



RECTOR'S LETTER

Dear friends,

I'm writing to you in the midst of Holy Week.

Currently, bulletins are being printed, music is being rehearsed, and Easter flowers are being tucked away. All these things are part of our preparation for our three-day observance of the Triduum: Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday, all of which lead us to the glory of Easter Day. I hope you will



enter into the richness of this week, allowing the powerful liturgies to penetrate your body, mind, and soul.

As we approach this Eastertide, I'm filled with great hope as we continue to see progress on the vaccination front. In our parish, I know of at least 40 individuals who have been vaccinated, and a few others who have appointments lined up, including yours truly. However, these advances are marred by an increasing number of cases in Centre County, which the vestry, the diocese, and I are keeping an eye on. While great progress has been made and new possibilities are afoot, our pandemic is not over. And yet, a path forward is being forged; healing and renewal are possible; and there is hope that the sting of death caused by COVID-19 that has been experienced by millions, might be prevented one day.

While it is not prudent in the middle of Holy Week to think too far into Easter, there are many exciting things bubbling up for Eastertide. We are currently exploring a new partnership with Centre County Youth Service Bureau (CCYSB). If you're not familiar with them, CCYSB runs *Big Brothers*, *Big Sisters* here in Centre County, as well as many other local programs aimed at supporting and empowering youth and their families. We have been approached by



HOLY WEEK & EASTER

PALM SUNDAY
MARCH 28 | 9:00 & 10:30AM

MAUNDY THURSDAY
APRIL 1 | 6:30PM

GOOD FRIDAY
APRIL 2 | 12:00PM

HOLY SATURDAY
APRIL 3 | 8:00PM

EASTER DAY
APRIL 4 | 9:00 & 10:30AM

the staff at CCYSB's Bellefonte Youth Center about launching a community garden for their youth that will also serve as a resource for our own parish youth and children when our formation programs start up again. A small three-bed raised garden will be planted in the green area between the church and the rectory. Wheels are turning and details are being hashed out, with great excitement. I hope we can have a garden building and set-up day in April, and a blessing of our new shared garden in May.

Later this month, we will begin to work on much-needed floor repairs in the sanctuary. When you enter the church, you will notice remediated termite damage and discoloration on our front entrance floors. Thanks to the generosity and encouragement of James Blied and David Frego, and to an existing financial gift given in memory of Leigh Meeker's mother, we will be able to restore our floors. We will also be working on the altar and choir areas: removing the carpet, sanding the floors, replacing necessary wood slats, and once again exposing the church's original oak floors. It will be a wonderful sight!

The last piece of exciting news I cannot yet fully reveal to you, since it is still in development—but expect to see and hear additional liturgical and preaching voices at Saint John's. Stay tuned!

May you have a blessed Holy Week and a joyful Easter.

Yours in Christ,
~Father Carlos †

FROM THE DEACON'S PERCH



"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control... If we live by

the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.
—Galatians 5:22-25

By the time you read this, it will be Maundy Thursday. The Rev. Jan Kwiatkowski, an Episcopal priest who works as a family therapist and tele-mental health counselor in Wisconsin, raises the following question: Have we ever found ourselves wanting to hurry through the discomfort of Holy Week and just get to the good stuff of Easter? If we do, what are we not hearing in the things God is saying this week? What can we do to pause and listen? For many years I have been caught in a whirlwind of sadness and pain over the events of Holy Week, especially on Good Friday.

Fr. John Harwood shared his sermons of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday with me. He explained that Holy Thursday gives us three things to consider: community, service,

and prayer. In his Good Friday sermon, Fr. John talks about the altar being stripped . . . everything is bare, and it's the only time of the year when he wears black vestments. For many years I never thought of those things—even though I've heard the words many times—because I was caught up in the pain and passion of the trial and crucifixion of Jesus. I totally missed the message Jesus was getting across to the apostles at the last supper.

As a deacon, one of my roles is to bring the church to the world and the world to the church. We are in a relationship with Christ when we serve and do God's work here within family and in our community by bringing good works in the world. The pandemic has changed many of our lives this past year, and it seems like eternity. We were isolated and masked, yet we were connected to the church via media such as Facebook and Zoom. God has given us the science and technology to bring the good news to both us and the world.

As I reflect on the Holy Week Gospels, I have a sense of awareness of the readings that is revealing. While I still feel the sorrow and pain of the Passion engulfing my soul, I am now able to understand the resurrection in a whole new light and the promise of new life at Easter. So when we light our Paschal candle at our Saturday night service, let the light and warmth of Christ's love for us embrace us. Amen.†

Our community ministry has been very busy with the Youth Center and in particular, feeding challenges. Many people are still facing food shortages at the end of the month, and the food bank has had an upswing of people seeking help. Your donations of hygiene products were a big help to the food bank; believe me, they are always happy to see Fr. Carlos and me drive up with the goods you have supplied. Many of the items, especially hygiene and pet food, do not receive government funding. They are supplied only by donation, so thank you all for your generosity. As Fr. Carlos posted in the bulletins and weekly emails, the food bank is seeking donations of canned vegetables (carrots, beans, potatoes, corn, mixed veggies, etc.) for the month of April.



