

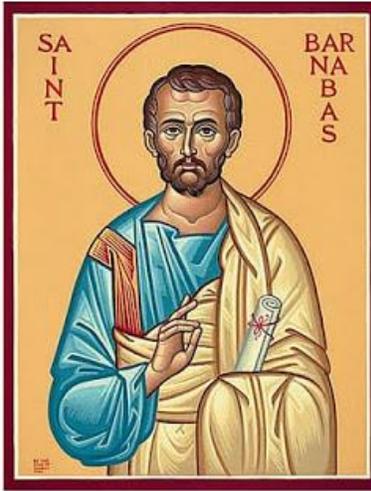
The Encourager

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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January 2021



Some FatherLee thoughts . . .

Jesus said, "No one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and the wine is lost, and so are the skins; but one puts new wine into fresh wineskins." Mark 2:21-22

It has been said that the definition of insanity is, "Doing the exact same thing over and over and over again, but expecting a different result." Basically, if we want different results, we have to make changes to what we do. Results don't improve simply by hoping for change. Things get better when we deliberately work for what we hope will be.

What would you like to be different in your life? What changes need to be made to facilitate that outcome? In my opinion, this plays out in two ways.

First, we are afraid to catch CoViD, for good reason, but this means we tend to avoid anyone and everyone who might spread this dreaded disease to us. To me, this is very similar to lepers in Jesus' day. People were afraid of lepers because they spread leprosy. Therefore, lepers were kept far away; they were ostracized. The new wineskins of Jesus was to no longer fear and loathe lepers, but to find a way to love them.

Following our Savior's example, we must have courage to see other people, not as a threat, but as a beautiful child of God. We must strive to carefully be inclusive. We must resist the temptation to exile people because we fear a disease. People are not our enemies. Saving our life means nothing if we lose our humanity.

Second, several of you have noticed that not everything you did before the pandemic was healthy, and not everyone you spent time with was a good influence. I have decided that when things return to "normal," I will be very deliberate with who and what I return to. If someone/something is abusive or harmful to me, I will probably keep the distance the pandemic has allowed. However, I will gladly reengage the people and activities that make my life better.

What do you miss most? What do you dread going back to?

Personally, I can't wait to get back to church. Our faith, and those of you who share it, are what I miss most and long to return to. There are, however, relationships and activities I used to engage in that I now realize prevented me from the fullness of new life I want for myself. Therefore, I will make the deliberate decision to avoid activities, and even some people, who are abusive or harmful to me. Instead, I will pour my energies into people and activities that help me live the life I desire.

No longer will I continue in the insanity of doing the same thing over and over, hoping for different results. Rather than pouring the new wine of the new life I desire into the old wineskins of former routines, I will pour the wine of a more fulfilling life into the new wineskins of a new life. I encourage you to do the same. Avoid what keeps you from the abundant life God would have for you. Consider, instead, what makes your life better, and do that!

Faithfully,
Fr. Scott Lee

Happy Birthday



We would like to wish those celebrating birthdays in the month of January a Happy Birthday!

Edwin Turner

Eric Simonian

George Gravelin

Joan Newell

Joe Meyer

Laura Willkomm

Sadie Gauthier

Sarah Tyson

Stephen Willkomm

Tate Tetreault

Theodore Walker

Victoria Silvestri

William Dodge

Craig Newell

Ethel Bernardino

Joseph Rodrigues

Bruce Balkom

Linda Petrarca

Stefani Weber

Aram Hinz

Jean Suppappola

Sarah DelSesto

Jason Hammond

Rachel Riley-Schafer

Brian Martin

Scott Lombari

Snow Removal Volunteers



Please contact me if you are able to volunteer to remove snow at the church. Please call Robin in the Parish office for contact information.

Thank you, Heather Rodrigues, Jr Warden.

WE JUST WANT TO SAY... **THANK YOU!**

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! The challenges of last year impacted people too many to count on so many levels. In 2020, probably more than any other year, the need was even greater than in years past. Thank you to everyone who was able to step up and contribute to the 2020 Thanksgiving/Christmas drive. Working together, the generous parishioners of St. Barnabas Church were able to provide:

Fifteen bountiful Thanksgiving meals, each overflowing with turkey, stuffing, fresh and canned vegetables, dessert, holiday paper goods and a \$25 supermarket gift card.

Children's gifts for nine kids of The House of Hope. Every single child's wish was fulfilled; each child received at least two gifts.

On top of all of that, St. Barnabas Church was able to present The House of Hope with a variety of gift cards totalling over \$2,000. These cards were distributed to constituents of The House of Hope throughout the holidays and beyond.

The House of Hope was absolutely delighted and in awe of the generosity and outpouring from St. Barnabas Church. They couldn't say thank you enough for the help they received and were so excited for the impact these donations would surely have on their constituents.

Thank you all very much for sharing whatever you could to make the 2020 drive such a success! Blessings to you and your family for a safe and healthy 2021.

Heidi Seddon and
Therese Beauregard

Have a safe and happy new year!