

**RECTOR'S LETTER**

A once popular hymn reads in part: "New occasions teach new duties, time makes ancient good uncouth." I have discovered this is always true of interim ministry: as one community has talents, another does not have. This, of course, is not a cause of despair, but one of rejoicing, as the variety of gifts in the Body of Christ is staggering in our diversity.

I have discovered that the people of St. John's are, among many other things, gifted with generosity and thankfulness. And I have discovered that you don't recognize how generous and thankful you are! That lack of self-consciousness about one's gifts is a hallmark of Christian living because it reflects an awareness that these gifts are not ours, but the Holy Spirit who lives within us. And so, let me thank you for this gift of your generous and forgiving and loving spirit to me over the course of these several months.

The arrival of your new rector will bring new gifts into this community and, with them, new challenges to meet in service to our Lord and his Gospel. You will meet these challenges with your thankfulness, your generosity, and your love.

It has been nothing but a joy to be a part of this community.

Blessings, many blessings to all along the Way.

(The Rev.) Carlton E. Kelley

**FROM THE DEACON'S PERCH**

A great Easter celebration was had by all – Alleluia! Great liturgy and music we did have. Thank you, Fr. Carlton and Don Ryno, along with John, Joe, and Julia, our choral scholars.

We now prepare ourselves for the coming of our new Rector, Fr. Carlos de la Torre. Many people have expressed their excitement over his arrival, and I have heard things like it will be good to have him grow our church with newcomers. For those who don't know this, the role of priest is to SHEPHERD the congregation spiritually and sacramentally, whereas the role of growing the church is OUR responsibility. We can help by reaching out to someone who has left for one reason or another, or say to someone, "we have a new priest whom I'd like you to hear and meet."

I have read many books on church growth and congregational health, and I feel we are a vibrant, outgoing community of volunteers, and that people know about St. John's Church – so we are 50% there. The other 50% comes from us doing our part for church growth. Let us imagine the outer left side and outer right side of church with people in the pews. That will make Fr. Carlos and us feel like we are on the right track.

A few side notes:

- We are collecting peanut butter and jelly for FaithCentre during the month of May so that children who normally receive free lunches at school will have something easy to prepare during summer recess. Let's fill up the rear of the Narthex with

- Fr. Carlos and I will be at a clergy conference May 20 - 22.
- I will be conducting an outdoor nondenominational service, "Liturgy of the Word," in the parking lot by the historical library during the soap box derby on May 12. I requested this because there are many participants from other states who are involved in the Derby. I felt the need to minister the Word since the event runs into Sunday, and the race committee gratefully agreed.

I will be sharing more news in the future about courses I have been taking as part of my continuing education requirements. I was reminded by Bishop Scanlan that clergy are not only to take care of themselves, but also to educate themselves. So as a member of the Spiritual Care Association, I will be sharing my learning experiences in future newsletters.

I offer a "Blessed Noble Woman's Day" on May 12. Some women are more than just mothers. May God bless all of you. Amen.

### **WELCOME, FR. CARLOS (MAY 19)**

As everyone knows by now, **The Rev. Carlos de la Torre** has accepted our call as Rector of St. John's. His first Sunday with us is **May 19**. A parish-wide pot-luck lunch will be held following the 10:00 service. The church will provide sandwiches, wraps, cake, and drinks. Sign-up sheets for number attending and side dishes will be at the back of the church.

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE**

On Sunday, March 31, the Sunday school children were invited to lunch and a movie at the home of Don Ryno and Fr. Carlton. We enjoyed pizza and popcorn while watching the movie *The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe*. The day was topped off by a dessert of ice cream. Thank you, Don and Fr. Carlton, for another bonding experience for our youngest church members.



On May 12 (Mother's Day), the children will host coffee hour. If you would like to contribute to this event, please let Ellen know.

children will serve as acolytes at the 10:00 service.

### **IT'S PB & J TIME!**



Continuing our popular tradition instituted a few years ago, we will again collect jars of jelly/jam (apple butter, fruit spread) and

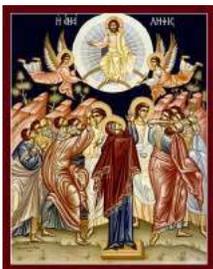
peanut butter (sunflower butter, almond butter, etc.) during the Sundays of May for donation to FaithCentre in time for school summer recess. This will give families whose kids receive free lunch at school something to have on hand for a quick meal or snack. This is always one of our most successful campaigns. A collection container will be provided at the back of the church.

### **REMINDER: KIDSHINE COLLECTION**



Please bring your donations of food or clothing for Grades K-5 for Bellefonte Elementary School and place them in the tub at the back of church. We collect on the first Sunday of the month (May 5 this month).

### **ASCENSION EVE SERVICE - MAY 29, 7 PM**



The Feast of the Ascension will be celebrated at our companion parish church, St. Andrew's, on **May 29, at 7 pm**. Our own Father Carlos de la Torre will be the preacher at the service.

The Ascension is one of the chief feasts of the liturgical year, as it reminds us that as Jesus is no longer with us in his particular physical body, he is able to be with everyone everywhere in the power of the Holy Spirit. Let our St. John's family be well-represented to support Fr. Carlos and St. Andrew's.

### **MOWERS AND WEEDERS NEEDED**

Spring has arrived, and the grass and weeds are attacking the church grounds in full force. We desperately need mowers and weeders.



If you can give 30-60 minutes of your attention once or twice a month, it would make a huge difference. The labor provided by our volunteers saves the church a significant amount of money versus paying for professional service. If you can help, there is a signup sheet in the back of the church; or contact Jim Jackson at 814-571-4556. A mower and gasoline are provided.

### **AROUND THE PARISH FAMILY TABLE**



**Congratulations! Ciara (Jenkins) and Ian Ousley** were married on April 27 at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Lincoln, Nebraska. We look forward to welcoming them back to St. John's.

**Vestry Members:** Larry Roberson (Sr. Warden), Jim Jackson (Jr. Warden), Thomas Quigley, John Fusco, Carol Fyfe, Mitch Holland, Debra Cree, Matt Perkins, David King



# May 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3 Community Lunch 11:30 am Presbyterian Church	4
5 Mass 8 Sung Mass 10	6 7 pm Men's Group  8 pm AA Mtg	7  8 pm AA Mtg	8 9:30 Healing Mass  12 pm AA Mtg  7 pm Vestry mtg	9	10	11
12 Mass 8 Sung Mass 10 Bellefonte Soap Box Derby 	13 7 pm Men's Group  8 pm AA Mtg	14 8 pm AA Mtg	15 9:30 Healing Mass  12 pm AA Mtg	16	17 <b>Bellefonte Community</b>  	18 <b>Bellefonte Community</b>  
19 <b>Welcome, Father Carlos</b>  Mass 8 Sung Mass 10 <b>NO</b> Sunday School	20 7 pm Men's Group  8 pm AA Mtg	21 8 pm AA Mtg	22 9:30 Healing Mass  12 pm AA Mtg	23	24	25
26 Mass 8 Sung Mass 10	27  7 pm Men's Group 8 pm AA Mtg	28 8 pm AA Mtg	29 9:30 Healing Mass	30	31	