

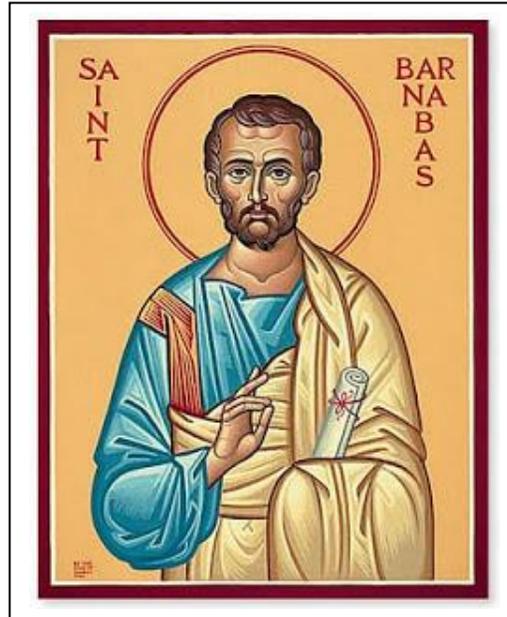
The Encourager

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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www.stbarnabaswarwick.org

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November 2021



Some FatherLee thoughts . . .

"For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face.

Now I know only in part; then I will know fully."

(I Corinthians 13:12)

The world seems to operate on one rule: Might makes right. Think about it. That person has a bigger vehicle, so we stay out of their way. Other people should be thrown in jail for something they did, but because of the size of the bank account or the prestige of their occupation, they get off while others are in prison for far less. Most people seem to operate under the principle that if I can get away with it, why not do it?

Which animal is the king of the jungle? Is it the gentle Zebra? The helpful Anteater? The harmless Muskrat? No, the mighty lion is king of the jungle. This is how the world has worked from the dawn of time, and most of the time, humans operate in the same way. This world tends to ignore the weak and defer to the powerful. And, if you don't play this game of power well, you will be devoured by the system.

That may be how much of the world operates, but the Almighty has something more beautiful in mind for us. Abraham, for example, was a semi nomadic shepherd. This was not a person of notable power or prestige, but God selected him to be the father of many nations. Consider also, the people of God. They were slaves in Egypt before the Lord rescued and redeemed them. Also, this week's Old Testament Reading is about Ruth. She is nothing more than a widow journeying with a daughter-in-law who is also a widow. Neither of them was important by worldly standards, but we faithfully tell and retell their story. King David, too, was considered the runt of the litter. Finally, let's not forget about the disciples. Jesus chose the most rag-tag bunch of nobodies. None of these people had power. None had prestige.

The point is that our value is not based on our power or money or whatever. Throughout history, God has demonstrated again and again that every person has worth simply because we are created with the capacity to love

and to be loved. And, our Savior revealed what true power looks like. Real power is not forcing people into submission in the way Rome ruled. True power is revealed in love.

You may be wondering about the Scripture from Corinthians, “For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully.” This verse is right in the middle of what is commonly called, “The Love Chapter.” Paul is giving us a window into heaven. Eternity looks like absolute love. On earth we see love dimly and know love only in part, but the imperfect way we share love is our best estimation of what perfect heaven looks like. And, because we have an idea of what heaven looks like, our mission is make things “on earth as it is in heaven”.

Did you know that most of the information about ancestries comes from Church records? Historically, nations and states have not kept birth, death, and marriage records. This is still true in many places in our modern world. Most of rural Africa, for example, the nations don’t keep records of each and every citizen. The Church, however, keeps records because every person matters in the Kingdom of God. Baptisms, funerals, and weddings mark our birth, death, and the people we share our life with. The Church cares about each and every person because God cares about each and every person.

The world has always discarded the powerless, people like widows, orphans, the sick, and the poor. The Church, however, has undermined this corruption by caring for those who are collateral damage in the pursuit of power. Loving the powerless actually undermines the oppressive forces of this world. Those mighty systems, like the lion, threaten to devour anyone who doesn’t play the game well. But, when we care for the outcast, the downtrodden, and the powerless, we weaken the threats of the powerful by minimizing their damage.

One final thought: The Almighty could have forced people to follow the Divine will. Instead, God allows us to choose for ourselves how we will live. Will we follow the world’s rule that might makes right, or will we follow the Lord’s example of love?

Faithfully,
Fr. Scott

Mid-week Eucharist & Bible Study



Beginning Wednesday, November 3rd, there will be another opportunity for worship and study. 10:00 a.m. we will gather for Rite I Eucharist in the Parish Hall immediately followed by a Bible study. At 6:30 p.m. there will be a Healing Eucharist in the church, and then the same Bible study from the morning will be offered in the Parish hall at 7:00 p.m. You can come just for worship, just to the study, or stay for both.

Reminder



We return to Eastern Standard Time at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, November 7th. Remember to set your clocks back one hour before going to bed on Saturday night. Enjoy the extra hour of sleep!

