



## RECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Friends,



In June I got on a plane for the first time since February 2019. I went on vacation, attended a wedding, and visited friends. A few months ago, this all would have seemed like an impossible set of tasks. We have come a long way. As we continue to reincorporate elements of our pre-pandemic lives, I hope that we will remain mindful of the things we've learned—about both ourselves and those around us—and continue to be grateful for the blessings bestowed upon us even during the pandemic.

While the list of things we missed or lost throughout the last 15 months is long, I know that many of us have much to be thankful for. For small things like spending more time at home, working on overdue projects, and catching up on good TV or books, as well as bigger things like spending more intentional time with those in our households, learning new skills and insights, and for some of us, watching our loved ones recover from COVID-19 or other ailments—we give thanks.

As we all begin to embrace warmer days, I can't help but think about what Fall will look like in our parish. I find myself asking: What will our worship look like? When exactly will we sing again in church? What will Sunday School look like? What will formation look like for our young teens for whom Sunday School is no longer applicable? When will we have coffee hours and dinners inside the parish hall? When will we be

able to gather in person for learning, breaking bread, and prayer? You too might be asking yourself these questions about our parish life.



It's clear that none of us has precise answers to these questions; however, this doesn't mean that we're not beginning to make moves. Erik Clayton has planned our music catalogue and scheduled singers for the rest of the summer, and the two of us are beginning to think about music for the fall and holiday season. Ministries like Altar Guild and Sunday readers are up and running, and I hope that we'll soon reincorporate the ministry of subdeacons and acolytes to our worship. Ellen Dyakiw, David King, and I will soon flesh out a children and youth formation

program that offers spiritual learning, reflection, and growth for both the youngest members of our parish and those who will soon become young adults (this includes developing a new Sunday School program and a Confirmation program).

The next few weeks and months will shape what we will be able to do and offer in the Fall. While there continues to be a veil of uncertainty, another glimpse of hope breaks through every day. I'm excited to see what our parish might be able to embark on in the near future. I'm excited to see what God has in store for us.

Yours in Christ,  
Fr. Carlos†

### ***FROM THE DEACON'S PERCH***

“Deliver your heart from the cares of this life and pay close attention to my words. What good will it do you to be here in body, but your heart is worrying about earthly treasures?” ~Saint Basil

That was a short meditation from one of my “Patristic Wisdom for Daily Living” readings. Most often during the summer months, when we are trying to relax in the short time we have for vacations or time off, we travel about, while seeming to forget to pay attention to God and all that he has provided for us. Too often we try to meet the physical need of our bodies to relax, to nourish ourselves with food, and to relish summer culinary delights.



St. Basil reflects on our sacrifice of time to come to church, promising that it will have a rich reward. In the hymn “It Is Well with My Soul,” one line in particular touches me: “Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say, it is well my soul.” Lord, I see and feel your nourishment within when receiving the Holy Eucharist; then it is well with my soul.

The choir brings such a joy to the soul and makes it well. Thank you, St. John’s Choir. During Sunday worship, weekday worship, daily prayer, reading of scripture, listening to music, or lectio divina (reflecting on a word or phrase that catches our attention), I pray the Anglican rosary, or repeat “Lord Jesus Christ, son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner” over and over. As you begin or continue your summer fun, enjoy it fully because God grants this to us. In all possible ways say, “Thank you, Lord.”

Many thanks to all who helped with the fundraiser during Bellefonte Cruise weekend. Our next fund-raiser will be in the fall. Fr. Carlos and I will keep you posted.

The men’s spiritual group is still meeting on Monday nights at my home on Curtin Street. I am touched that the group wants to continue to gather during the summer; in our 20 years of meeting, this is the first time. St. Basil would be proud.

The Food Bank is terribly busy, so please continue to give, if you can, to the collection of condiments through August. Leave your donations at the St. Lawrence Altar at the back of the church.

To all those who continue to support my Discretionary Fund: I am getting ready to resupply the library at the Correctional Facility,

because they have run out of Bibles, workbooks, and prayer books. Please pray that they reopen for direct ministry soon. The warden stated that our presence there is greatly missed.

