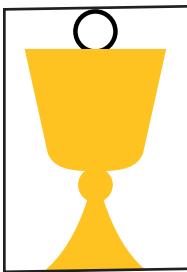


# The Saint Barnabas Beacon

DECEMBER 1-31, 2025

100+ Years of Building Faith, Family & Fellowship



## WEEKLY SCHEDULE FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

### SUNDAYS

10:00 AM HOLY EUCHARIST

10:00 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL

See page 2 for Advent and Christmas program of services

## MESSAGE FROM FR. MATHEW

Dear People of God,

Hope all of you had a Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving! I had a wonderfully blessed thanksgiving experience with my family. We had a great get-together with my parents. My sister, my brother-in-law, and their children also joined us for the thanksgiving dinner.

Before our dinner, the children mentioned what they were thankful for this year. My nephew Timmy, the youngest in the family proclaimed, "I am thankful for God in my life." As Thanksgiving makes way for the Season of Advent, we can most certainly be assured of God's presence in our lives. The good news of the gospel boldly describes the birth of Jesus calling him "Immanuel" which assures us of God's presence with humanity. The liturgical moment of Advent indeed is an assurance of Christ's presence that surrounds us always. And yes, I join my nephew in declaring that I feel thankful for God in my life.

I invite you all to celebrate the joyful expectation of the birth of a divine savior during our Advent liturgies and the absolute joy of nativity at our Christmas services.

In Christ's Love,  
Varghese Mathew+

## DECEMBER 7: OUTREACH SUNDAY

### FEEDING WESTCHESTER

With the cost of food going up and resources to help those who are food insecure going down, this is going to be a particularly difficult holiday season for many people. The fact that the federal government has chosen to cut funds supporting food programs seems particularly cruel at this time of year. But it is a fact and it is up to every compassionate person with resources to support both local and national non-profit programs. FEEDING WESTCHESTER is part of the FEEDING AMERICA network and a contributor to local food banks including our own Dobbs Ferry Food Bank. Please help make this holiday a happy one for those of our fellow citizens who are struggling to make ends meet and who rely on food banks to meet their daily needs. No one in our great abundant country should ever need to go hungry! This is the last month in our four month drive to help FEEDING WESTCHESTER through our monthly Outreach program.

## DECEMBER STEWARDSHIP MONTH TELL OUT MY SOUL

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior"

Luke 1:46-47

As Christians we are story tellers. We have an ancient narrative, one that describes the beginning of time and the relationship between God and God's Creation. We see this story grow through the prophetic tradition until our story recounts the life and gifts of the Son of God. The story doesn't end with the Resurrection just as it did not end with the Cross, it continues in each of us today as we encounter and are transformed by the Good News.

Luke's Gospel is bookended by the animated story-telling of two women named Mary. Early in the Gospel, Mary the mother of Jesus, tells us of her encounter with the Divine who informs her that she will bear a child who will change the world. She proclaims her joy: "Tell out my soul! The Greatness of the Lord!" At the end of the Gospel, another Mary, Mary Magdalene, visits the tomb to discover it empty and receives instructions from the Risen Christ to go tell the others. She carries this Good News with jubilance to the Disciples.

What is your Good News; the idea, dream, challenge placed in your heart by God, that needs to be shared? What is the ministry to which you are called which will change the world, sharing your talents, gifts, and love with your neighbors?

In considering your pledge for 2026 think about your stories—the ones inside you, the ones you are still writing, the ones we tell about those who have gone before us. We are all a part of this ongoing narrative—the ongoing Creation. As you pray about how you will share your gifts with St. Barnabas this year, think about how God is calling you to tell out your soul, to spread the Good News far and wide.

## DECEMBER 19 MIDNIGHT RUN

Are you a helper for the Midnight Run? There are so many ways to lend a hand. On Wednesdays we sort and bag clothes starting at 10 AM. When we have many hands, we are usually finished by noon. On Fridays we assemble the sandwiches, eggs, desserts and fruits and put them in lunch bags starting around 11 AM. The group going on the run leaves St. Barnabas at 9 PM.

