

## RECTOR'S LETTER

Dear friends in Christ,

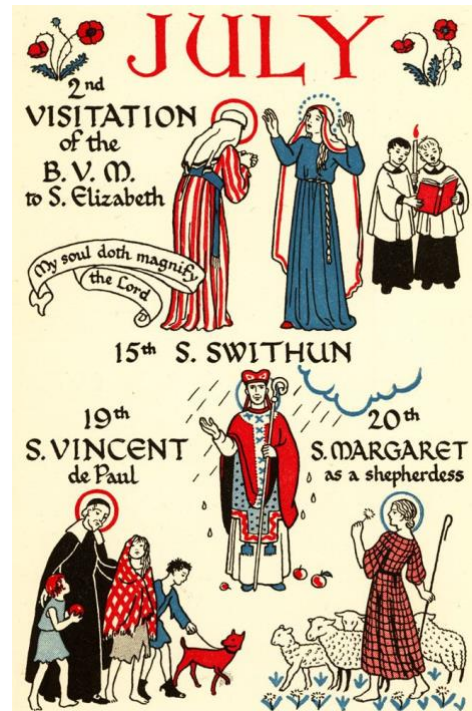
During this pandemic all things have been altered. Yet, many of our necessary duties and responsibilities have continued; we've just been forced to readjust. Some of these changes have been pretty easy, even welcomed, and others have been difficult and draining. This process of change and readjustment, of ease and difficulties, has been ongoing in our parish.



When we closed the church for public worship in March, many of us thought it would last a few weeks, but our parish exile lasted nearly three months. But now, it has been four weeks since we've been able to gather for in-person worship. This would have not been possible without the leadership of our parish vestry, wardens, and staff. Leading up to our first Sunday, there was a lot of planning behind the scenes to ensure the health and safety of all worshipping in our church. I want to thank the wardens, our parish coordinator, Trish Weidemann, and vestry member, Charlotte Zmyslo, for serving as a top-notch cleaning and disinfecting crew between Sunday masses.

And just as we have prudently opened our doors, we are now exploring how we will continue to participate in God's mission during this pandemic. It's time to ask how we will continue to come together (à la social distancing) to grow in faith, prayer, and worship. How will we continue to serve

our wider community during these uncertain times? I



hope the slower nature of the summer months will allow us to think creatively of ways in which we might do this important work moving forward. My optimism that we will discover new

ways to be the Church, the Body of Christ, is rooted in all we've been able to offer these last three months.

Since March, we have donated \$1,200 worth of goods to FaithCentre Food Bank; we have given away \$1,000 in grocery store gift cards; we have assisted various households with \$2,500 in rent and utility assistance (to do this we have partnered with community advocates at COVID-19 Centre County Community Response, social workers at Strawberry Fields, and Centre Helps). We have continued livestreaming masses (reaching current and former parishioners as well as new viewers) and we have developed online Sunday School resources.

During this pandemic, our parish has not been afraid to adapt and readjust, and for this, I need to thank each one of you. You all have made our work possible by your ongoing participation in our parish, in person or virtually, and by your stewardship and support of Saint John's: its mission and outreach in the community. Everything this parish has been able to accomplish and do is because of your faithfulness and generosity. What could have been a dark period in the life of this parish, having to close its doors for months and with the possibility of facing difficult financial decisions, has been met with resilience and care by you.

This has been a long and difficult period of time. To make it through these long days, I have sought to find one thing, no matter how small, to give thanks for to God. By God's grace, every day I have found at least one thing to give thanks for—the honor and privilege to serve as a priest—and for the opportunity to serve at the altar of Saint John's as your rector.

Yours in Christ,  
Fr. Carlos†

### FROM THE DEACON'S PERCH

T. S. Eliot wrote that "Humankind cannot bear very much reality," so for many, faithful prayer may



indeed feel like a "curse" since it reveals what's true. This was

an excerpt from one of the many morning meditations that I receive by email. I was struck by the idea that faithful prayer may feel like a curse, and after thinking of this line I realized how true it is. Many of you know that I walk early in the morning on trails, in town, or at the state park. I continually pray, "Lord, Jesus Christ Son of the Living God, have mercy on me, a sinner," saying this as I take a breath and then again as I exhale.

I would need more space than is available in this newsletter to complete what I'm thinking, so I leave it to your imagination to reflect and maybe talk with you about it sometime. We can do this while socially distancing over a cup of tea or coffee.

