



RECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Friends in Christ:

One of the underused and probably most underappreciated virtues of the Christian life is hope. It is counted as a cardinal virtue, that is, a virtue around which much turns, and St. Paul commends it to us in his great passage on love in I Corinthians 13... "Now these three abide; faith, hope, and love, but the greatest of these is love."

Hope is difficult because by its very nature it requires us to wait with at least some degree of patience for God to work God's designs for us. And, oh my, waiting is difficult! Do you remember the waiting required as a child when Christmas was just around the corner? We know that something tantalizing awaits at the end of our hoping, but we are all too impatient to get there. We have difficulty enjoying those moments of waiting, of longing, of hoping.

This same impatience intrudes on our lives as adults. Perhaps it comes in the form of that new job, new relationship, or new career that we feel is just around the corner but cannot see. We are required to hope.

A congregation in the midst of an interim period is a congregation in the middle of hoping, of waiting, of expecting. Yours is about to come to an end as all the promises of this period bear fruit in the call of a new rector. He will bear the burden of your waiting as you begin to measure the gifts that your new rector will bring for the building up of this portion of Christ's Body, the Church.

But your hoping will not end. You will be challenged to continue to hope with your new priest as you forge a future together. However, and most importantly, your hoping will not be on the sidelines, but active and engaged, working together for the good of the church.

Your hoping will not assume that your new priest will have every answer to every problem or know exactly how to do everything you require. Your hope will not include that he is skilled in everything or able to meet your every need. Your hope will certainly not assume that he knows how to read minds.

But what your hope will and must include is an abundance of faith and love, most especially love, for this new worker in the rich vineyard into which we are all called. His call is not to labor in isolation but to work together with you, always with you, so that God's name is glorified and people brought to salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

As you journey into the future, remember that God is always good, always faithful, always loving - and yes - always hopeful, no matter the outward circumstances of our lives. You are richly blessed indeed!

Many blessings,

Fr. Carlton

THANK YOU FROM DEACON ALEX

I wish to thank our generous parishioners for your contributions to the Deacon’s Discretionary Fund. We were able to provide a donation to Beth Mauger Lucas’s family for their hurricane losses, as well as for the many needs of those among us in our community.

GREAT CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Our angels sang and our congregation rejoiced in the celebration of Christ's birth. This year's Christmas pageant included musical solos, hymns, and the voices of the Angels telling the Christmas story. What a wonderful way to begin a Christmas holiday.



As we conclude this year of Sunday School, our youth begins another year of serving our church and community and in learning about our faith. Thanks to Deb Cree for helping with the music for our program and to all the parents who support our Sunday School every week. New to come: In late February we will be adding another Sunday school class for children 4 to 8 years old. New members are always welcome to our existing program. I look

forward to another great year of working with our young parishioners. ~Miss Ellen

At the 10:30 pre-Mass concert, we were treated to a



program of English music presented by our music director and organist, Don Ryno, and our wonderful Choral Scholars, John Nichici and Joe Klinger.

THANK YOU, DON RYNO

This is a great season to recognize the service and gifts of others, particularly in our church family.

I have made a donation to the choral music program in honor of Don Ryno. We truly appreciate his gifts as an organist, providing this valuable ministry at just the right time.

I especially want to commend Don for his creativity and work to beautify the entrance area to the church offices. This is now a warm and welcoming area for our parishioners, including the children, youth, and teachers who participate in classes. I have heard many compliments about the changes, too, from visitors and individuals who receive counseling services.

Thank you, Don, for leaving a lasting impression through your music and decorating talents.

~David King

AROUND THE PARISH FAMILY TABLE



Olivia Posner (daughter of Ruth and Bruce Posner, granddaughter of Harry and Sara Witmer) graduated from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts

in the Maurice Kambar Institute of Film and Television. She has accepted a job in New York City.

ANNUAL MEETING - JANUARY 20

The annual meeting will be held on **January 20** following the 10 am mass. This is the only the time in the year that the church regularly comes together as a community to discuss and act upon those things that are essential to our good functioning. Please make every effort to attend. A robust sense of communion in Jesus Christ in all that we do is especially important during this interim period. All are welcome to attend the meeting, and of course, the potluck lunch following the meeting.



RECTORY OPEN HOUSE RESCHEDULED - JANUARY 13

Father Carlton and Don have rescheduled their open house for **January 13** from **4 to 6 pm** at the rectory. All are welcome and invited to attend. Bring your families.

FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY - JANUARY 6

Since the Feast of the Epiphany falls on a Sunday next year, it will be celebrated at the regular masses. We will renew our baptismal vows.

TOYS FOR TOTS



Thanks to Carol Fyfe and Ellen Dyakiw, who joined many other community volunteers to wrap hundreds of gifts for the County-wide Toys for Tots Program. The

distribution site in Bellefonte is the FaithCentre Food Pantry.

A New Year's Prayer

Lord, You make all things new
You bring hope alive in our hearts
And cause our Spirits to be born again.

Thank you for this new year
For all the potential it holds.
Come and kindle in us
A mighty flame
So that in our time, many will see the wonders of God
And live forever to praise Your glorious name.

Amen

(A modern prayer for the New Year from www.lords-prayer-words.com)

January 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 	2 9:30 Healing Mass -Our Lady's Altar 12 pm AA Mtg	3	4	5
6 The Epiphany Mass 8 Sung Mass 10	7 7 pm Men's Group 8 pm AA Mtg	8 7 pm Book Discussion Group 8 pm AA Mtg	9 9:30 Healing Mass -Our Lady's Altar 12 pm AA Mtg	10	11	12
13 First Sunday after the Epiphany Mass 8 Sung Mass 10 Rectory Open House 4-6	14 7 pm Men's Group 8 pm AA Mtg	15 7 pm Book Discussion Group 8 pm AA Mtg	16 9:30 Healing Mass 12 pm AA Mtg	17	18	19
20 Second Sunday after the Epiphany Mass 8 Sung Mass 10 Annual meeting & potluck	21 7 pm Men's Group 8 pm AA Mtg	22 7 pm Book Discussion Group 8 pm AA Mtg	23 9:30 Healing Mass -Our Lady's Altar 12 pm AA Mtg	24	25	26
27 Third Sunday after the Epiphany Mass 8 Sung Mass 10	28 7 pm Men's Group 8 pm AA Mtg	29 7 pm Book Discussion Group 8 pm AA Mtg	30 9:30 Healing Mass -Our Lady's Altar	31		