I want to thank all who worked at the corned beef dinner. Steve Dillon helped me cook all the vegetables. To those who supplied desserts, served, purchased multiple meals, and helped with the big clean up, THANK YOU. It was the most successful dinner to date, thanks to our superb team effort. As we begin to gather again, I am joyful for all the hard work in keeping our church sanitized and clean (thank you, Charlotte and Trish),

not to mention the countless hours Fr. Carlos put in preparing the video services, sound system, and lighting. A big thanks to Erik and Rebecca and the choir for the beauty of voice and music we are hearing. I know the work Erik did, as well as the many hours Larry spent to keep us afloat all this time. To them I say thank you. And to all of you: see you soon, and may you and your families have a Blessed Easter. Alleluia!

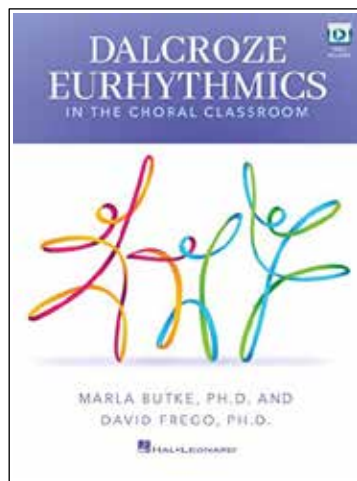
~Dcn. Alex

AROUND THE PARISH FAMILY TABLE



Congratulations to **David Frego** on the publication of his textbook, *Dalcroze Eurhythmics in the Choral Classroom*, coauthored with Marla Butke. Eurhythmics

has to do with teaching all the elements of music through movement and singing and is widely taught at the university level to future music educators.



RIP, **Jock Roberson**, beloved member of the Roberson and St. John's families. Jock crossed the Rainbow Bridge this week and will be greatly missed by all who loved him.

VESTRY NEWS

The vestry met via Zoom on March 17.

Rector's Report:

- Corned Beef dinner
 - Saturday March 20th, Take-out only
 - Enough meals for 120
 - Thanks to Peggy and Jim Jackson, who obtained Thrivent Financial support
 - Received \$250 seed money
 - A friend of Bill Donovan's donated the cabbage
- Kevin Barron will serve as guest preacher on Thursday, March 25 (Ascension)
- Conversations with Centre County Youth Service Bureau
 - Exploring a collaborative community garden next to rectory
 - Serve as resource for youth and community, inside and outside our parish
- Parish reopening: new COVID matrix: Previously % of positive cases; now is actual cases of 25 daily avg. new cases for a week.
- Will ask Diocese for permission to reopen on Palm Sunday
- Will continue with same restrictions as before (except requirement for preregistration). Service times: 9 and 10:30 a.m., with live streaming of later service.

Treasurer's Report:

- Everything is on track
- Pledges coming in beautifully
- No worries so far

Sr. Warden's Report:

Quiet month; business as usual.

Jr. Warden's Report:

Would like to make reopening a special occasion; discussion on how to make this happen.

