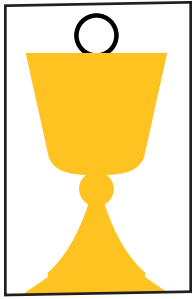


# The Saint Barnabas Beacon

FEBRUARY 1-28, 2026

100+ Years of Building Faith, Family & Fellowship



## WEEKLY SCHEDULE FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

### SUNDAYS:

10:00 AM EUCHARIST

10:00 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL

### FEBRUARY 15

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

(on SUNDAY) following the 10AM Eucharist

### FEBRUARY 18

7:00 PM ASH WEDNESDAY EUCHARIST WITH IMPOSITION OF ASHES

## LETTER FROM FR. MATHEW

Dear People of God,

Greetings to all of you in the precious name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! This being my first official letter in this year of 2026, I prayerfully wish you all a happy, healthy, and blessed New Year. Let us be assured of Christ's presence in each moment of life – in the past, in the present, and in the future.

Many of our parishioners expressed concerns in terms of fear, frustration, and a feeling of uncertainty with regards to events happening around us in this nation and in the greater global community. I believe that as the pastor, it is imperative that I address the concerns of my parish. The unrest and tensions in Minneapolis and the recent fatal shootings of Renee Good and Alex Prettini as a result of immigration enforcement has indeed shocked our nation. I urge everyone to pray for our nation's healing and also embrace righteousness as a divine virtue. Jesus calls us to be his followers expecting us to be righteous.

Righteousness does not diminish the importance of the law neither does it devalue justice. However, righteousness requires us to stand up for justice and speak the truth with courage, humility, and most importantly love. The righteousness that Jesus taught and demonstrated calls us to empathy while exhorting us to pray for even those who wrong us. Ultimately, we are all interconnected to each other through the sacred bond of our humanity.

Our faith calls us to affirm the dignity and sacredness of life. We are called to listen to each other, to pray for each other, and witness to the truth in solidarity with the vulnerable. We need to pray for those in leadership for the wisdom of discernment in making decisions. Above all, I believe we need to open ourselves to be transformed in Christ and be willing to embody what Jesus represents. It is also important that while we hold strong to our convictions, we refrain from a self-righteous mentality of shaming others who have a different viewpoint. Ultimately, God is the judge and everyone will be judged by God's righteousness.

Peace,  
Varghese Mathew+

## FEBRUARY 1: OUTREACH SUNDAY THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM USA (WFP)

The World Food Programme (WFP) is the 2020 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate and the world's leading humanitarian organization. One hundred days into the ceasefire in Gaza. WFP has significantly expanded its lifesaving operations across the Gaza Strip, reaching more than 1 million people each month. While critical progress has been made in pushing back famine, the situation remains extremely fragile. Many non-profit organizations, like Doctors without Borders and International Rescue Committee, who were previously able to bring aid to Gaza are now being denied access by the Israeli government, however WFP is still able to bring food and other life-saving assistance into the country,

Together with its partners WFP operates hundreds of distribution sites and 20 warehouses inside Gaza, including areas near the yellow line. For the first time since the beginning of the war, they are delivering a full ration of two wheat flour bags and two food boxes to over 1 million people in Gaza each month. Over 400,000 hot meals are being served daily via 45 community kitchens. Other aid includes: malnutrition prevention to 200,000 children under 5 and pregnant and breastfeeding women; school snacks for 235,000 children in 250 temporary learning spaces – reaching almost 40% of school-aged children; digital payments to 60,000 households (300,000 people) monthly to buy food from local markets. Bakeries in Gaza continue to be a vital lifeline. By supporting them WFP provides food and jobs.

According to the most recent Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis in December, 77% of the population is still facing crisis levels food insecurity (IPC 3 and above), with over 100,000 people experiencing catastrophic levels of hunger (IPC 5). Almost all families in Gaza are dependent on food aid. This is not sustainable in the long term. The lifesaving flow of aid while rebuilding livelihoods, dietary diversity and self-sufficiency needs to continue. More commercial goods are entering Gaza, but most families still cannot afford them as food prices remain far too high. The WFP-led Logistics Cluster is facilitating the transportation of tents, blankets, wash stations and mattresses on behalf of humanitarian partners.

