

RECTOR'S LETTER

Dear friends,

Last week, I attended my very first Grange Fair. I have to say, this much beloved Centre County emblem did not disappoint. There was great food, all kinds of items for sale, charming animals (especially the horses), and a great sense of joy on the ground. I left the fair feeling full, not just because of the food, but by the spirit of community. My day there reminded me of how important it is to be together, if for no other reason than to simply be in each other's company.



While we need to think creatively about how we gather (taking additional health precautions when meeting indoors), being together matters. As we witness devastating events in our country and abroad, it is especially vital that we support each other and discern our roles as followers of the crucified and risen One. We can do this by praying for the needs of our fellow parishioners, the vulnerable, and the helpless, and by embracing God's presence in our midst.

As we welcome the Fall season, I'm happy to share with you that there are a number of ways beyond Sunday worship to come together. Children, youth, and families are invited to take part in our yearly Lakeside Worship & Learning event on September 12. This marks the beginning

of our children and youth formation program year, followed by the launch of our weekly Sunday School program and new monthly Youth Formation Program and Confirmation classes.



Also in September, we will launch our monthly worship and dinner series: Let us keep the Feast! We'll begin by celebrating the Feast of the Holy Cross on Tuesday, September 14, with mass at 5:30 p.m., followed by a Middle Eastern-inspired dinner at 6:00 p.m. on the rectory porch. We conclude the month with the return of our Fall parish picnic at the Dyakiw residence on September 26 following the 10:30 a.m. mass. More details on these offerings and other happenings appear later in this issue.

As I share with you a menu of offerings taking place at Saint John's this fall—with much more to come in October, including our much-cherished Blessing of the Animals on Sunday, October 10—I'm also aware of our need to follow public health guidelines. Our commitment to gather as the people of God does not negate our responsibility to promote the common good and health of all people. The vestry and I are keeping up to date with guidelines from the Diocese, the CDC, and the State's Department of Health.

Please continue to keep this parish in your prayers, as I continue to pray for all of you and those you have especially lifted up in our prayer list. May the risen Christ who has passed into the heavens clothe you with power and strength this day and always.

Yours in Christ, *Fr. Carlos†*

FROM THE DEACON'S PERCH

“For I was hungry, and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.”

~Matthew 25:35-36

We as a church family have been very active in our community, serving such organizations as



Centre Crest, Centre County Correctional Facility, FaithCentre, PAWS, Centre Peace, Youth Services, and Bellefonte Elementary School. As you can see, we have been involved with ministry. As you read the passage from Matthew above, you will notice that there is no expiration date. I realize that sometimes we can get overwhelmed by all the needs in our small community; but when we have a poverty rate of 18.9% (32,500 people out of 168,000), the need is clear. I talk to many of the organizational leaders, who confirmed that it's still hard for them, with scarce resources available. The pandemic is not over. I understand we have pandemic fatigue and wish that all of this would go away—but it's not.

We are collecting items for Centre Care for the month of September. A list is available here in the newsletter of the items needed. Please be generous. Centre Care still has restricted visiting, so they need crafts to keep the residents occupied. Items of hygiene and personnel care products will be collected for the food bank as well. My role as deacon is to bring the cares of the world to the church and the church to the world. There are also programs sponsored by the national Episcopal Church to give donations. Episcopal Relief and Development will donate to Haiti as well as to our churches in the south that have been affected by Hurricane Ida.

LAKESIDE WORSHIP & LEARNING

Items for Centre Care:

- Stuffed animals
- Notepads/pens
- Colored pencils/crayons
- Coloring books/word search
- Jewelry
- Lotions/deodorant/perfumes
- Tissues
- Decks of cards/100 large piece puzzles
- Large print books – short stories, novels, or magazines (*Reader's Digest, National Geographic, People, Vogue, etc.*)

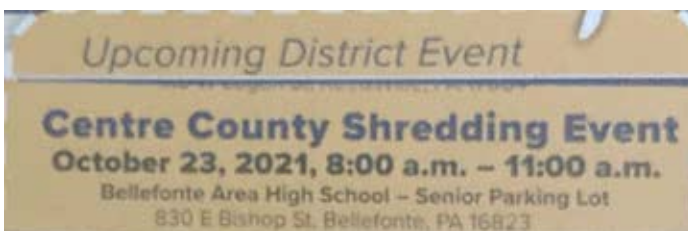
We did a book study on *The Sermon on the Mount* by Amy-Jill Levine, in collaboration with St. Mark's, St. Andrews's, and St Luke's. Many thanks to Fr. John Harwood, who facilitated and hosted the event. As a special addition, the author joined us for the last session. I have participated in many classes, and this was the most intriguing to date. We included in our church profile several years ago that as a congregation, we want to participate in Christian education. Look for more activities to be offered in the fall.