Prayer does reveal inner realms that are deep inside us, and only through this and meditation will be revealed what the Holy Spirit is saying to us. At times it does feel like a curse; but the healing insight of the spirit also comes forth in a brilliant reality which can be experienced only in this way. I guess I express it as someone going through a birth process: there is both pain and joy. Prayer has this same effect—the curse, and with that, the hope of the spirit coming forth. During this pandemic, try to take time to reflect where we are in the picture.



Fr. Carlos and I continue to serve our community in helping the food bank; he continues with the St. Christopher Fund; and I use my discretionary fund to help many in need during these difficult days.

The men's group met for a pastrami sandwich dinner to begin our summer recess. We did not meet during the shut-down. We hope we can resume meetings in the fall—but as always, we continue to pray for the world and our personal needs.

I started to take the racism course online with the Stevenson School for Ministry. I will share more about this in the future, but I will say my eyes have been opened to a painful and biased world which I either denied or never batted an eye to. “Lord Jesus Christ, son of the living God, have mercy on me, a sinner.” God have mercy on me not only for being in denial, but also for being complacent to prejudices and racism. May all of you have a peaceful summer, and I beg you to be vigilant when going out. Wear a mask and be careful, even with family and friends. This virus knows no bounds, so in many respects “I am my brother's keeper.” Respect and care for everyone. ~Deacon Alex†

### FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

As a continuing outreach to our children and youth, Fr. Carlos and Ellen Dyakiw put together a package of summer crafts to mail to our Sunday School parishioners.

We continue our weekly family sermons, scripture reading, and extension activities during the period when we are not meeting as a group. We look forward to the time when we can learn and worship together again.



Abby and Sydney working on their projects

### VESTRY NEWS

With this issue, we begin to report news from the most recent (June) vestry meeting, including financial information. Our intent is to be transparent to our members regarding our “state of the union,” as well as initiatives and plans for St. John's. Contact any vestry member or Fr. Carlos with questions.



In-house worship resumed on June 7 with restrictions, including social distancing, mask requirements, sanitizing stations, and requirement for preregistration. Online streaming via Facebook Live is expected to continue for a year. We are still exploring face-to-face Wednesday worship. Seats are available for both services; register online.

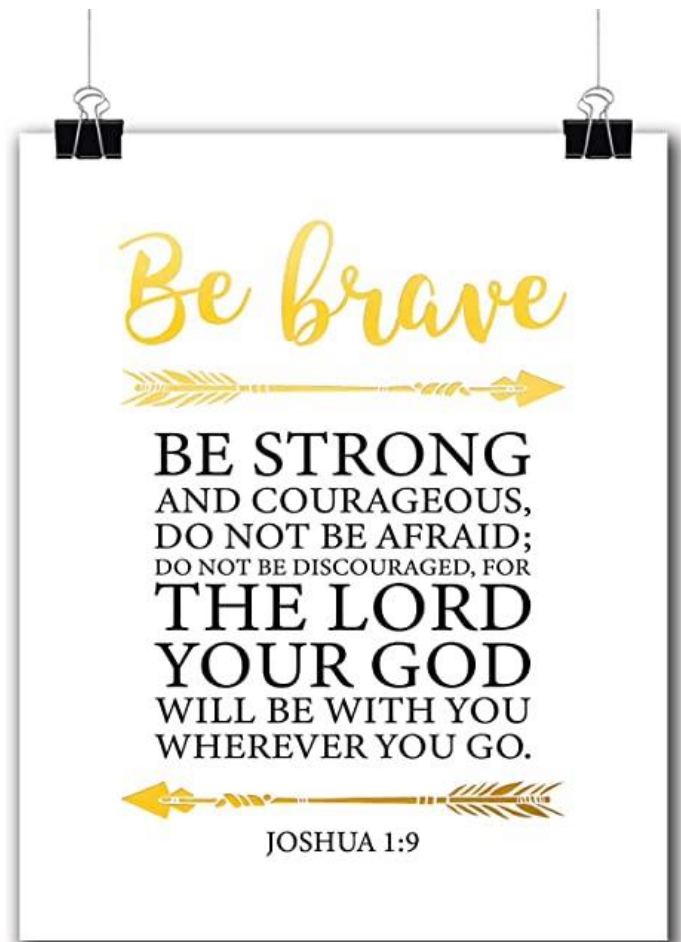
We are in contact with AA, since they still cannot use our parish hall for meetings. Fr. Carlos is consulting with the Bishop's office regarding guidelines, including distancing, masks, number of attendees, food, signage, and cleaning. We hope to be able to reopen the parish hall to them by the end of June.

