



RECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Friends,



The start of November marks a distinct time in the liturgical year. The first day of the month is the feast of All Saints. It is believed by many scholars that the commemoration of all the saints on November 1 originated in Ireland, spread from there to England, and then to the continent. By the ninth century, Pope Gregory IV, who reigned from 828 to 844, urged that the feast of All Saints be observed throughout the Catholic Church.

Beginning in the tenth century, it became customary to set aside another day on which the church remembered all the faithful departed; a day for particular remembrance of family members and friends. This day became known as All Souls, observed on November 2nd, the day after All Saints.

These observances have become, as the Prayer Book puts it, Principal Feasts. All Saints and All Souls encourage us to look at the great cloud of witnesses: those men and women in the life of the Church and in our own lives who have shown us the sacrificial love of Christ.



In commemoration of all the saints, we will observe two festive masses (as festive as things can get nowadays) on Sunday, November 1. Our All Souls remembrance and reading of the parish necrology will take place the following Sunday, November 8, as part of our Remembrance Sunday observance. On this day we commemorate the contributions of military and civilian servicemen and women in the two World Wars.

Since its inception in the Church of England, Remembrance Sunday has been seen as an extension of Allsaintstide. The last two Sundays in November, respectively, mark the feast of Christ the King, another glorious solemnity of the Church, and the First Sunday of Advent, the beginning of the Church year, which formally ushers in our season of Christmas expectation.



November inaugurates not only a festive period in our liturgical year, but the start of our stewardship campaign. By now or soon after, you should have received a letter inviting you to join me in making a financial pledge to support the ministries

and mission of Saint John's. As part of this year's stewardship campaign, you will hear from different voices, including parishioners', on the spiritual practice of giving, as well as from one of our community partners on Saint John's impact on our wider community. I hope that you will consider making a pledge to sustain and further strengthen the work and witness of this parish.

Unlike previous November issues of *The Herald*, where you would find a notice about an upcoming parish dinner or a note about the holiday bazaar, things are lighter this year. However, there are a few things cooking in the parish, including a new ministry project for the holiday season and an adaptation of a previous parish event. I hope to share with you more details during the month of November and in next month's edition of *The Herald*.

May you have wonderful All Saints and All Souls days, and a blessed and safe November. May God, who has given us, in the lives of his saints, patterns of holy living and victorious dying, strengthen your faith and devotion, and enable you to bear witness to the truth against all adversity.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Carlos†

FROM THE DEACON'S PERCH

“Our perfection does not consist of doing extraordinary things, but to do the ordinary well.” —St. Gabriel Possenti

Dear friends,

Gabriel Possenti was a young man in training for the priesthood with the Passionists in Italy when he died from tuberculosis at age twenty-four, before he could be ordained. He is patron to youth, clergy, and students.



I added this little bio of St. Gabriel to give a mental picture of who he was. Sometimes we get much wisdom from our younger generation if we open our ears to what they have to say. This quotation had me thinking of doing ordinary things but doing them well.

Recently someone from our parish family asked if anyone needed assistance, and I told her I would let her know. Two weeks went by, and I was approached by a young mother of two who needed help to pay for heating oil. She didn't qualify for LIHEAP because she made a few hundred dollars over the threshold, which put her in the “we can't help you” category. She came to me asking for help because the weather was

getting colder. I let our church member know the situation, and she contributed to my discretionary fund; I was also able to get the requester's furnace fixed, since it was not working properly. This goes back to the quote above: doing ordinary things well.

I pray that the woman will find a church for herself and children. But as the saying goes, “We plant the seeds and God waters.”

The food bank was really grateful for all the personal care items donated in the month of October. I didn't realize how much there was until I started to load the truck. The food bank thanks you, and I thank you for supporting our community.

The food bank got a nice grant for November, so after discussion with Fr. Carlos, we are going to do something different for our

December ministry project; stay tuned for further info.



Meanwhile, we are requesting donations of canned soup and spaghetti during November. Please place your donations next to the altar in the back of the church.

The Men's Spiritual Group started up again. We were meeting in the gazebo at our home, but since it's getting colder we will now meet in the back of the church on Mondays from 7 to 8. We are still studying Timothy 1 & 2, along with the letter to Titus. Please consider joining our group. We are just ordinary men trying to understand God's word and living the Good News.

With the election at hand, I am participating with the deacons in our diocese in a prayer vigil on Monday, Nov. 2. Along with our bishop we are taking turns sharing prayers and reflections on this election. Look for more info from the diocese in your email.

