



RECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Friends,



October was a busy month here at Saint John's. Along with our weekly liturgies and tasks, we launched our new youth confirmation program; we continued with our monthly dinner and worship series; major landscaping and grounds work was completed; and we had the solemn duty and obligation to share in three funerals.

As I look at the days ahead, let alone the weeks to come, I see no sign of things slowing down. While there's a wave of holiday planning just around the corner, before we jump to Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas, November begins with two important observances: All Saints and All Souls.

The solemnity of All Saints, which we will observe on Sunday, November 7, invites us to give thanks to God for the great cloud of witnesses. Through our worship and praise of God in Christ, we celebrate the Church's saints: those whose lives are an example on our Christian journey. Not only do we remember the great saints of the Church,

but on All Souls we remember those who were nearest and dearest to us whom we no longer see. As has become the custom, we will read our parish necrology as part of our Remembrance Sunday observance on November 14, when we commemorate the contributions of military and civilian servicemen and women in the two World Wars.

Following these two observances, we continue with the feast of Christ the King and the First Sunday of Advent. There will be an added celebration in the Ordination to the Sacred Order of Priests of The Reverend Kevin Barron on Sunday, November 21, at 4 p.m. at Saint Andrew's.

November inaugurates not only a festive and full period in our liturgical year, but the start of our stewardship campaign. By now or soon after, you should have received a letter inviting you to join me in making a financial pledge to support the ministries and mission of Saint John's. Since the start of the pandemic, not only have we maintained daily operations, rich music and worship, and formation and outreach offerings, but we have launched new short- and long-term projects and initiatives. As we make our way through what we all hope will be the final chapters of our ongoing health crisis, I hope that you will consider

making a pledge to sustain and strengthen the work and witness of this parish.

May God, who has given us, in the lives of his saints, patterns of holy living and victorious dying, strengthen your faith and devotion and enable you to bear witness to the truth against all adversity.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Carlos†

FROM THE DEACON'S PERCH



Dear friends,

*“For you will light my lamp;
The Lord my God will
enlighten my darkness”*
- Psalm 18:28

As I write this newsletter, I am aware that darkness will be setting upon us earlier and earlier. When we turn our clocks back next week, it will be dark at 5 p.m. Some of us will find that the lack of daylight will affect us and how we cope with experiencing the winter blues. Some ebb into solitude and some into depression as we transition to the winter months ahead. It creeps up on us and we don't realize it—tiredness, fatigue, laziness, lethargy, hunger, and uneasiness—and we forget that it comes with the change of seasons.

Spiritually, it becomes a stumbling block to building a stronger relationship

between ourselves and God. Some call it seasonal affective disorder, and it stays until spring, when the days begin to get longer. This winter funk can be a blessing in disguise when we recognize what's happening to our emotions. There: we named it, we own it.

What can we do now to keep ourselves healthier, both spiritually and physically? On the physical side, we can sit under a mood lamp and read a good book, try cooking meals that take thought and time to be more creative, get a fun hobby, or learn a language. I for one will earnestly try to learn sign language this year. (Ask me in the spring how that's working! 😊). Bundle up and take a few brisk walks—not for long, but just enough to know winter can't get the best of you. Feel the briskness of the air, look at the night sky, and when you come back in from the cold, cozy up with a warm drink and enjoy a good book or a movie you have been wanting to see.

Sometimes much of our restlessness is just energy waiting to be spent, so maybe now is the time to clean out those catch-all drawers. Go into your closet, take out clothes you haven't worn, and donate them to FaithCentre or Goodwill. St. Vincent DePaul also takes donations. Join a book club or host one, make connections on Facebook or Zoom; and when all else doesn't work and you're feeling glum, call a friend.

In the area of spirituality, there isn't enough time to catch up on all the good readings out there as well as podcasts from some of our greatest preachers, including techniques for spiritual life and meditation. I would suggest yoga, but I'd never get off the floor or untangle myself. There are plenty of fitness streaming apps for all ages. Talk to God; express your feelings. The Lord loves to hear from us. Don't be surprised if you sense a presence or a warm feeling in your heart. Light a candle and just stare at the flame. Feel the glow and pray formally to God the parent. I always feel comfortable asking advice, forgiveness . . . How may I may serve you, Lord? This is an excellent time for introspection regarding our spiritual lives. As always, I offer my help to you to get comfortable with this, and I invite you to talk with me.

