



## 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,  
What are you thankful for during this Thanksgiving Season? My eight year old daughter approached me with this question. I had the great privilege to attend and participate in a beautiful inter-faith thanksgiving service recently; a service filled with wonderful music, readings, and inspiring messages. During the service, we reflected upon this question of thankfulness. In the midst of sorrows, tragedies, our own insecurities, and the hatred and violence happening in the world around us; what are we exactly thankful for?

Personally, this year was a year in which I counted my losses. I lost two of my dear uncles just few months apart unexpectedly. The loss of a family member is pretty difficult, and more difficult is the realization that you can't be with them, see them, or even talk to them during major occasions such as Thanksgiving and Christmas. Those loved ones have passed on! So, what's there to even be thankful about?

One of the common misconceptions is that we associate God's presence with only the joyful times of life. We also tend to live in chronological time in terms of the clock, dates, months, and calendar seasons. But God's timing is different from ours - God's time operates as Kairos (an ancient Greek word) or in other words, God operates in moments. Moments refer to qualitative time! Each and every moment belongs to God - moments of joy as well as moments of sadness. So this is what I am thankful for - I am thankful for the moment of life. I am thankful for my family and all dear ones, my parish family, and all my fellow sojourners on this valley of life. I am thankful for the wonderful life and legacy of all loved ones who passed away to be with the Lord (especially wonderful and qualitative memories left behind). Now, I look forward to the Season of Advent and the celebration of the nativity. Or rather, may I say moments that proclaim the joyful presence of our savior Jesus Christ? Wishing everyone Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas greetings!

In Christ's Love,  
Varghese+

## DECEMBER 4 PLEDGE SUNDAY: MORE THAN ENOUGH

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 have a church family that cares and we need to be ever thankful for that. Your pledge will help us continue as a caring, loving church community.

## ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS PROGRAM OF SERVICES AND CHORAL MUSIC

- Dec 4: Come, O Come, Lord Jesus, J.S. Bach My Lord, What a Mornin'
- Dec 11: O Thou That Tellest Good Tidings to Zion from Handel's MESSIAH, Katy Doe, Mezzo-Soprano
- Dec 17, 4 PM: A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, featuring The St. Barnabas Choir and Lectors
- Dec 18: Christmas Medley, Russ Ashley, Baritone
- Dec 24, 5 PM: Seven Joys of Christmas, Kirk Mechem, The St. Barnabas Choir, Guest Singers, and Hannah Murphy, Harp
- Dec 25, 11 PM: "Midnight Mass", featuring Charles Curtis, Tenor

## Christmas Music at St. Barnabas Episcopal Church

### Saturday, December 17, 4 PM



### Christmas Lessons and Carols

A beautiful telling of the Christmas story through scripture, anthems, and carols. Come and sing your favorites!

### Saturday, December 24

**5:00 PM** Holy Eucharist with The St. Barnabas Choir, Guest Singers, and Hannah Murphy, Harp  
*The Seven Joys of Christmas*

**11:00 PM** The First Mass of Christmas:  
Holy Eucharist with Charles Curtis, Tenor



### Receptions to Follow all Services

*In Person and Zoom*  
[www.stbarnabasardsley.com](http://www.stbarnabasardsley.com)

**All are Welcome!**

## OUTREACH SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4 MY SISTER'S PLACE

The mission of My Sisters' Place is to end domestic violence and human trafficking in Westchester County through comprehensive services, advocacy, and community education. It is sad to think there is a need for this service in our beautiful county, but the fact is that there are nearly 13,000 domestic incident reports filed annually with police departments, and it is estimated that two-thirds of incidences of abusive and violent behavior are never reported.

For families and individuals with an urgent need for safety and security, MSP operates an emergency shelter where they work with residents to help them feel fully supported and to assist them with a plan to transition back into a safe community. When residents are ready to leave, they do so with the best possibilities for a life of stability and independence. Your December Outreach donation will be used to help in the recovery of those with wounded lives..

## DECEMBER 16 MIDNIGHT RUN

This is our last run of the year. If you can help sort clothes on Wednesday at 10 AM or donate food or go on the run, please do. Every little bit helps in our mission to feed the homeless.

## INTERFAITH CARING COMMUNITY ANNUAL THANKSGIVING SERVICE SUNDAY NOVEMBER 20

The Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service on November 20, hosted by the Woodlands Community Temple, was a joyful celebration of thanks in both words from participating clergy and music from participating choirs. Whether by zoom or in person the Interfaith Caring Community Thanksgiving service is always an uplifting holiday prelude.

## NOVEMBER 6: A DAY OF CELEBRATION

On Sunday, November 6, The Rt. Rev. Andrew M.L. Dietsche (Bishop "Andy") visited St. Barnabas with his wife, Margaret. Since we were celebrating All Saints Day, that was the focus of his wonderful sermon. The augmented choir of 8 singers performed, *The Road Home*, a simple yet deeply reflective piece. Since we were also celebrating several birthdays, including Sabina's great-nephew, Charles, Sabina prepared a feast for coffee hour, with dishes representing the backgrounds of Charles' four grandparents – and she really outdid herself! Arleen's family also provided a cake for her birthday, so there was a lot of fine food and merriment!

## NOVEMBER 6: A DAY OF CELEBRATION (Continued)

