



RECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

Living across the street from an elementary school is a unique experience. Every morning there is a sudden rush of energy, and cars, right outside the church. Students, parents, and teachers, with haste and excitement, begin the school day, now in-person or online. For a few hours, Bellefonte looks busier than usual. Then, just as suddenly as the day began, it all stops. The bell rings, the school day ends, and the busyness disappears. The cars magically vanish, and the grassy field and blacktop filled with the echo of kids' voices are silent until the morning.



While many of us gave up being students many years ago, the ebb and flow of school has caught our collective attention. We've been following what schools are doing (and not doing) this year. Of course, parents and teachers have had to get creative this year. This month, join me in lifting up and praying for our educators and support staff –those teaching at home and in school.

Through all this I have been impressed by the tenacity of all children and youth. They have had to adjust, and readjust, their daily lives more than anyone else.

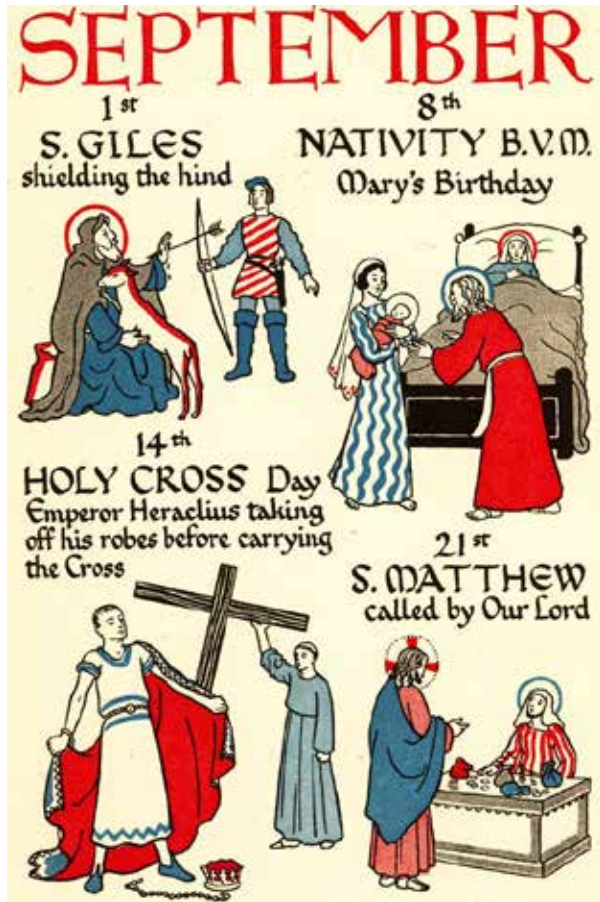
Our children and youth have had to adapt; they've had to take the lead from others, to make the best of our current situation. In many ways, we're all a bit like children right now: following guidelines, finding ways to have fun without breaking the rules, and trying to stay within the boundaries of what is right and safe. I know it hasn't been easy; I look at our children and youth with great admiration.

During September, I hope to explore what our common life as a parish



might look like moving forward. We will continue following our reopening guidelines, while exploring how we might adapt and develop for a richer church experience. With this in mind, I have created a Parish Life Survey. The survey is made up of brief questions, some multiple

choice and others short-answer. I hope that you'll describe how you've been able to



participate at Saint John's online, and share some thoughts on how we might connect in new ways. To fill out the survey, please visit: <https://bit.ly/3joPkb8>.

I conclude my letter to you with two liturgical reminders. On **Sunday, September 13**, Bishop Audrey Scanlan will be at Saint John's for her biennial visitation. Unfortunately, this year we will not have a great parish breakfast after mass. However, we might have an informal meet and greet with the Bishop outside, as has become the custom among us on Sundays.

On **Sunday, September 27**, we will observe the Feast of Saint Michael and All Angels (Michaelmas). Unlike last year when we celebrated with delicious pancakes and sweet berries, this year we will have a subdued celebration. Nonetheless, as happens at every mass, God will be praised and adored in his angels and in his saints.