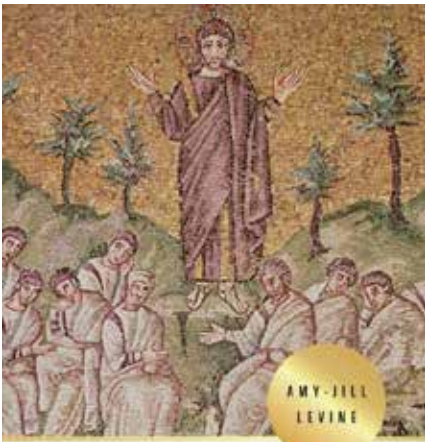
We have many visitors attending our services during the summer months. Please greet and make our guests feel welcome and extend our hospitality.

I am always available to you for spiritual care and guidance. Enjoy July and be safe.

~Deacon Alex†

### **SUMMER BOOK STUDY & LEARNING:**

#### ◆ **SERMON ON THE MOUNT: A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN** ◆



## SERMON *on* the MOUNT

A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

begins on **Wednesday, July 7**, at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom and will feature discussions from our own clergy: Father Carlos, Deacon Alex, and Father Kevin. Our first meeting will serve as a time to connect with one another across parishes, and on each Wednesday after that we will discuss a chapter from the book. If you would like to receive a copy of the book, you can grab one at

The Altoona Convocation, our parish's regional Episcopal Church network, is offering a summer book study. The learning series will focus on Dr. Amy Jill Levine's book, *Sermon on the Mount: A Beginner's Guide to the Kingdom of Heaven*. Our seven-week exploration

the church entrance, or you can email Father Carlos for your free copy. Below is the Zoom info for all our sessions:

**Wednesdays, July 7 – August 18 at 7:00 p.m.**

**Join Zoom Meeting:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81095037129>

**Meeting ID: 810 9503 7129**

### **SUMMER COFFEE HOUR SIGN UP**

Throughout the summer, we are gathering 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.



We still need volunteers in August. To sign up for coffee hour, please visit:

<https://bit.ly/3u6ZoLP>.

Father Carlos will email you to confirm your volunteer date and to go over the coffee hour setup.

July volunteers are:

July 4 - Peggy & Jim Jackson  
July 11 - Charity & Mitch Holland  
July 18 - Deb Cree & Carol Fyfe  
July 25 - Betsy Quigley

## **EX-VOTO: A SIGN OF THANKSGIVING DURING COVID-19**



An ex-voto is an emblem of thanksgiving—a small medal or religious item—placed in a church or chapel in gratitude for answered prayers, healing and recovery, personal miracles, or simply as a “thank you” to God for his love and faithfulness during a difficult time.

Cathedrals, churches, and shrines across Europe are adorned with ex-votos placed there by parishioners and pilgrims. Many of these ex-votos date back decades, even centuries. Many more will be placed in the months ahead as we enter this time of transition.

At Saint John’s, we will join Christians all over the world and adorn our church with our own ex-votos. These heart-shaped medals will be placed at the back of the church, around the Lady Altar, as a sign of gratitude for our own answered

prayers, personal miracles, and thanksgivings and blessings.

If you are interested in having an ex-voto placed in the church, please fill out this form: <https://stjohnsepiscopalbellefonte.breezechms.com/form/0efdd6> ; or you can contact Fr. Carlos.

### **SUPPORT SAINT JOHN’S ON AMAZON SMILE**

Do you shop on Amazon.com?



AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The

difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to Saint John’s.

To choose Saint John’s as your charitable organization, visit our unique charity link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/24-6020380>

Then simply sign in to your existing Amazon account and shop. It’s that easy!

### **POETRY IN A TIME OF PANDEMIC (RESULTS)**

Earlier this year, St. Andrew’s sponsored a poetry writing contest. Results have been published, and a reading and discussion will take place on July 10. Details follow:

# St. Andrew's Episcopal Church


POETRY in a time of  
**PANDEMIC**

**POETRY READING**  
Saturday, July 10  
4 o'clock p.m.

**PANEL DISCUSSION**

**ANTHOLOGY RELEASE**

208 W. Foster Avenue  
State College, PA



**Guest Poet & Host**

Julia Spicher Kasdorf

*readings by*

**Contest Winners**

Kathleen Morrow  
Marjorie Maddox  
Mary Shay McGuire  
Myah Robbins  
Akio Ohmoto

*and*

**Anthology Contributors**

**Panel Moderator**

The Rev. Jeffrey A. Packard

**Panelists**

The Rt. Rev. Audrey  
Cady Scanlan  
Tierra Williams  
Julia Spicher Kasdorf

Confirmation program for youth is being formed.