Remember that nobody puts a lamp under the basket where it cannot be seen, but rather on top to light the world in front of us and help to take those winter blues away. Take a bulletin from our Sunday service and take the time to pray for all those on our prayer list. Ask God to comfort those we pray for, as well as those whose names we don't know, but who are suffering.

We recently had the Polish Dinner at St. John's, and it was a big success. We sold out in 90 minutes and sold more than 125 meals. Thank you for all the support in buying a meal and to all who assisted

in putting this event together. No words can express the joy I felt for all the hard work. A special thanks to Charlotte Zmyslo for preparing much of the meal at home. I have been cooking in that kitchen for more than 25 years. When I observe how everybody chips in by cleaning, prepping, serving, and washing dishes and pots, the fellowship is heartwarming. Fr. Carlos has led the way, not by words, but by example. Thank you, Fr. Carlos, for your leadership.



A few words on ministry: Some of you may have noticed that I have been off a few Sundays when Fr. Kevin is serving at the altar. I have been taking advantage of those days for some rest and relaxation. Ellen and I have been camping and enjoying the outdoors while we can. I will be back shortly at Centre Care, which will be opening to volunteers again.

The men's group, which has been meeting all year, including during a summer, is really great. Members come faithfully to the Monday night meetings. We are almost finished with our study of the book of Acts. It has been interesting to study the Apostle Paul's life and

ministry. Next, we will start the book of James as our new study. Please watch for announcement of when this will begin, and as always, you are invited to join us.

I have completed a ten-week course with the Stevenson School of Christian Studies on “Becoming a Beloved Community,” taught by Fr. Kevin. I recommend this to everyone in learning about racism in our country, life, and sadly in our own community. Thank you, Kevin, for this enlightening series. I never realized how important his message was and the need for us to address it. I started a new course on grief and loss with the Trinity Institute in NY, and I am gaining many insights as to what I can always take away from these classes. Many Christian education forums are free and require only a registration. Sign up and learn—a great winter activity.

Thanks to all who donated items to the Bellefonte Youth Center. In November we will be collecting **adult disposable underwear** for the Bellefonte Food Bank. Please get extra-large and 2x-large pull-up type. It’s amazing how cost increases have affected the price, which has gone up from \$1-2 to nearly \$3 per diaper. Look at the less fortunate and feel their anxiety; please be generous. Because of the recent surge in fuel prices, I have been getting gasoline cards for some local workers who must travel far to work. This struggle to make ends

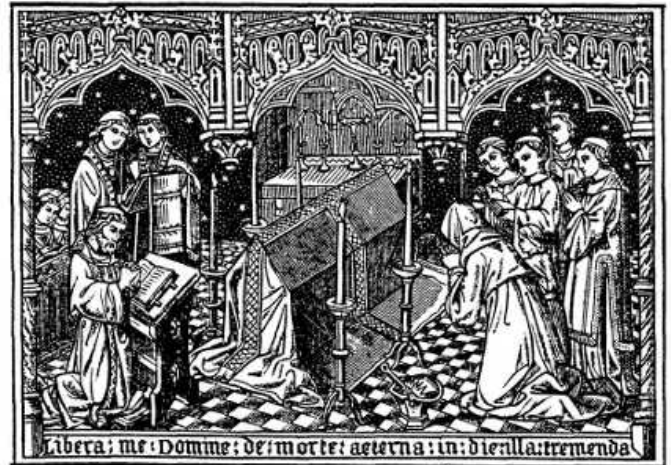
meet is getting increasingly worse, so again, your support to the Deacon’s Discretionary Fund goes far. Thank you for helping our community.

Last week we celebrated the feast of St. Simon and St. Jude. We enjoyed a service with Eucharist and after mass, a wonderful meal in the fellowship hall. Thanks to Fr. Carlos and the people who prepared the meal and to those who cleaned afterward. I wish all of you a Happy Thanksgiving.

