

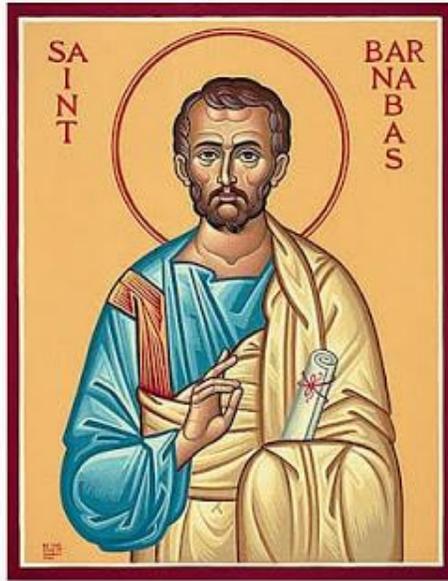
The Encourager

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

Saint Barnabas Church
3257 Post Rd., Warwick, Rhode Island 02886
www.stbarnabaswarwick.org

401-737-4141

May 2021



Some FatherLee thoughts . . .

"I went down to the potter's house, and there he was, making something on the wheel. But the vessel that he was making of clay was spoiled in the hand of the potter; so he remade it into another vessel, as it pleased the potter to make. Then the word of the Lord came to me, saying, "Am I not able, house of Israel, to deal with you as this potter does?" Jeremiah 18:3-6

If you've ever worked with clay, you know how easy it is to make a mess of things. However, it is also easy to ball the clay back together and start over. Jeremiah uses this imagery to describe how God is able to take people who had been beaten down and broken, and restore them through love and intervention.

Jeremiah uttered these words of prophesy as the beloved Temple was being destroyed and the people of God were sent as captives to Babylon. What had been, was gone forever. The first "clay pot" was broken. This, in my opinion, is both a reference to the first Temple and to the way of life those people once had. Things would never be completely the way they were. However, God would restore them to something wonderful, new, and beautiful.

Similarly, I believe God is working to restore us. We can claim the promise from the prophet, Jeremiah, but there is another image of broken pottery that I think is a better description of the way I anticipate our return to life.

I'd like to thank the person who shared with me the Japanese art of kintsugi. It is a beautiful technique from fifteenth century Japan of repairing pottery that was broken. "Kin" means "golden", and "tsugi" means "rejoining." Literally, it is the art of "golden-rejoining".

When a piece of pottery is broken, rather than discarding as we would probably do in America, kintsugi repairs the pot. This is not just simply gluing the pieces back together, trying to minimize the evidence of the breaks. Instead, precious real gold is placed in the cracks and crevices. Therefore, the brokenness actually becomes an integral part

of the pot's beauty as it is put back together. In different ways, to varying degrees, this past year has broken many of us. Fortunately, much of our old life has been restored, but it will take time. In the midst of our healing, please don't miss the opportunity to learn from this past year. Avoid the temptation to rush to make things as they were. Instead, allow the Great Potter to take the pieces from the past year, putting them together with the golden light of love to make our lives even more beautiful than before. Let God restore us, yes, but Divine love be what binds us together.

If you look at authentic kintsugi, you will notice that there are often pieces missing on the repaired pottery. This is important. There are likely parts of our old life that perhaps should be left out. Is there an activity or relationship that was harmful? Would your life be better if that is not reincorporated?

On the other hand, what are the essential pieces of your life? What is it that you simply cannot do without? For me, obviously, Church is an important part of life. As you put the pieces of life back together, start with what is most important. Examine each piece of your old life. Instead of defaulting who you were, this is an opportunity to become who you want to be. If something was harmful, leave it out, or put something new in its place. Read more, pray more, do more of those things that make your life wonderful and meaningful and beautiful.

Let me put this in the context of the Resurrection of Jesus. Our Savior was broken by the world and crucified for us. From the dead, Christ came back much the same, but entirely different. Please, don't forget the scars. "Put your finger here and see my hands." Jesus said to Thomas, "Reach out your hand and put it in my side." (John 20:27) The scars were an important part of the story for they shine with golden glow of God's love for us.

It brings to mind the Prayer Attributed to St. Francis, "For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life." (BCP 833) There is a paradox in Christian faith. May I suggest a temporary addition, "it is in our brokenness that we are made whole."