Yours in Christ,
Father Carlos †

BISHOP VISITATION ✠ SEPTEMBER 13, 2020



The Rt. Rev'd. Audrey C. Scanlan, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Central Pennsylvania, will visit our parish on Sunday, September 13. The Bishop will

preside and preach at both the 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. masses. Please join us in welcoming back Bishop Audrey to Saint John's. As always, please make sure to register for worship by visiting: <https://reopen.church/r/jrlpReFB> or by calling the parish office.

KIDSHINE MINISTRY RESUMES



The start of the school year is upon us! We will once again be collecting items for our neighbors, Bellefonte Elementary School. We've been asked to gather granola bars, sweat pants (kids' sizes 5-7), and shirts for younger kids (third grade down). Please bring your donations on the **first Sunday of the month** and place them in the basket in front of the Baptismal Font. Monetary donations will also be accepted; make your check payable to Saint John's and include the word "KidShine" on the memo line. The clergy will make a purchase on your behalf for our monthly offering.

FOOD BANK COLLECTION

Once more, through your generosity, we were able to purchase food for FaithCentre's food bank. As you can see, this time it was for cereal, which always disappears from their shelves



quickly. We will resume in-church collection of food items beginning in September. You may bring your donations of cereal to church and leave them next to the Saint Lawrence altar in the back of the church. Checks made to the Deacon's Discretionary Fund are always welcome as well. We will continue to coordinate with the food bank to determine areas of greatest need.

FROM THE DEACON'S PERCH



"A soul which does not practice the exercise of prayer is very like a paralyzed body which, though possessing feet and hands, makes no

use of them." — St. Alphonsus Liguori

My Dear Friends,

What a summer! We all practiced social distancing, stay-at-home vacations, and little family gatherings. We canceled vacations and group events; we practiced careful distancing when shopping or by online shopping; and we pretty much kept to ourselves. Netflix, Hulu, Amazon Prime, and a host of other on-line streaming services are experiencing record-breaking sales of subscriptions. I am amazed at how many of us are coping with this change of lifestyle.

One thing that might have changed during this pandemic is **Prayer**. Are we praying more, maybe meditating more, or reading scripture daily? How about sitting still and letting God talk to you or watching a podcast of your favorite preacher give a sermon. Our own Fr. Carlos is offering fantastic sermons these days; are we listening?

If you answered no to any of the above, do not beat yourself up over it; a good portion of people are not. Lack of time? **No**. Not having the resources? **No**. Didn't think about it. **No**. I coined a phrase for myself over these last few weeks during my night walks which I'm calling **CIDS**, or **Covid-Induced Stress Disorder**. It was easier to give it a name than trying to figure out why I am not praying or doing any of the above on a regular basis. There; I named it, and I now own it. When we do not own it, we fail to take responsibility for our actions.

This pandemic has wreaked havoc on our lives, but to make it bearable, we have the power of prayer to carry us through.

When I started my long walks, I needed my headset, Pandora Radio, my collection of stations—and of course they had to be commercial-free. I also started to carry my prayer beads. When I forgot them, I picked up a rock that felt comfortable in my hand. This helped me to focus and to focus on prayers I knew, psalms I could remember,

and prayers of the people. I would go through my list of what I wanted to pray for.

As you all know, we have much to pray for. To make a long story short, believe me: I'm trying. I noticed I didn't need my music any longer; but my desire to pray and to talk to God made this a desired habit to be in communication with God on my walks. The phrase "Divine Intimacy" comes to mind. As St. Alphonsus stated, the practice of prayer frees our soul to be in unison with Christ. I hope you may all experience this life of prayer. Peace to all of you, and pray for me as I pray for you.

~Deacon Alex+

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS



Each week, Father Carlos and Sunday School director

Ellen Dyakiw record a message and sermon for our children and young people. This week's video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aUgW-aCp7Sk>. Contact Ellen (setinsun@aol.com) if you would like to be added to the weekly distribution list. Previous videos are available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6eLmIghZJP7ycKzo7yz2g/videos>

AROUND THE PARISH FAMILY TABLE



Trinity King is all smiles on her first day of second grade.

