



November Newsletter

Blessed November everyone! The weather is getting colder now and school along with the parish programs are in full swing - I hope everyone is doing well!

Here are some updates as we prepare to begin the month of November:

- A special word of thanks to all who attended the October meeting and have been working through the new changes. We will go over all of them again at the November meeting and the High School Servers will have their first meeting with me in this month as well so that we can get everyone on the same page.
- I also wish to offer a word of thanks to all who came to the Installation Mass for Father Fitzgerald this past weekend! It truly was a beautiful and moving event. Your participation, especially those who served was crucial to its success. Congratulations to Terrence and Tom on their debut as MC's of the Mass – not easy to be 'in the spotlight' and the role will take some getting used to but they are more than capable. Job well done!!!
- An update on recruitment: It is still ongoing but moving slowly – as of this mailing I have 5 new servers from the Elementary School and we are now beginning our recruitment through the Religious Education program. My goal is to add 10 new servers to the fold before the beginning of Lent (March 1) so if there are any young men/women that you feel would be good candidates for serving at the altar – please notify me of them or encourage them to reach out to me! I am hoping to begin the new training for them in December and continue through the month of January with an installation Mass taking place in February before the beginning of Lent.
- Enclosed is a copy of the November Schedule – which includes Thanksgiving Day on November 24th. I ask that you review the calendar and please let me know of any major issues as soon as possible!

- A few dates to keep in mind as we begin this month:
 - Reminder that our monthly Altar Server meeting will take place on **Tuesday November 15th at 4:00pm in the Main Church**. Please come in and take a seat by the Blessed Virgin Mary side of the Church. The meeting is expected to last 30-45 minutes.
 - High School servers will have their first meeting on **Saturday November 5th at 1:00pm also in the Main Church** – please be on time as stated in the email I sent to you all a few days ago as I know your weekend time is important as you travel and have a lot going on in your respective schools during the week.
 - The weekend of November 26-27 begins the Season of Advent. You may notice on the schedule for that weekend that there is a service at 4:00pm. We are preparing to re-introduce a very beautiful tradition here at St. Barnabas – namely, **Solemn Advent Vespers**. Vespers refer to the Evening Prayer of the Church and are prayed daily by all priests, religious, and even lay faithful throughout the world. On Sundays the Church asks us if possible to have a communal celebration of these very beautiful psalms and prayers. The service will consist of a main celebrant, three servers and an MC and the psalms are chanted antiphonally led by two cantors. Each Vespers service lasts approximately 30-35 minutes so there will be time in between the service and the celebration of Mass.
 - The general rule with Vespers going forward is that servers who are assigned to this service will meet with me in the Sacristy at 3:20 for a brief rehearsal - serve the vespers and then stay on for the 5:00pm Mass. As you are doing 2 services back to back you will not be responsible for serving any other mass/event that weekend other than vespers and Mass. The schedule for Vespers as we have them so far is as follows:
 - ***1st Sunday of Advent (November 27) - Solemn Vespers @ 4:00pm***
 - ***2nd Sunday of Advent (December 4) – Solemn Vespers @ 4:00pm***
 - ***3rd Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday – December 11)) – Lessons & Carols (will replace Solemn Vespers) – Servers will be chosen for this as this event will take on a slightly more liturgical feel this year – more on this at the November meeting***
 - ***4th Sunday of Advent (December 18) – Solemn Vespers @ 4:00pm***
 - Finally, with this mailing we are also beginning to approach the Holidays (Thanksgiving and Christmas). Please begin to let me know if there are any vacations being taken either during Thanksgiving weekend or during Christmas Break. Also please begin to let me know who's involved in the Christmas Pageant along with who is able/not able to serve Solemn Mass at Midnight (I understand this is a late Mass for some – so I want to

be fair). We will also begin to seriously discuss the Christmas Schedule in the November meeting – as I was made aware this past week – St. Barnabas has 13 Christmas Masses.....YIKES!! We are going to be working overtime to make sure all are covered so please be patient with me as I try to accommodate your schedules as well as the taxing schedule of the parish through the Christmas season.

- Lastly, please submit to me names of members of your families that you would like to have the priests of the parish pray for and we will include them in the All Souls' Remembrance during the Month of November. In particular I will be offering one of my Sunday masses during the month of November (probably the weekend of the 13th) for your deceased family members. This is the least I can do for the incomparable patience and fraternity you've had for me the past 4 months.

Eternal rest grant to their souls O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them – may their souls and the souls of all the faithfully departed through the mercy of God rest in peace, Amen.

God bless!

Fr. JP