

## Environmental Guidelines for St. Barnabas Events

**As stewards of God's precious earth, users of parish facilities are requested to observe the following Eco-Guiding Principles for events held at St. Barnabas:**

- 1) We **strongly suggest** that bottled water not be used. Such plastic bottles take decades to break down, occupy space in our landfills, often use precious water from third world countries and use enormous amounts of petroleum. The alternatives: a) tap water which is plentiful, contains fluoride and is basically free, and does not pollute our earth; or b) filtered water bought in 5 gallon bulk containers.
- 2) Styrofoam products are not to be used. Styrofoam does not break down in our earth. Paper cups, #1 clear plastic cups, plates, et cetera, are available through the St. Barnabas E-Committee at a reduced cost, and sometimes are free.
- 3) The use of #1 clear plastic cups is favored, as they are 100% recyclable and have no known adverse health effects. The use of #6 plastic cups is discouraged. They are not recyclable and contain BPA, a substance that has been identified as a carcinogen.
- 4) Blue recycling cans are available and are to be placed immediately NEXT TO black garbage cans. Studies and observations have shown there is more inclination for people to place items in the correct containers when those containers are in pairs next to each other. Also we encourage the use of FEWER containers for St. Barnabas events. Too many cans being minimally filled is costly and adds to more plastic pollution.