

**RECTOR'S LETTER**

Dear Friends,



Since December, hospitals and other healthcare centers have been offering COVID-19 vaccines to individuals in the state's 1A group – which now includes individuals aged 65 and older and those with pre-existing conditions. Some of you have already gotten the vaccine, or are scheduled to do so shortly. While it will not suddenly solve our health crisis, it is a major step in the process.

This push for vaccines comes at an interesting time in the life of the Church: as we prepare for Lent. If you remember, it is during Lent of last year that the pandemic began. It is amazing to think of the progress that's been made in one year. This does not take away the sting of death or minimize the suffering experienced by millions, but it does fill me with hope that our anguish will come to an end.

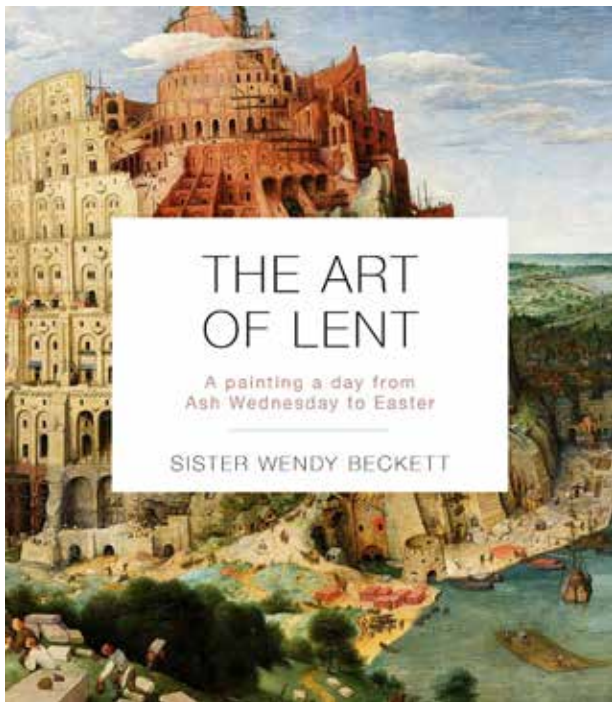
This year our Lenten journey begins on February 17 – Ash Wednesday. As of now, it looks as if we will begin our Lenten journey under our current gathering restrictions. We will be offering two live-streamed masses for Ash Wednesday: 9:30 a.m. and 6:30

p.m. with hymns and music. The church will remain open from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and from 4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. for prayer, the reception of Holy Communion, and the self-imposition of



ashes (blessed ashes will be prepackaged, accompanied with a prayer card for your use). I hope you will take advantage of this offering and stop by the church to mark the start of Lent.

Like much of last year, we will be forced to observe Lent in a modified form. This year we are offering various ways for you to keep this holy season, beginning with



Last, Fr. John Harwood, regional clergy, and I will be offering a collaborative learning series: *Meeting God in Mark*. This five-week series will use Rowan Williams' book by the same title to discover anew the Gospel of Mark.

Even though we will not be together for the start of Lent, we still have the opportunity to journey together through this holiest of seasons. Whatever you give up or take on for Lent, I hope you will take advantage of the season's invitation: to reflect more closely on our humanity, to repent of our sins, to prune what needs to be pruned out of our lives, to ask for forgiveness, and to forgive others as we have been forgiven.

a Lenten kit you will receive in the mail. Among the items you will receive in your kit are dried palms with instructions for you to make your own ashes at home if you cannot travel to church, and a Lenten devotional book: *The Art of Lent: A Painting A Day From Ash Wednesday To Easter*.

Yours in Christ,  
Fr. Carlos†

This small, yet delightful book offers a brief daily meditation on a piece of art for each of the forty days of Lent. It is truly an easy and rich way to observe this season, and will require no more than three minutes of your day.



If you are looking for something in greater depth, with more voices and viewpoints, I hope that you will take advantage of the Living Compass' yearly Lenten resource: *Living Well Through Lent*. You will find more information on this great Lenten resource later in this issue.

