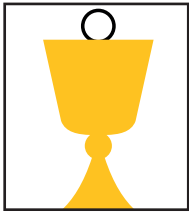


WEEKLY SCHEDULE FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER



SUNDAYS

10:00 AM HOLY EUCHARIST
10:00 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL

MESSAGE FROM FR. MATHEW

Dear People of God,

I greet you in the blessed name of Jesus Christ! Hope you all had a wonderful thanksgiving. My highlight for the month of November was the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service. While making an honest attempt to study comparative religion, I found out that “gratitude” or “thankfulness” is a common factor that unites us as the children of God. I am thankful for all the seasons and the precious moments that each season brings.

Once again, the Season of Advent has approached us. Advent is a season of joyful expectation and preparation for the nativity at Christmas. We are indeed preparing ourselves to embrace the extraordinary. The good news of the gospel proclaims to us that the extraordinary God approached us in the ordinariness of our human condition. The birth of Jesus proclaimed to the world about the saving grace of God. It announces to us that God is always present in our midst. So as we prepare ourselves for Christmas, let us pray for the awareness of Christ’s presence as we journey together in faith. Let God’s love be that guiding principle in life.

In Christ’s Love,
Varghese+

The Rev. Dr. Varghese Mathew

DECEMBER 5 OUTREACH SUNDAY FAMILY TO FAMILY: BE A HOLIDAY ANGEL

For our December Outreach we will be contributing to the Hastings Toy Drive and supplemental food money for local families for their Christmas/Holiday meals. If you would like to make the holiday a little brighter for local families in need of help, please give to this Outreach on December 5.

DECEMBER 5 PLEDGE SUNDAY

We are blessed to have St. Barnabas in our lives and we are blessed to be here to help serve the needs of our community in whatever ways we can. We live in troubled times, and there’s not a person alive who doesn’t have some kind of cross to bear. That’s where churches come in—as places of refuge and solace, as sources of help and also as places of inspiration and joy where we can celebrate all that is good. We may be a small church but we have a church family that cares and we need to be ever thankful for that. We need your pledge to help us continue as a caring, loving church community.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS PROGRAM OF SERVICES AND CHORAL MUSIC

December 5: “Comfort Ye” and “Every Valley” from Handel’s MESSIAH, Charles Curtis, Tenor

December 12: “Oh Thou That Tellest Good Tidings to Zion” from Handel’s MESSIAH, Katy Doe, Mezzo-Soprano


December 18, 4 PM: A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols The St. Barnabas Choir and Lectors

Malayalam Carol Solo by Sadhaka Alexander

St. Barnabas Episcopal Church Presents

A Service of Christmas Lessons and Carols

Saturday, December 18, 4 PM



A beautiful telling of the Christmas story through scripture, anthems, and carols.

Come and sing your favorites!

Reception to Follow

In Person and Zoom
www.stbarnabasardsley.com

All are Welcome!



100+ Years of Building
Faith, Family & Fellowship

2 Revolutionary Road, Ardsley, NY 10502
The Rev. Dr. Varghese Mathew, Priest-in-Charge
914-693-3366

December 24 Christmas Eve, 5 PM: Family Eucharist, with special music by the St. Barnabas Choir, with French Horn and Violin

Carol of the Bells
Christmas is Nigh
Gesu Bambino
A Merry Christmas

(Reception afterwards in Undercroft)

December 24, Christmas Eve, 11 PM: Holy Eucharist, with solos by: Katy Doe, Mezzo-Soprano
Charles Curtis, Tenor
Sadhaka Alexander, Tenor

(Reception afterwards in Undercroft)

MIDNIGHT RUN DECEMBER 17

Good news! One of the other churches who went on the Midnight Run in November contacted us to see if we could use some extra supplies. We, of course, said yes, so The Rev. Gary Morello of the Noroton Presbyterian Church in Darien drove down to St. Barnabas with an entire vanload of items, including socks, underwear, backpacks, winter hats, tee-shirts, pants, winter jackets, hoodies, and MUCH MORE. Since they only go on the run once a year and have many members who would like to go, they may send people to come with us on the Run. What a blessing!

KID'S CORNER:

What I love about my church

By Francis v Mathew

My church is what makes me yearn for it to be Sunday. Every Sunday morning, I wake up at 7:00 A.M. Then, I get ready for church and jubilantly run to the car. The arrival at church is my favorite part: Opening the car door I wave to Bill who usually arrives when I arrive. As I enter inside the church, I sanitize my hands, wave to the choir, and head to the Sunday school room. I say good morning to Sabina, Doris, Carolyn and whoever else who is there. I prepare for Sunday school after I light the candles. When there is no Sunday school, I help Sabina with the Zoom while attending the service. After the service, I head down to coffee hour where Kathy has always something yummy for me. I have much fun socializing especially during Coffee Hour. Then I wave bye to everyone waiting for another Sunday to come soon. This church is a real hidden gem in Ardsley. It is so fun just coming to church every Sunday. See you next Sunday!