As we move back towards life, may we be forever changed for the better. By letting God gather the broken pieces of the past year, may the Great Potter put our lives back together with the beautiful gold of pure love. May we experience Resurrection in such a powerful way that we become faithful, loving, and a kind person (and church) we desire to be.

Faithfully, Fr. Scott

P.S. Here is a link to a six minute video of a modern interpretation of the ancient art of kintsugi by a clinical psychologist. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TQW8t6w0Cy4>) I watched it several times, learning something new each time.

P.P.S. Trusting that we are emerging from the pandemic, this marks a return to a monthly note of encouragement instead of what has been a weekly letter. Though the mercy and grace of Gods, we've made it this far. Now, the Risen Christ leads us onward. God bless you all!

Youth Ministry



We have resumed! All middle school and high school students are invited every week for free food, great fun, and meaningful conversations about faith. We gather in Schweitzer Hall on Sunday evenings at 5:30 p.m. and are finished between 7:30 p.m./8:00 p.m. depending on the topic of conversation. Please speak with Fr. Scott if you would like to volunteer or provide a meal.

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

In Loving Memory of:

Bernadette M. Tetreault by Paul Tetreault.

Alberico Suppappola, Domenico & Speranza Suppappola, Fortunata Suppappola, Albert & Annie B. Jones, Eleanor Seddon, Rita Rose, Norman & Bill Briggs, Lawrence Jones, Herbert Jones, Richard Jones, Marcia Bowers by Heidi Seddon.

Carolyn & George Scott, Florence & Edward Petrarca, Nellie & George Scott, Sr., Myrtle & Sheffield Reynolds, Morgan Smith, Evelyn Sis McAuslan, Bob Red Barry, Robert Phelps, Tom Valenti, George M. Scott III, by Linda C. Petrarca.

Skip Smith, Louise Macomber, Ana & Armando Rodrigues, Frederick & Florence Smith, Wilbur & Barbara Bridge, Walfred & Elizabeth Nyman by the Rodrigues Family.

Robert D. & Barbara M. Whitaker, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas L. Bernard, Thomas L. Bernard, Jr., Michael Bernard, Donna Bernard, Albert N. & Frieda M. Schmidt, James J. & Kathryn A. Hackett, James F. Hackett by Lee & Martha Whitaker.

Erma Turner, Teresa Turner, Jerry Turner, Ada & Joseph Turner, Ollie & Joseph Sheets, Anne & Art Richard by Jim Turner.

Louis & Helen Doeg, Nathan D. Medeiros by Jeff & Susan Federico.

Lee Gilbert, Jeannette & Norman Paterson, Dorothy & Ralph Gilbert by Michelle Gilbert.

Nancy L. Urquhart, Richard S. Urquhart by Laurie & John Kirchmeyer.

Richard Spinney by Carolyn Spinney.

John Pashkovsky, Amy Prado, Edward Charpentier, Joseph Coffey, Jared Coffey, John Crowther, Frank Crowther, Frank M. & Ruth Crowther, Barbara Meinel, John & Olga Pashkovsky, Carol Wells Barrett, Helen & George Wells, George Wells, Jr., The Rev. William & Marjorie Kite, Nicholas Pashkovsky by Betty Pashkovsky.

Raymond & Fannie Dexter, Raymond & Catherine Dexter, Charles H. Dexter Sr., Barbara Dexter Rusack, Raymond Dexter, Sr., John & Helen Germond, Helen & Frank Morey, Inez Clausen by Helena E. Dexter.

Jack & Alice Lederman, Bob & Wendy Nelson, Domenic Malveto, Virginia & Orlando Malveto by Alice Marie Malveto.

Edward F. Fletcher, Phylis M. Taylor, B. Buck Taylor, Schuyler and Florence Taylor, Sr., Hope L. Thornton, Douglas DeBoer, Phyllis Hall by Sandy Fletcher.

Linda A. Stockwell, William F. Stockwell, Dorothy McBride, Lawrence McBride by Jayne & Steve McBride.

The Holmander, Duffy, and Baker Families by Kelley Holmander.

Alphonse & Emma Bourbeau, Bernice Hays, Charles Hays, Charles Hays Jr., Wm. Paul Shehan, Ruth Sjogren, Violet Loftus, Elvis Presley, Debra Hays, Stacy Creachbaum, Linda Hurdis, Ed Hurdis, Fleur-Ange Hurdis, Claire & Butch Gifford by Jerome & Patricia Loftus.

