

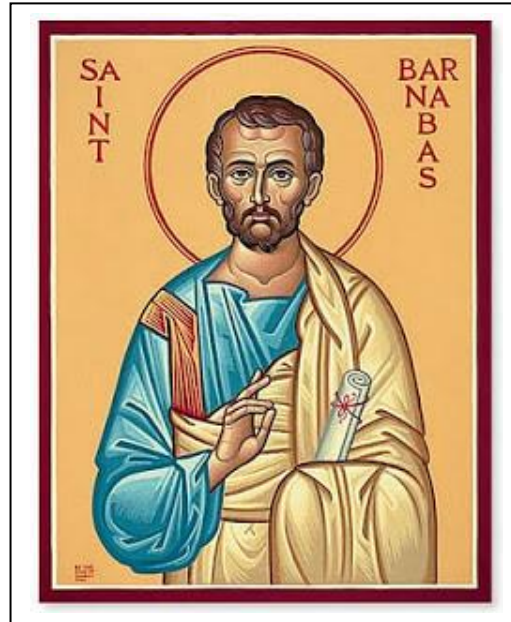
The Encourager

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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October 2021



Some FatherLee thoughts . . .

“When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea.” John 21:7

Every now and then, a detail from our Scripture jumps out at me. In this particular story, after the Risen Lord had appeared several times, some of the disciples went fishing. They caught nothing. Jesus stands on the beach and tells them to lower their nets and try again. Suddenly, their nets are full of so many fish that it’s almost impossible to bring them into the boat.

One of the disciples understood that this was a miracle and proclaimed, “It is the Lord.” The enormous catch also reminded them that they were to fish for people. There is some conviction in this miracle. It is as if Jesus was asking the disciples, “Is this what you should be doing?”

That brings me to the detail that jumped out at me. Why did the author of this Gospel feel it was important to point out that Peter was naked? The more I thought about it, the more my mind wandered back to Genesis. After eating the forbidden fruit, Adam and Eve were “naked and ashamed.” They did the very thing they should not have done, and they failed to do what they should have done.

Peter was haunted by two things: 1) he denied the Lord three times, doing the very thing he promised he would never do, and 2) Peter was not doing what our Savior specifically asked of him, “from now on you will be catching people.” (Luke 5:10) On that boat with some of the disciples, Peter’s failings were completely exposed. He was naked. He was ashamed.

In the same way God searched for Adam and Eve in the Garden when they were naked and ashamed, Jesus went in search of the disciples. Upon finding them, our Savior did not punish them. In this story, we see the real power of Christ’s resurrection. Forgiveness and grace replace judgement and condemnation.

Peter was invited back into the very presence of our loving Lord. He was forgiven. He was nourished. Then, our Savior did something truly amazing. Christ replaced Peter's denials with love. Our Savior asked, "Do you love me? Three times you denied me, Peter," Jesus says, "Three times I invite you back to love."

For every time we do what we ought not do, and for each instance where we fail to do what we ought to do, the Risen Christ forgives and bids us back to love.

What did you do that you shouldn't have done? In what ways are you failing to do what you know you should? Answering those questions likely leaves us exposed and vulnerable. Figuratively speaking, we may feel somewhat naked. We may feel ashamed. It is in this moment of honest vulnerability that the Risen Christ comes to us with forgiveness, beckoning us back to love.

In the presence of our Savior, we experience absolute love. Like the father in the story of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:22), God rushes to meet us and places the finest of robes upon us. We experience what the prophet declared, God "has clothed me with the garments of salvation . . . covered me with the robe of righteousness" (Isaiah 61:10) as our nakedness is covered with perfect grace.

The past year and a half has been hard for me, and I know I'm not the only one. With the extra time to think, I have realized many things I've done wrong and the many times I have not always done what is good and right and true. In this brokenness, nakedness, and shameful state, I sit in a boat being tossed by the waves. Church is the place where Christ has called out to me. Here is where I find grace. Church is the place of acceptance, forgiveness, and love. It is where God covers me with the garments of salvation and robes of righteousness.

I encourage you: Do not hide your regrets. Do not dwell in your shame. Instead, hear the call of our Savior who is searching for you. Rush into the presence of our loving Lord. Know absolute love and perfect grace. Be clothed with salvation and righteousness. May the Lord bless and keep you and give you peace.

Faithfully,
Fr. Scott Lee



Confirmation, Reception

Congratulations to our parishoners who were Confirmed and Received by Bishop Knisley on Sunday, September 26th here at St. Barnabas.

Ashley Rodrigues
Joseph Rodrigues Jr.
William Spearman
Ella Spearman

Gerri Fox
Laurie Furney
Michelle Gilbert
Mary Spearman



Congratulations to Remington Hope McMahon and Everly Olivia Buchanan who received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism here at St. Barnabas during the month of September.

