

Church News

Local pastor offers sermon

Give Thanks

Let us consider the topic of thanksgiving in light of this timeless yet timely account from the Gospel according to Luke:

Luke 17:11-19 (NIV)
11 Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. 12 As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance 13 and called out in a loud voice, “Jesus, Master, have pity on us.”

14 When he saw them, he said, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were cleansed.

15 One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. 16 He threw himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him and he was a Samaritan.

17 Jesus asked, “Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine?” 18 Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?” 19 Then he said to him, “Rise and go; your faith has made you well.”

Within this selection we identify three groups of people:

1) The Ten
Verse 12 indicates that ten lepers encountered Jesus upon His entry into the village. Consider the lives these figures were forced to live. Leprosy in antiquity was a debilitating disease in every conceivable way. Because of the need to control the spread of a disease for which there was no cure, lepers were required to isolate themselves from society.

While thus excluded, they were to wear mourning clothes, leave their hair in disorder, and cry “unclean” so that the healthy might be warned of their presence. Forced to live outside of

the community, they were regarded as outcasts and accursed of God. Can you imagine the trauma such figures experienced physically, emotionally, socially and spiritually? Yet these men knew enough to call upon the power of Christ to remedy what ailed them.

We do well to see ourselves in the ten. Their physical condition symbolically pictures the spiritual condition of those outside of Christ. We deal with a “leprosy” all our own in human sinfulness. Sin has infected each of us with no earthly means of remedy (Rom. 3:23). It distorts and mars the image of God within us beyond recognition, causing us to live as outcasts, as those spiritually dead, in relation to the Lord (Eph. 2:1-3).

Of course, Christianity teaches that Jesus has made a way for both pardon and cleansing through His sacrifice. All we have to do is place our faith in Him (Eph. 2:1-10; John 3:16). To what degree do we know enough to call upon the power of Christ to remedy what ails us?

2) The Nine
The text is clear that ten lepers were healed (vv. 14, 17). However, nine failed to return to offer thanksgiving. Jesus was evidently dismayed by their ingratitude (Luke 17:17-18): “Jesus asked, ‘Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?’” How tragic that 90% of those healed by Christ failed to offer a simple: “Thank you.”

We do well to see ourselves in the nine. How often does the Lord bless us in some way, yet we fail to express our gratitude?

The sense of disgust we

feel toward the nine for failing to return to Jesus should be directed inwardly, as all-too-often we follow in their footsteps. In this season, are there blessings that have gone unrecognized? If so, take a moment to do better than the nine, giving thanks to One who is most worthy. It is the least we can do.

3) The One
Whereas nine failed to honor Christ after His marvelous work, one returned to glorify God. Luke records that the one, “when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice” (v. 15). Moreover, the text notes in the subsequent verse that he “hrew himself” at the feet of Jesus to offer thanks.

We do well to imitate the attitude and action(s) of this man. We may never have been healed of leprosy per se, but has not the Lord moved mightily in our lives? Look back over your years. Do they not evidence His kindness to you?

Thus said, maybe it is time to raise your voice loudly to glorify His Name. Perhaps it is time to humble yourself, fall at His feet and worship Him for who He is and what He has done. I cannot think of a better season to offer such thanks.

Thank you for taking the time to read this publication. Should you have any comments or questions, feel free to contact me at your convenience using the information below. Also, feel free to check us out online at www.NewLifeBarre.org or visit us each Sunday at 10:30 am.

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St. Mary’s Parish has new priest

ORANGE – St. Mary’s Parish in Orange announces that Bishop William Byrne appointed Rev. Mark Glover, Administrator, as Pastor. Fr. Mark has been stationed in Orange for just over a year, replacing Fr. Shaun O’Connor.

Parishioners received the news this past weekend and applauded the decision, which grants Fr. Mark a six-year term in Orange. He has been busy over the past year, encouraging Parish growth, following up on necessary repairs to the church and parish center and reorganizing committees. In fact, Bishop Byrne recently visited Orange to celebrate Baptisms, First Communions and Confirmations, a clear sign of parish growth this past year.

Upon arrival last year, Fr. Mark indicated he hoped to lead the Parish and community in learning from, honoring, and worshipping Jesus Christ, and said



Submitted photos
Fr. Mark Glover of St. Mary’s Parish in Orange, administrator for the past year, was recently named as Pastor by Bishop William Byrne.

he would like individuals in the community to step forward and share their talents to help him make St. Mary’s Parish run more smoothly and

be a vibrant, responsive resource for the community. All indications are that he has been successful in helping the parish move forward.

Public Notices

Attorney General’s Notice Pursuant to G.L. c. 40, § 32 Town of Barre Case No. 12013 Annual Town Meeting of June 24, 2025 Articles # 18 and 20

Attorney General’s Limited Authority to Waive Procedural Defects in the Notice of the Planning Board Hearing

Pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 40, § 32, if the Attorney General finds there to be any defect in the procedure of adoption or amendment of any zoning by-law relating to the form or content of the notice of the Planning Board Hearing prescribed by G.L. c. 40A, § 5, or to the manner or dates on which said notice is mailed, posted or published as required by that section, then instead of disapproving the by-law or amendment by reason of any such defect, the Attorney General may elect to proceed under the defect waiver provisions of G.L. c. 40, § 32. Under those provisions, the Attorney General is conditionally authorized to waive any such defect.

