



THE CHURCH OF ST. BARNABAS

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FROM THE RECTOR



View from behind the Bench at last Sunday's Reflections on Christ's Nativity service taken by member Jose Lopez.

Behold and Beheld.

I am very much looking forward to services on Christmas Eve. I like the shoulder-to-shoulder squished-in-a-pew aspect as well as the opportunity to sing, "Silent Night" with restrained adoration after Communion. I also like exchanging, "Merry Christmas!" a couple o' hundred times at the threshold of the church with members and visitors alike. Bottomline: I like the challenge of bringing a

sacred message on a day that often feels overshadowed by the cultural emphasis on family time rather than religious reflection. Of course, it's possible to enjoy both, and I am a firm believer in getting Christmas off on the right foot and then getting out of the way. In some ways, that's part of my approach to ministry: it's about being intentionally de-centered so that God can work with what is at hand. On Christmas Eve, it is often a group of 9 and 10 year olds retelling the story of Christ's birth dressed in bathrobes with dish-towels on their heads and open hearts that get the message across, not the priest in antique robes. Well, that's certainly the case at the 4PM service. It's the perfect occasion to experience the birth of Jesus rather than be told about it from the pulpit.

So what gives? Can God speak through the cultural aspects of a Norman Rockwell-esque family Christmas? I believe so, based on my observation of looking kindly on Christmas Eve congregations over the last 20 odd years. I take the view that everyone in church has their heart in the right place, but needs to have it expanded into deeper God-consciousness and compassion. And those with broken-hearts have to have a patch of time to let a tear fall into the darkened silence. For all that to happen the sanctuary needs to become a still and sacred place, if at all possible. That's where we, as members of St. B's come in: if we set the tone of quiet worshipful expectation and then let God work through us and touch those around us, then all will be set for the heralding of a Holy Night.

See you Sunday and then again as we behold Incarnate Love on Christmas Eve.
Gareth

Reach the Rector

Call the office (914) 591-8194 to arrange for a home visit, Holy Communion at home or to arrange to meet at church.

For pastoral emergencies call Gareth directly at (617) 930-3728.

Drop-in hours Wednesday afternoons, 1-3.30PM, no appointment necessary.
The Rector's Sabbath (Day off) is Monday.

ST. BARNABAS AT-A-GLANCE

THIS WEEKEND

Hospitality: We host the *AA "Lighten-Up"* group, every Saturday, 9.30-10.30AM at Irvington Presbyterian Church this week.

Fellowship: *Setting up Christmas trees* in the Sanctuary, Saturday December 21st at 8-10AM.

Children's Formation: *Nativity Pageant Rehearsal*, Saturday December 21st 10-Noon.

Adult Learning: *"All Set for the Day"* conversation about Sunday's Scripture readings every Sunday 9-9.30AM led by the rector in the McCormack Lounge.

Children's Formation: *"Godly Play"* Church School Every Sunday in the Newberry Wing. Class orientation at 9:45AM with teaching beginning at 10am.

Fellowship: *The Greening of the Sanctuary* right after the 10AM service, December 22nd.

Adult Learning: "*The Bible*," a six week course led by the rector, following the Coffee Hour, 11:45AM-1PM in the Newberry Wing.

Fellowship: *Christmas Party at the Rectory* on Sunday, December 22nd 3-6pm. All are welcome. RSVP here: [Evite](#).

Hospitality: We host *Al-Anon "Friends, family & loved ones"* every Sunday 7-9PM in Colwell Hall.

NEXT WEEK

Outreach: *Children and Youth Caroling at Abbot's House* - Rehearsal after church on Sunday, December 22nd at 11:30am. All to meet and proceed to Abbott House from church at 4:55pm on Monday, December 23rd RSVP here: [Evite](#). Pizza party to follow in Colwell Hall. Contact Greg Kniesel for details at gregkniesel@aol.com.

Church Worship: *Christmas Eve Nativity Pageant Service*, Tuesday, Dec. 24th at 4PM and Christmas Mass at 9PM.

Adult Formation: *Women's Prayer and Meditation group* led by Fran Bean is **cancelled** during "Sundown Week" and will recommence on Wednesday, January 8th at 10am.

Adult Learning: Wednesday study group, "The Bible" is **cancelled** during "Sundown Week" and will recommence on Wednesday, January 8th at 11am in McCormack Lounge. Note new earlier start date.

