

# 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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April 2015

## A Message from Father Jim

For the last two weeks I have found myself looking out my window checking to see how much more snow has melted and noticing the vista of the burgeoning landscape. Shrubs and bushes that were buried under the snow are now visible and spring bulbs are starting to peek out in spots, heralding the new life which is so much a part of the glory of spring.

It is especially appropriate that we celebrate Easter during springtime. Easter is, for us who believe in Christ Jesus, the feast of new life which celebrates Jesus' victory over death and the grave – a victory in which we share through our baptism.

I very often find myself in conversation with people who have fallen out of the habit of attending church. They usually, with some embarrassment, just say that they have no good reason for not going to church. Church has just kind fallen out of sight and out of mind. I used the word "habit" deliberately because *going* to church is a habit and *not going* to church is a habit. The more you go, the more you find you cannot contemplate a Sunday morning where you don't carve some time out of your busy life and consecrate it to God. But not going to church even one Sunday leads us to say, "Well missing one Sunday isn't so bad." This then makes it easier for us to miss two Sundays and then three Sundays until not going to church has become our habit.

This Easter season of new life offers us a great opportunity to once again become part of the worship and fellowship of the church. Get in the habit of taking a couple of hours each Sunday and making them part of your thank offering to God. Get in the habit of worshiping and praying with your brothers and sisters in Christ. There's no time like the present. I hope to see you in church.

Jim+

## Welcome to Our New Organist and Choir Director

Our New Organist and Choir Director, Ted Platt, is a native of Phoenix, AZ and studied at Northern Arizona University from which he has a Bachelor of Music Education with an instrumental emphasis and Bachelor of Music in vocal performance. As a certified music educator he has taught at the elementary and high school levels choral and instrumental music including orchestra, jazz and marching bands. With an emphasis in Sacred Music he studied under the famed organist Paul Manz at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago and obtained from there a Master of Divinity degree in 1992. Ted has lived in New England for the last twenty years and in addition to his position at St. Barnabas he serves as the spiritual care director for two assisted living communities in Providence and continues to work as a music educator maintaining an active studio teaching voice, piano and brass.

Ted is going to make a strong effort to build up our music program here at St. Barnabas, working with an adult choir and hoping to establish a children's choir and a hand bell choir. If you are interested in any of these forms of musical worship please speak to him or Father Jim.



## Monthly Healing Service

Our “Monthly Healing Service” will be held on Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, 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. As this is Easter Sunday, the lessons for this service will be those appointed for Easter so that you can fulfill your Easter obligation at this service.

## Dinner and a Movie



“Dinner and a Movie” continues this month in Schweitzer Hall on Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup>. We will view “*St. Vincent*” which is a fairly new movie starring Bill Murray. It has many poignant moments and the ending brought tears to my eyes (Fr. Jim) when I first saw it. 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.

## Youth and Family Event for April



Our Youth and Family Event for April will be the annual Easter Egg Hunt which will be held on April 12<sup>th</sup> in the park, weather permitting, immediately after the 10 o’clock service.

## Our New Website is Up and Running



Having an up-to-date easily navigated website is crucial to the growth of any parish in this electronic media age. Our new revamped website is up and running. Please check it out at [www.stbarnabaswarwick.org](http://www.stbarnabaswarwick.org). There is also a link to our Face Book page on the website. Please check that out also.

## **Vestry Retreat**

Father Jim and the members of the Vestry will be taking part in a Vestry Retreat on Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>. The purpose of this retreat is to continue our strategic long-range planning for St. Barnabas. At last year's retreat we established three main goals:

1. To increase our outreach to the community
2. More youth formation within the parish
3. Better communications both within the parish and the community

As you know, we have started several new outreach initiatives, we have regular Youth Sundays and Youth Events and have more youth taking part in activities outside the parish and we now have a monthly newsletter and a new revised website. So we have done good work on the goals we set for ourselves as a parish.

In the May *Encourager* we will list the new goals for the coming year.