~Deacon Alex†

2021 ALL SOULS REMEMBRANCE

Sunday, November 14



The parish office is receiving names for our annual Commemoration of the Faithful Departed. The parish necrology will be read as part of our Remembrance Sunday observance on **Sunday, November 14**. Please fill out a form in your pew and place it in the collection plate in the back of the church, or email or call in your list of names to the parish office. A special offering envelope is also

available, as well as a special fund on our giving page:

<https://stjohnsepiscopealbellefonte.breezechms.com/give/online>.

Please submit names to the parish office by Thursday, November 11.

Special Musical Offerings



ALL SAINTS & REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Music Schedule

Solemnity of All Saints
November 7 at 10:30 A.M.
Mass in F Major, Rheinberger

Remembrance Sunday
November 14 at 10:30 A.M.
Requiem Op. 48, Fauré

ORDINATION TO THE SACRED ORDER OF PRIESTS

**Sunday, November 21, at 4:00 p.m.
St. Andrew's, State College**



Please mark your calendars for the Ordination of The Reverend Kevin Barron to the Sacred Order of Priests. In thanksgiving for Kevin's time at Saint John's and as a sign of support for his ongoing ministry, we will be taking a special collection to fund Kevin's discretionary account. Please make your checks out to Saint John's and write "Kevin Barron" on the memo line; you can also make a contribution on our online giving page by selecting "Kevin Barron Ordination" from the dropdown menu:

<https://stjohnsepiscopealbellefonte.breezechms.com/give/online>

Thank you for your generosity.

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

***NEW DATE:** Tuesday, November 16 - St. Hilda of Whitby
Tuesday, December 14 - St. John of the Cross

Worship - 5:30 p.m.
Dinner - 6:00 p.m.

Please RSVP for dinner by contacting the parish office:

office@stjohnsepiscopealbellefonte.org

*Due to a conflict in Fr. Carlos's schedule, our November observance has been moved to **Tuesday, November 16**. Sorry for any inconvenience.

ADVENT WREATH-MAKING PARTY

Sunday, November 28



Prepare your home for Advent by joining us for a wreath-making party on November 28, the first Sunday of Advent. Oasis foam rings, fresh greens, candle holders, and seasonal candles will be provided. We will begin immediately after the 10:30 a.m. mass. Beverages and snacks will be provided to fuel your work. You are also welcome to grab materials from the Fellowship Hall to make your wreath at home.

FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

Get ready; it's that time again.

Dear families,

It is with great excitement that we look forward to another Christmas Eve family service at St. John's. There will be many opportunities for children and youth to take part in this Christmas Eve service.

For younger children, we will retell the story of Jesus' birth. For older children, we are offering musical participation



with instruments or song. Youth can also serve and read scripture during this special service. They can sit with their families and be part of the congregation at this mass or at our later evening solemn mass. Please let us know how your child will participate in our program. ~Miss Ellen

COFFEE HOUR VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP

We are looking for volunteers to help set up, serve beverages, and clean up afterward. All food, beverages, and



servicing items will be provided by the church. If you would like to contribute any specialty drinks

or food items, you are welcome to do so, but it is not required. **We need volunteers for November and December.** To sign up for coffee hour, please visit our new sign-up link: <https://bit.ly/3um2fBp> 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, that 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!

AROUND THE PARISH FAMILY TABLE



Madeline Christopher (of our choir) will perform in the State High Thespians presentation of *Alice in*

Concert, a musical version of *Alice in Wonderland*. Performance dates are Thursday, Nov. 18; Friday, Nov. 19; Saturday, Nov. 20 at 7:30 p.m.; and Sunday, Nov. 21, at 2 p.m. **Erik Clayton** is musical director.

VESTRY NEWS (NOV. MTG.)

- Polish Dinner Fundraiser raised \$2K.
- Recently received memorial donation; capital campaign will be discussed.
- Shaped by Faith Campaign: first meeting Dec. 2 at 6 p.m. We are hosting other churches.
- Kevin Barron ordination to priesthood set for Nov. at St. Andrew's. He will continue to assist us for next six months.
- Children/youth assistant position: Fr. Carlos is in discussion with a candidate to be hired to assist with Sunday School each week.



- Stewardship: 3-part campaign to be carried out during November.
- Recruitment of new vestry members for January election was discussed.

