

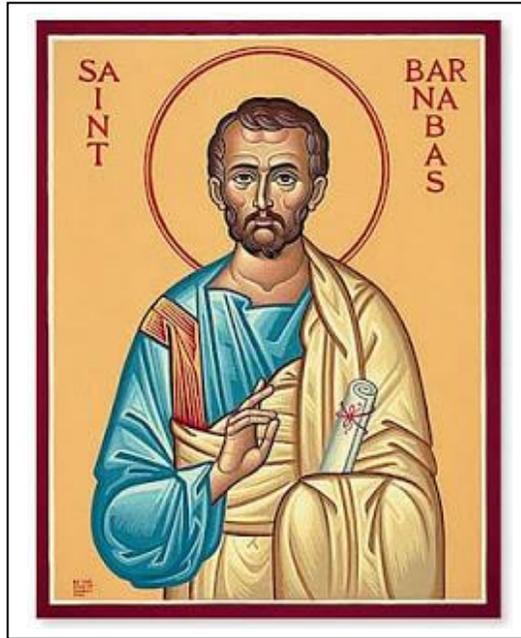
The Encourager

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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March 2022



Some FatherLee thoughts . . .

“Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.”

Those are familiar words for many of us. You can find them in many, many worship services. They always make me think of the traditional language of our Rite I worship, like a typical 8:00 am service on Sunday mornings at St. Barnabas. Many parishes, in fact, use Rite I in the place of otherwise Rite II services during Lent. The idea is that the more formal language is more “penitential”. It elicits a sense of self-punishment in the presence of the God we may have offended. Unfortunately, that is likely the wrong impression of those beautiful words.

With instructions to “Keep this in mind when you respond ‘Lord have mercy’ during the liturgical services,” +Fr. Anthony Coniaris’ words were shared, “The meaning of Kyrie Eleison: The word mercy in English is the translation of the Greek word ‘eleos’. This word has the same ultimate root as the old Greek word for oil, or more precisely, olive oil; which was poured onto wounds and gently managed in, thus soothing, comforting, and making the injured part whole again. The Hebrew word which is also translated as oleos and mercy is ‘hesed’, which means steadfast love.” Therefore, “The Greek words for ‘Lord have mercy’ are ‘Kyrie, eleison’ meaning, ‘Lord soothe me, comfort me, take away my pain, show me your steadfast love.’ Thus mercy does not refer so much to justice or acquittal, but to the infinite loving-kindness of God, and His compassion for His suffering children.”

What comes to your mind when you hear the words, “Lord have mercy”? In your mind, what is the point of Ash Wednesday and Lent? Penance and punishment? Do you think God wants you to suffer? Or can you embrace what Fr. Anthony is teaching? Personally, I am convinced, more and more, that we have suffered enough. And, I believe our Savior desires to soothe, comfort, heal, and restore us. Christ seeks to take away our pain, not cause it, pouring the healing oil of forgiveness on us to show us the steadfast love and ‘mercy’ of God.

Upon a close examination of the service for Ash Wednesday, for example, what you will find is an acknowledgement of our sinfulness and the pain caused by sin, but the real message is that all of our sins are forgiven by the God of all 'mercy', meaning we are met with compassion, healing, and the loving-kindness of the Lord. Similarly, while we are called to self-examination during Lent, that is so that we cease the things that bring us pain and suffering, and strive towards those things we know to be good and right and holy, because that is where true joy is to be found.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent. Our journey through this holy season starts next week with the imposition of ashes. This year, I am adding a little bit of Holy Oil to the ashes to be a bit of that olive oil that is a balm of healing. It is time for us to rise from the ashes and accept the abundant life our Savior wants for us in this world, confident we will rise again to eternal life in the world to come.

Then, on the First Sunday of Lent, we will proclaim the beautiful, ancient words of The Great Litany, words that declare that it is pleasing to God to provide for us and help us. Finally, the Prayers of the People will be Form I for the remainder of Lent, even at the 8:00 service (only for Lent), where we will respond again and again, "Lord have mercy". By asking for God's mercy, may you be soothed, comforted, and healed by the infinite loving-kindness of our Lord.

Faithfully,
Fr. Scott Lee

"Grace to you and Peace from God"



Annual Meeting Vestry Elections

Listed below are our newly elected leadership positions at St. Barnabas.

Senior Warden (two year term):

Heather Rodrigues

Junior Warden (two year term):

David Dolbashian

Treasurer (one year term):

Stanley Schofield

Parish Clerk (one year term):

Stephanie Van Patten

Vestry at Large (two year terms):

Pruet Beauregard (second term)

James Mixner (second term)

James Turner

Geraldine Fox

Gail Frueh

We left two positions open. Those will be filled next year.

Vestry continuing current term: Marilyn Davis.

Diocesan Convention (one year terms):

Delegates

David McIntyre

Stanley Schofield

Alternates

Joseph Rodrigues

Heidi Seddon

Lent Begins



Lent begins with Ash Wednesday falling on March 2nd. There will be two services that day. The Holy Eucharist will be celebrated at 12 noon and 7:00 p.m. The imposition of ashes will be offered at both services.