- Summer book study and learning series to be offered in July and August in partnership with parishes in the convocation.
- Worship will continue with regular schedule and safety measures as we monitor COVID cases in Centre County.
- Peggy Jackson has agreed to serve as Altar Guild Director.

### Treasurer's Report:

- Everything is on track and looking good. No red flags.
- Some parishioners have paid their full annual pledge, so pledge income will appear high.

### Sr. Warden's Report:

- Rectory bathroom is finished, and plumbing has been modified.
- Prep rectory basement for possible 2<sup>nd</sup> alteration/full renovation in the washer and dryer room.
- Front garden area has been fully prepared for new landscape design. Special thanks to M. Perkins.
- A leak in an old cast iron pipe in the rectory has been detected. Wardens have been working with Jeff Wilson to address the problem.

### New Business:

- Proposed renovation of sanctuary:
  - o Restore communion rail due to cleaning materials built up over the years. Approx. cost: \$3400.

## AROUND THE PARISH FAMILY TABLE



**Liam Quigley** broke the Boys 13-14 100 Yard Freestyle Record for the Penns Valley Penguins Swim Team. The previous record was set in 1998 (58.79), and Liam swam it in 55.32.

## VESTRY NEWS

The vestry met via Zoom on June 16.

### Rector's Report:

- Pushed back Lakeside Worship and Learning until after Labor Day.
- In the Fall, David King will be attending to teenagers' formation, while Ellen Dyakiw will be attending to younger children. A

- o Floors: waiting to get on contractor's schedule. Would like this to be done by Christmas.
- Church is holding off on projects for the next two to three years:
  - o Carpet – well beyond its age; major rips; very clear it needs to be replaced. Major expense: \$20-\$30K
  - o Rectory – bathroom repairs, kitchen update, and heating/cooling system are needed.
- Flags in church:
  - o Flags haven't been cleaned in 10+ years. Larry and Father Carlos will work on this.
- Garden: Thank you to David King for his work on the garden.
- Coffee Hours: Thanks for all who have volunteered for coffee hour.

## ***JULY BIRTHDAYS***

Mark Eminhizer II	July 2
Charity Holland	July 4
Liam Quigley	July 6
Ross Pifer	July 10
Julie Duminiak	July 16
Timothy Clayton	July 18
Larry Roberson	July 23
Christopher Clayton	July 24
David King	July 28