There is a notice below about an upcoming shredding event at the high school—a good time to get rid of documents and old papers that contain sensitive information.

~Deacon Alex†



Children, youth, and families are invited to an afternoon of worship, food, and activities by the lake at Bald Eagle State Park. Mark your calendars and spread the word: Sunday, September 12, 3:00-6:00 p.m. Please RSVP by emailing Ellen Dyakiw: setinsun@aol.com.



LET US KEEP THE FEAST!



Let us keep the Feast! is a monthly worship and dinner series that celebrates feast days of the Church that would otherwise go unobserved. Each gathering will begin with mass in the church, followed by a thematic dinner in the rectory or parish hall. Please save the dates below and bring a friend!

2021 Feast Days

Tuesday, September 14 - Holy Cross Day
Thursday, October 28 - Ss. Simon & Jude
Thursday, November 18 - St. Hilda of Whitby
Tuesday, December 14 - St. John of the Cross

Worship - 5:30 p.m.

Dinner - 6:00 p.m.

RSVP for dinner by contacting the parish office:
office@stjohnsepiscopealbellefonte.org

FALL PARISH PICNIC



Our annual parish picnic will return this year! Like many of our beloved customs, it too has been reconfigured. However, this is not due to COVID; rather, it's to make it easier on our volunteers. After the success of our Pentecost cookout, we are following the same setup. **The parish picnic will take place on Sunday, September 26, at the Dyakiw Residence (337 E. Curtin Street) immediately after the 10:30 a.m. mass.** A food and drink sign-up link will appear in our weekly e-news, and a hard copy will be available at the back of the church.

FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

As September arrives, our formation programs for children and youth begin. We will start on September 12 with Lakeside Worship and Learning, a family event that includes a worship service at Bald Eagle State Park. This year's theme, "The Great I AM," includes music, art, and activities that families will enjoy. We will also share a meal and a great day at the lake.

Sunday School classes for elementary school age children will begin the following week, September

19, on a weekly schedule during the 10:30 service.

New this year are two types of classes for our teenagers: Youth Formation, a monthly Bible study and discussion during the 10:30 a.m. mass; and Confirmation classes for youth in the 7th grade and up, which will occur after the 10:30 service. Here is a schedule of future classes:



Youth Formation	Confirmation
September 19	October 3
October 17	November 1
November 21	December 5
No December class	January 9
January 23	February 6
February 20	March 6
March 20	April 3
	May 1



We are committed to the spiritual development of the children and youth in our parish. They are an important part of our church community.

During the spring and summer, our youth (in conjunction with Bellefonte Youth Service Bureau) planted, cultivated, and harvested vegetables in a garden on the rectory grounds. The culmination was a delicious Coffee Hour menu using the produce they picked and prepared. Many thanks to Ellen Dyakiw and David King, who guided the project.



VOLUNTEER COFFEE HOUR SIGN UP

We continue to hold Coffee Hour on the rectory porch following the 10:30 mass. We are looking



for volunteers to help set up, serve beverages, and clean up afterwards. All beverages and food items are 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 need volunteers for September. To sign up to help, please visit: <https://bit.ly/3u6ZoLP> or contact the parish office.**

SUPPORT SAINT JOHN'S ON AMAZON SMILE

Do you shop on Amazon.com?

Amazon Smile 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 Amazon Smile, the Amazon Smile 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 simple!

VESTRY NEWS (AUG. 18 MEETING)

Rector's Report:

Formation:

- Children and youth formation programs will relaunch in September.
- Youth Confirmation classes will begin in October, culminating in a Confirmation mass in May.

Coming together as a parish:

- Be together more, pray together more:
 - Feast Day celebrations – mass then dinner.
 - Fall Parish Picnic (Sept. 26) - Worship in church then picnic at Dyakiw residence.

Diocese Convention:

- Business portion will be online.
- Two in-person gatherings in the Diocese, one near us (October).

Treasurer's Report:

- No red flags, on pace with pledges.
- Father Carlos – we are very fortunate as a parish because of the creative spending and generosity of parishioners.

Sr. Warden's Report:

- Managed to get through mowing of grass with help from others.

