

## RECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Friends in Christ,

In September, I and other church leaders were invited by the Presiding Bishop, The Most Reverend Michael Curry, to lead the House of Bishops of The Episcopal Church in a discussion at one of their morning sessions. Twice a year, the Bishops of the Church gather for business, fellowship, and learning. I was invited as a member of the [House of Deputies Committee on the State of the Church](#), a committee that since 1821 has offered a report on the state of the church (hence the committee name) at our triennial church-wide conference, General Convention. I was fortunate to meet with Bishops from across the Church, servants elected to lead thousands of Episcopalians in their own contexts.

As my time at the House of Bishops came to an end, I felt energized and excited to return to Bellefonte. In being surrounded by our apostolic leaders, men and women called to lead our portion of the Church Catholic, I was filled with their support, prayers, and gratitude for our parish. Believe it or not, I met at least a dozen Bishops, not from Pennsylvania, who had visited our town!

As I'm filled with vigor and zeal to explore what the future holds for us as a parish, it's hard to believe that I have been serving as your rector for four months now. To be honest, it feels like it's been only a couple of weeks. At the same time, we have begun to take wonderful steps to help us better use and upgrade our church

space. As I write this letter, our sacristy is getting a much-needed makeover, thanks to the generosity of Bette Shugert, Larry Roberson, and Jim Jackson.

And in a few weeks, I hope to no longer have an office. During my first month at the parish, I realized that this was no longer a necessity for our current parish staff structure, and in consultation with Ellen Dyakiw, I have decided to turn over my office to designate a space for our parish youth. However, our new youth room, like our Sunday school room, will allow me to hold pastoral meetings and private conversations.

Over the next few weeks, we will begin work on a new altar at the back of the church. This new altar will serve as our "mission altar." It will be a site where mass may be said and items for FaithCentre food pantry, Bellefonte Elementary School, and other mission partners will be collected. This altar will serve as a reminder of how the missional and sacramental are truly one; what we do in this sacred space and what we do out in the world are one in the same.

When I first arrived at Saint John's, the items we collected for our outreach efforts were nicely tucked away in bins underneath the back table. I'm committed to changing this practice, not to show off or feel great about ourselves, but to call us to be keenly aware of our Christian duty to give to those in need. Just as we have particular spaces for prayer and the Sacraments, we will have a particular space for mission and outreach, knowing full well that it is but a small site of God's call for us to join him

in the Sacraments of the Church and in mission in the world.

After speaking with Deacon Alex and the vestry, I have decided to dedicate this altar to Saint Lawrence (AD 225-258), a deacon of the Church who, before being captured and put to death, sold the riches of the Church and gave the money to the poor. When asked to bring forth the wealth of the Church to the Roman



Empire, Saint Lawrence brought the poor, the children, and the widows, and said to the officials, “here are the riches of the Church!” It doesn’t go by me that we have been blessed by Saint Lawrence’s intercession at Saint John’s in Deacon Alex’s ministry. I’m glad to say that Deacon Alex isn’t going anywhere anytime soon, except for much-earned time away for camping and fishing.

As I’ve shared with Deacon Alex, I hope that our new Saint Lawrence altar will encourage us as the Body of Christ to continue in God’s mission. It will also serve to honor and thank Deacon Alex for his ministry among us all these years—a ministry that has strengthened and

revitalized many to go forth to love and serve the Lord.

Throughout the month of October, you will find in the back of the church a special collection envelope for All Souls Day Remembrance, along with an additional form to write the names of your loved ones who have died. Please make sure to include their full Christian name and the anniversary of their death. If an exact date cannot be provided, please provide us with a month and a year. The reason for collecting this information is so that we may have an ongoing parish necrology (a list of the faithful departed) on file at the office.

Starting in November, on every first Wednesday of the month we will be offering a requiem mass for the faithful departed of the parish, those whom you have listed by name. My decision to collect this information and to offer a monthly requiem mass is shaped by the piety of this place, that is the ritual practices of you the people of Saint John’s. From the generosity of gifts given in honor of the dead, to the weekly remembrances given for flowers and sanctuary candle, to the sight of your prayers at our columbarium, this is a place that deeply cares, loves, and remembers its dead. As a life-long member of the [Guild of All Souls](#), an Anglican society committed to praying for the dead, I share in your conviction. Most important of all, I share in your hope that the veil between this life and the life to come, the distance between us and our loved ones who are no longer here, is truly thin. And we can be certain of this hope because of Jesus’ own death and resurrection, a resurrection in which we and all creation are promised to be partakers on

the last day. As all things have a way to connect, this year's All Souls collection will be used to prepare our new altar. Your generosity is greatly appreciated in this special effort.

As October marches on, please remember to bring your pets, or a picture of them, on Sunday, October 6, for our Blessing of the Animals. We will bless our closest companions as we remember the ministry and witness of Saint Francis of Assisi. Also, mark your calendars for our parish Picnic at the Dyakiw residence on **October 13**. Worship begins at 10 a.m., followed by a wonderful meal.

Please read through this issue of *The Herald* to learn more about what's going on in our parish. It is a joy to serve as your rector; thank you for this privilege. See you at mass.

Yours in Christ,  
*Father Carlos*

## FROM THE DEACON'S PERCH

*Then Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man said to him, "My teacher, let me see again." Jesus said to him, "Go; your faith has made you well." Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.*

—Mark 10:51-52

I feel at times that if Jesus asked me this question, I would ask for more time to do things; how about you? Do you ever feel time slipping by? When Deb sent notice for an article, I couldn't believe September is gone already. But besides that, let me bring you up to date on my doings around Centre County. I did the walk in August for those in recovery and

will be doing an Alzheimer's Walk at the end of October to represent team Centre Crest.

