

WEEKLY SCHEDULE FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

SUNDAYS:

10:00 AM HOLY EUCHARIST

10:00 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL

SUNDAY OCTOBER 2: BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS REMEMBERING ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

It has been argued that no one else in history was as dedicated as Francis to imitate the life, and carry out the work of Christ, in Christ's own way. He and his followers celebrated and even venerated poverty. Poverty was so central to his character that in his last written work, the Testament, he said that absolute personal and corporate poverty was the essential lifestyle for the members of his Order.

He believed that nature itself was the mirror of God, calling all creatures his "brothers" and "sisters," and even preaching to the birds. In his Canticle of the Creatures ("Praises of Creatures" or "Canticle of the Sun"), he mentioned "Brother Sun" and "Sister Moon," the wind and water. Visitors to the Cathedral of St. John the Divine on this day will witness a spectacular pageant of musicians, dancers, bright banners and a solemn procession of many very large animals down the central aisle of the cathedral to the altar and back, as part of the celebration of the Eucharist.

St. Francis' deep sense of brotherhood under God embraced others, and he declared that "he considered himself no friend of Christ if he did not cherish those for whom Christ died." Francis' visit to Egypt and attempted rapprochement with the Muslim world had far-reaching consequences, long past his own death. It would be the Franciscans, of all Catholics, who would be allowed to stay on in the Holy Land and be recognized as "Custodians of the Holy Land" on behalf of the Catholic Church.

Francis preached the Christian doctrine that the world was created good and beautiful by God but suffers a need for redemption because of human sin. He believed that all creatures should praise God (a common theme in the Psalms) and people have a duty to protect and enjoy nature as both the stewards of God's creation and as creatures ourselves.

On Sunday, October 2, we celebrate The Feast of St. Francis, the patron saint of animals and the environment. Please bring your pets (or pictures of them if they don't travel well) to St. Barnabas where the blessing of the animals will be held following the 10 AM Eucharist.

OUTREACH SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2 ADOPT A VET PROGRAM

Last year we participated in the Adopt a Vet program sponsored by Family-to-Family, supporting Miguel R., living in White Plains. We were happy to hear that he is doing better and has "graduated" from the program, so we have been asked to provide support for next year to James O., also from White Plains. James is 82 years old and was born in Cork, Ireland on May 11, 1940. He served in the Army from November 1960 until December 1974 and was deployed twice, in Vietnam and Korea.

James was recently diagnosed with prostate cancer and he is undergoing treatment. He has also lost all of his hearing. He lives alone, but says that people he met at Family Services sometimes stop by to help. He enjoys reading and cooking. In addition to our financial support, we can also collect and ship the following items to James:

- Irish Spring Soap
- Head and Shoulders Shampoo
- Crest Toothpaste
- Men's Medium Shirts

We will set up a box on the back bench of the church for donations of these items.

This is an opportunity to give back to those who have served our country. Please give generously!

OCTOBER 21, MIDNIGHT RUN

Please consider being a driver, helper or food preparer this month for the Midnight Run, as we act as God's hands and feet on earth. You won't forget this experience! If you can help pack lunches on Friday please come to the church undercroft at 5:30 PM. If you can't participate on Friday then come to the church on Wednesday October 19 at 10 AM and help sort clothes for the run. We had many helping hands last month which made the job go much faster.

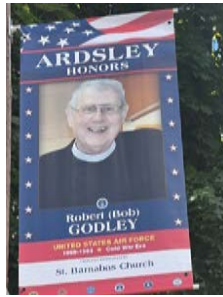
OCTOBER 15 11 AM MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR MARY MURPHY

Due to Covid Mary's family was never able to schedule a memorial service for her, but now that things are getting back to something more normal the service has been scheduled for Saturday October 15 at 11 AM. There will be a reception in the undercroft. Please come and help celebrate the life of our dear sister.



HONORING OUR VETS

We hope everyone has taken notice of the flags on Ashford Avenue honoring Ardsley vets. What a wonderful tribute to those who have served our country! Currently there are five flags in tribute to vets associated in some way with St. Barnabas: Fr. Robert Godley, Augie Giusti, Gerry Gerahy, Henry H Groth and William J. Groth, Jr. father and uncle, respectively, of Steve Groth. Each flag has a picture of the person being honored, his years of service and in which part of the military he served.



There are undoubtedly many more St Barnabas parishioners who could be included. Each banner has to have a sponsor and there is a fee of \$220 for each flag; The sponsor has to provide the picture, dates of military service, rank and awards and review and approve the proof. If you know of anyone who might want to see a loved one honored in this way please reach out to them and let them know about this program.

ALL CHURCH PICNIC SEPTEMBER 25

We were blessed to have a beautiful day for our annual church picnic at Secor Park.

Great food! Great fun! And we were so happy to see Diane and Roger Sherwood emerge from their pandemic lockdown to join us!



SPECIAL COFFEE HOUR IN CELEBRATION OF AN INDIAN TRADITION: ONAM SEPTEMBER 4

Everyone had a great time at the coffee hour hosted by the Mathew family on September 4 celebrating Onam, the Indian Harvest Festival of Kerala. Easow Mathew told us the story of Onam, Bethsaida performed a charming dance, and Francis dressed in costume and played the role of Maveli, the legendary king of India behind the Onam festival. We learned a song (well, we tried) taught by Sadhaka Alexander, a renowned South Indian singer, and we got to taste a delicious variety of special foods for the occasion. The undercroft was decorated all in white and gold and everyone wore something white in honor of the tradition. There was also a floral decoration known as "Pookkalam: in Malayalam. Nancy Kaboolian, the Mayor off Ardsley join us as a guest for this special celebration. Our thanks to the Mathew family for a wonderful treat and a new experience!