## FROM THE DEACON'S PERCH

*"We find rest in those we love, and we provide a resting place for those who love us."  
—St. Bernard of Clairvaux*



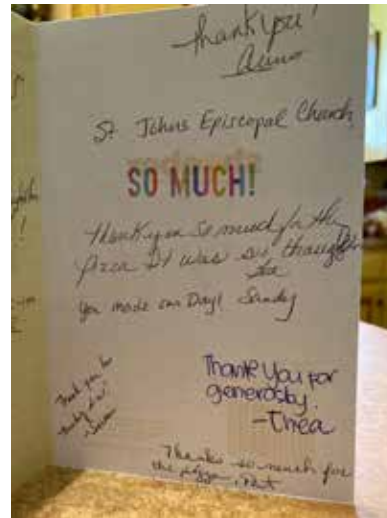
My Dear Friends,

As this winter keeps us indoors and isolated, we think of those in our lives and we try to connect, whether by phone, email, Zoom, or Facetime. I think of all of you whom I wish to see after all this is over (hopefully sooner than later). But there is a solace in thinking of relationships when they are distant, and that is the love we share. Because of all the restrictions, I cannot hug or even see many people. In fact, I am doubling down on safety because of these new variants of the virus. It is important to keep isolating myself, not only for me but also for the ones I love. Conversely, the love of others keeps us intact and spiritually connected in this disconcerting time.

It is hard to believe that January is almost gone. If you are anything like me, this pandemic has me forgetting what *day* it is much of the time, never mind the month. Fr. Carlos and I have been busy with ministry outside the church, and we both participated in an online retreat with the Diocesan Commission on Ministry. As members of this committee, we work with candidates who are discerning their call, and we

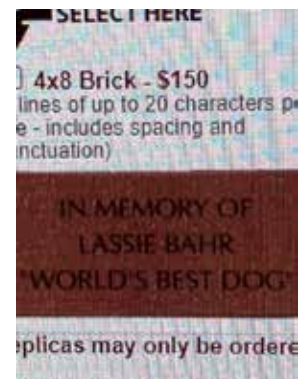
participate in breakout groups with the prospective candidates. This was the first time that one was held via Zoom, and it was interesting to be part of it. We also have had many online discussions with Bishop Scanlan on Zoom.

Our church family recently provided pizza for first responders: doctors,



nurses, medical offices in the area, and of course, our police department. They were very grateful, and one of the thank-you cards is posted here.

We also provided PAWS with a donation and with a brick that will designate St. John's as a contributor. It will be placed in a special area of the PAWS center.



Fr. Carlos and I discussed the many needs in our area, and one that has been overlooked is the Youth Centre in Bellefonte (<https://ccysb.com/>). A short outline about the Bureau is provided in this newsletter. Below is a list of some of their requests. Items can be dropped off

at church, on Fr. Carlos's porch, or at my home, and I will get them there. Some of the items on their wish list are paper goods (toilet paper, paper towels, plates, bowls, cups), juice, Jell-O cups, packaged dried fruit snacks, crackers, peanut butter, fruit, pretzels, chips, etc.; dessert foods, such as cookies, cake mixes, brownie mixes, muffins, etc.; and ingredients to cook meals, such as pasta sauce and vegetables.

In talking to Sally at the Food Bank, I learned that they are OK with food, but many of the recipients need personal hygiene products, such as liquid soap, bar soap, shampoo, skin cream, toothpaste, and deodorant (spray or roll-on). Many of the less fortunate have to choose whether to eat or take care of personal hygiene. If shopping is a hardship for you, please consider donating to the church by noting in the memo line of your check where you would like the money to be designated (either Rector's Discretionary or Deacon's Discretionary Fund), and we will shop for you. Be Safe. Pray for me as I pray for you.