Fr. Carlos had a workshop for adults and young adults concerning serving at the altar. Many thanks to all who came to this event, during which we learned much about why and how we do things at our service.



Ellen and I are getting ready for our church picnic at our home at 337 East Curtin Street. Please make an effort to be there. The liturgy is enjoyable and the

food superb—not forgetting the desserts, which are always a treat. Most of all, we are blessed by the fellowship of our church family. Feel free to invite a guest and extend our hospitality to them. Jesus did his best ministry around the agape meal; we can too.

I recently attended a deacons' retreat at Kenbrook Retreat Centre, where I spent time with other deacons and learned about the different ministries they perform in their parishes. Bishop Audrey was there for spiritual guidance and to support us, as she believes that she is a deacon first and a bishop second.

I am beginning a new course with the Spiritual Care Association in New York. "First Responders Chaplaincy Training" is a 60-hour on-line course with FaceTime class work and much offline reading. I am doing this to perhaps extend my services as Chaplain to our EMT group in Bellefonte. I inquired one day to

see if there is a need, and the response was a resounding YES, so please keep me in prayer for this.

I have also been appointed to the diocesan commission on ministry which meets the second Tuesday of each month in Harrisburg. I don't know if you noticed, but our church is growing in a good direction, so please keep coming. It is said that no one wants to eat in an empty restaurant; likewise, no one want to visit an empty church.

With the great music Erik and Rebecca provide, and of course, Fr. Carlos's leadership, there is much to be grateful for again. If Jesus would ask *what do you want me to do for you?* my answer would be "Lord, let us please you in worship, and in our ministries give ourselves to you."

*~Deacon Alex†*

## NEWS FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

Good news! Our Sunday School program welcomes Dave King as an additional group leader. Now, with two group leaders, we are able to add an additional classroom to accommodate the growing needs of our parish families. During the month of October, you can look forward to our grand opening, where each classroom and our nursery will receive a blessing from Fr. Carlos.

Looking further ahead, Deb Cree and I have begun to plan our Sunday School Christmas Pageant.



Following last year's resounding success, we want to again incorporate a considerable amount of music, featuring all our cast. The theme is "Peace on Earth."

Please discuss with your student and their teacher to suggest a piece they would like to play or sing. If possible, we would like to add some ensemble work as well. Contact Deb ([debra@dcree.net](mailto:debra@dcree.net); 814-360-0130) or me with questions or suggestions—or if you'd like to help.

*-Miss Ellen*

## 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

### 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 furred, feathered, finned, or scaled friends (or a photograph).

### FAITHCENTRE SEPTEMBER COLLECTION



Another success! We collected paper goods for donation to FaithCentre during September. Thank you for once again responding to a need. As always, the people of St. John's are most generous.

### 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 are 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!

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

*Herald* Editors: Debra Cree and Kathryn Grossman



Vestry Collection Counters  
Larry Roberson and Carol Fyfe

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Oct 6  
Eucharistic Minister D. Cree  
Book/Server S. Dillon  
Crucifer M. Perkins

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Oct 13  
Church Picnic and Worship

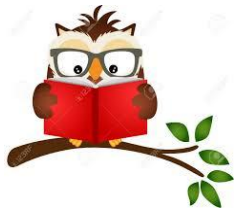
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Oct 20  
Youth in Worship

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Oct 27  
Eucharistic Minister C. Fyfe  
Book/Server S. Dillon  
Crucifer M. Perkins

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READERS

OCT 6 DAVE CREE  
OCT 13 BILL DONOVAN  
OCT 20 KATHRYN GROSSMAN  
OCT 27 OPEN



BIRTHDAYS

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5 David Cree  
Laura Reid  
11 Jacob Fitzgerald  
12 Charlotte Saylor  
15 Barbara Roberson  
18 Bryan Hough  
20 Debra McGinley  
22 Madison Arrington  
24 Victoria Duminiak  
25 Zebulon Green, Jr.



COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

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OCT 6 Deb Cree & Carol Fyfe  
OCT 13 CHURCH PICNIC  
OCT 20 THE CLAYTONS  
OCT 27 CHARLOTTE ZMYSLO

# October 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 7 pm AA Mtg	2 9:30 Healing Mass - Lady Altar 12 pm AA Mtg	3 Learning Series: Journey to the Heart of God - Bread 6 – 7:30 pm	4 Community Lunch @ Presbyterian Church, 10:30 a.m.	5
6 Pentecost XVIII Low Mass 8 Solemn Mass 10 Blessing of the Animals	7 8 pm AA Mtg	8 7 pm AA Mtg	9 9:30 Healing Mass - Lady Altar 12 pm AA Mtg	10 Learning Series: Journey to the Heart of God - Prayer 6 – 7:30 pm	11	12
13 Pentecost XIX Low Mass 8 Church Picnic and Worship 10	14 7:00 Men's Group 8 pm AA Mtg	15 7 pm AA Mtg	16 9:30 Healing Mass - Lady Altar 12 pm AA Mtg 7:00 Vestry Meeting	17 Learning Series: Journey to the Heart of God - Forgiveness 6 – 7:30 pm	18	19
20 Pentecost XX Low Mass 8 Solemn Mass 10 Youth in Worship	21 7:00 Men's Group 8 pm AA Mtg	22 7 pm AA Mtg	23 9:30 Healing Mass - Lady Altar 12 pm AA Mtg	24 Learning Series: Journey to the Heart of God - Charity 6 – 7:30 pm	25	26
27 Pentecost XXI Low Mass 8 Solemn Mass 10	28 7:00 Men's Group 8 pm AA Mtg	29 7 pm AA Mtg	30 9:30 Healing Mass - Lady Altar 12 pm AA Mtg	31 Happy Halloween 		