

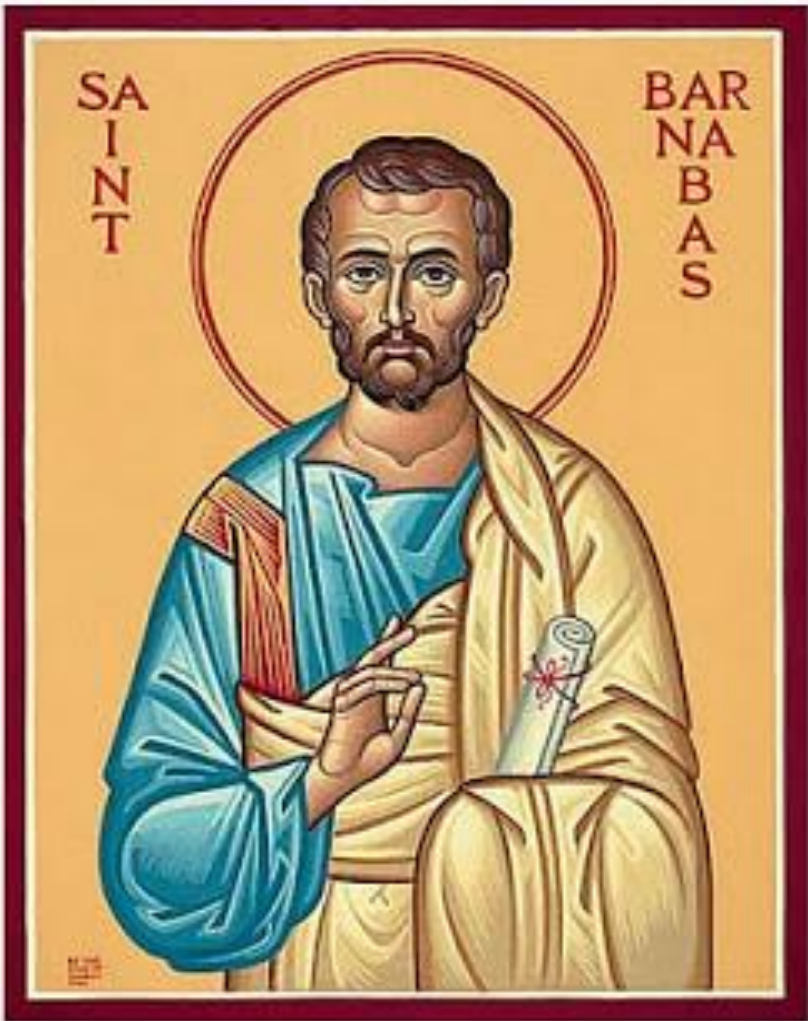
The Encourager

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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June 2026



Some FatherLee thoughts:

“Thy will be done.”

The Lord’s Prayer is quite probably the most revolutionary words in all of history. Have you taken time to really consider the impact to our lives, and to our world, if we really lived according to the prayer we say together every time we meet?

Both Matthew (6:9-15) and Luke (11:2-4) include Jesus teaching this prayer to the disciples. I find it interesting that Mark, probably the original Gospel, and John, written much later, do not include it. My guess is that because Mark’s audience was a small gathering of people who were taught the faith by original disciples, those who had personally walked and talked with Jesus, they would have shared the prayer. And, by the time John completes his narrative of Christ’s ministry, the Lord’s Prayer was part of the weekly service they shared, like it is for us, so it was a given. Matthew and Luke, by contrast, knew that their Gospels would be read by many who were not part of a particular faith community, which is why it was so important for them to include it.

When our Savior teaches us to pray, we are to ask what the Lord wants, not what we want. That is part of what makes it so revolutionary. We are instructed not to make a list of demands, wishes that we expect the Almighty to grant for us. Sure, we ask the Lord to give us what we need for today, “our daily bread”. Ultimately, however, we are to seek God’s will. But, how do we know what the Lord desires?

There are a lot of people who want to tell us about God’s will, but as I really listen, most of them aren’t telling you what the Lord wants. Many of them, ultimately, are telling me what they expect from me. How do I, myself, know the will of God?

Personally, I have come to understand two activities to help us gain perspective on “Thy will be done.” What are those two activities? Reading Scripture and prayer. The two are actually connected because our prayers should be rooted in Scripture. The Almighty gave us Scripture; it is how the Lord speaks to us. It is also the best language we can use to speak back to the Lord.

A lot of people who set out to read the Bible, start at Genesis, moving forward like a book. In my experience, that doesn't work very well. The best advice I ever received was, "Focus on the red words." Many Bibles have the words of our Savior in red, and since Jesus is the fullness of all the law and the prophets, by concentrating on those words, you get a picture of the will of God. Start with Mark, John, Luke, and Matthew. Commit to just one chapter a day. If you miss one, read two the next, and increase your diet of Scripture over time. There are some commentaries in The Archdeacon's library at Church which can help you make sense of what you're reading.

