

WEEKLY SCHEDULE FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL

SUNDAYS:

10:00 AM EUCHARIST
10:00 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL

SEE BELOW FOR HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

LETTER FROM FR. MATHEW

Dear people of God,

As we journey together in this Season of Lent in anticipation of the celebration of Easter; the Lenten season reminds us of so many things. It certainly reminds us about examining ourselves in the light of the gospel. Lent also brings a sense of belongingness – we belong to God.

We started the liturgical observance of Lent on Ash Wednesday with the imposition of ashes and the reminder, “You are dust and to dust you shall return (Genesis 3: 19).” This verse referring us to dust is so humbling indeed! At the same time; it is an uplifting reminder to me that even though I am a tiny particle of dust in the order of this super large universe, yet, God knows me by my name and God is with me. God knows each one of us and we are all connected to that divine love.

The gospel brings us closer to the love of God and mandates us to love one another as Christ loves us. As our former Presiding Bishop Michael Curry loves to say, *If it's not about love, it's not about God.* Each liturgical observance and worship is a celebration of love. Wishing you a blessed Holy Week and a joyful Easter!
In Christ's Love,
Varghese Mathew

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Sunday, April 13, 10 AM

Palm Sunday Eucharist

Monday, April 14 7:30 PM

“Seven Words from the Cross” a service of prayer that focuses on the seven last sayings of Jesus

Wednesday, April 16, 7:30 PM.

The Stations of the Cross

Thursday, April 17, 7:30 PM

Maundy Thursday

Friday, April 18, 7:00 PM

Good Friday Service

Saturday, April 19, 10 AM-

Holy Saturday Service, 10 AM

Sunday, April 20, 10 AM

Easter Sunday Eucharist followed by a celebratory coffee hour

APRIL 6 OUTREACH: RIVERTOWNS FOR REFUGEES

Rivertowns for Refugees started in August of 2016, when a few folks answered a call for children's furniture to help outfit a refugee family's home. They were inspired by Hearts and Homes for Refugees, who'd helped to resettle the very first refugee family in Westchester, and Northwest Yonkers Neighbors for Refugees, who had resettled a refugee asylee and his son. Supported by Catholic Charities and Hearts and Homes for Refugees, Rivertowns for Refugees joined a pilot initiative called “Helping Hands” to help refugees families in Westchester with specific short-term needs. In May 2018 they helped their first family, a brother and sister from El Salvador, navigating special needs and educational challenges.

Since then they have helped resettle families and individuals from Central and South America, Burma, Afghanistan, and Ukraine. That included two from Kabul who were special Immigrant Visa or SIV cases--refugees who have rendered special service to the U.S. Government, armed forces, or our allies and a family of six from Mariupol, Ukraine.

Rivertowns for Refugees will be our Outreach beneficiaries for the months of April, May and June. Since its members are all volunteers, donations go 100% to help refugees build their new lives in America.

MIDNIGHT RUN, APRIL 18

Thanks to Marcie Weaver we had hard boiled eggs to include in our lunch bags for the March run, after going “eggless” for a couple of runs. Typically, each bag contains a sandwich, a hard boiled egg, a piece of fruit and a dessert. For the April run, sorting of clothes takes place starting at 10 AM on Wednesday April 16. Please join the group if you can, or help with the food for the lunch bags or go on the run. Lots of opportunities to help!

APRIL 6, THE KAIROS DOCUMENT INFORMATION SESSION

The Episcopal Diocese of New York is calling upon members of the Episcopal church to study The Kairos Document. Written in 2009 by Christian Palestinians, it asks the international community to stand by the Palestinian people who have faced oppression, displacement, suffering and clear apartheid for more than six decades. It asks all churches and Christians in the world to stand against injustice and apartheid, urging them to work for a just peace in the region, and to revisit theologies that justify crimes perpetrated against the Palestinian people and the dispossession of their land.

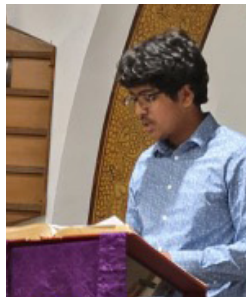
On April 6 members of the Episcopal Peace Fellowship: Palestine-Israel Network, who seek to promote a just peace in the Holy Land, will join us in worship and speak to us about the Kairos Document.

GRACE MISSION CHURCH AND ST. BARNABAS

April 6 will be the start of the tenth year of sharing our church facilities with members of Grace Mission Church. The mission, which is affiliated with the Presbyterian Church, uses our sanctuary for their service starting at 1 PM on Sundays. The Reverend Kim and his wife are a cherished part of our St Barnabas family, and we are blessed to have such a wonderful sharing relationship with them and with Grace Mission Church

LENTEN RETREAT MARCH 22

More than 40 people from St. Andrew's, St. Barnabas, St. Joseph and Grace Church participated in the Lenten retreat held at St. Joseph of Arimathea on Saturday March 22. The biblical focus of the retreat was the passage from Colossians 3.2: *Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth.*



Fr. Mathew participated in an interfaith luncheon at the Woodlands Temple in January. The group discussed various interfaith programs.



THE GREAT LITANY, MARCH 15

The Great Litany is an intercessory prayer including various petitions that are said or sung by the leader, with fixed responses by the congregation. It was the first English language rite prepared by Archbishop Thomas Cranmer. The Litany's use in church processions was ordered by Henry VIII when England was at war with Scotland and France. Because of its penitential nature it is particularly suited to the season of Lent.



On March 15, a group of parishioners, led by Fr. Mathew, Sharon DeVivo and Sabina Gaston, processed from the parking lot up Revolutionary Rd and into the sanctuary, praying the litany. Before the procession began Sharon and Sabina jointly read a statement they had prepared welcoming everyone to St. Barnabas regardless of national origin, sexual orientation, race, color, creed, or gender identification.

RAMADAN CRESCENT LIGHTING CEREMONY

During the month of Ramadan Muslims abstain from food and drink from dawn till dusk, practice compassion with charity, pray and celebrate with festivities. On February 27, the Village of Ardsley held its second Ramadan Crescent Lighting ceremony at Legion Park. Fr. Mathew was an invited guest speaker. We are blessed that we live in a community that continues to celebrate diversity and inclusion.

