



RECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

Leaves are beginning to change colors, soon trees will resemble the sun's hues, and before we know it, our lawns and sidewalks will be covered in a fall mosaic.



This happens every year, but this year, in particular, I am grateful for this seasonal change. Unlike spring and summer, autumn comes with an additional reminder. The holiday season is around the corner, with Halloween opening the door; soon the new year will follow.

I think many of us are ready for this year to end; I know I am. Recently, I've found myself (over)thinking, "what will life look like in 2021? Will things actually be any better?" I've been wondering how our new day-to-day routines, like wearing masks and keeping a six-foot distance, might change—or not. I've also been thinking of imminent events: "what will our country look like after November's presidential election? When will we get a vaccine? How will our country respond?"

When I find myself going down these rabbit holes, I force myself to stop, and I

remind myself that while it doesn't hurt to think about the future, it's more important to be in the present. This has



probably been the biggest learning experience for us planning types. It's clear that there's a great deal of uncertainty, and I think that it will only grow before we get any clarity about the future. To borrow from the Bishop's visitation sermon, we seem to be living in the messy middle.

During this Coronatide, I have turned to one of the things the pandemic has taken away from us in church as a source of solace: hymns. I miss singing in church;

the thought of not singing *For all the Saints* on the Solemnity of All Saints just makes me sad.

Besides listening to hymns on Spotify, I have used the words of some of my favorite hymns as part of my prayer life. In particular, the first stanza of the hymn *All my Hope on God is Founded* has been of comfort:

*All my hope on God is founded,
He doth still my trust renew.
Me thro' change and chance He guideth,
Only good and only true.
God unknown, He alone
Calls my heart to be His own.*

When I have felt as if I don't have the words to pray, I've just opened my hymnal and read. I've come to appreciate our hymnal as a prayerful and rich companion for my spiritual life. I'm sure you too have found yourself turning to a touchstone—a path or happy place, a song or image, a poem or book, a favorite show or movie—to help carry you through personal and spiritual matters.

As we journey through the messy middle, I hope that you will continue to turn to those things that have supported you along the way, all while trusting that change is unfolding and new life will come again, even if the path forward still seems uncertain. Cling to hope, not as some theoretical concept, but in the tangible blessings that God has given you—family, friends, and the beauty of

creation—and use them to carry you through the changes and chances of life.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Carlos†

FROM THE DEACON'S PERCH

“Grant me, O Lord my God, a mind to know you, a heart to seek you, wisdom to find you, conduct pleasing to you, faithful perseverance in waiting for you, and a hope of finally embracing you.”

—St. Thomas Aquinas



Dear friends,

As you see, the days are getting shorter and the nights cooler (I like that part), but since we are social distancing from each other, in ways this can be depressing to the human spirit. I for one have cut watching the news to one-half hour a day. I lost interest in television because of all the commercials and political ads, with the bashing back and forth. I don't know who to believe as far as health updates, what's open/what's not. Shopping is getting boring, and my overall perception of everything is making me feel as though I could be on a downward spiral. **But I am not** and will not, because the meditation from St. Aquinas resounds strongly in me. I need to laugh because this is where the devil does his best work.

Just as in all meetings, we are Zooming Weight Watchers meetings—but the problem for many (and sometimes me) is that when distracted, we eat and don't exercise. In Weight Watchers we track meals and exercise, and are accountable to ourselves. Meditational words, lines from scripture, psalms, and books on a spiritual life can carry us through these tough times. The phrases, "Wisdom to find you," and "Grant me, Lord, a mind to know you," can be powerful words to get us through difficult times. God doesn't interfere in our lives unless we seek and invite him to comfort us, which I do constantly. He does comfort me and us in our distress. Confronting COVID-19 is a real battle that affects us all.

Although I have not been able to talk to many of you, it does not stop me from praying each day for all of you and your families. My email address is deaconalex@gmail.com. I would like to hear how you are coping. Or maybe you're not; I still would like to hear from you.

The men's group has started again, and we are discussing Timothy 2 in Bible study. We meet outside, wear masks, and are socially distanced. We continue to talk, share prayer concerns, and have fellowship. We always pray for the empty chair. We meet on Mondays at 7 p.m. at my home out in the gazebo.

The food bank was thrilled with our donation of ten large cases of cereal. It always puts a smile on the staff's faces

when they hear that St. John's is dropping off food, which goes quickly.



