



RECTOR'S LETTER

Dear friends,

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
This month's issue of *The Herald* is filled with information on upcoming events and special liturgies, powerful reflections on our worship life, and insights into our ministry and mission. There's really not much more I can say, or need to add, to what others have contributed this month.



However, I will say one small, but important thing: THANK YOU!

Thank you for your commitment to our parish.

Thank you for following all the necessary safety protocols for our re-opening.

Thank you for your financial support which allows us to continue our work.

Above all, thank you for your steadfast faith in our risen Lord, who is our light, our hope, and our salvation.

Easter blessings,

~Father Carlos †

MEET OUR NEW ASSISTING CLERGY: FATHER KEVIN BARRON



I was recently ordained to the diaconate and will be acquiring my diaconal formation at St. John's. My academic formation is through the Stevenson School for Ministry. I will be serving at St. John's on the first and third Sundays of each month until my ordination to the priesthood later this fall. I have been serving as lay pastor, providing worship and pastoral care, for St. Luke's in Altoona for the past two years and will continue to serve the parish in that capacity as a deacon on the second and fourth Sundays of each month.

I have been a member of St. Andrew's in State College since 2011. Over the years I have served as a lay Eucharistic Minister, subdeacon, altar bell ringer, member of the altar guild, choir member, social justice committee member, officiant for Evening Prayer, youth leader, and member of the

rector's search committee. I was most honored to serve St. Andrew's as its senior warden for three years. During the last of those three years the parish was in transition as we called an interim rector to serve when Father Richard Wall was called to St. Paul's K-Street in Washington, DC.

I feel a strong call to the work of justice. I serve the diocese as the co-instructor of the Becoming the Beloved Community course in anti-racism for the Stephenson School for Ministry. I previously chaired the Pool of Bethesda LGBT+ Support Taskforce. Our goal was to ensure that every member of the LGBT+ community felt empowered to openly participate in all aspects of the life of the Church.

I have a master's degree in Counseling Psychology from Slippery Rock University and have completed all doctoral coursework in Penn State's Higher Education program. I am a proud graduate of the Education for Ministry (EfM) program.

I've lived in State College since 1990 and have worked for Penn State for 35 years in a variety of positions. I have served on various diversity and inclusion committees as an appointed member of the President's Commission on LGBTQ Equality. My current role is as director of Volunteer Services for the Penn State Alumni Association. In this capacity, I oversee the training and education of over 1000 alumni

volunteers and provide administrative support for the governing body of the Alumni Association.

During my time with you at St. John's, my goal is to grow into my calling to ordained ministry by immersing myself in the sacramental rites of the Church. I seek to participate in seasonal liturgical planning, assist in diaconal ministry, observe and contribute with formation, and above all to be an active learner.

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



As we enter the spring season, we reflect on the past winter, longing for the sun to brighten our days . . . birds chirping and beginning to make

nests, rabbits running around the yard, people walking their pets and chatting, and enjoying chilly mornings and warm afternoons. To see the trees sprout beautiful colors of purple, pink, red, and white seems very joyful. We maybe even think of coming out of the pandemic and having social activity soon with family and friends. I feel the joy of our gatherings at church on Sundays as we slowly

begin to open and attend mass and share a welcome with our church family.

The above passage from Galatians reminds me of the Easter message and the risen Christ and the hope of the resurrection and new life. At one time I lingered on the crucifixion for a long time after Easter, but I have come to realize that through his death we have new life. As we light the candle, we renew our baptismal vows and celebrate life and creation. Think of the joy, peace, and love of Christ as we practice kindness, generosity, and self-control. Well, the last one (self-control) is hard for me. With ice cream shops reopening, I keep hearing the call to have a cone or cup.

I also see the spirit presenting itself in my life when I look at creation and beauty, and powerfully more so in the Eucharist of the mass. When Fr. Carlos blesses and elevates the host, there is a presence of humility, yet at the same time an uplifting of my soul and a tender realization that God is always with us. Through the Eucharist the manifestation of the spirit is ever more present.

As we begin to get vaccinated and you feel the workings of Christ in your life, how does the spirit guide you? I am always interested in these experiences and invite you to share them with me, either by e-mail or phone conversation.