## **Outreach Committee**



Thank you to all who pledged in church to Episcopal charities during our parish charities drive. We have raised over \$5300 so far in pledges towards our \$7000 goal. We will be making phone calls and mailings to those of you who we weren't able to touch base with in church. Remember no donation is too small and 100% of what you give stays right here in RI and goes directly to an agency helping those in need in the form of a grant. See Julie Mixner, Cate Spearman or Bonne Simonian for details on donating!

Members of the Outreach Committee are hosting an Easter Egg Hunt at the RI Family Shelter on March 28th. Watch for photos of the event on our church website!

The next meeting of the outreach committee will be April 19th following the 10 o'clock service. If you are interested in helping out with the meals we plan every 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month for the RI Family Shelter, stop by the meeting for details on how you can help or call Julie Mixner 391-2878

There are bins in the back of the church to collect non-perishable food items for West Bay Marketplace as well as paper goods for the RI Family Shelter. The shelter is always looking for items such as: paper goods, paper towels & napkins, larger size diapers, wipes, disinfectant cloths, plastic utensils, large size freezer bags.

## **Exploring Sunday's Scriptures**

Just a reminder that we meet each Wednesday morning following the mid-week Eucharist for a Bible study called "Exploring Sunday's Scriptures" where we look at the lessons we will hear read in church the following Sunday.

## 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 9<sup>th</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup>. *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](http://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.***

## Schedule of Youth and Family Event Schedule for the Rest of the Year

Sunday, May 17:	Duckpin bowling
Sunday, June 14:	Annual Parish Picnic
Sunday, July 12:	PawSox Game at McCoy Stadium
Sunday, September 13:	Nature Walk at Ninigret Park Nature Conservatory or Apple Picking
Sunday, October 18:	Hay Ride and Return to Church to Carve Pumpkins
Sunday, November 8:	Roger Williams Park Zoo
Sunday, December 11:	Trip to La Salette Shrine to see Christmas Display

**Easter Flowers Decorating the Church Today  
Were Given to the Glory of God and**

In Loving Memory of:

Teresa Turner, Jerry Turner, Ada and Joseph Turner, Ollie and Joseph Sheets, Anne and Art Richard, William Gardner and Virginia Gardner by Erma and Jim Turner.

Theodore M. Whiteley and Mary E. Wilding by Ann Whiteley.

Raymond and Fannie Dexter, Raymond and Catherine Dexter, Charles H. Dexter, Sr., Raymond C. Dexter, Sr., Barbara Rusack Dexter, Edward Frail, Inez Clausen, and John and Helen Germond by Helena E. Dexter.

Josephine Bocchino, Clara Bocchino Bianco, John Bocchino, Tom and Ann Fox, Ann Fox Gutowski and Joan Fox Kilgariff by The Reverend James R. Bocchino and Barbara E. Fox.

Ella K. Mitchell, Hedwig Kenyon, Christopher Mitchell, Tamison Snow, Alton and Helen Conn and William S. Riley by Emily M. Riley.

Ana Rodrigues, Louise Macomber, Frederick Smith Sr., Florence Smith, Tinker, Spunky, Scott Francis, Sean Eagan, Wilbur Bridge and Barbara Bridge by Heather and Joseph Rodrigues.

Alice Hohler, Lillian Hohler, Emily and Lester Hohler, Henry Budlong and Edith and Robert Barrie by Bob Barrie.

Helen and Max Markman, George and Gloria Close, and Alfred "Freddie" Lyons by Harvey and Cathy Markman

Ann M. Picard by Stephen J. Picard.

Fred and Florence Smith Sr., Louise Macomber, Barbara and Wilber Bridge, Walfred and Elizabeth Nyman, John and Esther Shaw, Spunky Smith and Ana Rodrigues by Frederick and Carolyn Smith.

Nancy L. Urquhart by Richard S. Urquhart.