Bill Donovan brings his donation to church

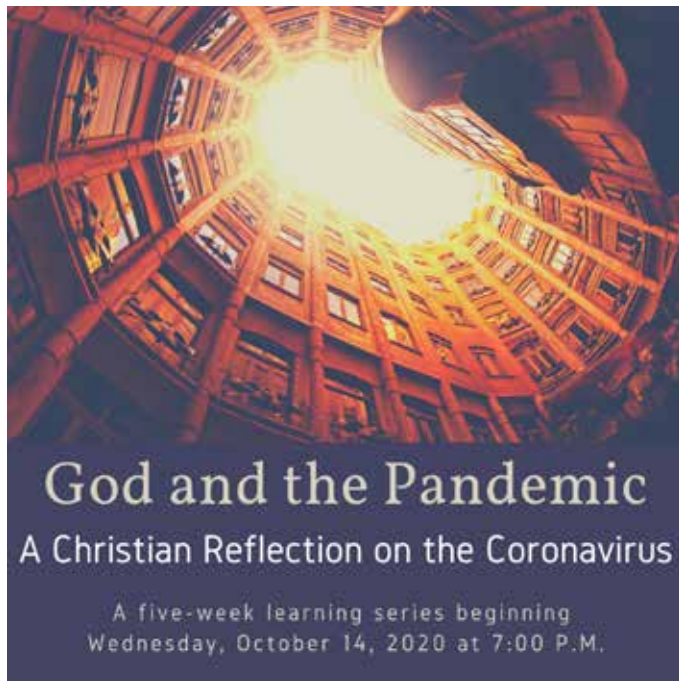
Thank you and all church members for your support. A special big thanks to Fr. Carlos for his help and involvement in our community.

Please keep our Diocese in prayer as we hold our first convention on Zoom. That should be interesting.

As we try to live and cope these days, let us remember the words above: "a hope of finally embracing you." May the peace of our Lord be with each of you. Amen.

~Deacon Alex†

PARISH LEARNING SERIES



Please join us for our fall online learning series, *God and the Pandemic*. This five-week course will explore God's presence in a time of pandemic and reflect on what a Christian response looks like—biblically, historically, and presently. The series will be led by Father Carlos and Father John Harwood, priest at St. Mark's, Lewistown.

Series Schedule

October 14 – God's Sovereignty and the Pandemic

October 21 – Jesus: The Ultimate Sign

October 28 – A Christian Response (Part I)

November 4 – A Christian Response (Part II)

November 11 – Where do we go from here?

Sessions will be held on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. Please use the same Zoom link for each session:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85401394897?pwd=QVFMbnZKZ1FZMG9YMjhLeW91ZDZkQT09>

Password: 605901

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Sunday, October 4 | 11:30 a.m.



The Blessing of the Animals will take place in front of the rectory at 11:30 a.m., following the 10:30 a.m. mass. Please make sure to wear a mask and to keep physical distance. Bring your furred, feathered, finned, or scaled friends (or a photograph) to mass or simply join us outside for the Blessing of the Animals.

You must remember that, as far as the Bible is concerned, God threw only the humans out of Paradise. -Anonymous 🤔

KIDSHINE MINISTRY

This is a reminder to bring your donations on Sunday,



October 4, 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).

Monetary donations are also 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.

THANK YOU, BETTE

After serving for many years as Altar Guild Director, Bette Shugert is stepping down from this ministry. The parish presented her with flowers at the Sept. 27 mass to thank her for her dedication and enormous effort.

JUDY DENSEVICH MEMORIAL SOUP SALE

Monday, October 12 | 11 - 7

The Bellefonte Knights of Columbus will hold their annual soup sale, now dedicated to the memory of Judy Densevich, on October 12. Judy was a tireless community volunteer and loyal member of our church. She spearheaded the Knights' sale for many years.

JUDY DENSEVICH MEMORIAL SOUP AND DESSERT SALE TO-GO & DELIVERY

Serving 20+ Homemade Soups



MONDAY OCTOBER 12th
11AM—7PM

or until the soup runs out

Public Welcome

NO ADVANCED TICKETS REQUIRED

Offering Free Delivery for orders of 4 Quarts or 8 Pints

to Bellefonte, Milesburg, and Pleasant Gap.

Email Orders to Sarem@msn.com

Quarts of Soup for \$8
2 Pints of Soup for \$8
Handmade Rosaries for Sale



315 Stoney Batter, Bellefonte
Up the hill from Dollar General

Crab	Hot Sausage Stew	Cream of Mushroom
Stuffed Pepper	Chicken Noodle	Pasta Fagioli
Creamy Potato	Cheeseburger	Manhattan Clam Chowder
Ham & Bean	Sweet Potato	Jambalaya
Chicken Rice	Italian Wedding	Broccoli Cheddar
5 Alarm Firehouse Chili	Shrimp Chowder	Chicken Gnocchi
New England Clam Chowder	World Famous Chili	Black Bean



Rector’s Report:

