



RECTOR'S LETTER

Dear People of St. John's,

The last few weeks of summer are officially upon us. While the summer months can often serve as a time for rest and relaxation, it has been a busy season at Saint John's. Between our usual round of services, feast day celebrations, pastoral services, organizing tasks around the office, launching much needed projects, and planning for the fall season, we have kept a steady pace all through the summer. Though the leaves will shortly begin to change hues and colors, the Church, in Bellefonte and around the world, will continue in adoration and pilgrimage towards God. Here at Saint John's, we'll continue to journey towards the heart of God through our worship and prayer, as well as through upcoming opportunities for Christian formation and spiritual growth. All are highlighted in the pages that follow.

Since you received the last issue of *The Herald*, we officially welcomed back Erik and Rebecca



Clayton to our music program. It has truly been a gift to work with them. In their short time

with us, they have joyfully led us in our work of prayer and worship, most recently offering to God and his church extraordinary music for the Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary. It was a glorious mass, God was praised and glorified, and our new Marian Shrine was blessed for our common prayer and devotion. As we continue to remember the great cloud of witnesses that point us to Christ, please mark your calendars for our observance and celebration of the feast of Saint Michael and All Angels, on **Sunday, September 29**. It will be a glorious day filled with rich music and fellowship.

Before I share a few reflections, I want to thank Ellen Dyakiw, Deacon Alex Dyakiw, and our faithful volunteers for another wonderful summer program for our youth and families.



The theme of this year's Lakeside Worship and Learning was *Encountering Jesus in Galilee*. We grounded our time together in the story of Jesus calming the storm ([Mark 4:35-41](#)) as we gathered

at Bald Eagle State Park. Ellen developed a great selection of arts and crafts and games and also organized a wonderful meal. We were able to offer our youth a fun afternoon by the lake, while rooting our time in the divine truth that God is always with us, even as we face our most difficult challenges.

As I reminded our youth and families, I'd like to remind you as well: *God will be with us when things get rough*. Thankfully, God has given us people, family, and friends we can turn to when life becomes difficult. Above all, God has given us himself in Jesus Christ. And Jesus Christ desires to be by your side, as he was with his disciples, to take on the storms of life. Never forget that God is faithful. Even if our faith stumbles or stands on shaky ground, God's faithfulness and love towards us remains the same and unmoved.

As I alluded earlier in this letter, the fall is filled with various opportunities for spiritual growth. From our Sunday masses to our upcoming learning series, **Journey to the Heart of God**, to our weekly men's group and mid-week mass, there are various ways to connect and grow in the Christian life. And there are many ways to bear the love of God through our giving of resources for those in need and by volunteering in our community. While all these things are important, they are important because they allow us to come closer to God. They allow us not only to be better people, but more importantly, to be better versions of ourselves. The second century Church Father, Saint Irenaeus, writes that "the Glory of God is a Human Being fully alive." Participating and being in God's glory means bearing God's love to a broken and hurting world, while not being afraid to accept God's love, grace, and

mercy in our own lives. After all, the Christian life does not call us to live apart from the world, but rather, to live more faithfully in it.

I end this letter by sharing an interesting summer fact about the parish. Over the summer, when church attendance is known to drop, we have seen our three highest Sunday attendances so far this year - even greater than our Easter attendance. On one of the Sundays, we celebrated a Baptism for a young family, who after emailing another church in the area and receiving no response, contacted our parish office. On another, we observed the Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary and the blessing of our new Shrine with rich music and fellowship. The final Sunday was a typical summer day in June when our Gospel happened to be the Story of the Good Samaritan. While I cannot find a common thread between these Sundays, I do find common themes: hospitality, reverent and joyful worship, and a commitment to the other.

As we continue on our spiritual journey, I look forward to growing with you in faith, both as individuals and as a parish community. I truly believe that before we can ever see numerical growth, we need to commit ourselves to spiritual growth. So let us grow, and let us show forth the Glory of God by being fully alive.