The Men's Spiritual Group will meet for five sessions (May 10, 24, and June 14, 21, 28) at

my home on Curtin Street. We are always open to receiving new members, and this will be a great time to see if our sessions would interest you. We meet Monday nights from 7-8 p.m. outdoors in the gazebo in the back. We are studying Isaiah, and all the materials are provided, so please consider joining us. We are not Bible scholars, but we are trying to learn how scripture guides us.

The April collection of canned vegetables was really significant. I made three trips to the food bank with canned goods. The food bank will be collecting condiments during May. Our food ministry there is well-received and deeply appreciated.



I will report on my other ministries at Centre Care and the prison as they begin the slow process of reopening. In the meantime, I'm glad to see many of you, and again, thank you for all the support of the Deacon's Discretionary Fund. Father Carlos and I use these funds to help others. The generosity of the spirit comes from all of you; thank you.

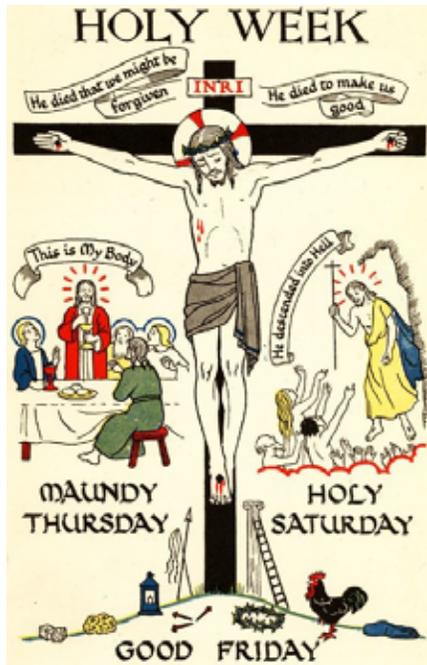
~Dcn. Alex

**CHRIST IS RISEN INDEED, NOW ALLOW IT TO
DISRUPT YOUR OWN LIFE:**

**A REFLECTION ON HOLY WEEK AT SAINT
JOHN'S**

By David Tilli

It's easy to overlook the utter strangeness of the Christian faith, especially while living in a country whose version of Christianity can become easily warped by external forces: political parties, temporary ideologies, the dreaded powers and principalities discussed in Ephesians.



What Holy Week offers, then, is the gift of disruption, a reminder that the Easter message of Resurrection and Triumph is indeed strange but nevertheless true. That Christ's victory

over death disrupted the entire cosmos and decisively turned the tides in the battle between Good and Evil. Most strange and wondrous of all, we are reminded that Good prevailed and will continue to do so.

The fact is that this massive disruption to the status quo came to us in the form of an impoverished Galilean carpenter—a curious

God-Man capable of unspeakable tenderness in one moment and then ruthless rebuking in the next. This is a historical occurrence worth disrupting our lives over.

And that's exactly the opportunity afforded to us by Holy Week.

Since this was my first real Holy Week experience, I did not know what to expect nor how to prepare myself. And to be fully honest, some emotional preparation was probably needed. There were moments of intense ancient beauty throughout the services, climaxes, and crescendos where everything but Christ seems stripped away.

What comes to mind immediately: the finale of Maundy Thursday, where clergy and laity recreate the kangaroo trial of Jesus, and the congregation plays the role of the bloodthirsty crowd who demands His death.

I remember being told as a child that Jesus died for our sins—now I received the bitterest reminder that our sins and apathy killed him directly and that every sin is a new piercing. But Holy Week isn't all tears and bitter laments—the whole affair had a pulsing, life-affirming vividness coursing through its veins, and your veins inevitably coursed the same way by Holy Week's end.

A moment that by God's graces I shall never forget occurred during the Great Vigil, again during its conclusion. Father Carlos stood in

the back, lighted by candle glow alone, and declared the best news we could ever hope to hear: "Alleluia! Christ is Risen!"

Each utterance increased in volume and was followed by the congregation's reaffirmation: "The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!" Every repetition was underscored by gradual lighting of the church proper, and a slight organ purr, until the call-and-response repeated itself three times and the entire building exploded in a release of light and sound and teetering ecstasy.