- Bishop’s visit – although she canceled all other visits, our visit will be still on (*held Sept. 13*).
- Bellefonte Elementary Good News Club
 - We were approached by Good News Club, a Bellefonte Elementary after-school program, and asked to house them this year
 - They will meet once a week in the fellowship hall beginning end of month
- Vestry Zoom Meeting with Bishop (Oct 27 @ 7:00)

Senior Warden’s Report

- Had an inspection of Rectory
- Three (3) items need to be addressed
- Circuit in half-bath upstairs – need to be CGI
- Inspection of furnace system
- Gas grill – needed to be removed
- Passed Inspection

Junior Warden’s Report

- Next door neighbors’ construction plans are changing drastically. New plan will now put extension on back of existing garage structure, which eliminates the need for us having to do any major work on our shared wall. With this plan, we won’t need to

change anything and we can now possibly share the same firewall.

- Funds for draft of architect’s feasibility proposal (\$10,000) approved.

Financial:

- Still on target, surplus of about \$3K for August
- PPP loan: Father Carlos and Barbara looking into loan forgiveness

OCTOBER READERS SCHEDULE

October 4 (Saint Francis)

<u>9:00am</u>	<u>10:30am</u>
Scott Mauger	Mitch Holland David King

October 11

<u>9:00am</u>	<u>10:30am</u>
Charlotte Zmyslo	David Cree Mike Duminiak

October 18

<u>9:00am</u>	<u>10:30am</u>
James Blied	Kathryn Grossman Julia Kasdorf

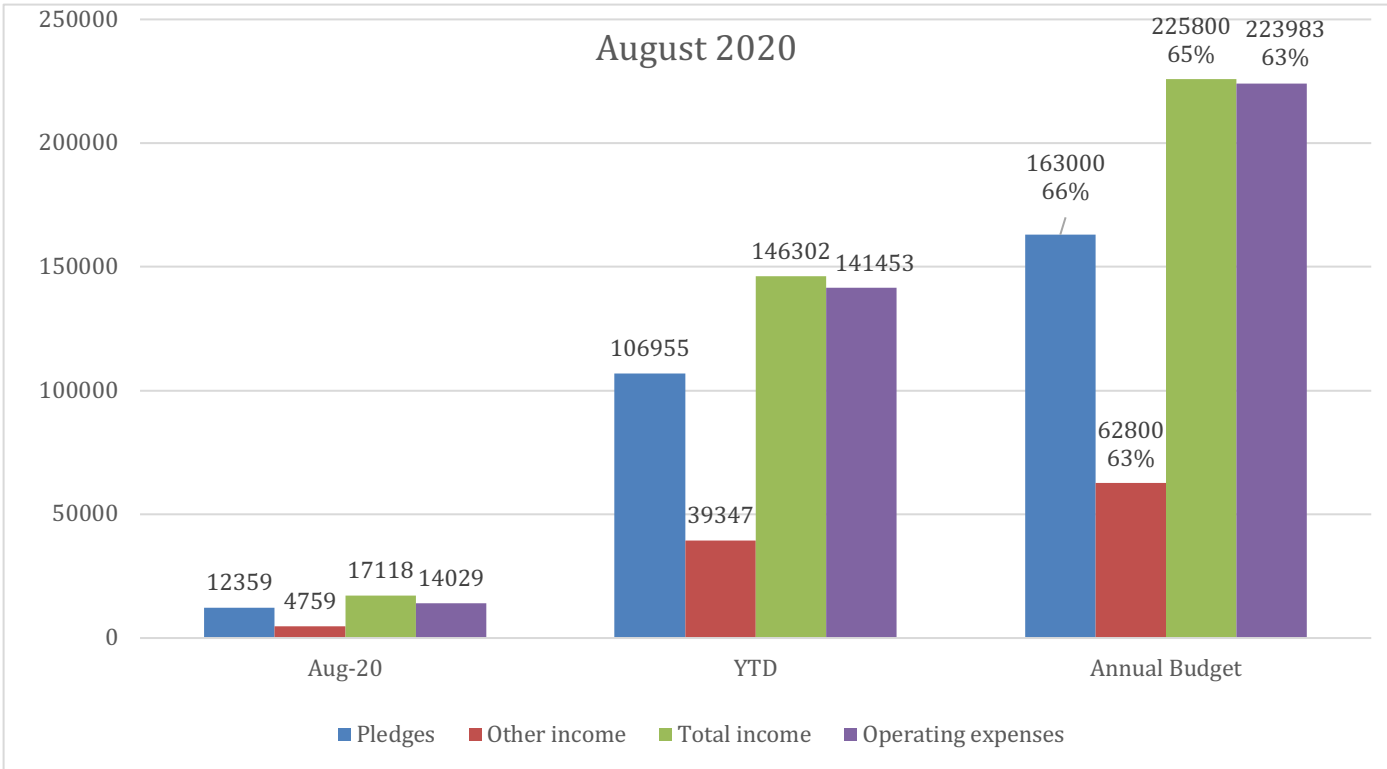
October 25

<u>9:00am</u>	<u>10:30am</u>
Charlotte Zmyslo	David Cree Bill Donovan

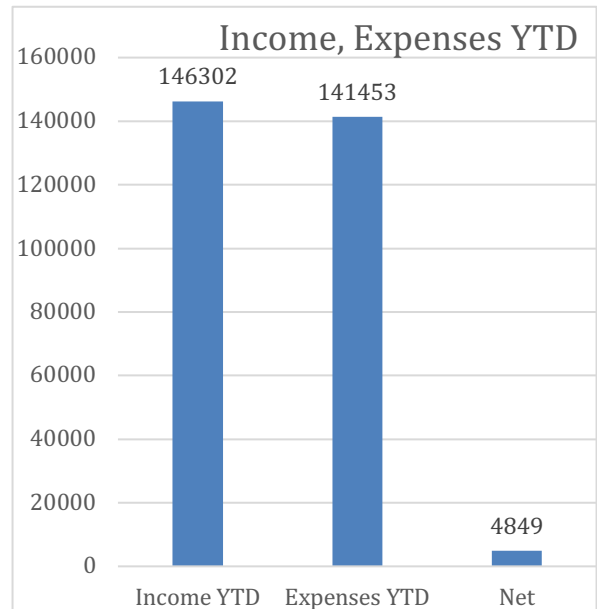
Vestry Members: Larry Roberson (Sr. Warden), Matt Perkins (Jr. Warden), John Fusco, Carol Fyfe, Debra Cree, Thomas Quigley, David King, Charlotte Zmyslo, Susan Christy, Peggy Jackson

Herald Editors: Debra Cree and Kathryn Grossman

	Aug-20	YTD	Annual Budget	YTD % of Budget
Pledges	12359	106955	163000	66%
Other income	4759	39347	62800	63%
Total income	17118	146302	225800	65%
Operating expenses	14029	141453	223983	63%
Net	3089	4849	1817	37%



Expenses		
Income YTD	YTD	Net
146302	141453	4849