I also want to call your attention to the holidays and gatherings. Please do not let down your safety guards. We can catch COVID from friends and family. I realize it's a hardship for many, but the virus does not care who gets infected, so "*Wash Hands-Wear a Face Mask-Social Distance.*" Ellen and I are keeping distance with many friends and family. Not only do people risk getting sick, but they may be asymptomatic and inadvertently pass it on to others. So respect others' lives as well as your own. Please have a safe Thanksgiving.

~Deacon Alex†

Please Cast Your Vote on Nov. 3, Election Day. Every Vote Counts.

NEWS FROM THE CHOIR STALLS



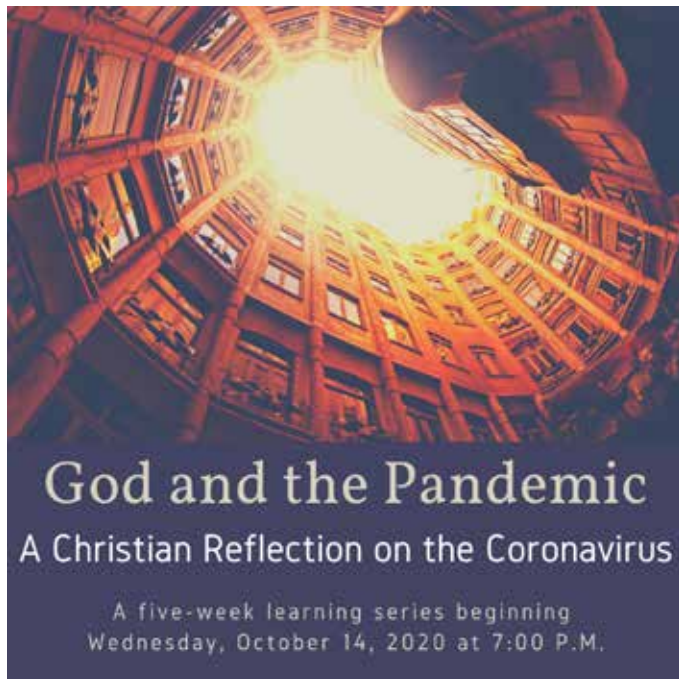
We have two exciting pieces of news! We're thrilled to announce two new voices in our choir: Maddie Christopher and Nicholas Richardson. Their first Sunday with us will be on the Solemnity of All Saints. Please give them a warm welcome, even if just from afar.

Do you miss hearing your favorite hymns in church? That's about to change. Our choir will be singing your favorite hymns at our 10:30 a.m. mass. Please fill out this form to let us know the hymns you want to hear:

<https://stjohnsepiscopalbellefonte.breezechms.com/form/e6e741>

Due to our limited singing time in worship, it may take a few weeks until we get to your request. Thanks to Peggy Jackson for sharing this idea!

CHURCH LEARNING SERIES



There are two sessions left in our fall online learning series, *God and the Pandemic*. It is not necessary to attend all five, as they are not sequential. The series is led by Father Carlos and Father John Harwood, priest at St. Mark's, Lewistown.

Series Schedule

November 4 – A Christian Response (Part II)

November 11 – Where do we go from here?

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85401394897?pwd=QVFMbnZKZ1FZMGM9YmJhLeW91ZDZkQT09>

Password: 605901

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS:

BRINGING CHURCH TO OUR PARISH FAMILIES



Last month, Fr. Carlos and Ellen Dyakiw began visiting our families outdoors at their homes, offering them a taste of church with mass outside and coffee hour (remember coffee hour?!) Family visits have wrapped up for the year, but Fr. Carlos and Ellen look forward to finding creative ways to stay connected.

STEWARDSHIP MONTH

November kicks off our stewardship campaign, and you will receive several letters and other communication from the Rector and Vestry. With this newsletter, we share a reflection from Charity Holland:

Personal Reflection on Giving

Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do it.

– Proverbs 3:27

Right now, in 2020, we are living in very strange, challenging, and often divisive times. Every day is filled with choices and difficult decisions that were unimaginable just one year ago: Should I attend a family wedding? Can we gather for the holidays this year? Should I have my groceries delivered or risk going to the store? Is it safe to send my child to school? Trying to keep everyone safe is physically and emotionally exhausting. It is often tempting to turn to negativity, despair, or even hate. If you're like me, you are in a constant state of anxiety.

One of the things that helps me to cope is practicing mindfulness to channel my thoughts and feelings in a more positive direction. An important part of mindfulness is focusing on gratitude. When I pray and reflect on my many blessings and everything I have to be thankful for, it not only grounds me, but it also reenergizes me to give back or pay it forward. I think to myself, "how can I make someone's life a little bit better today?" It can be anything from giving someone with low self-esteem a simple compliment to making a contribution to ensure that lower income families have a Thanksgiving dinner or Christmas presents for their kids.