~Deacon Alex†

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## **YOUTH SERVICE BUREAU**

### ***Our Story***

Once upon a time, when a Centre County youth got in trouble and ended up in court, a judge's only option was to send the child far from home for help. Judge R. Paul Campbell and other dedicated volunteers founded the Youth Service

Bureau in 1968 so that young people could get help in our own community. Although YSB's basic mission—helping children and youth—has remained the same for five decades, our services have evolved and grown. Our staff members and volunteers continually assess needs among local youth and look for creative, evidence-based ways of meeting those needs. Over the years, thanks to community support, YSB has helped hundreds of thousands of local children and families turn the page to new chapters of safety, understanding, responsibility, and much more. Each year, dedicated staff members and volunteers touch the lives of more than 15,000 youth and family members through an array of prevention programs, family services, and residential homes.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

## BECOME A STEWARD OF CHILDREN IN 2021!

Learn how to prevent, identify, and react responsibly to child sexual abuse from your own home - at no cost to you!  
Join us for our first live webinar of the new year!

JANUARY 14TH, 2021 @ 6-8 PM

Register at [tinyurl.com/stewardsc](https://tinyurl.com/stewardsc)  
#CentreCountyProtectsKids

Over time we have grown in our ability to truly partner with all constituents. We want parents to view YSB staff as resources, rather than as experts mandating change. We ask kids for their input through our Youth Council, made up of older teens and young adults who are program participants or alumni. And we embrace the contributions of community donors who make it possible for children and families to write new life stories.

### *Our Mission*

The Youth Service Bureau exists to help ensure that children, youth, and families have every opportunity to reach their full potential.

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### **MEETING GOD IN MARK: A LENTEN LEARNING SERIES**



Meeting God in Mark is five-week learning series based on Archbishop Rowan Williams' book by the same title. Throughout the series we will discover anew the Gospel of Mark as we explore

in depth the history, theology, and vision of this text. More information, including the Zoom link, will appear in our weekly news blast. Below is an outline of our course:

- February 24: The Good News**
- Mark 3: Who was Mark?**
- March 10: Secrets and Miracles**
- March 17: Speaking in Parables**
- March 24: A Lifelong Passion**

You can purchase Archbishop Rowan Williams' book on Amazon:  
<https://amzn.to/3ovxy8x>



### **LIVING WELL THROUGH LENT 2021**

LivingCompass.org offers free resources for your use during Lent. These include a devotional book, daily newsletter, and a Facebook discussion group.

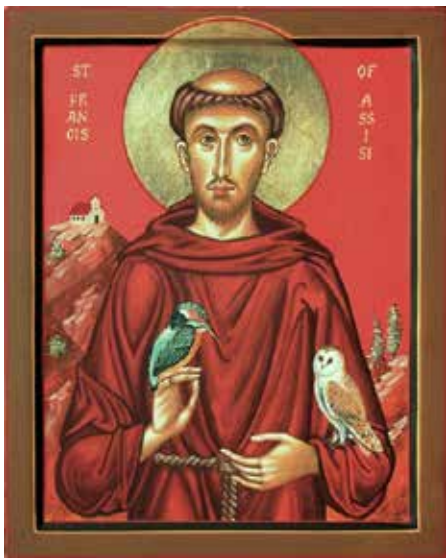
You can access all these at [livingcompass.org/lent](https://livingcompass.org/lent).

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### **FOLLOWING A RULE OF LIFE: REFLECTIONS FROM A THIRD ORDER FRANCISCAN**

From the Third order website: "The Third Order consists of men and women, single or in committed relationships, who, though following ordinary professions, are called to a

dedicated life of service to our Lord through prayer, study, and work. Like the First Order, Tertiaries



make a lifetime commitment to live a Rule of Life in company with the sisters and brothers in their Order. Tertiaries follow Francis in prayer and action by striving to be peacemakers, working for social justice, and deepening our relationship with God. We share Francis' concerns for the wellbeing of the earth, the poor, and the marginalized.”