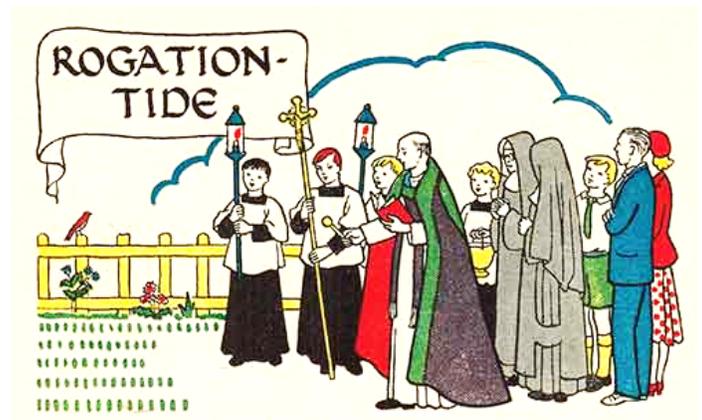
The organ swelled and went full-blast, and a hymn brought us back into gorgeous reality: Jesus Christ is risen today. Death lost dominion. God regained and redeemed His fallen peoples. Now come let us adore Him in song and feast.



Christianity has been preaching the same message for more than 2,000 years, simple as it is divine. Christ is risen indeed. This fact disrupted every inch of creation. Now allow it to disrupt your own life.

David Tilli is a senior at Penn State, where he will soon graduate from with a journalism degree. David has been attending Saint John's since the fall of 2020, and will be received into The Episcopal Church on Wednesday, May 12, at an outdoor Confirmation & Reception Service organized by Saint Andrew's, State College. David plans to move a few weeks after graduation for a teaching program in New York City's public schools.

**MAY 9, 2021 ✠ THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER:
ROGATION SUNDAY & BLESSING OF THE GARDEN**



Rogation (from the Latin *rogare* 'ask') is a solemn supplication. Rogation days appear to go back to the fourth or fifth century, particularly when associated with litanies: a long series of prayers of intercession and praise for crops. The Sixth Sunday of Easter is designated as Rogation Sunday, a day to offer prayers for the summer harvest. On May 9, we will conclude the 10:30 a.m. mass with a blessing of our new parish garden. A festive reception for Mother's Day will follow.

**MAY 23, 2021 ✠ THE DAY OF PENTECOST:
PARISH COOKOUT**



The Day of Pentecost is observed on the 50th and final day of the Easter season. On Pentecost we celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and the gift of tongues upon the disciples, which appeared to them as flames resting over their heads.

In thanksgiving for this great feast, we will celebrate with a cookout at Deacon Alex and Ellen’s house. We will gather at the Dyakiws’ backyard at 11:30 a.m., or immediately after the 10:30 a.m. mass. Stay tuned for more details on how you can contribute to our cookout.

SUMMER COFFEE HOUR SIGN UP

Throughout the summer, we hope to gather for coffee hour outside the rectory after the 10:30 a.m. mass. We are looking for volunteers to help set up, serve beverages, and clean up afterwards. All beverages, and occasional food items, will be provided by the church. If you want to bring any specialty



drinks or food items, you are welcome to do so, but it is not required.

To sign up to assist at coffee hour, please fill out this form:

<https://stjohnsepiscopealbellefonte.breezechms.com/form/7ee92c9235963>

If more than one person is signed up on a Sunday, you may be paired together. If you prefer to set up on your own, please mention it in the comment box at the end of the form. Father Carlos will email you to confirm your volunteer date and to go over the coffee hour setup.

FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our Sunday school program continues with weekly family videos and guides. We also send many surprises in the mail. Our latest “care package” was a Paschal candle-making kit. In a video, Lillian North demonstrated how to make the candle for use at home.



Victoria and Nathaniel Duminia and their family used their Paschal candles this Easter.

AROUND THE PARISH FAMILY TABLE



Congratulations to **Jacob Lucas** (grandson of Scott Mauger/son of Bethany Mauger Lucas and David



Lucas) will graduate from Bay High School, in Panama City, Florida, on May 19. His award in hand is for earning a 4.0 for all four years in high school. Upon graduation, he will be attending the Chautauqua Learn & Serve Charter School for adults with disabilities. Jake will also be working at a home for disabled boys. Scott is excited to be traveling to Florida to see Jacob graduate on the 19th!

