the period puts us farther down the list of cancellations so you need to be sure you are looking in the correct place.

We hope we will not have to do this again in the future.

Monthly Healing Service



Our “Monthly Healing Service” will be held on Sunday, March 1st, at 12 noon. If you would like to have prayers and anointing for healing or feel you have the gift of healing you may find this service a welcome alternative. This is a full Eucharistic celebration so it fulfills your Sunday worship for the day.



Monthly Youth Sunday on March 1st

Our monthly Youth Sunday is always held on the first Sunday of each month. The children will be our greeters, take the offering, bring the offering to the altar, have a special talk with Fr. Jim and then join him around the altar rail for the consecration of the bread and wine.

Lenten Program Continues



This year’s Lenten Program continues each Tuesday evening beginning at 6:30 p.m. It is a six-week video series titled “An Introduction to the History of Christianity.” The remaining sessions deal with:

- How persecution and acceptance affected the growth of the church.
- How Christianity became the dominant force in society and culture and what this meant for the church.
- How the Crusades and the Reformation caused major changes in the church.
- How the New World and Revolution affected the faith.
- How the church is being challenged by modern culture and secularization.

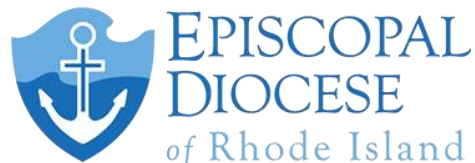
Each video is approximately 40 minutes long and discussion will follow.

Daylight Saving Time



Daylight Saving Time begins at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 8th. Remember this is the time to “spring ahead” so set your clock ahead one hour before you go to bed on Saturday or you will arrive at church and find the service is already over.

Episcopal Charities Parish Campaign



Our Episcopal Charities parish campaign will begin on Sunday, March 8th. We will have a speaker from House of Hope which is one of the social service agencies supported by Episcopal Charities with which we have a personal relationship. As you know some of our parishioners provide a monthly meal for one of the shelters which falls under its auspices.

Last year we exceeded the goal of \$6,000 set for us by Episcopal Charities by over 25% donating in excess of \$7,500. Let's see if we can do so again this year. Our parish chairpersons are Julie Mixner and Bonne Simonian.

Dinner and a Movie



“Dinner and a Movie” continues this month in Schweitzer Hall on Friday, March 13th. We will view “*Romero*” which is the story of how Oscar Romero became the Archbishop in El Salvador at a time of extreme social unrest and how he paid with his life for championing the cause of the downtrodden. Show up at 6:00 p.m. with a bag lunch, pizza, calzone or whatever tempts your taste buds. You might also want to bring a folding chair that will be more comfortable than the metal chairs we have in the parish hall. We will watch the movie while we eat our meal. After the movie we will take some time to discuss the film. Each movie, while not specifically being a religious movie, has some moral and social implications for people of faith.

We Need Pictures for Our Website



As of yet Fr. Jim has not received any photos of events which have taken place here at St. Barnabas during the last year. It is imperative that we get some photos so that we can finally publish our new website. Pictures of our activities are more important than words in making people interested in seeing what our life is like here at St. Barnabas. If anyone would like to be the parish's "official photographer" at parish events please speak to Fr. Jim.

All Parish Clean-up on March 28th



Last year we took the Saturday before Palm Sunday to clean up the parish grounds and the church interior for Holy Week and Easter. Given that Easter is two weeks earlier this year and the show will probably still be covering the ground at the end of March, we are going to concentrate our efforts on the inside of the church. Please show up at 9:00 a.m. with mops, buckets, cleaning cloths, etc. and we will make the church shine for Easter. Many hands make light work. Hope to see you here. Lunch will be provided.

Youth and Family Events

We have not established a calendar of Youth and Family Events for the remainder of the year. If you have some activities that are of interest to you please let Fr. Jim know and we will see about scheduling them.

Outreach Committee



Thank you to all who donated to the Souper Bowl of Caring on Super Bowl Sunday. We raised \$200 and 34 canned goods for the RI Community Food Bank.

We continue to prepare meals the second and fourth Saturday of every month for the RI Family Shelter. We need people to help with this outreach initiative. You can prepare a side dish, salad, or dessert or even organize a meal. There are about 25 residents there (adults and children). The same few people are preparing the meals each month and we could really use some more participation. If you could help out, please see Julie Mixner or call at 391-2878

The outreach committee will meet again at the end of March...date TBA, look for the date in the weekly bulletin.

The 2015 Episcopal Charities drive kicks off for us on March 8th. Please join us on charities Sunday in welcoming a speaker from the House of Hope. We will be taking pledges for the Episcopal Charities Fund following both services that day. We would love 100% participation from our parish, no donation is considered too small! Last year we raised \$7,500! Help us beat last year's pledges.

Happening for Sr. High School Students May 1st to 3rd

Happening of Rhode Island is a weekend for teenagers presented by teenagers. It is a spiritual retreat for high school students, which takes place at the Episcopal Conference Center in Pascoag, RI. Young people from all over the state help to plan and implement the weekend, and it is spent in a relaxed, fun, and safe environment where youth can share their faith in a Christian atmosphere.

Throughout the weekend youth, young adults, and clergy share life and faith experiences. The schedule is balanced to include a wide range of activities such as active discussion, low-key reflection time, informal musical jam sessions, and high-energy creative activities. A young person serves as "Rector" and leads the weekend with the help of clergy and a support staff.