Happy Thanksgiving



The parish office will also be closed on Thursday, November 25th and Friday, November 26th in celebration of Thanksgiving.



We will have a short Thanksgiving Day service at 10:00 a.m. It will be a Eucharist with particular focus on giving thanks to God from whom all things come.

Harvest Gathering



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 Harvest Gathering. Plan on joining us on Sunday, November 14th @ 2:00 for a mid-day luncheon in Schweitzer Hall. This is optional, of course, but it provides an opportunity for us to gather for fellowship and faith. This event is completely free but a food donation for our Thanksgiving baskets would be appreciated. Reservations are required by November 7th, there is a sign-up sheet at the back of the church. Any questions contact Heather Rodrigues or Robin in the Parish office.

Fall Cleanup



Volunteers are needed for the St. Barnabas Fall Clean Up, Saturday, November 13th (Rain Date Nov. 20th) We will meet at the office door at 9 a.m. Please bring your rakes & gloves. Yard bags will be provided by the church. Please sign up on the form on the table in the back of church, or contact Jr. Warden Heather Rodrigues @ Pumpkinpatch9@cox.net

Happy Birthday



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

Carissa Martin	Aiden Hammond
David Dolbashion	John Mixner
David McIntyre	Gabriella Mendez
Deirdra Patterson	Emerson Seavey
Dorothy Albert	Bob Buker
Erin Thornton	Scott Pratt
James Drew	Marilyn Varden
James Mixner	Parker DelSesto
Jared Wheeler	Brooke Hockenhill
Lee Whitaker	Sarah Nicholson-Conde
London DeVito	Paul Tetreault
Mike Patterson	Riley Nelson
Muriel Buckley	Janelle Mixner
Stephanie Boocock	Marilyn Davis

Warming Our Community



Through the month of November, we will sponsor a coat collection for all ages and sizes. All coats, new or like new and clean, will be distributed here in Warwick, keeping so many of our neighbors warm this winter. Certainly, hats and gloves/mittens will be appreciated as well. There will be a collection box at church, and we will be happy to pick up if you wish. Just call Robin at the church office 737-4141 or Bonne Simonian 739-6214.

Donate Pull Tabs for Recycling



Did you know that we have donated many pounds of pull tabs? Minutes of expensive treatments and other support services for the children are supplemented by selling the recycled metal. 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 Requests

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. Robin Beckwith, our 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. Her email is klara777@aol.com



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.

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.

Wedding



Congratulations to Peter Schofield and Carolyn Smirti who celebrated the Sacrament of Marriage on October, 22, 2021.

Holy Baptism



Congratulations to Samuel Joseph Cabral and Aniyah Marie Aberdein who received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism here at St. Barnabas during the month of October.



God blesses us so we can help others ...

Once again St. Barnabas Church is committed to helping feed those in our community who might otherwise go hungry. We've partnered with The House of Hope to provide Thanksgiving meals to fifteen Warwick families.

I hope you'll consider making a donation. A list of suggested items is included. This year, we're collecting food items for Thanksgiving meals along with gift cards to local supermarkets. You can also make a monetary donation which will be used to buy any needed additional food items once all collections are in. Please be sure to clearly note on any gift card or check "*Thanksgiving Food Drive.*" Any donation, no matter how large or small, will make a significant difference to this drive. We will be collecting donations during November through the Sunday before Thanksgiving.

Donations can be brought to church on Sunday mornings; you can also drop your donation off during office hours (M-F | 9 a.m. – noon); or you can send your check and/or gift card(s) by mail.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Thanksgiving Blessings to you and your family,

Heidi Seddon
HJSeddon@GMail.com
401-241-1983

TURKEYS

10-12 lb. bird – All turkeys have already been sponsored!!

NON-PERISHABLES

- Candied yams
- Chicken stock
- Biscuit mix or corn bread mix
- Canned corn
- Canned green beans
- Canned fruit
- Cranberry sauce
- Gravy (jar or mix)
- Stuffing mix
- Pudding and/or Jello mix
- Cookie mix
- Cake and/or brownie mix

EXTRAS

Plastic Wrap
Aluminum Foil
Holiday Paper Plates, Napkins, etc.

GIFT CARDS

Max \$20 denomination/card
Stop & Shop
Shaw's
Dave's
Price Rite

FRESH PRODUCE (last Sunday only)

- Potatoes
- Onions
- Carrots
- Celery
- Fruit

A General Thanksgiving (BCP Page 836)



Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love.

We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side.

We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us.

We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone.

Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his Word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame death; and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom.

Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know him and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things. *Amen.*



Let's Gather Together For the Tree Lighting

First Sunday of Advent
November 28th @ 4:00PM
Dorothy Meyer Park
Carol Sing, Warm Cider & Treats
Hope to See You There!

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.