VESTRY NEWS

The vestry met via Zoom on April 21.

Rector's Report:

- Church has been open since Palm Sunday
 - Parishioners are in various stages of receiving their vaccines and returning to church
- Sunday Clergy Schedule
 - We have been asked to take on Kevin Barron as assistant clergy and deacon.
 - Kevin will be with us for six months to help finish up his priestly formation, on the first and third Sunday of each month, beginning May 2.
 - Father Carlos and Deacon Alex will give Kevin some seed money for his discretionary account, but there will be no other costs to us.
- Parish Garden
 - The goal is to utilize the space between the church and the rectory for ministry
 - This is a partnership between our parish and Centre County Youth Services Bureau; Deacon Alex fostered this relationship a few months ago
 - Thanks to David King, Matt Perkins, and Deacon Alex for building and preparing the garden beds

- The youth will be planting seeds, and parish members will be invited to help out with maintenance of the garden
- Items grown will be given away and/or used for cooking events or coffee hour
- Charlotte Zmyslo will pick up marigolds to plant around the garden

Treasurer's Report:

- March report – everything on track
- Father Carlos thanked the vestry for their support that helps the parish remain fiscally sound

Sr. Warden's Report:

Nothing to report.

Fr. Carlos on behalf of Jr. Warden's Report:

- We are focusing on curbside appeal of Rectory
- Working with James Blied on a new landscape design in front of the rectory
- Costs should be around \$600 to put in some evergreens and two small trees

New Business

1. Conference table
 - a. Conference table will be moved back to the rectory in the summer
2. Coffee Hours
 - a. Plan for outdoor coffee hours

3. Feedback on reopening
 - a. Charlotte thought it was going well
 - b. More people at the 9:00 than before
 - c. Good decision to move mass time, will continue with new times of 9:00 and 10:30
4. Bellefonte Cruise June 18 & 19
 - a. Alex wants to have a food station in front of church to sell food items
 - b. Perhaps do this in Parish Hall to bypass permit requirement. Need to explore further.