Carol Fyfe is enclosed in plastic at her desk to ensure safe distancing while working in Dr. Davison's office.



Claire Bonner was baptized into the communion of our Lord on August 30. Claire has participated in our Sunday School for several years,

taking part in monthly Youth in Worship and our Christmas Pageants. She is the daughter of Brian Bonner and Andrea Skirpan. A warm official welcome to the St. John's family!

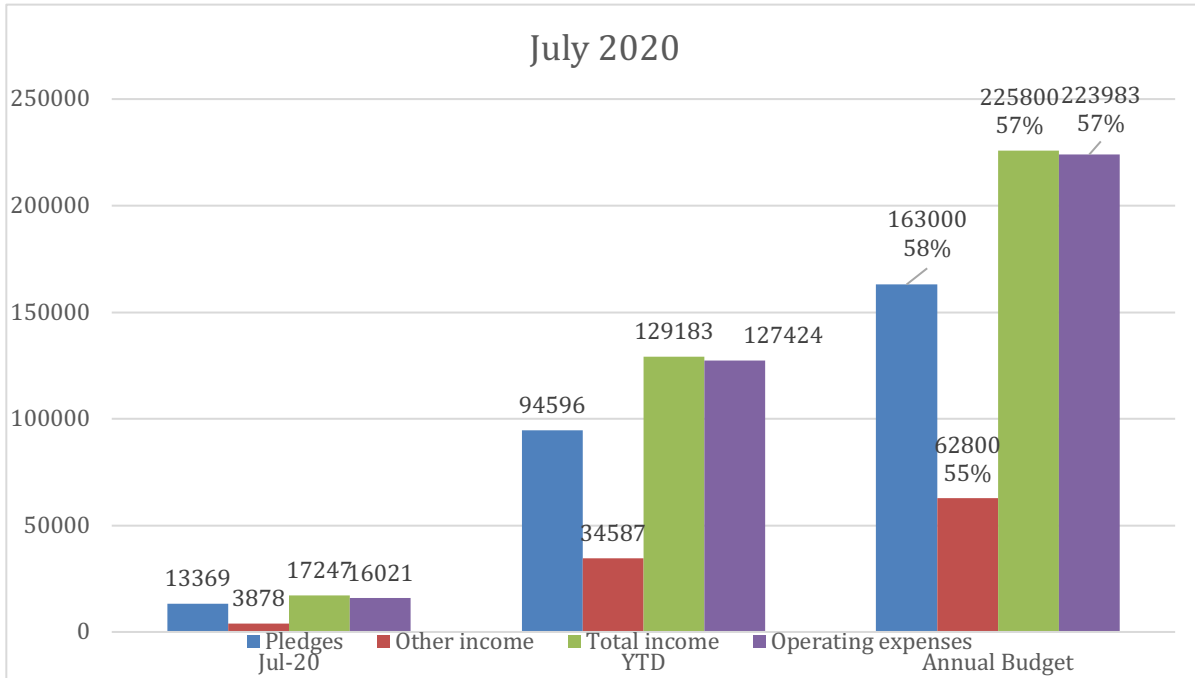


Vestry Members: Larry Roberson (Sr. Warden), Matt Perkins (Jr. Warden), John Fusco, Carol Fyfe, Debra Cree, Peggy Jackson, Thomas Quigley, David King, Susan Christy, Charlotte Zmyslo