The World Food Program will be our Outreach for the months of February through April. Please give as generously as you can.



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

## FEBRUARY 8: ANNUAL MEETING

Our Annual Meeting will take place in the undercroft following the 10 AM Eucharist on February 8. It is your opportunity to hear what we accomplished in 2025, what is the state of our finances, and our hopes for the future. The vestry needs feedback from parishioners, so it's really important that everyone attend. If you don't attend, don't complain!



## FEBRUARY 20 MIDNIGHT RUN

Future weather forecasts for the month of February look just as frigid as the end of January has been. Could there be any worse time to be homeless? Now is a good time to donate any warm sweaters, jackets, gloves and hats that might be lurking in the back of your closet unused. We are a little shorthanded for help sorting clothes on Wednesday February 18 and for making tuna fish sandwiches for the day of the run, so if you are not already committed to help, this is your chance to pitch in. Ask Nancy Gotthelf what you can do, or just sign up on the sheet on the table at the back of the church.



## EPIPHANY SUNDAY, JANUARY 4

If you were at St. Barnabas on Epiphany Sunday in 2025 you might remember we observed an old tradition of marking the lintel above our entrance door with the letters and numerals: 20+C+M+B+25. The letters are the abbreviation for the Latin phrase "Christus mansionem Benedicat" - "Christ bless this house". (A second meaning and mnemonic device is Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar, traditional names for the Magi). The + sign represents the cross and 20-25 is the year. The sign was marked in chalk and still remains in spite of the dreadful January storm. It reminds us to count our blessings



## FEBRUARY 15 SUNDAY EUCHARIST FOLLOWED BY SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

Because some parishioners do not travel when it's dark outside, we decided last year to combine our annual shrove Tuesday pancake supper with the preceding Sunday Eucharist, so more parishioners could attend. Our chefs, Marcie and Rick Weaver, will once again provide us with all the delicious pancakes and sausages we can eat, so be sure to come and enjoy this very special treat.



## FEBRUARY 17 ASH WEDNESDAY

The Eucharist with imposition of ashes will be held Wednesday evening on February 17 starting at 7 PM, beginning the season of lent. Holy Week follows from March 30 to April 3, Holy Saturday is April 4, culminating in Easter Sunday April 5. Please mark your calendars.



## WHY PLEDGING IS SO IMPORTANT

Supporting St. Barnabas with your pledges may seem inscrutable at times, so we thought a reality check on the bills that cross OUR Kitchen table might make it clear why St Barnabas, like practically every other church, relies to much on pledges which help us budget our expenses for the coming year,. While there is no "typical" month, some annual expenses, like cleaning, landscaping, snow shoveling, salaries, etc. can be divided by 12 to give an idea of what's in our budget. On top of these necessary expenses, there are the surprise items, like replacing burnt out lights, repairs, etc. Here's a list of December expenses: for the church and the rectory

Item	Cost
Salaries	\$ 6,850
Snow Removal	\$ 3,400
Cleaning	\$ 540
Insurance	\$ 1,700
Utilities	\$ 3,000
Office Expense	\$ 700
Rectory	\$ 1,100
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 17,290</b>

Like every household we have unpleasant "surprises" like leaky roofs and major expenses like roof replacement, painting, concrete step repairs, parking lot repairs and so one that we need to plan for. But you can see, just from the ordinary basic expenses that it costs a lot just to keep our

doors open. When you think about your pledges, please keep these mundane but necessary expenses in mind. Our focus is always on the spiritual life, but if we are to continue having a place where we can gather and worship and enjoy the fellowship of our church family we need everyone's help.

## PRAYER VIGIL FOR MINNEAPOLIS

Our thanks to all those who participated in the 24 hour prayer vigil for Minneapolis from Friday Midnight January 30 to Saturday Midnight January 31: Sharon DeVivo, Fr. Mathew, Sabina Gaston, Larry Wolf, Kathy Wolf, Priscilla White, Pat Breinin, Lauren Emerson, Ethel Rosally and Carolyn Ricci. The vigil was done at the suggestion of Sharon DeVivo who expressed the need many of us feel to do something in response to the terrible events going on in the city of Minneapolis.