

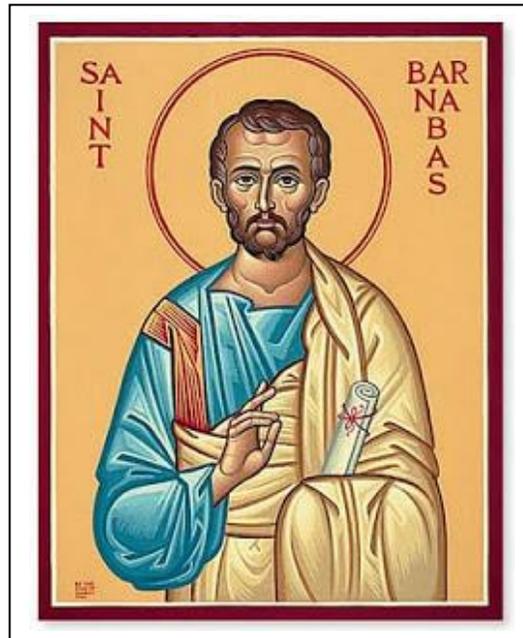
# The Encourager

*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

November 2022



## **Some FatherLee thoughts:**

*“(Jesus) took the seven loaves and the fish,  
and after giving thanks he broke them and gave them”*

(Matthew 15:36)

One of the most profound statements I have ever heard is, “What you focus on most grows.” This was an offhanded comment by our previous Canon to the Ordinary while a small group was discussing Church finances. “Churches that focus on not having enough money,” she continues, “will see their lack of money grow. On the other hand, churches that focus on gratitude for what they do have always seem to have enough.” St. Barnabas, for example, is financially stable in large part because we maintain the perspective of gratitude for what we do have, and we are very cautious in how we use the resources that have been so generously provided.

More important than Church finances, the wisdom from the statement, “What you focus on grows,” is very relevant to our personal lives. The relevant question is: What are you focused on?

Some concentrate on inflation. Increases in grocery and gas prices hold people in fear. Others continue to center their lives around CoViD. Fear of getting sick holds them hostage. Many are consumed with the upcoming election. Glued to the news of a favorite station, beliefs are confirmed that our country will be in terrible shape if the people I approve don’t get elected. The problem is: by focusing fear and division adds to the division and can move us to lose hope.

What are you focused on? There is an alternative offered to those who seek a life of faith. Scripture nudges us to move our gaze from our problems to the God who provides for us. We are to “Give thanks to the Lord.” Notice I didn’t add one specific Scripture verse. That’s because there are literally hundreds. Over and over we are instructed to be thankful. We are to recount “the innumerable benefits procured unto us” (BCP 335) by our God and Savior.

As we move into November, Thanksgiving comes to mind. Our nation has always understood the importance of giving thanks. President George Washington called for “a day of public thanksgiving and prayer.

Following that example, President Abraham Lincoln encouraged Americans to recognize the last Thursday of November as “a day of Thanksgiving.”

This was never to minimize the important tasks that still must be done. We must understand that our hands should always endeavor to make this world better, but in this country we have a very privileged starting point. Our Declaration of Independence notes that we are endowed “with certain unalienable Rights that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.” Unlike the Europe that our founders resisted, our Constitution ensures many important freedoms: Religion, Speech, Assembly, etc. People in Ukraine, Russia, China, and . . . the list could continue on and on, countless people around the world do not have the basic freedom and opportunities we often take for granted. For that, we are to give thanks.

Can we concentrate on our abundance? Or, do we focus on what we feel we lack? Since “what you focus on grows”, which will bring us greater happiness?

Jesus took seven loaves of bread and a few fish and gave thanks to God. This, obviously, was not enough to feed the thousands and thousands of people who were gathered to hear our Savior teach. The disciples even add, “Where could we get enough bread in this remote place to feed such a crowd?” (Matthew 15: 33) They acknowledged the incredible scarcity. They focused on what was lacking. Am I all that different?