Yours in Christ,
Father Carlos

FROM THE DEACON'S PERCH

“The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.”

—Luke 6:5

My Dear Friends,

What a hot summer it has been! July was another record-breaker for climate change but it hasn't deterred many of us from traveling and visiting friends, going to camps, resorts, and summer homes for some R&R, or maybe just having a picnic with family and friends—time to enjoy life away from its hectic demands. We also had a busy August, but it seemed to go faster because families are getting children ready for some camp or other early-bird shopping. School functions are starting, and schedules are being made for activities and much more.

As a Spiritual Guide and life coach, I find that the implementation of Christ on a daily basis is especially important. This is where we need Sabbath time in our daily schedule and not just the weekend, as it has a correlation to good health. As in many of the gospels, Jesus went off and prayed. This is where he centered himself and kept on moving in daily life. We too can carry the heavy burdens of daily life if we just take a few moments each day—and notice, I say *moments*. Many of us don't have an hour or hours, but we do have moments, be it just 5-10-15 minutes of quiet time with God.

Some of the tools I use to keep me focused are a rock I might pick up on a trail, a stress ball, prayer beads, or even a walking stick. Many times I use my small flashlight. I start always with a mantra, “Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the

living God, have mercy on me, a sinner.” Then we have God talk. God hears my thanksgivings, concerns, and basically anything I speak. He knows what's in my heart, and I feel that conversation with God is like a hug from a loved one.

I invite all of you to have some God time and see where it takes you. If you feel comfortable, tell me about it. I'd love to hear it because God works wonders—but we don't see it unless we have Sabbath time and let Christ in our heart, mind, and soul.

Just a few reminders of things going on around here:

- The men's spiritual group resumes on **Monday, September 16**, at 7 p.m. We are starting our 20th year of Bible study at our home on 337 East Curtin Street. We are not Bible scholars by any means; we gather to talk and to try to understand how scripture works in our lives this present day. We meet for 1 hour and are out by 8 p.m. Any men who are interested are encouraged to try it.
- In September we will be collecting paper goods, such as paper towels, toilet tissue, facial tissue, antiseptic wipes, and napkins for the food bank. Their lack is a hardship for many towards the end of the month when money runs out.

I also want to acknowledge that Ellen has been heading up children's crafts at the Bellefonte Arts and Crafts Fair for 27 years and was awarded a plaque this year for her service. *Yay, Ellen!*

We had a very successful Children's Vacation Bible study at Bald Eagle Lake. Fr. Carlos and Ellen worked very hard on this, and it was GREAT. The weather was wonderful, many activities were planned and executed, and we enjoyed a eucharist and meal together. Thanks to all who participated in making this a success.

I am available for spiritual care for anyone who wishes to strengthen their prayer life or just deepen the spiritual aspects of their life. Feel free to call or e-mail me (contacts listed on our church bulletin).

As an end note, my heartfelt thanks go to Father Carlos and his energy, especially with children's growth, education, and knowledge of liturgy. We have experienced new enthusiasm at church, and the synergy is flowing. Let's all grasp that spiritual gift from God and grow as a church family and support our Shepherd. Amen.† ~Deacon Alex

KIDSHINE MINISTRY



You are reminded to bring clothing and food on the **first Sunday of the month** for donation to our neighbor,

Bellefonte Elementary School. A bin is provided for your contributions.

PARISH LEARNING SERIES



Journey to the Heart of God is a five-week program rooted in prayer, fellowship, and learning. Each Thursday we'll gather in the Fellowship Hall and dive into the heart of God by exploring elements and practices established by Christ in his Church. Sessions stand independently from one another, and there's no requirement to commit to all five sessions to attend. We will begin our time with prayer, share a meal, and dwell in the heart of God through scripture and theology. Gatherings will run from 6-7:30 p.m. Dates and topics are as follows:

September 26: Baptism | **October 3:** Bread | **October 10:** Prayer
October 17: Forgiveness | **October 24:** Charity

THE FEAST OF SAINT MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS

Sunday, September 29 | 8 & 10 a.m.