INTERFAITH CARING COMMUNITY ANNUAL THANKSGIVING SERVICE SUNDAY NOVEMBER 21

The Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service on November 21 was hosted on zoom this year by Rabbi Mara Young of the Woodlands Community Temple. The service was a joyful and intimate celebration of thanks in both words from participating clergy and music from various participating choirs. Whether by zoom or in person the Interfaith Caring Community Thanksgiving service is always an uplifting prelude to the holiday.

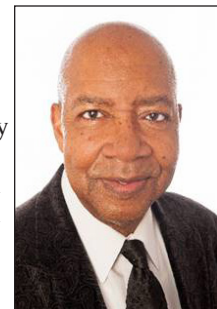
A THANK YOU FROM THE NAVAJEEN TRUST



We received a lovely thank you note from Brother Thomas for our \$1,400 donation to The Navajeen Trust in India, the non profit organization that is affiliated with Kottayam Medical College and hospital where Anu Mathew received her nursing education. Getting the money to India proved to be quite a challenge for Carolyn Ricci who discovered that good old Western Union was the way to go! Our thanks everyone who donated to this Outreach program for June, July and August.

CHARLES BROWN

It was our intention for this issue of the Beacon to write a brief biography and note of welcome to Charles Brown as our new baritone for the choir. Instead we are writing a sad farewell because Charlie died tragically in a fire in his apartment on November 19. Charlie was one of those people who, on first acquaintance, you knew was a beautiful soul. A singer, teacher, composer, and arranger, Charlie was also a Vietnam war veteran. Larry Wolf who knew Charlie from their many years together with the Alvin Ailey company described him as one of the kindest and most loving persons he has ever known. Charlie's death is a bitter reminder to have a household plan in place for the possibility of fire and to be sure your smoke detectors are operational. Charlie's death is a loss to us and to the world because he made it a better place. Rest in peace Charlie.

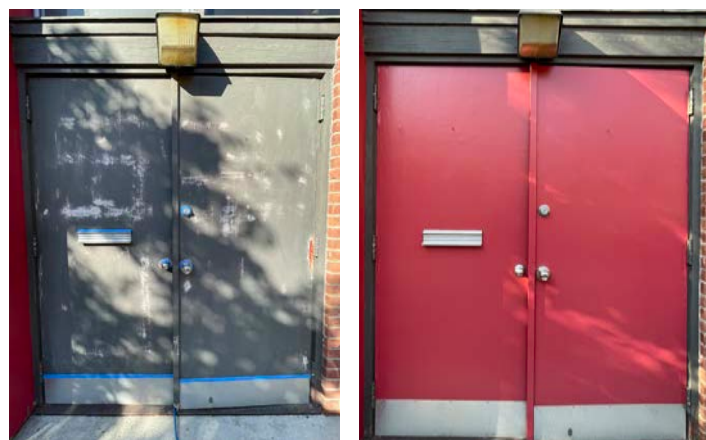


HAVE YOU NOTICED OUR FRONT DOORS?

You may have noticed that our front doors are now a beautiful, bright red! We had them painted on a sunny day in November, and are thrilled to have such a bright welcome to St. Barnabas.

There is a long tradition in the Episcopal Church of painting the front doors red and while there is no single explanation there are certainly many theories. For many churches, the color red symbolizes the "blood of Christ", which is the "entry" into salvation for those who enter. For others, the red door recalled the sprinkling of the door lintels of the Israelites with the blood of lambs on the night of Passover. Beginning in the Middle Ages, red represented a color that denoted a place of sanctuary which offered physical safety from outside evils. If you were being pursued by someone, you would be safe if you could reach the church door. Pursuers could proceed no further as the Church did not have to abide by civil law. Some believe that the red color signifies the tongues of flame of Pentecost implying that the Holy Spirit is within. At one time, the red doors of Episcopal churches once signified that the mortgage had been fully paid.

Today many Episcopal churches, as well as Lutheran, Methodist, Roman Catholic and others, paint their doors red to symbolize that they are a haven for emotional and spiritual healing and a place for forgiveness and reconciliation. In other words, their red doors are an invitation to visitors to enter a space filled with the Holy Spirit.



Before