This Thanksgiving, my goal is to be genuinely grateful for God’s abundance. I have a roof over my head, food on my table, and wonderful people around me to share the gift of my years on earth. I have the freedom to worship as I like, gather with other people of faith, and share my beliefs. More importantly, the Almighty has given us the promise to provide for our needs on earth, and Christ has opened to us the way of everlasting life. For all of this, I choose to “Give thanks to the Lord”, and I invite you to share in this thanksgiving.

Faithfully,  
Fr. Lee

P.S. In the abundance God has given, there are funds available if you need assistance. As a community of faith, we share the benefits of all that has been given. Contact me if you need oil for heat, help with rent, or food for your table.

## Healing Prayers November 6<sup>th</sup>



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.

## Daylight Savings, November 6<sup>th</sup>



Don’t forget to set your clocks back one hour before going to bed on Saturday, November 5th.

## Thanksgiving Day Service



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. The office will be closed on Thursday, November 24<sup>th</sup> & Friday, November 25<sup>th</sup>.

## Flowers & Sanctuary Candle



If you would like to have flowers on the Altar or the Sanctuary Candle lit in memory of someone special or in celebration of a special event, there is a calendar with envelopes located in the back of the church. Please complete and drop in the collection plate or you may hand to an usher.



## Happy Birthday



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

Carissa Martin  
David Dolbashian  
David McIntyre  
Deirdra Patterson  
Dorothy Albert  
Erin Thornton  
James Drew  
Jared Wheeler  
John Mixner  
Aiden Hammond

James Mixner  
Scott Pratt  
Parker DelSesto  
Janelle Mixner  
Marilyn Davis  
Marilyn Varden  
Logan Buonanno  
Gabriella Mendez  
Bob Buker

Lee Whitaker  
London DeVito  
Mike Patterson  
Muriel Buckley  
Sarah Nicholson-Conde  
Stephanie Boocock  
Brooke Hockenhull  
Riley Nelson  
Emerson Seavey

## Have You Ever Wanted to Visit Israel



Sam, from Bethlehem Art Works, is able to arrange a 10 day trip for 10 or more next summer or fall, for St. Mark's & St. Barnabas. There is a sign-up sheet on the table if you are interested. There is NO commitment yet – we just need to know who may be interested. Cost would be approx. \$4,000-\$5,000.

## Coffee Hour



Thank you to those who have volunteered to help with coffee hour. There is a sign-up sheet in the kitchen if you would like to help in any way with this ministry.

## 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. Contact the office for her contact information.

## Donate Pull Tabs for Recycling



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!!!**



## Food Donations

Thank you for donating to the Food Bank during these difficult times. They are much appreciated and help local residents in need. You may bring them 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 Community Action.

## Morning Prayer



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

## Mid-week Eucharist & Bible Study



Each Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. there will be a Rite I Eucharist in the Guild Room immediately followed by a Bible study. At 6:30 p.m. we will watch the series "The Chosen", which is a unique presentation of the life and ministry of Jesus. Each episode is 30 minutes, with a discussion immediately after.

## Prayer Shawls



Fr. Scott has prayer shawls that are made and donated by our wonderful parishioners in our prayer shawl ministry. If you or a loved one are in need of extra prayers and would like a shawl please speak with Fr. Scott or call Robin in the parish office. All our welcome to join this ministry.

## 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.

## Veterans Day



Thank you to our Veterans and their families in the congregation for your service and sacrifices. We also remember our fallen veterans that made the ultimate sacrifice protecting our freedom. Your service, sacrifice, and dedication to the United States of America do not go un-noticed. Thank you and God Bless You!



## Heather's Highlights

Welcome to November, a month to Give Thanks for all of our blessings in life.

