



RECTOR'S LETTER

Every month, Deb Cree, who, along with Kathryn Grossman, serves as editor of *The Herald*, sends a reminder to your parish leadership that articles and announcements are due. I'm thankful not only for Deb's reminders (which I always need) but I'm thankful for their work compiling and editing our monthly newsletter. It allows me to share information with you about upcoming services, community events, and outreach initiatives. But it also grants me the opportunity to reflect on the work we've accomplished so far and the tasks God has invited us to take on.



In her email this month, Deb shared last year's February newsletter, in which you received a letter from your then rector-elect (me). You can find said newsletter on the church website [here](#). It can sometimes be daunting to read one's previous written work; the fear of typos, outdated references, and failed imagery is too real. However, I want to share a portion of what I wrote to you a year ago:

"The number of possibilities and opportunities ahead of us not only outnumber the challenges, but invite us to dream and imagine from a place of Christian hope and joy. In due time, we will explore new and ancient ways to share God's love made known to us in Jesus Christ. We will discover ways to grow as individuals and as a community. We will succeed and fail. But at all times we can trust that God will be with us as he has been present with us through this process."

As I reflect on my words to you, and on everything we've been trying to do over the last seven months, I can honestly say that we are in a season of growth, in both our commitment to Christ and to one another.

Over the last few months, this parish has been hard at work developing a formation plan for the smallest to the eldest among us. Church studies have shown that intergenerational formation and worship is at the heart of healthy and vibrant parishes. We saw this on display during our Epiphany service as we took part in a solemn procession and blessing of the chalk, while having our children and youth lead us in this important ritual.

Likewise, we will see something similar on **Candlemas (February 2)**,



when our parish youth will lead us in this solemn ceremony, which (of course!) will be followed by a festive coffee hour and brunch in the fellowship hall. We will see this further during our Lenten stations of the cross as we offer learning opportunities for children, youth, and adults.

This work is important not only for our future—the future of our children and the parish—but it's important for the present. It's important that we continue to grow, invite, and draw in all people to experience God's love, healing, and mercy. It is crucial that we as the body of Christ have space to nourish all its members, from the smallest to the eldest. This is exactly why a few months ago we began the work of repurposing my office for general

use, for small groups, and for Sunday school classes. We will rededicate and bless this new room on **Sunday, February 23** after the 10 a.m. solemn mass. I hope that you will join us to check out our new space.

It is my hope and prayer that you, too, have seen the energy and excitement in our parish. That you, too, have been moved by our worship, from the joyful noise of kids running to receive our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament to the glorious music offered by our choir. It is truly a joy to serve a parish that seeks to feed all of God's people.

Epiphany Blessings, ~*Father Carlos* †

FROM THE DEACON'S PERCH



I usually open this column with a verse or psalm, but before that, I wish to express my deepest gratitude to all of you at St. John's for your continual support of our ministry at the prison. With your help,

I received enough money to make a bulk purchase of 100 prayer books to be used by all the inmates in recovery programs. I use it each week to read a Psalm, verse, or Gospel, which we then discuss as it pertains to incarceration. The response is joyful, since many have never read a prayer—never mind owned a book for the first time—all made possible because of your support.

The other joyful time occurred recently at Centre Crest. As you know, I am the chaplain there and am on call for emergencies, hospice care, and spiritual well-being matters. In my twelve years of ordained ministry there, I've never had a request to baptize someone because of their declining health. I received a call that a 92-year-old resident was failing. He was very upset upon learning that he had never been

baptized, and he was eager to be baptized. Upon talking and reading the baptismal vows, he began to cry and quiver just as I was pouring water over him. Because of the great happiness I felt coming from him, I also began to cry and experienced joy in knowing that he would now be an heir to God's Kingdom.

The last bit of good news concerns the pierogi dinner we held on January 25. We broke a church record, serving 144 dinners and netting \$1600 in profit from this event. I was again taken by surprise at the number of people enjoying fellowship at this dinner and at all the take-outs. Most of all, I observed our church family—and I do mean *family*. Everybody was doing something: cooking, cleaning tables, washing dishes, serving, sweeping, taking trash out—a family in full action. In particular, Fr. Carlos was fully involved with all aspects of the dinner, really connecting with all the visitors who asked questions about St. John's, our history, and the ways of the Episcopal church. I want to mention that whenever we have a function, our sister church, St. Andrew's, always shows up with a big contingent to support us. I ask that in return, we support them spiritually and try to attend their Evensong on February 2 at 5:00 p.m.

“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.” —Psalm 51:10

Ash Wednesday is on **February 26**, and Lent begins. Just like in a venture (running, sports, weight-training, a speech in front of a large audience), we prep for the event. For example, we wouldn't pack the night before a long trip. Preparation for Lent is just as important so that we can focus our spirit and mind on those 40 days before Easter and hopefully beyond.