**Property:**

Thanks to Fr. Carlos, Matt, and Larry for laying the rock bed around the church and for weeding and mulching. Fence posts were also removed. These actions have helped to improve our relationship with the next-door neighbors (owners of the Dartt House), who have been generous in their donations to the parish. We have a “gentlemen’s agreement” with them to move forward with the kitchen repointing and chimney removal.

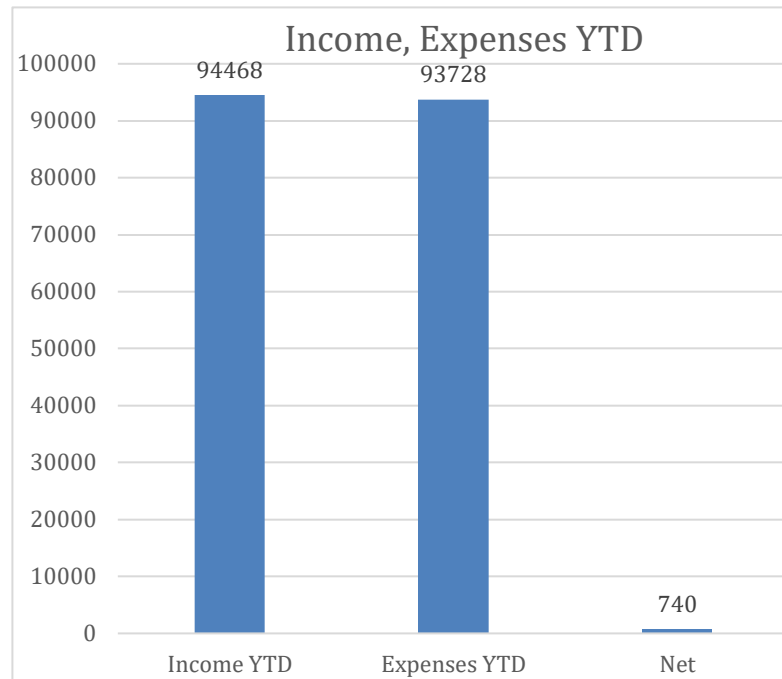
**Vestry Members:**

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Matthew Perkins [clarion0215@yahoo.com](mailto:clarion0215@yahoo.com) (Jr. Warden)  
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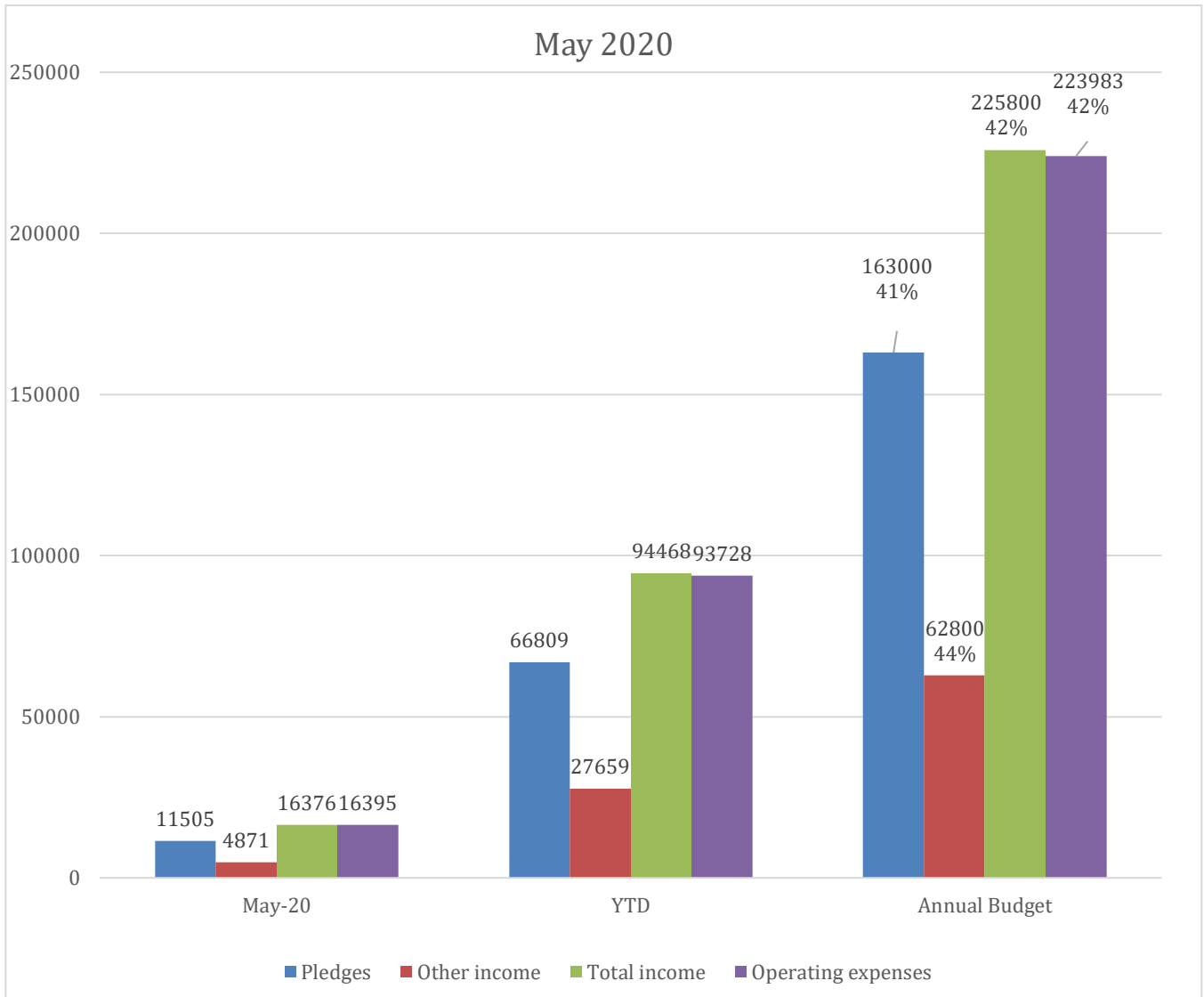
**Financial:**

Pledges are still being received, and income and expenses are almost equal. Fr. Carlos and Barbara are working on the documentation for forgiveness of the PPP loan we received earlier this year.



	May-20	YTD	Annual Budget	YTD % of Budget
Pledges	\$11505	\$66809	\$163000	41%
Other income	4871	27659	62800	44%
<b>Total income</b>	<b>16376</b>	<b>94468</b>	<b>225800</b>	<b>42%</b>
<b>Operating expenses</b>	<b>16395</b>	<b>93728</b>	<b>223983</b>	<b>42%</b>
<b>Net</b>	<b>-19</b>	<b>740</b>	<b>1817</b>	<b>41%</b>