I would first like to welcome our newest members of St Barnabas. It's wonderful to see new faces sharing their Sunday mornings with us. It's also wonderful to see parishioners returning as well. We have missed you and look forward to seeing you each week. For parishioners that still don't feel comfortable attending in person worship, please be aware that you can always view the live stream on St Barnabas Church's Facebook page.

Several THANK YOU's are being sent out to our parishioners this month. First I would like to thank those who attended the Safe Church conference last month. There were 77 people that attended from several parishes, 5 from St Barnabas. Nine fur families attended the Blessing of the Animals. We thank you for attending. The No More Hunger walk had 13 different organizations attend, and 10 people walked from St Barnabas Church. Thank you to Gerri Fox for chairing this ministry; we raised a generous amount of funds to help battle hunger. Thank you to the volunteers that helped stuff envelopes for mailing bazaar letters in anticipation of this year's Bazaar. We are grateful to Emily McMahon for chairing this event.

The center railing of the upstairs banister outside the front office has been repaired. It is now much sturdier; safety is a top priority for our parishioners.

It's been wonderful to see the choir back and hearing their voices. Those who would like to join the choir please with David. Rehearsals are Sundays following the 8:00 a.m. service until 9:45 a.m. No musical background is required.

Donations for the Sanctuary Lamp restoration are still being accepted. Envelopes are located on the back table if you wish to donate in Thanksgiving or in celebration of loved ones or a significant life event.

Coffee hour is in need of volunteers. if you wish to donate your time for this ministry; whether it's baking setting up, or cleaning up. A sign-up sheet is on the table downstairs during coffee hour. It takes many hands to make light work and to allow this ministry to continue.

### **Important November Information**

All Saints Day Service - November 6<sup>th</sup>, at both services, we will remember and honor all our loved ones whom have passed.

Thanksgiving Collection - We are once again collecting for Thanksgiving Dinner baskets to be donated to the House of Hope. Heidi Seddon is chairing this ministry, and more information is available in this month's Encourager. I encourage all parishioners to donate items in assistance for our neighbors in need.

Annual Holiday Bazaar - After a two year absence, the annual bazaar returns on Saturday Nov.19, 2022 9am-3pm. This is our MAIN FUNDRAISER for St. Barnabas. Donations for the Penny Social Table (new items only) and the White Elephant Room (gently used items). Any donations are kindly asked to be labeled, and may be place in the choir room. The bake table is also looking for bakers. Please see Emily McMahon if you wish to assist at the bazaar or have any questions.

Lastly, I encourage anyone that has not registered with Robin in the office to do so. This ensures parishioners will receive the monthly Encourager, periodic mailings, and birthday prayers in the Prayers of the People. We don't want anyone to miss important information or exciting happenings here at St. Barnabas. As always, feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Heather Rodrigues, St. Warden

**CHRISTMAS BAZAAR**  
**Saturday, November 19, 2022**  
**9 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

Have you ever wanted to contribute to our annual bazaar without the responsibility of operating your own table? Our Christmas

Bazaar depends on the support of ALL of our parishioners in MANY ways! Here's how YOU can help!!

**Set Up/Clean Up:** We are always in need of helping hands during these busy times! Set-up will be Thursday & Friday night, and clean-up begins at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday. The more volunteers we have, the quicker the job gets done!

**Penny Social:** Keep this table in mind while you're out shopping for things like decorative items for the home, countertop appliances, electronics, dolls, children's toys, sports equipment, candles, etc. Also, if you are crafty and would like to create a small theme basket, feel free! New, unused items are a welcomed donation for this table!

**Baked Goods:** Now is the time to start thinking about your favorite sweet treats! We offer cakes, pies, cookies, fudge and even dog treats! All baked goods may be dropped off either on Friday night during set-up or first thing Saturday morning.

**Crafts:** Are you creative? Do you enjoy making crafts? The Craft Table accepts all hand-made craft items.

**Christian Items:** We also offer Christian Items such as books, cards, crosses, medals, pendants and more. If you are crafty and able to small gifts packaged with love, ready to go, we welcome your donation!