As a Tertiary in the Third Order Society of St. Francis, I find a Rule of Life a useful tool in keeping my spiritual life alive and active. Through daily morning prayer (about 25 minutes) and end-of-day examination (about 10 minutes), I am reminded in a busy world to think of those around me who need prayer and/or help. I am called to monitor my own behavior, and to see where I need to make changes or improvements.

Each year I am required to present a self-examination of how well I have kept my rule to my area chaplain. The Third Order offers great flexibility on how we live our rule. Acknowledging that since we live in the world, and not a monastery, we each have many different responsibilities. Our rules follow a set guideline, which we each fit into our own lives.

*-Christine Holt*

## **VESTRY UPDATE**

The vestry met on Zoom on January 13.

### **RECTOR'S REPORT:**

#### **COVID:**

- We are monitoring vaccine levels. State Roll-out plan: Stage 1A – health care workers, Stage 1B – age 75+
- May be back to in-house worship by Spring
- Church continues to be open after mass for personal prayer and communion.
- Lent planning in progress

#### **New year:**

- Annual meeting will be held via Zoom on Jan. 17.
- Possibility of exploring a study of sanctuary space usage
- Looking at work that may need to be done; good time now that the space is not being used
- Do we want to do a capital campaign?
- Perhaps a sub-committee for costs
- We are looking for someone to serve as Convention delegate. Thanks to Dave King for serving faithfully in past.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

- All bills paid at end of 2020
- Office supplies largest increase due to mailings to stay in touch
- Gas expense also increased
- Diocese has offered a one-month reprieve from our monthly offering.
- Pledges for 2021 were higher than projected.

**Sr. WARDEN'S REPORT:**

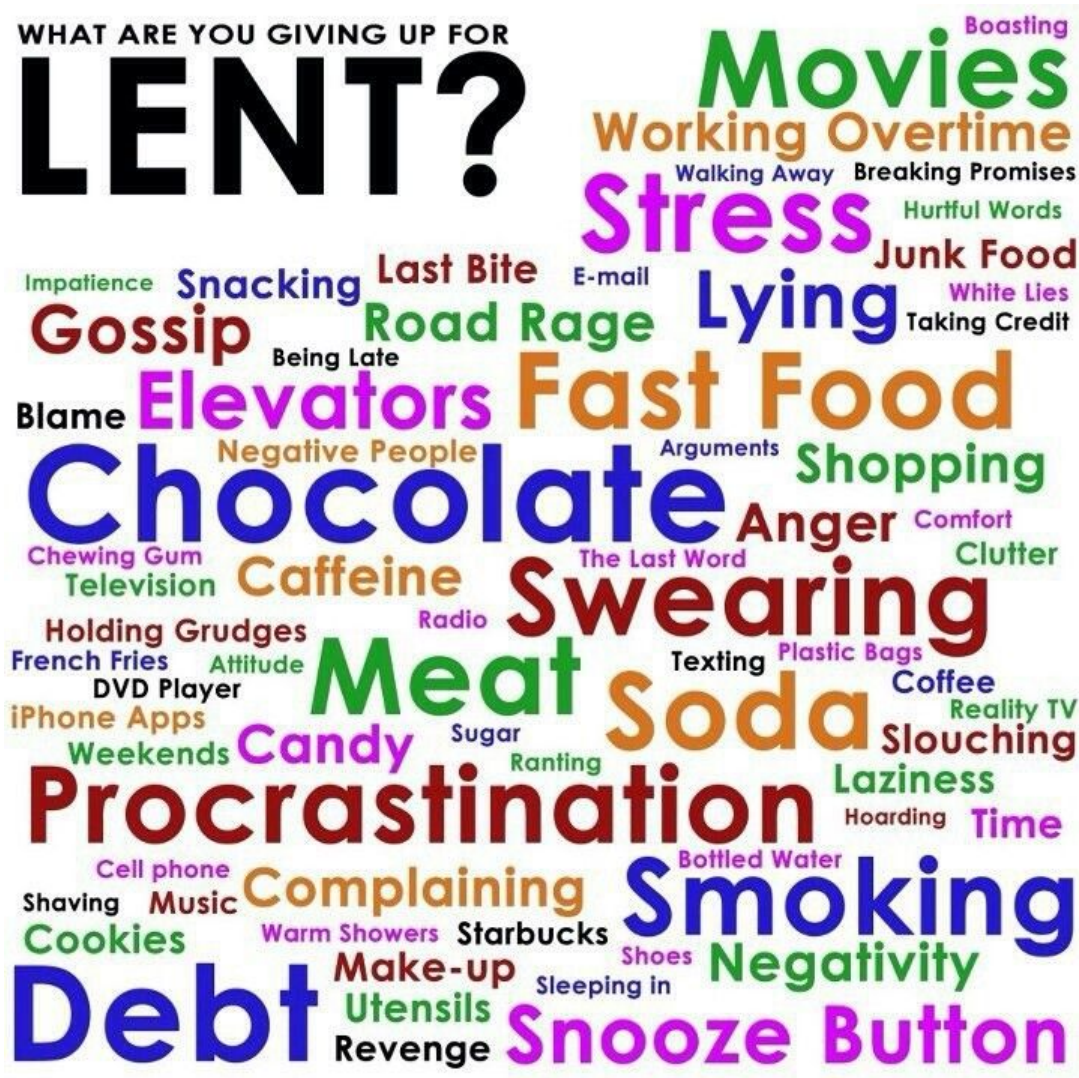
- Canceling WiFi for rectory; connection will be same for all buildings.
- Leak in side stairway; working on an action plan to take care of it