Once you begin to understand the will of God, you then can use those same words to pray back to God. For example, "In the same way you authored peace for the disciples in the boat during the storm, (Mark 4:35-4) please speak peace to my troubled heart." Or, "Just as you brought healing to the blind man, (John 9) help me more clearly see your will." Also, our Book of Common Prayer is almost 90% direct quotes from Scripture. Feel free to use that, also, as a resource for your prayers.

In times such as these, if a person is not rooted in Scripture and Prayer, they will likely be tossed about by every idea that seems plausible. Our Savior warns us, "See that you are not led astray. For many will come in my name." (Luke 21:8) If we lack confidence in our understanding of the will of God, we may be led away by someone who pretends to speak in Christ's Name.

Finally, let me remind you that our Savior teaches us to pray, "Thy will be DONE!" It is not enough to simply contemplate the will of God. We must put our hands and feet, hearts and minds, and every resource the Lord has given to us, working to accomplish the good purposes of the Lord's perfect will. May God grant you wisdom to understand Thy will, and the grace and strength that it may be done.

Faithfully
Fr. Scott Lee

Deacon's Greetings

For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith;⁷ ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness." (Romans 12:4-8)

"One bread, one body, one Lord of all, one cup of blessing which we bless. And we, though many, throughout the earth, we are one body in this one Lord."

(Lyrics from One Bread, One Body by John B. Foley, S.J.)

Deacon's Greetings,

I write to you on the weekend of Pentecost with St. Paul's words in mind as we'd heard a passage from Paul's first letter to the Early Church in Corinth, with a similar message celebrating the diversity of gifts in the church. Paul uses the metaphor of a human body as a visual to build up the body of Christ and encourage the groups of believers to explore and use their various gifts in the church and in the world, and to remind them (and us) that while the Followers of the Way of Jesus have distinct roles and abilities, they are all interconnected and equally valued in the church (or that they should be, therefore he writes with goal of uniting the Church in love and service.) Through his letters, Paul stresses that we're not to be competitive about the gifts of the Holy Spirit and that a variety of gifts are needed for the body of Christ to grow and thrive as God intended.

And now, a story. There's a specific parking space outside the Dunkin Donuts in the Garden City area that I give a nod to as I drive by. Why? Because early in my discernment process for holy orders I was on Sockanosset crossroad driving home from somewhere and praying and might have yelled out "You can't possibly be serious!" Thankfully I got off the road and pulled into the Dunkin parking lot, and I may or may not have hit the steering wheel a bit for emphasis and then stopped and said, quietly, "Oh...you might be serious." and then "You're crazy" followed by the thought "Nice job calling Almighty God "crazy." (Turns out God can take all that and more.)

Why do I share this story: because "God doesn't call the equipped, God equips the called." (author unknown but it's a theme that goes back to the writing of St Paul.) Where do you hear God calling you? Or, to frame it differently, what are your deep joys...the things you do that give you energy even when they can be tiring?

Theologian and author Frederick Buechner wrote that "vocation is the place where your deep gladness meets the world's deep hunger." What is your deep gladness? Where do you see the world's deep hunger? The Holy Spirit is ready to meet us at that intersection of need and joy, to empower us to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world, at work, in school, in our families.

I think of this in our shared work of getting the H.O.P.E. ministries off the ground and running. We've been meeting and planning for continued and new ways to engage in Outreach and we'll soon have a date set for a first Pastoral Care meeting. We give thanks to our fabulous Sunday School teachers and families for a wonderful year, and we continue to provide hospitality while considering ways to provide further "inreach" and welcome to those seeking the divine and seeking community. Together we can do this work and more, with God's help.

God is still speaking and the Holy Spirit is still moving...and God doesn't call the equipped, God equips the called. Thanks be to God!! (Sound of deacon dramatically wiping the sweat off brow in great relief upon hearing that!) As we continue growing our ministries I offer you this prayer: Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in us the fire of your love. Send forth your spirit and we shall be created and you shall renew the face of the Earth. Amen. (Based on Psalm 104, a prayer that evolved from the Early Church's Pentecost liturgy.)

Rejoicing in the power of the Spirit,
Deacon Andrea

Michelle's Memos



Hello everyone,

Our May day luncheon was a smash hit. Thanks to all who attended, shared food and helped. It was great seeing and meeting you.

Anyone interested in joining the bazaar committee, there will be an informative meeting Sunday June 7th at 9am with Heidi in the Guild room.