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

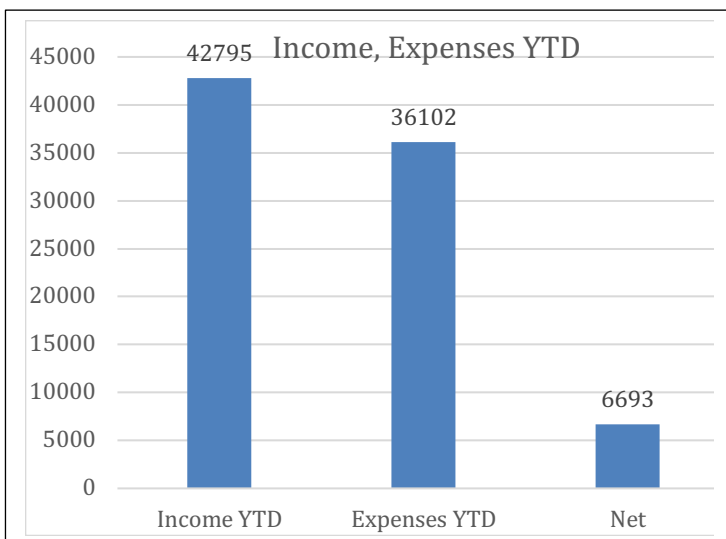
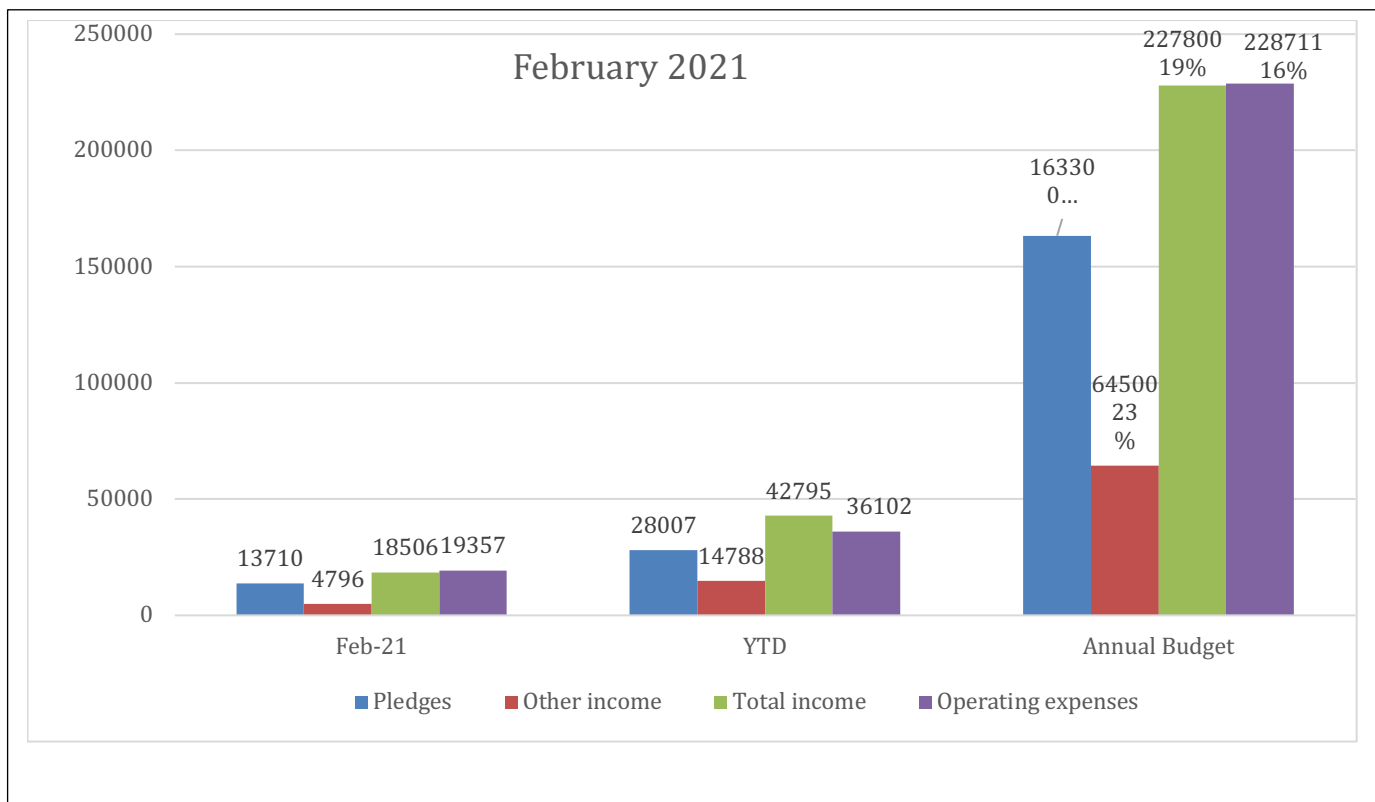
APRIL BIRTHDAYS

April 4	Sara Witmer
April 9	Myrna Alterio
	Steve Dillon
	Cody Fitzgerald
	Mitchell Holland
April 20	Susan Christy
April 23	Finnegan Quigley
April 29	Dan McGinley



Financial:

	Feb-21	YTD	Annual Budget	YTD % of Budget
Pledges	13710	28007	163300	17%
Other income	4796	14788	64500	23%
Total income	18506	42795	227800	19%
Operating expenses	19357	36102	228711	16%
Net	-851	6693		



Expenses		
Income YTD	YTD	Net
42795	36102	6693

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

April 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 12:30 pm Bellefonte Elementary Good News Club	2	3
4 EASTER DAY 9:00 am Low Mass 10:30 am Sung Mass Facebook Live & YouTube	5	6	7 9:30 Low Mass in the Octave of Easter via Facebook	8	9	10
11 The Second Sunday of Easter 9:00 am Low Mass 10:30 am Sung Mass Facebook Live & YouTube	12	13	14 9:30 Low Mass via Facebook 4:00 pm CCYSB	15	16	17
18 The Third Sunday of Easter 9:00 am Low Mass 10:30 am Sung Mass Facebook Live & YouTube	19	20	21 9:30 Low Mass via Facebook 7:00 pm Vestry	22	23	24
25 The Fourth Sunday of Easter 9:00 am Low Mass 10:30 am Sung Mass Facebook Live & YouTube	26	27	28 9:30 Low Mass via Facebook	29	30	