**Jr. WARDEN'S REPORT:**

- The church closing has given us an opportunity to take care of small maintenance issues.
- Sunday School room was painted; Fr. Carlos thanked Matt, Gwen, and Sydney for painting.

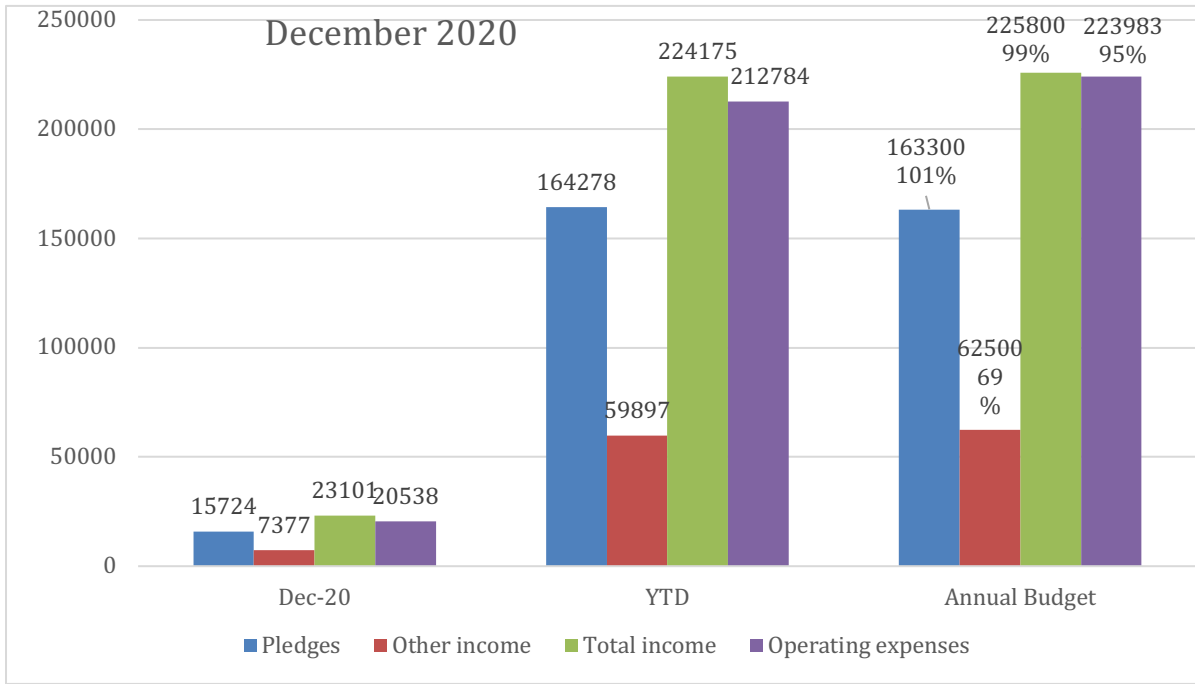
**FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**