One of my favorite children's books is *The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein. An interesting facet of the book is the rich diversity of take-home messages, and

how the meaning can differ for each person. The most impactful lesson from the book for me is that even when the tree thought she had nothing left to give, the boy (who was now an old man) just needed somewhere to sit and rest, which the tree could provide with her stump.

When I struggle with how to give, I try to remember that just being there for someone with a compassionate ear or a safe place to rest is sometimes the most valuable gift of all.

I have two very good friends who both lost their husbands to cancer. One of them is also dealing with her son's recent suicide attempt. It is so hard to see them hurting, and I often feel helpless and powerless to ease their pain. The only gift I can give them is my love and support, to let them know I am thinking and praying for them—and most importantly, to be their soft place to fall when they need it.

Many people interpret the giving tree in the story as representing Jesus. If this is true, what do I think Jesus' message would be? Maybe this: the tree's consistent love and giving represents one simple truth: that we are most fulfilled when we make our meaning in life something greater than our own happiness.

~Charity Holland

KIDSHINE MINISTRY

This is a reminder to bring your donations on Sunday,



November 1, 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). As the cold months are upon us, hats and gloves/mittens would be welcome.

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.

FALL BACK OCTOBER 31



Remember to set your clocks back one hour on Saturday night (Oct. 31).

NOVEMBER READERS SCHEDULE

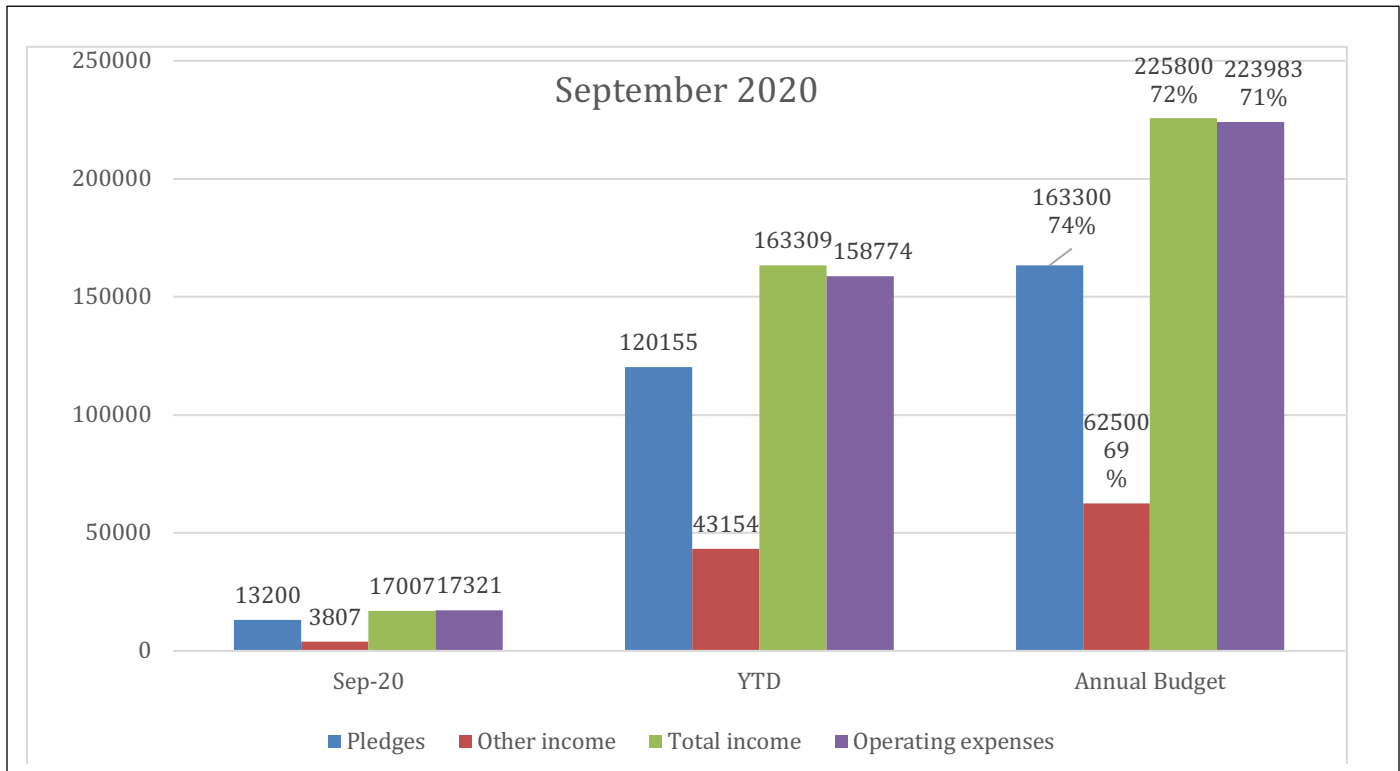
Nov. 1	9:00	10:30
	James Blied	Julia Kasdorf David King
Nov. 8	Charlotte Zmyslo	David Cree Kathryn Grossman
Nov. 15	Scott Mauger	Bill Donovan Mike Duminiak
Nov. 22	Charlotte Zmyslo	Mitch Holland Julia Kasdorf
Nov. 29	James Blied	Bill Donovan Kathryn Grossman