## ***BELLEFONTE CRUISE FUNDRAISER***

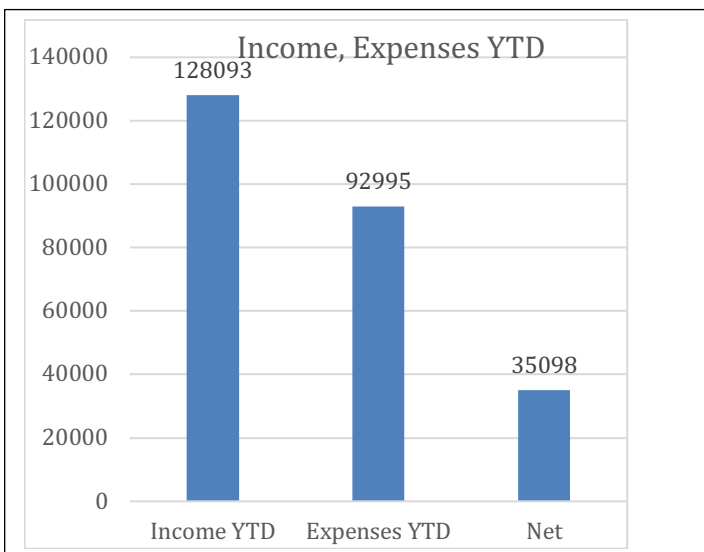
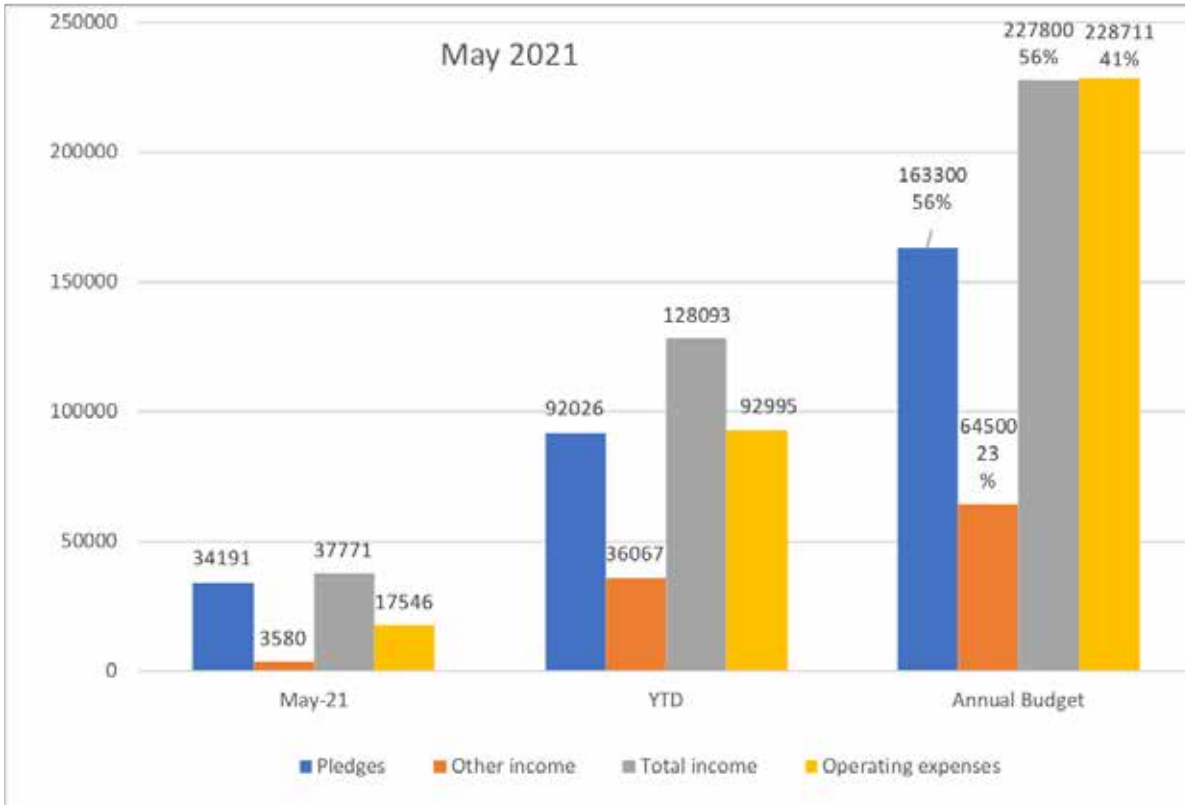
Deacon Alex and a crew of helpers held a food sale in front of the church during the Bellefonte Cruise on June 19. Thanks to all who cooked, served, set up, cleaned up, and ate up!

**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



**Financial:**

	<b>May-21</b>	<b>YTD</b>	<b>Annual Budget</b>	<b>YTD % of Budget</b>
Pledges	34191	92026	163300	56%
Other income	3580	36067	64500	56%
<b>Total income</b>	<b>37771</b>	<b>128093</b>	<b>227800</b>	<b>56%</b>
<b>Operating expenses</b>	<b>17546</b>	<b>92995</b>	<b>228711</b>	<b>41%</b>
<b>Net</b>	<b>20225</b>	<b>35098</b>		



<b>Expenses</b>		
<b>Income YTD</b>	<b>YTD</b>	<b>Net</b>
<b>128093</b>	<b>92995</b>	<b>35098</b>

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