Some things to help prepare for Lent might include installing some apps on your phone to have in front of you wherever you are. Apps for the iPhone or iPad include "eCp" (Electronic Common Prayer book), which includes all the offices, daily readings, and prayers. Daily Prayer and Daily Lectio are others. There are many others to search for in the app store. There are also newsletters you can sign up for: "The Catholic Company," "The Living Church," "Forward Movement," "Christian Century," and others. Let us prepare for a Lenten Journey with Christ and in the fellowship of his saints. If I can assist in any way, well . . . *That's What Deacons Do.* Amen. ~ *Deacon Alex*



- We have scheduled the third Sunday of the month for our youth to participate in the 10:00 service.
- We have streamlined a Bible study called "Lakeside Worship and Learning" during the summer for our young parishioners. Each year we explore a different topic.
- This past Christmas we celebrated the birth of our Lord with the message of peace, as we prayed, sang, and played music in a Christmas Eve service.



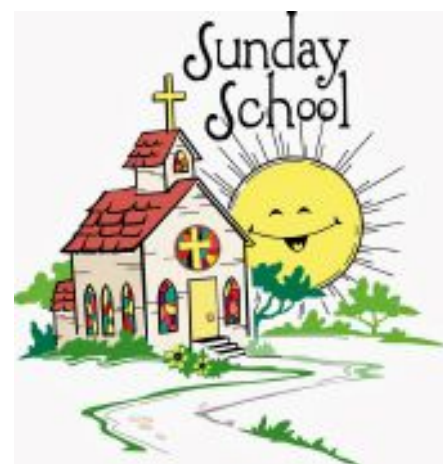
SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

During the past year, many components of our Christian education program have evolved:



- We welcomed many young parishioners to our group.
- We added a teacher, Dave King, to assist in the coordination and growth of our program.
- Happily, we added a classroom; thanks to Fr. Carlos for giving up his office!
- Our curriculum, *Living the Good News*, is a program that incorporates scripture, prayer, music, art, and discussion.

Sunday School is a fun place to learn, grow, and form new friendships!



UPCOMING EVENTS

February 25: Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner



**ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT
SHROVE
TUESDAY
PANCAKES**

FEBRUARY 25, 2020
4-6PM

\$10
ADULT

\$7
KIDS

SAINT JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
FELLOWSHIP HALL
120 WEST LAMB STREET
BELLEFONTE, PA

Lenten Schedule



LENT AT SAINT JOHN'S

FEBRUARY 25 | SHROVE TUESDAY
4-6 PM PANCAKE SUPPER

FEBRUARY 26 | ASH WEDNESDAY
9:30 AM & 7:00 PM MASS &
IMPOSITION OF ASHES

THURSDAYS IN LENT
MARCH 5, 12, 19, 26 & APRIL 2
5:30 PM PARISH MEAL & LEARNING
SERIES (FELLOWSHIP HALL)

6:15 PM STATIONS OF THE CROSS
(CHURCH)



Vestry Members: Larry Roberson (Sr. Warden),
Matt Perkins (Jr. Warden), John Fusco, Carol Fyfe,
Debra Cree, Susan Christy, Peggy Jackson, Thomas
Quigley, David King, Charlotte Zmyslo

Herald Editors: Debra Cree and Kathryn Grossman



Vestry Collection Counters

John Fusco and Matt Perkins

Feb 2

Subdeacon

T. Ouigley

Book/Server

S. Dillon

Feb 9

Subdeacon

M. Duminiak

Book/Server

M. Perkins

Feb 16

Subdeacon

Youth

Book/Server

Youth

Feb 23

Subdeacon

M. Holland

Book/Server

S. Dillon



BIRTHDAYS

1 - DR. JOHN FUSCO

13 - MICHAEL FUSCO

GABE HOLLAND

14 - PAUL FUSCO

ANDREW PIFER

15 - MATT PERKINS

16 - THE REV. JOHN HARWOOD

18 - DEBRA CREE

28 - ISAAC PIFER



Readers

Feb 2

Kathryn Grossman

Feb 9

Open

Feb 16

Youth in Worship

Feb 23

Charlotte Zmyslo

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS



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Feb 2 PARISH BRUNCH

Feb 9 OPEN

Feb 16 OPEN

Feb 23 CHRISTINE & GEORGE HOLT

February 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Presentation of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple Low Mass 8am Solemn Mass 10 Groundhog Day	3 7pm Men's Group 8 pm AA Mtg	4 7pm AA Mtg	5 9:30 Monthly Parish Requiem - Lady Altar 12pm AA Mtg	6	7	8
9 Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany Low Mass 8am Solemn Mass 10	10 7pm Men's Group 8pm AA Mtg	11 7pm AA Mtg 7pm Vestry Meeting	12 9:30 Mass & Healing - Lady Altar 12pm AA Mtg FATHER CARLOS AWAY	13 FATHER CARLOS AWAY	14  FATHER CARLOS AWAY	15 FATHER CARLOS AWAY
16 Morning Prayers 8am Morning Prayers 10 Youth in Worship FATHER CARLOS AWAY	17 7pm Men's Group 8pm AA Mtg FATHER CARLOS AWAY	18 7pm AA Mtg FATHER CARLOS AWAY	19 12pm AA Mtg FATHER CARLOS AWAY	20 FATHER CARLOS AWAY	21 FATHER CARLOS AWAY	22 FATHER CARLOS AWAY
23 Last Sunday after the Epiphany Low Mass 8am Solemn Mass 10	24 7 pm Men's Group 8pm AA Mtg	25 7pm AA Mtg  <i>Shrove Tuesday</i> 4pm -6pm	26 9:30 Ash Wednesday Liturgy 12pm AA Mtg 7pm Ash Wednesday Liturgy	27	28	29