Ella K. Mitchell, Hedwig Kenyon, Tamison Snow, Alton & Helen Conn, M. Blanche Riley, William Seussbrick, Agnes Spearman, Mary Garvey by Cate Spearman.

Alfred & Janice Van Patten, Johann & Maria B. Greim, Maria Greim, Janet Shuster, Edward & Shirley Bouclin, Joseph & Johanna Zampini, Lillian Villatico by Bea Van Patten.

Marjorie M. Rancourt by George R. Robinson.

Stanley W. Schofield, Sr., Dorothy I. Schofield, Leslie I. Gomes, George & Gertrude Schofield, John & Susan Slaven, Sr., John & Elizabeth Slaven, Jr., Robert & Eleanor De Avilla, William & Gertrude Colburn, Barbara Daniels, Frederick & Florence Smith, Sr., Skip Smith, William & Carmen Oehrle, John & Esther Shaw, The Rev. James Bocchino, The Rev. Marsue Harris, Eleanor Menzies, Robert Barrie by The Schofield Family.

David A. Cannon, Jeffrey Thomas, Larry Bayles, John & Phyllis Simonian, Vahan & Santook Simonian, Abraham & Betty Simonian, John & Helen Kirkman, Rev. Bjarne & Florence Erickson, Alan & Muriel McCoy, David & Lois Macaulay, Robert Macaulay, Edgar & Mable Pierce, Donald Shaw, Myra & Donald E. Shaw, Florence & Edwin Jenkins, Paul Mikowski, John Mikowski, Peter Patrick Cannon, Carrie & Henry Maksymowicz, Genevieve Jones, Ed "Poppy" Babine, Louis Sanchez, Cooper, Kingston, Oreo and Missy by Bonne & Eric Simonian.

In Thanksgiving for:

Our children and grandchildren, Jeremy, Jackie, Jack & Grace, & Emily, Corey & Baby McMahon by Heidi Seddon.

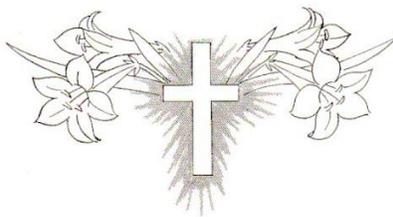
Carolyn Smith, Ashley & JR Rodrigues, Joe Rodrigues, Stan, Joan, Paul & Peter Schofield by the Rodrigues Family.

All my blessings, the love and marriage we have, beautiful moments together, and wonderful memories by Michelle Gilbert.

London Nancy Hinz (healing) by Laurie & John Kirchmeyer.

Our families and our children Rachael, Brian and Kerri and our grandchildren Robert, Emma and Ethan Gifford by Jerome & Patricia Loftus.

Lewis & Lois Royal, Peter Donohue by Bea Van Patten.



Happy Mother's Day, May 9, 2021



We would like to wish a Happy & Blessed Mother's Day to all our Mom's here at St. Barnabas.

Memorial Day



The parish office will be closed on Monday, May 31st in observance of Memorial Day.

April Birthday's



We would like to wish those who celebrated birthdays in the month of April a Happy Birthday!

Corey McMahan	Timothy Newell
Daniel Carignan Jr.	Jason Simonian
Daniel Carignan Sr.	Kyle Thornton
Jeff Federico	Liz Balkom
Jim Turner	Valerie Records
Kevin Rogers	Cheryl Clements
Lindsey Pollard-Nelson	Mikaela NewellLillian
Mossman	Paul Schofield Beth
Peterson	Robin Beckwith
London Hinz	Ryleigh Ruggiero
Carol Gravelin	

May Birthday's



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

Benjamin Carignan	Kelley Holmander
Bill Gray	Carolyn Smith
Chrystal Tyson	James Lindopp
Dave Hartley	Jessica Iozzi
David Butziger	Pruet Beauregard
Dianne Whitehead	Helena Dexter
Emily McMahan	Heather McLaughlin
Helen Becker	Julie Mixner
John Wright	Joan Schofield
Sheryl Nichols	Wanda Michaelson
Stephen Hinger	Elizabeth Pashkovsky
Tammy Salisbury	Alexis Nickerson
Therese Beauregard	James Bernardino



Congratulations to Logan James Edward Cabral who received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism here at St. Barnabas on Sunday, April 11, 2021.