Hospitality: We host the *AA "Old-Timers" group*, every Friday, 7.30-8.30PM in the Newberry Wing

Fellowship: *Men's Breakfast and Bible Reflection* is **cancelled** during "Sundown Week" and will recommence Saturday, January 4th.

Hospitality: We host the *AA "Lighten-Up" group*, every Saturday, 9.30-10.30AM in Colwell Hall.

PLANNING AHEAD 2020

Church Worship: *The Feast of the Epiphany* celebrated at both Services January 5th in lieu of January 6th.

Youth Formation: *Youth Group and Teen Parenting* gathering, Sunday, January 5th 5:30-7:30pm at the Rectory. RSVP here: [Evite](#).

Fellowship: *Epiphany Day Dinner*, a heart warming festive feast. Children's activity at 6, dinner begins at 6.30PM. Commuters are welcome to arrive when they can. Monday January 6th 6PM-8PM in Colwell Hall.

Fellowship: "*Bread and Banter*" lunch gathering for those of retirement age. January 7th Noon-1PM in Colwell Hall. Sign up in the McCormack Lounge.

Church Housekeeping: Annual Report articles are due in the Parish office, Wednesday, January 15th.

Social Justice: *REPAIR Meeting*, Wednesday, January 15th at 7:30-9PM, here at St Barnabas.

Fellowship: *The Saint Barnabas Book Group* will meet on Wednesday, January 22nd, at 7:30pm, to discuss "Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine", by Gail Honeyman. All are welcome. If you have questions please contact Lea Carmichael Richardson at Paintmoth@gmail.com

Church Governance: *Annual Parochial Church Meeting and All Parish Supper*, Sunday January 26th 5.30PM-7.30PM in Colwell Hall. Please plan on attending this All-Parish gathering. Dinner and childcare provided.

EVENT AND PROGRAM DETAILS

CHRISTMAS PARTY AT THE RECTORY: 12/22



We welcome you at the rectory for a festive gathering to celebrate the season. Please bring something sweet to share, but only if you have the wherewithal to do so.

Your presence is sweet enough!

Childcare is on site all ages welcome!

RSVP at [Evite](#)

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES: 12/24



Join us on Christmas Eve as we celebrate the birth of our savior, Jesus Christ!

4pm Christmas Eve Nativity Pageant Service
9pm Christmas Mass

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEMORIAL FLOWERS

If you would like to give flowers at Christmas in memory of Loved Ones, please fill out a "Christmas Memorial flower" envelope and leave it in the large envelope on the office door. Deadline is Friday, December 20th.



GRATITUDE FOR OUR STAFF



If you would like to give a Christmas gift to staff members, Sue, Donald and Ron write a check out to St. B's and put "staff gift" in the memo line. Thank you!

HOME COMMUNION VISIT

Home Communion Visits on last Tuesdays and Thursdays of the month.

Contact the Parish Office if you or a loved one would like to receive communion at home due to a recent or long term illness (914) 591-8194

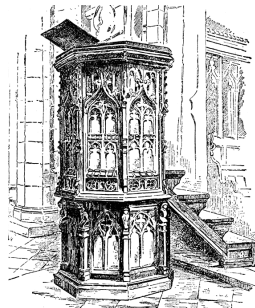
STOCK DONATION INFO

Instructions for Stock donations have been revised. The account at TDAmeritrade is now closed. We are now using diocesan services. The updated securities letter of instructions is available from the Church Office. Please be in touch with Cynthia Ferguson at 914-631-7188 or at ferginvestcf@gmail.com if you desire to pledge stock as your financial contribution to this year's stewardship campaign.



Service Times

Sunday, Dec. 22nd
8:00 am
Holy Eucharist, Rite I
10:00 am
Holy Eucharist, Rite II



The Readings

- **Isaiah 7:10-16**
- **Romans 1:1-7**
- **Matthew 1:18-25**
- **Psalm 80:1-7,16-18**

[CLICK FOR THE LECTIONARY](#)



Goings On

Friday, Dec. 20th
6:30pm - 7:30pm
AA in Roane Room

Saturday, Dec. 21st
9:30am - 10:30am
AA in Colwell Hall

Sunday, Dec. 22nd
7pm-9pm
AlAnon in Colwell Hall and
McCormack Lounge



**SIGN UP FOR
OUR EMAILS**



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EMAIL**