Sunday, June 14th is St. Barnabas day following the 10 service. Please join us. And if you wish to share something it will add to a wonderful celebration. There is an attendance sheet on table in church, it's just to give us an idea as to the number of burgers and hot dogs to cook. Also, it's a great opportunity to wear your St. Barnabas t-shirts. I do hope you all can attend and I can meet with you.

Warmest regards,
Michelle Gilbert, Sr. Warden

Healing Prayers June 7th



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.

Happy Birthday



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

Barbara-Jean Lynch

Ellen Wright

Charlotte DelSesto

Jane Horridge

Joseph Rodrigues, Jr.

Joyce Costa

Keith Beauregard

Remington McMahon

Tiffany Davis

Melissa Asselin

Brian Maloney

William Herren

Susan Campos

Stephen Picard

Kara Lee

Rosalind Butziger

Janette Bourne

Fred Finley

Bazaar Informational Meeting



Anyone who is interested in joining the bazaar committee, there will be an informative meeting on Sunday, June 7th at 9:00a.m.

St. Barnabas Day Luncheon, June 14th



Sunday June 14th following the 10 a.m. service, please join us for a luncheon celebrating St. Barnabas Day. Vestry will be providing drinks, burgers, and hot dogs with all the fixings. If you would like to share a side dish or dessert, we would be thankful.

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. You may also call or email Robin in the Parish Office, 737-4141 or at parishadmin@stbarnabaswarwick.org

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 Fr. Scott's office, immediately followed by a Bible study. All are welcome! Throughout the summer there may be days that it will not be held. Please call the office to make sure Fr. Scott will be here.

Father's Day, June 21st



Happy Father's Day to all the father's and father figures in our congregation!

St. Barnabas Church has moved to YouTube!



Follow us 😊



Our weekly service is now streamed on YouTube. If you have not done so, please visit the link below to watch our first video featuring Fr. Scott and be sure to subscribe -

<https://youtube/tUOnRWfSo8s> The plan is that you will be able to watch us live on YouTube or our website. After worship, the video will be shared back to Facebook, so it will be available after the fact on all three platforms. Thank you for your patience during this transition and for regularly joining us both in person and online.

Most important, please make sure that we have your correct email and mailing address on file. This way you won't miss any important information that is sent out. Please contact Robin in the office if anything needs to be updated.



Class of 2026

Congratulations to all the graduates in our congregation!!! From Preschool, Elementary School, through High School and College, we congratulate you and all of your accomplishments! Best of luck in the next chapter of your journey.

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.

Part time Job Opportunity – St. Mark’s, Warwick, RI



We are seeking a dynamic and highly organized Parish Administrator to serve as the vital backbone of St. Mark's Episcopal Church's spiritual and operational activities. This role offers an exciting opportunity to manage administrative functions, coordinate events, oversee office operations, and support the overall mission of our parish. The ideal candidate will bring energy, professionalism, and a proactive approach to ensure smooth day-to-day functioning while fostering a welcoming environment for staff, volunteers, and parishioners alike. Your leadership will help strengthen our community bonds and enhance our outreach efforts.

Experience with Canva, Constant Contact, and Google Drive would be helpful.

Please contact Rev. Julia Matallana Freedman with a resume if interested.

revjulia@stmarkswarwick.org

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
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EFM



Our St. Barnabas *Education For Ministry* group will resume in the fall. EFM is a four-year small group formation program based on study and theological reflection. Sewanee, The University of the South, says "The Efm program is designed to help Christians prepare for their ministry. It is that vocation for which we pray at the end of the communion service: "And now, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord."

St. Barnabas's EFM group will meet weekly from September - May. This class is offered through Sewanee. The cost is \$350 per year plus books.

If this sounds like something you are interested in, please reach out to Father Scott or Ashley Lee. Registration will begin this summer. If cost is a deterrent, please let Fr. Scott know. Scholarships are available.

H.O.P.E.

Hospitality, Outreach, Pastoral Care, and Education



We're growing and so are our opportunities for connecting with our parish family and the wider community! Prayfully consider where you might like to get involved to help with supporting and expanding *H.O.P.E.* as we discern the intersections of our deep joy and the world's deep need. For questions, please contact Fr. Scott or Deacon Andrea.

Archdeacon's Library



All are invited to browse and borrow books from the Archdeacon's Library and pick up a few bookmarks too. If you have questions about the library, please reach out to Deacon Andrea.

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!

What is your calling?



Sunday school teachers – Would you be willing to volunteer your time to be a teacher or aide?

Usher, Reader, Acoloyte, Counter – Have you wanted to volunteer in church but not sure of what or how? There are many opportunities.

Choir - Please speak with Twaun Doyle if you are interested.

If interested or have any questions, please speak with Fr. Scott or any Vestry member.