War broke out in heaven; Michael and his angels fought against the dragon. The dragon and his angels fought back, but they were defeated. —Revelation 12:7-8



We will observe the feast of Saint Michael and All Angels (Michaelmas) on its proper day, **September 29**. According to British folklore, Michaelmas is the last day of the year

to eat blackberries. It is said that when Saint Michael expelled Satan from heaven, he fell from the skies and landed in a prickly blackberry bush, cursing the fruit and scorching them with his fiery breath. Join us and sing glorious hymns at Solemn Mass, and plan to stay for a sweet coffee hour in the Fellowship Hall.

ACOLYTE RETREAT & TRAINING

Saturday, September 26 | 9-11:30 a.m.



Father Carlos invites those currently serving, and those interested in serving, as acolytes, subdeacons, and mass servers to a morning retreat and training. We will begin our time together with a hearty breakfast in the

Fellowship Hall, followed by a conversation on our prayer and worship life at Saint John's. We will go over the ritual practices in our worship life and refresh ourselves on liturgical roles and responsibilities. Please email Trish at the Parish Office (office@stjohnsepiscopalbellefonte.org) by **September 26** to RSVP.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Sunday, October 6 | 10:00 a.m.



In commemoration of Saint Francis of Assisi, Patron Saint of Animals, we'll be offering a Blessing of the Animals after Solemn Mass. We will gather in front of the Lady Shrine to ask for God's blessing upon our animal companions. Please join us with your furry, feathered, finned, or scaled friends (or a photograph).

PARISH PICNIC OCTOBER 13

Our annual parish picnic will be held **Sunday, October 13**, at the Dyakiw residence (337 E. Curtin Street, Bellefonte), with worship starting at 10:00 a.m. Volunteers are needed to help prepare the space for worship and fellowship. If



you are able to help, please contact Deacon Alex directly. There will be two sign-up sheets in the back of the church: one for anyone planning to attend and one if you are able to bring a

side dish. If there are any special dietary needs, please let Deacon Alex or Ellen know. Please note, there will be an 8:00 a.m. mass in the church for those who cannot attend the picnic. All are invited and encouraged to attend the parish picnic!

AROUND THE PARISH FAMILY TABLE

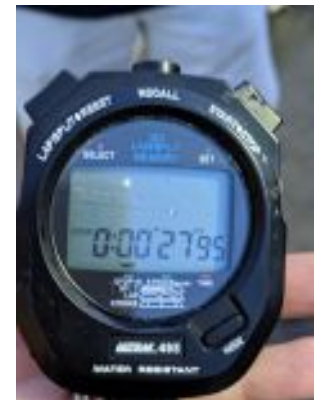


Carl Meeker (son of Leigh and Floyd) re-enlisted in the U.S. Air Force to serve another four years. He is stationed in South Dakota, where he transports munitions from storage to the flight line.

Finnegan Quigley won the “Camp Hustle Award” at Penns Valley YMCA Camp “Hoop It Up.” Congrats, Finn!



Liam Quigley broke the Penns Valley Penguins Boys’ 11-12-year-old 50-meter freestyle swim record with a time of 27.95.



Liam also made his debut in the percussion section of the Penns Valley Marching Ram band.

After 16 years on Penns Valley Road in Spring Mills, the **Quigley family** will move three miles away to 147 Kline Rd., Spring Mills, on Sept. 4.

HOLIDAY BAZAAR



This year's bazaar will be held **November 15 and 16** from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. each day in the fellowship hall. We are exploring a shortened schedule. We request donations of white elephant items, silent auction, crafts, baked goods, lunch items, and food for the raffle baskets. Sign-up sheets will be on the back table after September 5. We need everyone's help. More information will follow in the October newsletter. Speak to Sara Witmer or Kay McClellan for details.

THIS WEEK AT SAINT JOHN'S | COMING SOON!