- Counting schedule for next year is complete and distributed.

Jr. Warden's Report (via Fr. Carlos):

- Formation room is being finished
- Working with Ellen to reconfigure the Sunday School room. Will be ready for September when formation programs begin.
- Landscaping: Suggestion to have an event for a Saturday in mid-October to clean up grounds.
- Plant shrubs in front of rectory.
- This coming Sunday there will be a special coffee hour with food from the garden.

New Business:

Columbarium Expansion:

- Father Carlos has done some research; suggests we send out a survey to the parish, along with a general funeral planning guide, to inquire about interest in a columbarium niche.
- Depending on responses, we would make decision on the design of the expansion.
- Treasurer reported that there is \$15K earmarked for the columbarium.
- Discussion on costs; Father Carlos will research.
- Father Carlos thanked vestry for entertaining this idea; he will come up with an action plan for the new year.

COVID Issues:

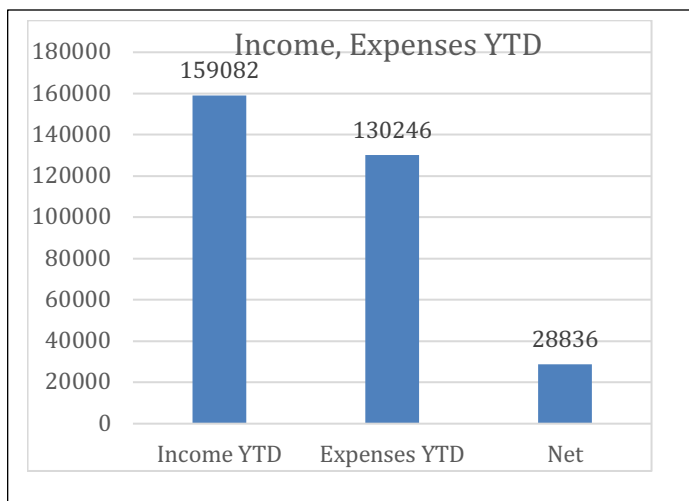
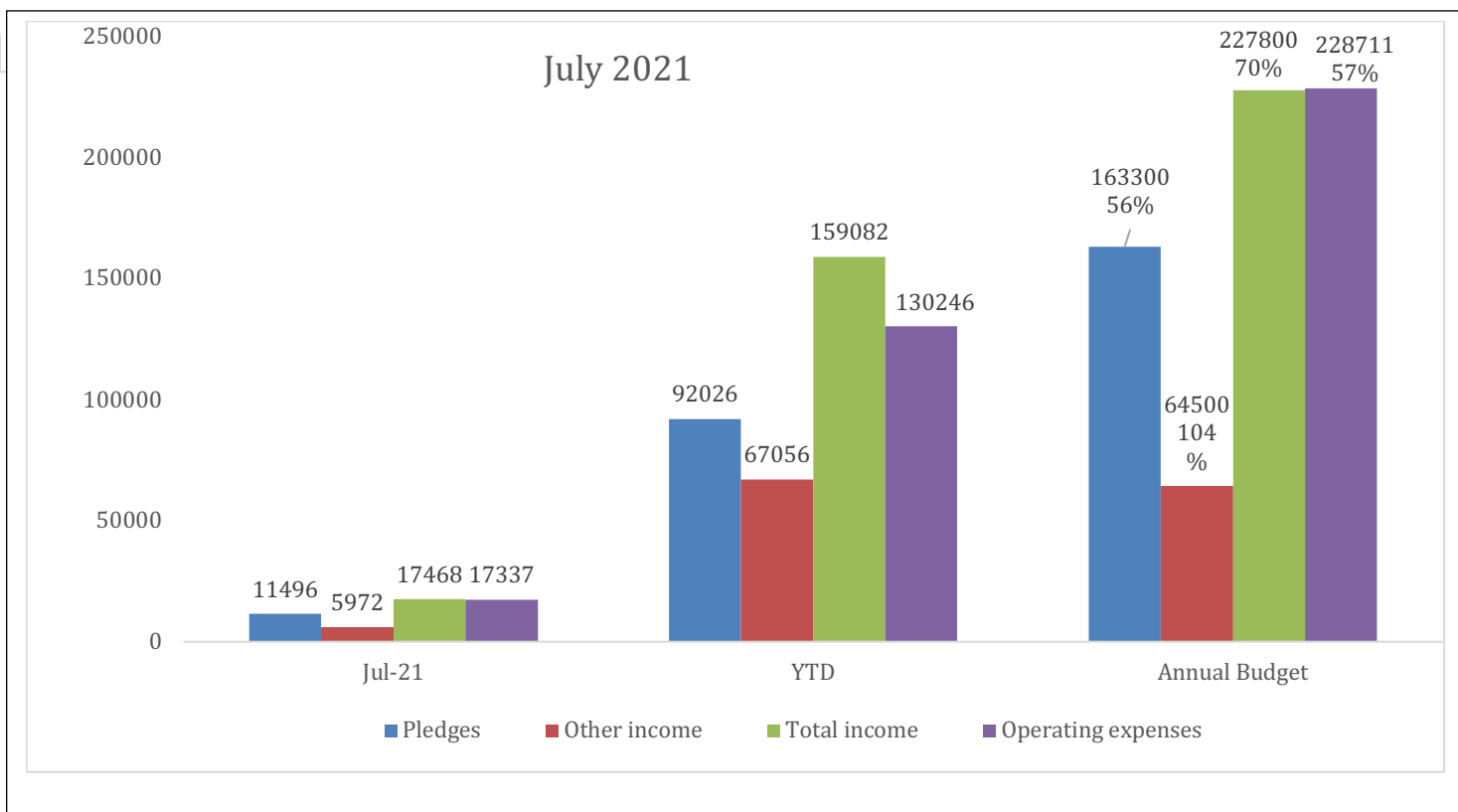
- Bishop's office sent an email stating that we are returning to wearing masks; Father Carlos will send an email to parish.
- Centre County is in substantial category of COVID cases with average cases of 18/19 a day.
- Concern as students return; we will continue to monitor cases in the area.
- Singing in worship - Father Carlos suggested 2 hymns plus service music. Asked how people felt about this. Decided that we would take steps; first masking, then bring back singing.
- Roping off pews: Father Carlos didn't feel it was necessary since our church is large enough to accommodate everyone and people distance themselves naturally.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Diane	Fusco	September 01
Alex	Germano	September 01
Jayden	Reid	September 04
Mary	Harpster	September 05
Jim	Jackson	September 07
Sean	Hough	September 09
Susan	Kurten	September 22
Carlos	de la Torre	September 25
Stephen	Snyder	September 29