Robert D. Whitaker, Barbara M. Whitaker, Elmer I. Whitaker, Mildred B. Whitaker and James F. Hackett by Lee R. and Catherine Martha Whitaker.

Stanley W. Schofield, Sr., Dorothy I. Schofield, Leslie I. Gomes, George and Gertrude Schofield, John and Susan Slaven, Sr., John and Elizabeth Slaven, Jr., William Colburn, Robert and Eleanor DeAvilla, Frederick and Florence Smith, William and Carmen Oehrle, John and Esther Shaw, Lawrence O'Connor and The Reverend Kenneth and Diane Franklin by the Schofield Family.

Nancy Urquhart by Laurie and John Kirchmeyer.

Richard C. Spinney by Carolyn Spinney.

Joseph Costa, Edith Costa and Arthur Gravelin and Jeannette Gravelin by George and Carol Gravelin.

Arthur Hartington, Sr., Hazel and Ross D. Walcott, Barbara and Paul Costigan and Ross T. Walcott by Abbie L. Hartington.

Lillian and Joseph Whitehead and Pumpkin Whitehead by Dianne Whitehead.

Holly Egan Pannone, The Farnum Family, Elizabeth and Rachel and Nancy Underwood Sundin by Trudy Egan.

Ella Fairley, Eliza Fairley, David Fairley, Angelo Petrarca and Gerald Petrarca by Donald Fairley.

Doris M. Clipson, Ruth and Frank Crowther, Sr., Frank Crowther, Jr., Edward Charpentier, Anna and Denis Desjarlais, The Rev. William and Marjorie Kite, Barbara Meinel, Joseph Coffey, John and Olga Pashkovsky, Helen and George Wells, Sr. and George Wells, Jr. by John and Betty Paskovsky

Mary D. Thomson, Edmond D. Thomson, The Rev. Malcolm D. Thomson, Walter Brown and Jack Cook by Faith Thomson.

Alfred and Janice VanPatten, Johann and Maria Greim, Edward and Shirley Bouclin, Lillian Villatico and Maria Greim by Bea VanPatten.

Alfred Teolis, Angelina Teolis, Carmine, Molly and Dottie Lombardo, William and Thelma Lindopp, Howard and Mildred Killion, Grace and Arthur Smith, Hazel and Edward Newell, Harold and Hope Bonnell, Michael Rocha, Carol Walker, Augusto and Maria Rocha, Joseph and Maria Thomas by the Teolis, Lindopp and Newell Families.

Domenico and Speranza Suppappola, Albert and Annie B. Jones, Alberico Suppappola, Norma and William Briggs, Joseph Coffey, Lawrence Jones, Eleanor Seddon, Herbert Jones, Desiree Mesolella, Richard Jones, John Stone, Marcia Bowers and Andrew Gauthier by Heidi Seddon.

Jack and Alice Lederman by Alice M. Malveto.

Harold and Hannah Hayes, Elia and Marion Centracchio, Don Centracchio, Lewis and Esther Carpenter and Alan Carpenter by Donald and Marcia Carpenter.

John C. Menzies, George and Marion Menzies, George and Marjorie Tyler, The Rev. Charles Tyler, George and Madalyn Tyler, Charles L. Tyler, Audrey Ann and Malcom Scott by Eleanor Menzies.

Edgar W. Parks, Frank E. Gregory and Christina A. Gregory by Dorothy Parks.

Lowell and Dorothy Toften, George and Rose McIntyre, Debra McIntyre and Raymond Heroux by Audrey and David McIntyre.

**In Thanksgiving for:**

Our grandchildren—Jacen, Samuel and June Douglass by The Reverend James R. Bocchino and Barbara E. Fox.

My family, Joseph Rodrigues, Ashley and JR, my parents and true friends by Heather Rodrigues.

Our beautiful family by Harvey and Cathy Markman.

Heather, Joe, Ashley and Jr. Rodrigues by Frederick and Carolyn Smith.

Life by Richard Urquhart.