**White Elephant:** A new season is here which means it's time to clean out those old but still good items! As they say, "one man's junk, is another man's treasure." All items should be dropped off prior to the date of the bazaar. *No clothing, please.*

*Please label all items for which table you are donating.*

In addition to the above, there is a cost associated with the bazaar start-up. Many have made monetary donations in the past to offset this expense. All donations are appreciated. Please contact Emily McMahon after Sunday services with any questions, comments, or suggestions! You may also call the parish office for her contact information. Thank you!!

**Sponsor a Spot**  
**in the**  
**Booster / Ad Booklet**

This is your opportunity to show your support by sponsoring a booster line, or by sponsoring a ¼ page, ½ page or full page ad in the Bazaar Booklet. This is a great way to give a shout-out for best wishes for a successful bazaar, to remember a loved one, sponsor a spiritual message or even to promote your own business. Prices are as follows:

**SINGLE LINE BOOSTER = \$5/ person; \$10/ family**

**¼ PAGE = \$25**

**½ PAGE = \$50**

**FULL PAGE = \$100**

Please indicated below the exact wording you'd like printed in the booklet or provide us with a copy of your ad or business card.

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**Your name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone** \_\_\_\_\_ **Pledge No.** \_\_\_\_\_

**Amount Enclosed \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**In payment of:**      Booster \_\_\_\_\_      ¼ page \_\_\_\_\_  
                                 ½ page \_\_\_\_\_      full page \_\_\_\_\_

Please talk to Jim Turner with any questions.

*Note:* Booklet Sponsorships will be accepted through November 13.

## Thanksgiving Food Drive



During this holiday season, 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 with a goal toward providing Thanksgiving meals to sixteen Warwick families.

There are many ways that you can give. Your donation, no matter how large or small, will make a difference in the lives of these families. This year, we're collecting food items for Thanksgiving meals along with gift cards to local supermarkets. A list of suggested food items is included, or you can also make a monetary donation that we'll use to buy any needed additional food items once all collections are in. Please be sure to clearly note on your gift cards or check "*Thanksgiving Food Drive.*" We will be collecting donations during the month of November through the 20th (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

### 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

## **FRESH PRODUCE** (last Sunday only, November 20)

- Potatoes
- Onions
- Carrots
- Celery
- Squash
- Turnip
- Fruit

## **EXTRAS**

- Plastic wrap
- Aluminum Foil
- Holiday Paper Plates, Napkins, etc.

## **GIFT CARDS**

- \$20 value
  - ✓ Stop & Shop
  - ✓ Shaw's
  - ✓ Dave's
  - ✓ Price Rite

## **Celebrating Advent**

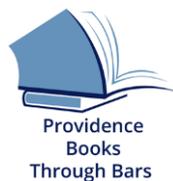


On Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup> @ 5:00 p.m. we will be having our annual Advent Tree Lighting Service in Dorothy Mayer Park. We are inviting our neighboring parish Warwick Central Baptist to join us during the outdoor service. After the lighting, Warwick Central Baptist is inviting us back to their parish for refreshments, pizza and Advent wreath making. An attendance sheet will be on the back table, let us know how many. This will ensure enough wreaths and food will be available as we join Warwick Central Baptist.

## **ADVENT LESSONS & CAROLS**

Also, St. Mark's will be having Advent Lessons & Carols at 5:00 p.m. Please call St. Marks for more information @ 737-3127

## **Books through Bars**



They will be downstairs after the 10 am service on Sunday mornings to work on requests and to pack up books. If you would like to volunteer just head downstairs after the service and someone will put you to work or if you'd like to volunteer another time just let them know.

Donations are accepted and very much appreciated. There is a box in the back of the church and there is also a table downstairs marked book donations in the large room as well as donation receipts which you can pick up if you need one.