Defect Determined in Notice of Planning Board Hearing

The Attorney General has determined that the Planning Board Hearing Notice relating to the above Article failed to comply with the notice requirements for such hearing established by G.L. c. 40A, § 5. Section 5 provides in part (with emphasis added):

No zoning ... by-law or amendment thereto shall be adopted until after the planning board in a ... town has ... held a public hearing thereon ... at which interested persons shall be given an opportunity to be heard Notice of the time and place of such hearing, of the subject matter, sufficient for identification, and of the place where texts and maps thereof may be inspected shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the ... town once in each of two successive weeks, the first publication to be not less than fourteen days before the day of said hearing, and by posting notice in a conspicuous place in the ... town hall for a period of not less than fourteen days before the day of said hearing. Notice of said bearing shall also be sent by mail, postage prepaid to the executive office of housing and livable communities, the regional planning agency, if any, and to the planning board of each abutting city and town In cases involving boundary, density or use changes within a district, notice shall be sent to any such nonresident property owner who has filed such a request with the city or town clerk and whose property lies in the district where the change is sought.

Based on the materials submitted to this Office, we have identified the following defect: (1) the Planning Board Hearing Notice was first published in a

newspaper of general circulation on May 22, 2025 for a Planning Board Hearing to be held on June 3, 2025, which was only twelve days before the hearing, not fourteen days as required by G.L. c. 40A, § 5. For this reason, the 90-day period prescribed for the Attorney General’s review of Articles 18 and 20 is suspended in accordance with G.L. c. 40, § 32.

Suspension of Review of Zoning By-Law Amendments

The 90-day period prescribed by law for the Attorney General’s review of local by-laws is therefore suspended in accordance with the provisions of G.L. c. 40, § 32.

Posting and Publication of This Notice

The Town Clerk shall post a true copy of this Notice in a conspicuous place in the Barre Town Hall for a period of not less than 14 days and shall publish a copy once in a newspaper of general circulation in the Town of Barre.

Filing of Claim That Defect in Notice Was Misleading or Otherwise Prejudicial

Within 21 days of the date on which this Notice is published in a newspaper of general circulation in the Town of Barre, any resident of the Town of Barre, or the owner of any real property in the Town of Barre or any other party entitled to notice of the Planning Board Hearing may file with the Town Clerk a written statement that the notice defect was misleading or otherwise prejudicial. The statement must include the reasons supporting the claim that the defect in the Planning Board Notice was misleading or otherwise prejudicial. This statement must be actually on file with the Town Clerk not later than 21 days from the date on which this Notice is published in the newspaper.

Town Clerk’s Certification of Compliance with This Notice

After the expiration of the 21-day period, the Town Clerk shall submit to the Attorney General a true copy of this Notice with a certification of compliance with the publishing and posting requirements of the preceding paragraph, and a certification that either (a) no claim was filed within the 21-day period, or (b) one or more claims were filed within the 21-day period. The Town Clerk shall submit to the Attorney General true copies of any such claim(s).

Resumption of Attorney General’s Review

Upon receipt of one original copy of this Notice with the Clerk’s certification, the 90-day period provided for the Attorney General’s review under G.L. c. 40, § 32, shall resume. If no claim is made, the Attorney General has the discretion to waive any such defect; if any claim is made, however, the Attorney General may not waive any such defect.

Note: By not filing a claim

under this provision, a person shall not be deprived of the right to assert a claim of invalidity arising out of any possible defect in the procedure of adoption or amendment, as provided in G.L. c. 40, § 32, and in G.L. c. 40A, § 5.

Date: November 10, 2025

Very truly yours,
ANDREA JOY CAMPBELL
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cc: Town Counsel Gregg J. Corbo
11/27/2025

TOWN OF OAKHAM PUBLIC NOTICE OF TAX CLASSIFICATION HEARING

The Board of Selectmen of the town of Oakham will hold a Public **Hearing on Monday, December 08, 2025 at 6:00 pm** at the Town Hall, 2 Coldbrook Road, Oakham, MA to discuss the percentage of the tax levy to be borne by each class of real and personal property for Fiscal Year 2026, pursuant to Chapter 369 of the Acts of 1982 of the Massachusetts General Laws relating to Classification and Taxation of Property, according to use. Interested tax payers may present their views either orally or in writing to the Board of Selectmen prior to or during said hearing.

Board of Selectmen
Donald Haapakoski, Chair
Michael Brunelle, Vice Chair
Dennis Bergin, Clerk
11/27/2025

TOWN OF BARRE Board of Water Commissioners PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held by the Board of Water Commissioners relative to increasing Water User Fees. **This hearing will take place on Monday, December 8, 2025 at 5:30PM at the Department of Public Works Building, 441 Wheelwright Road, Barre, Massachusetts.**

Any person wishing to comment may do so at that time. Any questions may be directed to the DPW by phone: 978-355-5013 or email: dpw@townofbarre.com
11/20, 11/27/2025



NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

Are you having difficulty communicating with your partner, struggling with boundaries, and healthy relationships?

We invite you to join us Friday afternoons from 1-2:30 pm to explore these topics and more.

This group will be held in zoom, is educational, confidential, and free.

Please contact **Pat James 413-726-8661.**

Richard Mansfield
Director

Ricky Mansfield
Director

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