Harvest Luncheon



After much deliberation, we have decided to cancel our annual Bazaar again this year. Although there is sadness, we believe this decision was prayerfully made. The Holiday Bazaar, as you probably know, is a fundraiser, but the greater importance of the Bazaar is that it gathers us to work together as a parish family, and it enables us to reach out into our community.

To minimize these losses, **we will have a parish luncheon after worship on a Sunday in mid-November. This is optional, of course, but it provides an opportunity for us to gather for fellowship as a family of faith. Also, we plan to expand our Thanksgiving related outreach as a way of engaging our community.** More details will come, but it seemed important to let you know about this decision and our alternative plans since our normal Bazaar seems unrealistic this year.

Happy Birthday



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

Alexa Page
Bill Williams
Gabiella Bracken
Heather Rodrigues
Jeremy Seddon
Kerri Hinz
Laura Drew
Sandra Fletcher
Shawn Pratt
Wendy Norris

Ashley Lee
Richard Budlong
Lisa Godfrey-Maio
Monica Nichols
Edwin Fielder
Arnold Butziger
Margaret Anderson
Corrine Berry
Brooke Mitchell
Christopher Seddon

It Takes Many People to Run a Church



As we are moving forward to our normal Church routine, there are many positions where we could use help. These include Ushers, Readers, Chalice Bearers, Acolytes, Altar Guild, Money Counters, Choir, lawn mowing, upkeep of flower beds, coffee hour. Please speak with Fr. Scott or call the parish office to find out about the opportunities where you can serve.

Coffee Hour



Coffee hour has resumed. We are enjoying this time of fellowship, please sign up so we can continue to gather together after church.

Blessing of the Animals



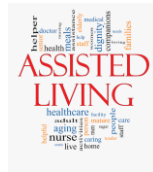
On Sunday, October 3rd at 5:00 p.m. we will celebrate the gift of animals in the manner St. Francis taught us. Please bring your pet(s) for this short service which will take place in the memorial park in front of the church. In the event of rain we will move to the parish hall.

CLOSED

Office Closed

The parish office will be closed on Monday, October 11th in observance of a National Holiday.

Assisted Living in Rhode Island



If you or a family member needs help in making decisions regarding Assisted Living, contact Robin in the office. She has information that she can give you.

ALL HALLOWS' EVE



When: Sunday, October 31st from 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Where: St. Mark's Church, 111 West Shore Rd.

Youth grades K-6 are invited to learn about the connection between Halloween & All Saints Day through story, song, crafts and other activities. Wear your Halloween costume and be ready for some treats. There will be plenty of adult supervision, so parents are welcome to drop kids off or stay. Please call St. Mark's office if you have any questions or would like sign up. 737-3127.

Donate Pull Tabs for Recycling



Shriners Hospitals
for Children™

Did you know that we have donated many pounds of pull tabs for the Shriners Hospital? Minutes of expensive treatments and other support services for the children are supplemented by selling the recycled metal. So, whenever you pop a top, say a prayer for the children and bring your tops to church and place in the collection containers! Keep those tab tops coming and transform them into a blessing instead of sending them to the landfill. Just another small way you can make a difference! **Thank You!!!**

Prayer Chain



Prayer Requests

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. Robin Beckwith, our coordinator keeps a list of voluntary prayer intercessors, and we always welcome new volunteers! Please contact Robin in the office for her contact information.



westbay community action
Helping people. Changing lives.

Thank you to those who continued donating food for the Food Bank during these difficult times. They are much appreciated and help local residents in need. Now that we are having in person services, donations can be left in the bins at the back of the church. Thank you to Richard Carr who has volunteered to bring the donations to Westbay.

Christmas Tree Lighting



On Sunday, November 28th we will be lighting our decorated tree in Dorothy Mayer Park next to St. Barnabas. We'll sing a few carols together to celebrate the first Sunday of Advent. This will be a wonderful time to celebrate, and we hope to see you there. TBD

Christmas Eve Musicians



We are in need of musicians for our 10:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service. Handbell volunteers as well as other musicians are welcome. Modest music reading skills would be helpful but not required. Email our Music Director Julius @jplundy@outlook.com if you are interested or have any questions.

Parish News



If there is anything that you would like included in either the Announcements or Encourager please call or email Robin in the parish office.



For the Harvest of Lands and Waters

O gracious Father, *who openest thine hand and fillest all things living with plenteousness: Bless the lands and waters, and multiply the harvests of the world; let thy Spirit go forth, that it may renew the face of the earth; show thy loving-kindness, that our land may give her increase; and save us from selfish use of what thou givest, that men and women everywhere may give thee thanks; through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