In September, we will be launching a weekly parish update, "This Week at Saint John's." This email will share with you no more than five pieces of information, including a brief weekly reflection and reminders of what's happening around the parish. Along with *The Herald*, our website, and Facebook pages, this will help round out and strengthen our parish communication. Stay tuned!

FAITHCENTRE SEPTEMBER GIVING INITIATIVE



Our church frequently identifies a category of items for targeted collection during a particular month for donation to the food bank. For September, paper goods are needed: napkins, tissues, toilet paper, wipes, paper towels, etc. As always, thanks for your generosity.

SACRISTY TO BE UPDATED

During September the sacristy will undergo some renovations. With donations of materials from Bette Shugert, Larry Roberson and Jim Jackson will clean up and paint the space, plus replace the existing carpet with ceramic tiles. The new tiles will improve the appearance and reduce potential damage to the floor. In the past, burns from the thurible coals left significant marks on the carpet and underlying floor.

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



Vestry Collection Counters
Mitch Holland and Tom Quigley

	8 a.m.	10 a.m.

Sept 1	Dcn Dyakiw	Dcn Dyakiw
	Eucharistic Minister	D. Cree
	Book/Server	
	Crucifer	M. Perkins

Sept 8	Dcn Dyakiw	Dcn Dyakiw
	Eucharistic Minister	Carol Fyfe
	Book/Server	S. Dillon
	Crucifer	M. Perkins

Sept 15	Dcn Dyakiw	Dcn Dyakiw
	Eucharistic Minister	Youth in
	Book/Server	Worship
	Crucifer	

Sept 22	Dcn Dyakiw	Dcn Dyakiw
	Eucharistic Minister	T. Quigley
	Book/Server	S. Dillon
	Crucifer	M. Perkins

Sept 29	Dcn Dyakiw	Dcn Dyakiw
	Eucharistic Minister	M. Holland
	Book/Server	S. Dillon
	Crucifer	M. Perkins



READERS

SEPT 1	DAVID KING
SEPT 8	BILL DONOVAN
SEPT 15	KATHRYN GROSSMAN
SEPT 22	OPEN
SEPT 28	OPEN



BIRTHDAYS

Sept 1	- Diane Fusco Alex Germano
Sept 4	- Jayden Reid
Sept 5	- Mary Ellen Harpster
Sept 7	- Jim Jackson
Sept 9	- Sean Hough
Sept 22	- Susan Kurten
Sept 25	- Father Carlos



COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

SEPT 1	OPEN
SEPT 8	OPEN
SEPT 15	PEGGY & JIM JACKSON
SEPT 22	OPEN
SEPT 28	FATHER CARLOS

September 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Low Mass 8 Solemn Mass 10	2  Office Closed 8 pm AA Mtg	3 7 pm AA Mtg	4 9:30 Healing Mass - Lady Altar 12 pm AA Mtg	5	6 Community Lunch @ Presbyterian Church, 10:30 a.m.	7
8 Low Mass 8 Solemn Mass 10	9 8 pm AA Mtg	10 7 pm AA Mtg	11 9:30 Healing Mass - Lady Altar 12 pm AA Mtg	12	13	14
15 Low Mass 8 Youth in Worship 10	16 7:00 Men's Group 8 pm AA Mtg	17 7 pm AA Mtg	18 9:30 Healing Mass - Lady Altar 12 pm AA Mtg Father Carlos away	19 Father Carlos away	20 Father Carlos away	21 Father Carlos returns
22 Low Mass 8 Solemn Mass 10	23 7:00 Men's Group 8 pm AA Mtg	24 7 pm AA Mtg	25 9:30 Healing Mass - Lady Altar 12 pm AA Mtg 7:00 Vestry Meeting	26 Learning Series: Journey to the Heart of God 6 – 7:30 pm	27	28 Acolyte Retreat 9 – 11:30 am
29 Low Mass 8 Solemn Mass 10	30					