Prayer Chain

Our prayer chain is organized to meet the prayer needs of our parish family as well as those in our community of family, friends and neighbors. It functions as a rapid response to anyone in need of prayers. Because prayer requests are communicated by e-mail, the Prayer Chain is available 24/7. The coordinator keeps a list of voluntary prayer intercessors, and we always welcome new volunteers! Please contact Robin Beckwith our prayer chain coordinator if you have a prayer request or would like to volunteer.

Updates/Changes



To make sure that you continue to receive our emails, monthly newsletter, and birthday postcards please call the office at 737-4141 or via email at parishadmin@stbarnabaswarwick.org with any updates or changes to your information.

Treasurer's Update



I hope all of you are well and staying safe and healthy. On behalf of the Vestry, a huge **THANK YOU** to all who have continued to support our church through this time of pandemic. Through the first four months of 2021, we have been able to maintain our financial stability and continue to operate within our expected budget. This is due mostly to your faithfulness in keeping up with the pledges you made for 2021.

While some of us have begun attending church services in person again, many are not yet comfortable in doing that, so we ask everyone, as you are able, to mail in your pledges and other offerings to the parish office. The response to this ongoing request has been very generous and we hope you will continue this practice, until you are able to resume coming to services in-person.

I want to mention a couple of items that may help you and us when making your offerings. First, if you are submitting more than one week of pledge envelopes at the same time, it is not necessary for you to write out a separate check for each individual week, or to put separate cash donations in each week's envelope. You may simply write one check for the total or place the total cash you are giving into any one envelope and we will be able to credit your donation correctly. Of course, any way you wish to do it is fine, but this may save you some time. Second, if you do have a box of the assigned offering envelopes, please use them when making your gifts, whether at services or by mail, as it makes it much easier for us to accurately record and credit your donations. Also, please do not tape over or place seals over the gummed flap on the envelopes, as it makes it more difficult for us to open and record.

Finally, many of you may have been impacted by job reductions and layoffs due to the pandemic, so if you are in that situation, please do not worry about trying to pay your pledge right now. The parish does have a small fund of money, known as the Discretionary Fund that is to be used to assist those in financial need. Please contact Fr. Scott if you need assistance from this fund. As always, please feel free to contact me directly with any questions or concerns you may have.

Faithfully,
Stan Schofield – Parish Treasurer

Confirmation



Bishop Knisley is working to reschedule a visit we missed last year. Tentatively, we are looking at a date near the end of September 2021. These visits are when members are confirmed in the Christian Church. It also offers anyone from a different denomination to be officially welcomed by our bishop into the Episcopal Church.

Knitting/Crocheting



Do you knit or crochet? In addition to our prayer shawl ministry, one of our parishioners is asking for help. She works with Hospice, and they are running low on red, white & blue blankets/shawls that they like to give out to the Veterans who are in their care. Donations can be dropped off Sunday mornings or during office hours. Thank you for all that you do.

St. Barnabas Church Lawn Care



Calling all volunteers for St. Barnabas Church Lawn Care!

Lawnmowers are provided. Volunteers will be scheduled for two weeks at a time. Mowing is requested as close to the weekend or Saturday mornings as possible, in lieu of any possible weddings or baptisms scheduled for the weekends. Please contact Jr Warden, Heather Rodrigues if you wish to volunteer.

"Many Hands Make Light Work"

Spring Clean Up



Annual Spring Clean Up for St. Barnabas grounds is scheduled for Saturday May 15th @ 9 am. We will meet by the office door/shed. Bring your favorite rake, gloves, & of course a mask. Yard bags will be provided. Anyone wishing to join please contact Jr. Warden, Heather Rodrigues at pumpkinpatch9@cox.net or 401-524-6387.

Men's Bowling League



Do you like to bowl? Are you looking for a duckpin league to join? Jim Turner is looking for a few fellows to join his bowling team.

Where: Meadowbrook Lanes – 2530 Warwick Ave.

When: Tuesday Evenings

Time: 6:45 p.m.

If you are interested and would like more information please talk with Jim Turner. You can contact Robin in the Parish Office for his contact information.