The Happening movement believes that Christianity is relevant to youth today and it can transform a rapidly changing world. We provide the opportunity for youth to develop and nourish spirituality in a fun, thoughtful, and welcoming community.

Happening weekends are open to high school sophomores, juniors, and seniors. The program begins Friday at 6:00 pm and concludes on Sunday at 5:30 pm after a closing Eucharist.

Fr. Jim will be serving as one of the adult Spiritual Directors for the weekend. He would love to see our youth in grades 10 to 12 take part in Happening. Financial help is available if needed. Please speak to him if you are interested.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Ed Beaudreau who has been admitted as a Postulant for Holy Orders by Bishop Knisely. Ed is now in the process for ordination to the priesthood.

Diocesan Confirmation Service to Be Held at St. Barnabas



Each year Bishop Knisely celebrates a service of Holy Eucharist for the whole diocese for the purpose of confirming and receiving those who were not able to be confirmed or received in their own parish. This year this service will be held at St. Barnabas on Saturday, May 9th at 10:00 a.m.

If you would like to be confirmed or received at this service please speak to Fr. Jim so he can arrange instructional sessions. If you were confirmed in the Roman Catholic, Greek or other Eastern churches you would be received. If you were baptized in a denomination that does not have Confirmation administered by a Bishop, then you need to be confirmed. More information will be forthcoming.

White Water Rafting Trip Scheduled for July 25th



We have scheduled a parish white water rafting trip for Saturday, July 25th. *This year children are invited to come if they meet three conditions:*

1. They must be at least 10 years old.
2. They must weigh at least 50 pounds.
3. They must be accompanied by a parent.

We will be rafting the Hudson River Gorge in upstate New York with Beaverbrook Outfitters. You can take a look at their website at www.beaverbrook.net. Fr. Jim has scheduled many rafting trips with them.

The usual cost is \$69 per person. That includes the rafting, lunch on the river and dinner when we return from the trip. Please let Fr. Jim know if you are interested and he will give you a list of places in the area where you can stay. For those who like to tent or have campers, there is plenty of room on Fr. Jim and Barbara's property.

Lodging in the area fills up quickly at that time of year so you should decide now if you are going and make arrangements.

Holy Week and Easter at St. Barnabas



Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday, March 29th. There is a full schedule of services you can avail yourself of during Holy Week which will help make Easter a more meaningful and glorious Holy Day.

Palm Sunday (March 29th) celebrates our Lord's triumphal entry into Jerusalem. The crowds, thinking him to be the long-awaited Messiah, spread palm branches in his path. We will bless and distribute Palms at both services.

Maundy Thursday (April 2nd) is the night on which Jesus met with his disciples for the Last Supper, washed their feet, instituted the Lord's Supper (Holy Eucharist) and commanded them to "love one another." After the meal he went to the Garden of Gethsemane with Peter, James and John where he was arrested. The name "Maundy" comes from the Latin word "mandatum" which in English means "commandment."

As part of this liturgy Father Jim will wash the feet of all in the congregation who come forward. In this way he will emulate Jesus washing the feet of the disciples as a symbol that his role is to be "servant" to the congregation.

After our celebration of Holy Eucharist any reserved bread and wine will be taken to the "altar of repose" in the St. Mary's Chapel. This bread and wine is used for the administration of Holy Communion on Good Friday (Holy Eucharist is never celebrated on Good Friday). Then the church is darkened and all hangings, crosses and processional torches are ceremonially removed from the sanctuary with the exception of the large altar cross which will be shrouded in black. Once the altar and sanctuary are completely stripped we will exit the church in darkness and silence. Many have commented to Fr. Jim over the years that this is the most dramatic and emotive liturgy in their experience.

Good Friday (April 3rd) is the day on which Jesus was crucified.

There will be two services of the Proper Liturgy for Good Friday at 12 noon and 6:00 p.m. At this service we will again hear the Passion of our Lord from John's Gospel. Then there is a section of Solemn Collects (or prayers) which remind us of our need for Christ Jesus' selfless love. The liturgy concludes with a Confession of sin, the Lord's Prayer and Holy Communion from the Reserve Sacrament.

There will be two services of the Stations (Way) of the Cross at 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. The Stations of the Cross are a series of pictorial representations in the church which trace Jesus' path from his arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane to his death on Golgotha and his burial in the tomb. There are fourteen stations and this symbolic pilgrimage where we walk with Jesus to his death ends with a prayer before the altar.

Easter Day (April 5th) which celebrates the resurrection of our Lord is the highest Holy Day in the Church Calendar. There will be two celebrations of Holy Eucharist at 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

EASTER FLOWER MEMORIALS AND THANKSGIVINGS

The Sanctuary is decorated at Eastertime with beautiful plants and spring flowers given as memorials for our deceased loved ones or in thanksgiving for significant events or persons in our lives. Easter Memorials and Thanksgivings are typically \$25. However, we graciously accept any donation you wish to make. Please print the names of loved ones whom you would like remembered or those persons or events you would like to give thanks for this Easter.

Please submit no later than Sunday, March 29th.

In Memory of _____

In Thanksgiving for _____

Easter Memorials and Thanksgiving Memorials Given By:

Name _____

Telephone _____ Pledge Number _____

*Kindly make check payable to St. Barnabas Church and note
"Easter Flowers" on memo line.*