Stations of the Cross



Stations of the Cross will be held on Fridays during Lent at 12:00 noon and 7:00 p.m. The service itself is about 20-25 minutes. There will also be an optional Lenten Study following each service. The Stations of the Cross have been a part of Lenten devotion for centuries, and I invite you to make it a part of your preparation for Easter this year.

Healing Prayers March 6th



You have the opportunity to participate in prayers for healing, the laying on of hands, and anointing with Holy Oil. At the end of the service, simply move to the front of the church. After Fr. Scott greets those leaving church he will join you as we pray for ourselves and those in need. If you ever need prayers for healing please speak to Fr. Scott, you do not need to wait until the first Sunday of the month.

ECC Camp Church on the Move



Join us as we offer Camp Worship Sunday, March 6th, at 5pm at St. Barnabas. For more information, visit the link <http://www.eccri.org/camp-church-on-the-move>

Lenten Study



On Wednesday evenings beginning March 9th at 7 pm Fr. Scott and Ivy Swinski will lead a one hour conversation about Faith using the TV show *Ted Lasso* as our starting point. You may join us in person in the Parish Hall or a Zoom link can be provided.

Happy Birthday



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

Amanda Hinger	Catherine Carignan
Amy Dodge	Susan Warren
Christine Lindopp	Michelle Wiech
Deborah Campos	Rebeckah Hammond
Ella Spearman	Susanne Berry
Erica Simonian	Teagan Marble
Ernest Coolen	Charlene Wheeler
Gail Frueh	Ron Curt
Hannah Nelson	Kathy Fraits
John Nichols	Brian Loftus
Mary Spearman	Adelynn Dunn
Maureen Volk	Ashton Rogers
Steven Marcks	Emily Riley
Stevie Marcks	Kevin Martin
William Wiech	Rod Robinson

Daylight Savings



Daylight Saving Time begins at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 12th. Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour before you go to bed on Saturday evening or you may be arriving to church just as the service ends.



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 Beckwith our prayer chain coordinator if you have a prayer request or would like to volunteer.

Mid-week Eucharist & Bible Study



On Wednesdays, there is another opportunity for worship and study. At 10:00 a.m. there will be a Rite I Eucharist in the Guild Room immediately followed by a Bible study. All are welcome! We will not meet on March, 2nd

Coffee Hour



Coffee hour will be resuming on Sunday, March 6th! Thank you to those who have already volunteered to make it happen. There will be a sign-up sheet at coffee hour if you would like to help, from making coffee, bringing a treat (homemade or store bought) and cleaning up. Looking forward to continuing with this much needed fellowship.

Morning Prayer



On Tuesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. Fr. Scott holds an abbreviated Morning Prayer Service. This gives us another chance to pray for this world, this nation, our church, our friends, family and even our enemies.

Social Media



If you haven't already, please like our Facebook page (St Barnabas Episcopal Church, Warwick, RI) and our Instagram page (stbarnabaswarwick). With everything going on you won't miss out on any parish news.

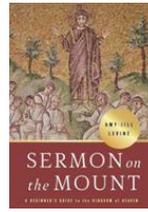
It Takes Many People to Run a Church



There are many positions where we could use help at St. Barnabas. 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.



Thank you to those who continue to donate to the Food Bank during these difficult times. They are much appreciated and help local residents in need. You can bring them to church on Sunday mornings; there is a donation bin at the back of the church or to the parish office during office hours. Thank you to Richard Carr who has volunteered to bring the donations to Westbay.



Another Lenten Program

Wednesday's in Lent, 7- 8:30 pm.

The Sermon on the Mount Program by Amy-Jill Levine

Dr. Amy-Jill Levine leads us through an exploration of the large block of Jesus' teachings found in the gospel of Matthew. During this 6-week study we will spend time watching her DVD presentation and then take time to reflect individually and in groups. *Obtain Sermon on the Mount: A Beginners Guide to the Kingdom of Heaven by Amy-Jill Levine and read the first chapter before we gather.*

Mar. 9 – The Beatitudes: How does the Sermon on the Mount function as an introductory guide to the kingdom of heaven.

Mar. 16 – The Extensions: Examine each of Jesus' extensions in their original context and their relevance for today.

Mar. 23 – Practicing Piety: Reflect on Jesus' teachings about piety, and the ways its practice helps us grow in our relationship with God and each other.

Apr. 2 – Our Father: What does this foundational prayer mean in light of Jesus' Jewish tradition and as a core practice in our own spiritual discipline?

Apr. 9 – Finding Your Treasure: How do we associate and connect with the ideas of treasure, wealth, and stuff? How does this relate to the true treasure of God's kingdom?

Apr. 16 – Living into the Kingdom: Entrance into the kingdom is described by "the narrow gate." What does that mean to us today? How has this study influenced the ways we understand ourselves, the faith community, and God?

ALL ARE WELCOME!

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