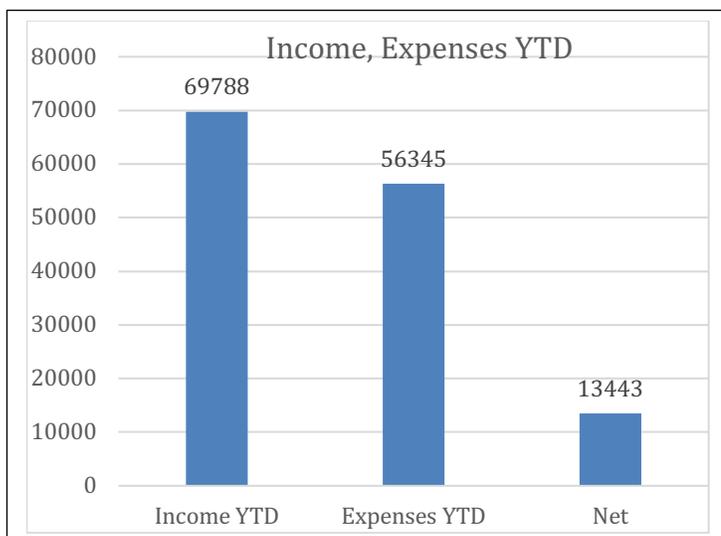
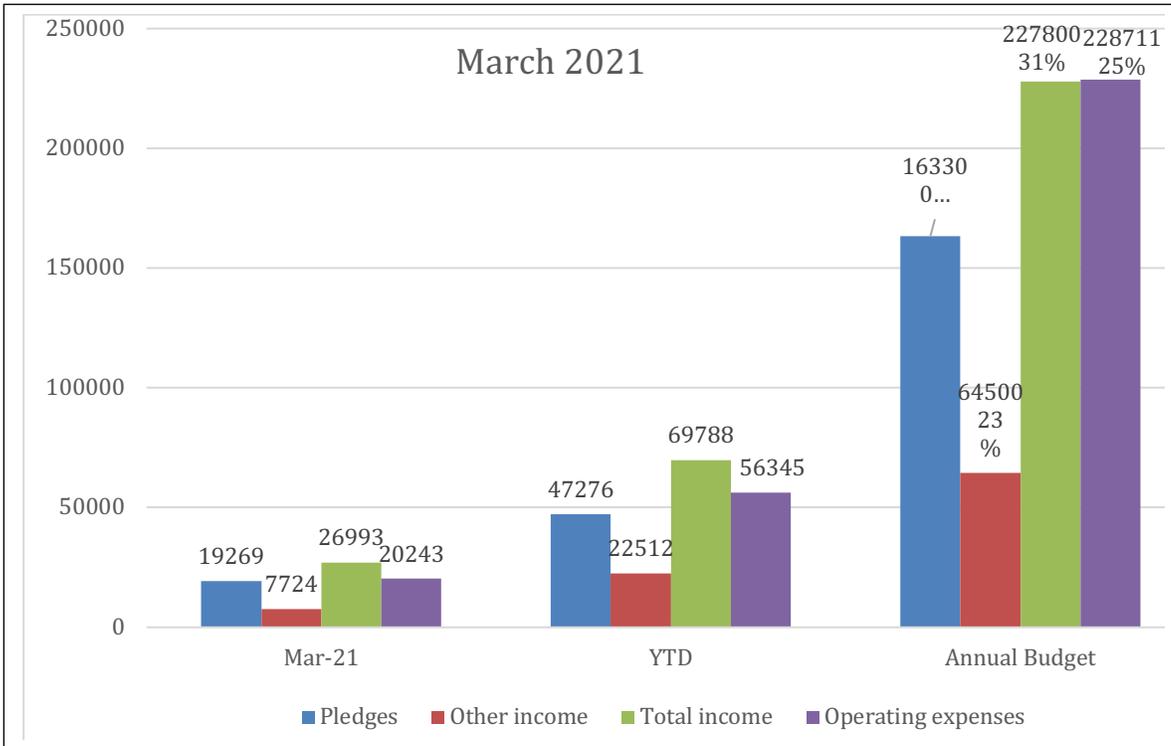
Vestry Members: Larry Roberson (Sr. Warden), Matt Perkins (Jr. Warden), John Fusco, Carol Fyfe, Debra Cree, Susan Christy, Peggy Jackson, Thomas Quigley, David King, Charlotte Zmyslo

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Avery	North	May 01
Genavieve	Clayton	May 03
Bette	Shugert	May 03
Karen	Harvey	May 06
Elizabeth	Helms	May 07
Andrea	Skirpan	May 19
Michael	Duminiak	May 20
Ciara	Ousley	May 26
Erik	Clayton	May 28
Abby	Fetters	May 28
Jeffery	Wilson	May 30

Financial:

	Mar-21	YTD	Annual Budget	YTD % of Budget
Pledges	19269	47276	163300	29%
Other income	7724	22512	64500	35%
Total income	26993	69788	227800	31%
Operating expenses	20243	56345	228711	25%
Net	6750	13443		



Expenses		
Income YTD	YTD	Net
69788	56345	13443

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

May 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 The Fifth Sunday of Easter 9:00 am Low Mass 10:30 am Sung Mass	3	4 7:00 pm A.A.	5 9:30 am Monthly Parish Requiem (in-person and on Facebook)	6	7	8
9 The Sixth Sunday of Easter: Rotation Sunday & Mother's Day 9:00 am Low Mass 10:30 am Sung Mass & Blessing of the Garden	10	11 7:00 pm A.A.	12 9:30 am Low Mass (in-person and on Facebook)	13	14	15
16 The Solemnity of the Ascension <i>observed</i> 9:00am Low Mass 10:30am Sung Mass	17	18 7:00 pm A.A.	19 9:30 am Low Mass (in-person and on Facebook) 7:00 pm Vestry	20	21	22
23 The Day of Pentecost 9:00 am Low Mass 10:30 am Sung Mass	24	25 7:00 pm A.A.	26 9:30 am Low Mass (in-person and on Facebook)	27	28	29
30 Trinity Sunday 9:00 am Low Mass 10:30 am Sung Mass	31					