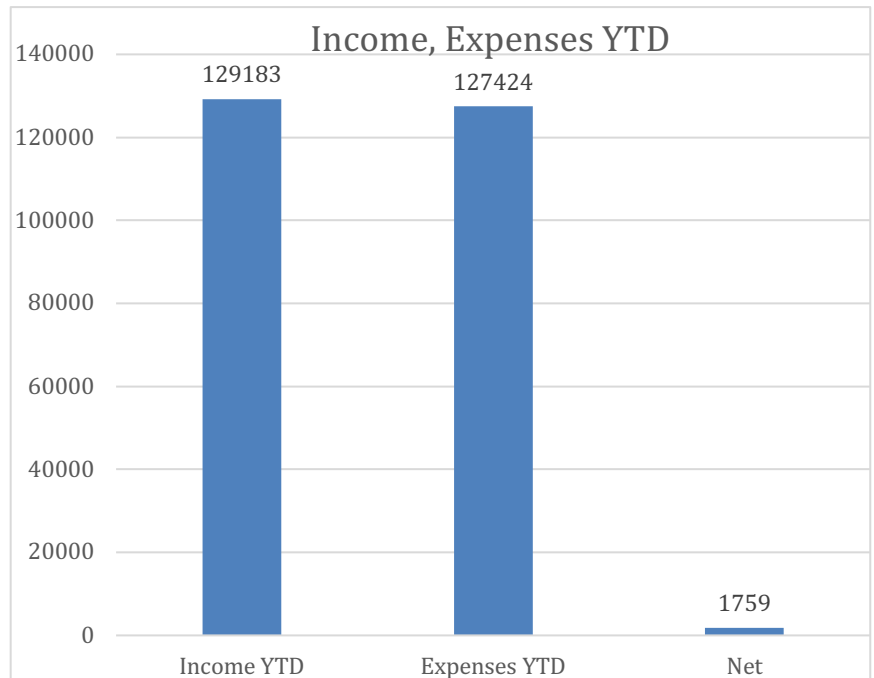
FINANCIALS

Numbers do not include investments, savings, or checking account balance.

	Jul-20	YTD	Annual Budget	YTD % of Budget
Pledges	13369	94596	163000	58%
Other income	3878	34587	62800	55%
Total income	17247	129183	225800	57%
Operating expenses	16021	127424	223983	57%
Net	1226	1759	1817	97%



Income YTD	Expenses YTD	Net
129183	127424	1759



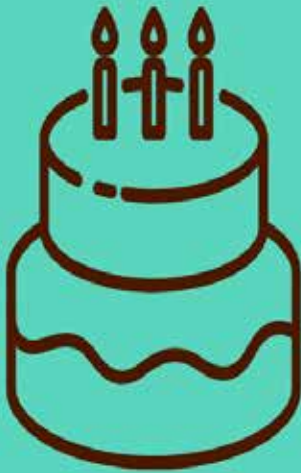
SEPTEMBER 2020

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

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		01	02	03	04	05
		Zoom Coffee Hour 10:00am A.A. 7:00pm	The Martyrs of New Guinea Monthly Parish Requiem 9:30am			
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06	07	08	09	10	11	12
Pentecost XV Low Mass 9:00am Sung Mass 10:30am	Centre County Youth Srvcs ART 5:00pm	Zoom Coffee Hour 10:00am A.A. 7:00pm	Constance, Nun, & Companions Low Mass 9:30am <i>Streamed on Facebook Live</i>			
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Pentecost XVI & Bishop Visitation Low Mass 9:00am Sung Mass 10:30am <i>Bishop Scanlan will preside at all masses</i>	Centre County Youth Srvcs ART 5:00pm	Zoom Coffee Hour 10:00am A.A. 7:00pm	Ninian, Bishop in Galloway Low Mass 9:30am <i>Streamed on Facebook Live</i>			
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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Pentecost XVII Low Mass 9:00am Sung Mass 10:30am	Centre County Youth Srvcs ART 5:00pm	Zoom Coffee Hour 10:00am A.A. 7:00pm	Feria Low Mass 9:30am <i>Streamed on Facebook Live</i>			
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27	28	29	30			
Saint Michael and All Angels <i>observed</i> Low Mass 9:00am Sung Mass 10:30am	Centre County Youth Srvcs ART 5:00pm	Zoom Coffee Hour 10:00am A.A. 7:00pm	Jerome, Priest and Doctor Low Mass 9:30am <i>Streamed on Facebook Live</i>			

SEP

BIRTHDAY CALENDAR



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1 Diane Fusco & Alex Germano	2	3	4 Jayden Reid	5 Mary Harpster
6	7 Jim Jackson	8	9 Sean Hough	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22 Susan Kurten	23	24	25 Fr Carlos de la Torre	26
27	28	29 Stephen Snyder	30			