If you have sweaters and winter coats to donate, please bring them to the church before Wednesday December 17 when we sort clothes.

If you are not already a participant in our Midnight Runs in some way, please consider how you can contribute. We would love to see 100% participation as this is the primary hands-on outreach program for St. Barnabas.

In the event of a pastoral emergency, please contact  
Fr. Mathew 914-572-1568

Newsletter Editor: Pat Breinin,  
Newsletter Design: Dennis Di Vincenzo

REMEMBER TO BRING DONATIONS FOR THE DOBBS FERRY FOOD PANTRY

## THE DIOCESAN CONVENTION AND A CHANGE IN OUR ASSESSMENT

Our thanks to Fr. Mathew and Dennis DiVincenzo for representing St. Barnabas at the Diocesan Convention which took place at The Cathedral of St. John the Divine on Saturday, November 16 from 8 AM to 5 PM.

Following a very lively debate, the Convention adopted the biggest changes to its finances in forty years. For fifteen months preceding the Convention, the Diocese worked towards a revised financial plan for its shared mission that would be fair, equitable, and sustainable across all 172 congregations. More than 80% of clergy and lay delegates from congregations voted to approve these reforms.

The new apportionment created two levels of assessment: 1% for congregations with expenses below \$250,000 and 5.75% for congregations with expenses over that amount. About half of the congregations in the Diocese fall into the first category and half fall into the second. The reforms will help stabilize finances both for congregations and for diocesan mission. With the new formula, 90% of congregations experience financial relief.

For St. Barnabas the new formula means a reduction in our former assessment of \$4874 to \$2500 or less, a most welcome relief in our tight budget.

## A 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Our coffee hour on Sunday November 16 was a celebration of the 50th wedding anniversary of Easow and Elizabeth Mathew. We were happy to be a part of such a wonderful occasion, and, of course, there was all that delicious Indian food!



## TOWARDS A BETTER UNDERSTANDING

On Sunday, November 23 our parishioner, John Prendergast, spoke to us during coffee hour about the horrific situation in Sudan. John is a noted human rights activist and co-founder of The Sentry, an investigative and policy organization that seeks to disable multinational predatory networks that benefit from violent conflict, repression, and kleptocracy. Follow the money, the focus of The Sentry's work, has led to uncovering the corruption and greed that has fueled the wars, mass atrocities, and other human rights abuses in Sudan and other African countries. John also revealed a surprising connection that the NBA and Disney have in the Sudanese tragedy. We are grateful to John for his work, for sharing his knowledge and for helping us understand the causes of the tragedy in Sudan.



## PAUL FEINER PRESENTS AWARDS

Paul Feiner, Greenburgh Town Supervisor, visited St. Barnabas on Sunday November 23 and presented awards to Fr Mathew, Sabina Gaston, Priscilla Gaston and Kathy Wolf for their services to the immigrant community.



## CHRISTMAS WREATHS FOR SALE

The Ardsley Boy Scout Troop 13 is selling fresh Christmas wreaths to support their activities. The deadline for ordering a wreath is Dec 7. The cost is \$25 each, and proceeds support the troops activities. Please contact [Emily\\_barcliffe@hotmail.com](mailto:Emily_barcliffe@hotmail.com) to place an order. Wreaths will be delivered to St. Barnabas.

## ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS PROGRAM OF SERVICES AND CHORAL MUSIC

Sunday, Dec 14, 10 AM: Lessons & Carols and Holy Eucharist  
The choir will sing the following anthems, accompanied by Kristen Gygi and Sally Evans, flute

*King Jesus Hath a Garden  
Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella  
What Child is This?  
Three Kings from Persian Lands*

Wednesday December 24 Christmas Eve, 5 PM:  
The choir, along with four guest singers, will sing a Christmas medley, also featuring April Johnson, violin:

*Carol of the Bells  
Gesu Bambino  
The Wexford Carol  
We Wish You a Merry Christmas*

Wednesday December 24 Christmas Eve, 11 PM:  
"Midnight Mass" with Christmas Carols

The 5 PM service on Christmas Eve will be followed by a festive celebration in the Undercroft.