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

October 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 Solemnity of Saint Francis 9:00 am Low Mass 10:30 am Sung Mass 11:30 am Blessing of the Animals	5 4:00 pm Centre Cty Youth Srvc Bureau ART Program 7:00 pm Men's Group	6 10:00 am Virtual Coffee Hour 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	7 9:30 am Low Mass on Facebook Live 4:00 pm CCYSB ART Program	8 2:30 pm Bellefonte Elementary Good News Club	9	10
11 The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 am Low Mass 10:30 am Sung Mass	4:00 pm Centre Cty Youth Srvc Bureau ART Program 7:00 pm Men's Group	13 10:00 am Virtual Coffee Hour 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	14 9:30 am Low Mass on Facebook Live 4:00 pm CCYSB ART Program 7:00 pm Parish Learning Series: <i>God and the Pandemic</i>	15 2:30 pm Bellefonte Elementary Good News Club	16	17
18 The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 am Low Mass 10:30 am Sung Mass	19 4:00 pm Centre Cty Youth Srvc Bureau ART Program 7:00 pm Men's Group	20 10:00 am Virtual Coffee Hour 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting	21 9:30 am Low Mass on Facebook Live 4:00 pm CCYSB ART Program 7:00 pm Parish Learning Series: <i>God and the Pandemic</i>	22 2:30 pm Bellefonte Elementary Good News Club	23	24
25 The Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 am Low Mass 10:30 am Sung Mass	26 4:00 pm Centre Cty Youth Srvc Bureau ART Program 7:00 pm Men's Group	27 10:00 am Virtual Coffee Hour 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting 7:00 pm Vestry w/Bishop Scanlan	28 9:30 am Low Mass on Facebook Live 4:00 pm CCYSB ART Program 7:00 pm Parish Learning Series: <i>God and the Pandemic</i>	29 2:30 pm Bellefonte Elementary Good News Club	30	31 Happy Halloween! 

OCT

SAINT JOHN'S
BIRTHDAY CALENDAR



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5 David Cree & Laura Reid	6	7 Charlotte Zmylso	8	9	10
11	12 Charlotte Saylor	13	14	15 Barbara Roberson	16	17
18 Bryan Hough	19	20 Debra McGinley	21	22 Madison Arrington	23	24 Victoria Duminiak
25	26	27	28	29	30	31