Financial:

	Jul-21	YTD	Annual Budget	YTD % of Budget
Pledges	11496	92026	163300	56%
Other income	5972	67056	64500	104%
Total income	17468	159082	227800	70%
Operating expenses	17337	130246	228711	57%
Net	131	28836		



Expenses		
Income YTD	YTD	Net
159082	130246	28836

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

SEP2021

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

01

Feria
9:30am
Low Mass of
Requiem

02

The Martyrs of
New Guinea,
1942

03

Feria

04

Feria

05

Pentecost XV

9:00am
Low Mass
10:30am
Solemn Mass

06

Feria

7:00pm
Men's Group

07

Feria

08

Nativity of the
Blessed Virgin
Mary

9:30am
Low Mass

09

Bl. Constance,
Nun & her
Companions,
Martyrs

10

Feria

11

Octave of the
Blessed Virgin
Mary

12

Pentecost XVI

9:00am
Low Mass
10:30am
Solemn Mass
3:00pm
Lakeside
Worship

13

St. Cyprian,
Bishop &
Martyr

7:00pm
Men's Group

14

Holy Cross Day

5:30pm
Low Mass with
Organ
6:00pm
Parish Dinner

15

Our Lady of
Sorrows

9:30am
Low Mass

7:00pm
Vestry

16

St. Ninian,
Bishop

17

St. Hildegard of
Bingen,
Monastic

18

Bl. Edward
Bouverie
Pusey, Priest

19

Pentecost XVII

9:00am
Low Mass
10:30am
Solemn Mass

20

Bl. John
Coleridge
Patteson, Bishop
& Martyr

7:00pm
Men's Group

21

St. Matthew,
Apostle and
Evangelist

22

Feria

9:30am
Low Mass

23

St. Pius of
Pietrelcina,
Priest

24

Our Lady of
Walsingham

25

Feria

26

Pentecost XVIII

9:00am
Low Mass
10:30am
Solemn
11:30am
Fall Parish
Picnic

27

St. Vincent de
Paul, Priest

7:00pm
Men's Group

28

St.
Wenceslaus,
Martyr

29

St. Michael &
All Angels

9:30am
Low Mass

30

St. Jerome,
Priest & Doctor