John	Fusco	February 01
Michael	Fusco	February 13
Gabe	Holland	February 13
Trish	Weidemann	February 13
Andrew	Pifer	February 14
Paul	Fusco	February 14
Matt	Perkins	February 15
John	Harwood	February 16
Debra	Cree	February 18
Isaac	Pifer	February 28

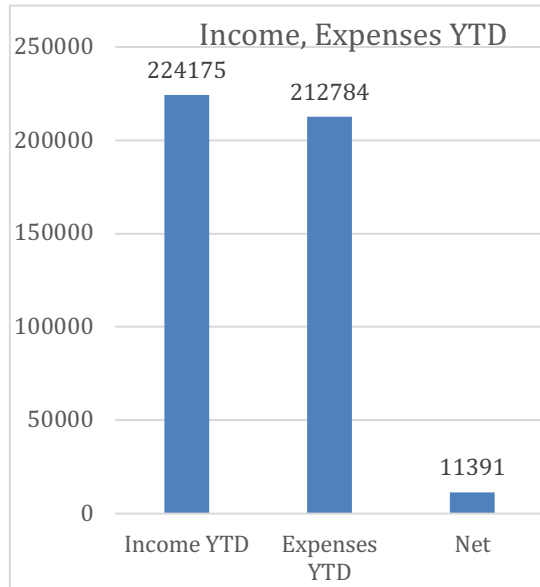


**FINANCIAL (DECEMBER 2020)**

	<b>Dec-20</b>	<b>YTD</b>	<b>Annual Budget</b>	<b>YTD % of Budget</b>
Pledges	15724	164278	163300	101%
Other income	7377	59897	62500	96%
<b>Total income</b>	<b>23101</b>	<b>224175</b>	<b>225800</b>	<b>99%</b>
<b>Operating expenses</b>	<b>20538</b>	<b>212784</b>	<b>223983</b>	<b>95%</b>
<b>Net</b>		<b>11391</b>		



<b>Income YTD</b>	<b>Expenses YTD</b>	<b>Net</b>
<b>224175</b>	<b>212784</b>	<b>11391</b>



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

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



# February 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 9:30 am Parish Requiem via Facebook	4	5	6
7 <b>Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany</b> Parish Mass 10:00 am on Facebook Live & YouTube	8	9	10 9:30 am Low Mass via Facebook 4:00 pm CCYSB ART Program	11 2:30 pm Bellefonte Elementary Good News Club	12	13
14 <b>Last Sunday after the Epiphany</b> Parish Mass 10:00 am on Facebook Live & YouTube 	15	16	17 <b>Ash Wednesday</b> 9:30 am Low Mass w/Ashes via Facebook 4:00 pm CCYSB ART Program 6:30 pm Sung Mass w/ Ashes via Facebook	18 2:30 pm Bellefonte Elementary Good News Club	19	20
21 <b>First Sunday in Lent</b> Parish Mass 10:00 am on Facebook Live & YouTube	22	23	24 9:30 am Low Mass on Facebook Live 4:00 pm CCYSB ART Program	25 2:30 pm Bellefonte Elementary Good News Club	26	27
28 <b>Second Sunday in Lent</b> Parish Mass 10:00 am on Facebook Live & YouTube						