*Numbers do not include investments, savings, or checking acct balance.*



## Memories of Happier Times Together



# July 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9:30 am Monthly Parish Requiem via Facebook	2 <b>Birthdays:</b> Mark Eminhizer, II	3	4  <b>Birthdays:</b> Charity Holland
5 The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 am Low Mass 10:30 am Sung Mass	6 <b>Birthdays:</b> Liam Quigley	7 10:00 am Virtual Coffee Hour via Zoom	8 9:30 am Low Mass via Facebook	9	10 <b>Birthdays:</b> Ross Pifer	11
12 The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 am Low Mass 10:30 am Sung Mass	13	14 10:00 am Virtual Coffee Hour via Zoom	15 9:30 am Low Mass via Facebook  7:30 pm Vestry Meeting via zoom	16 <b>Birthdays:</b> Julie Duminiak	17	18 <b>Birthdays:</b> Timothy Clayton
19 The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 am Low Mass 10:30 am Sung Mass <b>Birthdays:</b> Daniel McGinley	20	21 10:00 am Virtual Coffee Hour via Zoom	22 The Feast of Saint Mary Magdalene 9:30 am Low Mass via Facebook	23 <b>Birthdays:</b> Larry Roberson	24 <b>Birthdays:</b> Christopher Clayton	25
26 The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 am Low Mass 10:30 am Sung Mass	27	28 10:00 am Virtual Coffee Hour via Zoom <b>Birthdays:</b> David King	29 9:30 am Low Mass via Facebook	30	31	