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

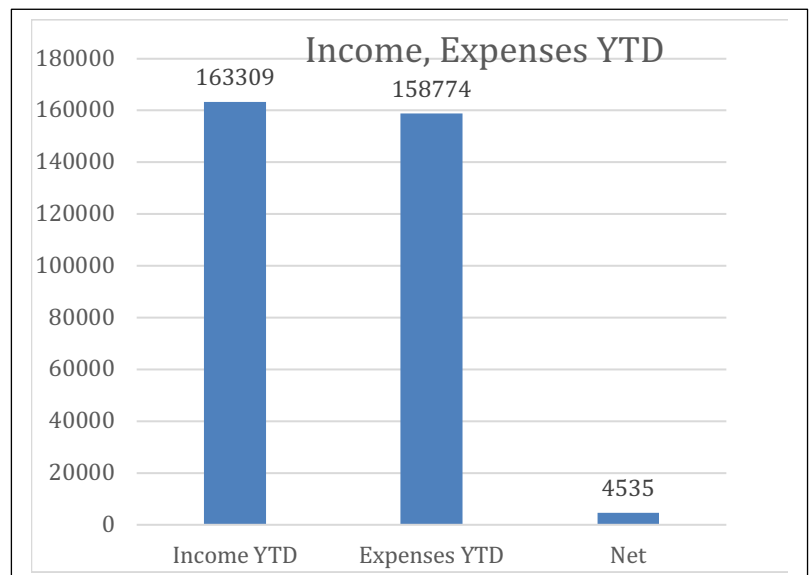
Mark Eminhizer	November 1
Nathaniel Duminiak	November 5
Matthew Reid	November 5
Carol Fyfe	November 7
Harry Witmer	November 16
Dylan Arrington	November 21
Leigh Meeker	November 26
Gwen Perkins	November 30

FINANCIAL REPORT (SEPTEMBER)

	Sep-20	YTD	Annual Budget	YTD % of Budget
Pledges	13200	120155	163300	74%
Other income	3807	49852	62500	69%
Total income	17007	163309	225800	72%
Operating expenses	17321	158774	223983	71%
Net	-314	4535		



Income YTD	Expenses YTD	Net
163309	158774	4535



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

November 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1 Solemnity of All Saints 9:00 am Low Mass 10:30 am Sung Mass</p>	<p>2 4:00 pm CCYSB ART Program 7:00 pm Men's Group</p>	<p>3 Election Day 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting</p>	<p>4 9:30 am Monthly Parish Requiem via Facebook 4:00 pm CCYSB ART Program</p>	<p>5 2:30 pm Bellefonte Elementary Good News Club</p>	6	7
<p>8 Remembrance Sunday 9:00 am Low Mass 10:30 am Sung Mass</p>	<p>9 4:00 pm CCYSB ART Program 7:00 pm Men's Group</p>	<p>10 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting</p>	<p>11 Veteran's Day 9:30 am Low Mass on Facebook Live 4:00 pm CCYSB ART Program</p>	<p>12 2:30 pm Bellefonte Elementary Good News Club</p>	13	14
<p>15 The Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 am Low Mass 10:30 am Sung Mass</p>	<p>16 4:00 pm CCYSB ART Program 7:00 pm Men's Group</p>	<p>17 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting</p>	<p>18 9:30 am Low Mass on Facebook Live 4:00 pm CCYSB ART Program 7:00 pm Vestry</p>	<p>19 2:30 pm Bellefonte Elementary Good News Club</p>	20	21
<p>22 The Last Sunday after Pentecost: Christ the King 9:00 am Low Mass 10:30 am Sung Mass</p>	<p>23 4:00 pm CCYSB ART Program 7:00 pm Men's Group</p>	<p>24 7:00 pm A.A. Meeting</p>	<p>25 9:30 am Low Mass on Facebook Live 4:00 pm CCYSB ART Program</p>	<p>26 Thanksgiving Office Closed </p>	27 Office Closed	28
<p>29 The First Sunday of Advent 9:00 am Low Mass 10:30 am Sung Mass</p>	<p>30 4:00 pm CCYSB ART Program 7:00 pm Men's Group</p>					