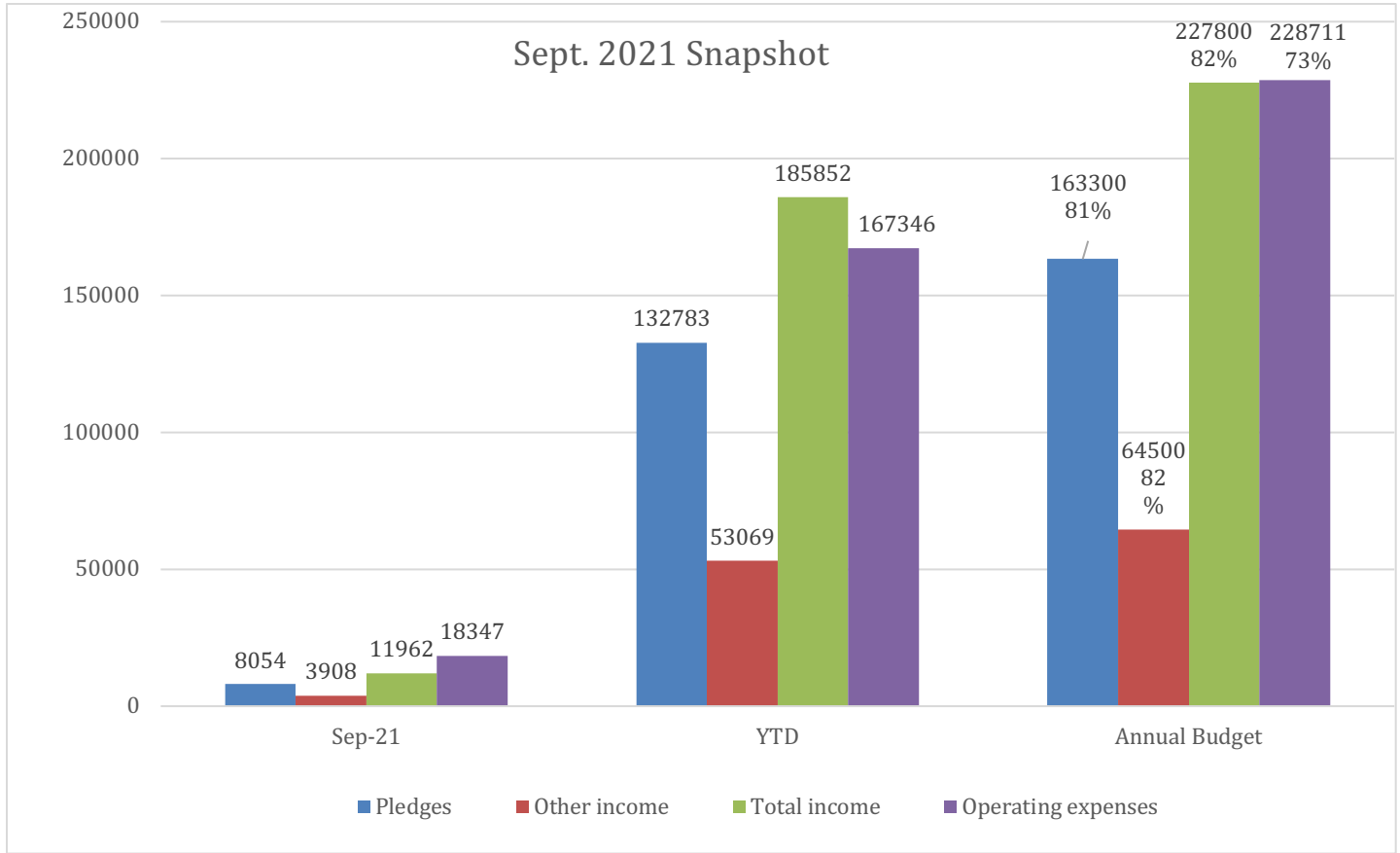
Vestry Members: Larry Roberson (Sr. Warden), Matt Perkins (Jr. Warden), John Fusco, Carol Fyfe, Debra Cree, Thomas Quigley, David King, Charlotte Zmyslo, Susan Christy, Peggy Jackson

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Mark	Eminhizer	November 01
Nathaniel	Duminiak	November 05
Matthew	Reid	November 05
Carol	Fyfe	November 07
Harry	Witmer	November 16
Dylan	Arrington	November 21
Leigh	Meeker	November 26
Gwen	Perkins	November 30

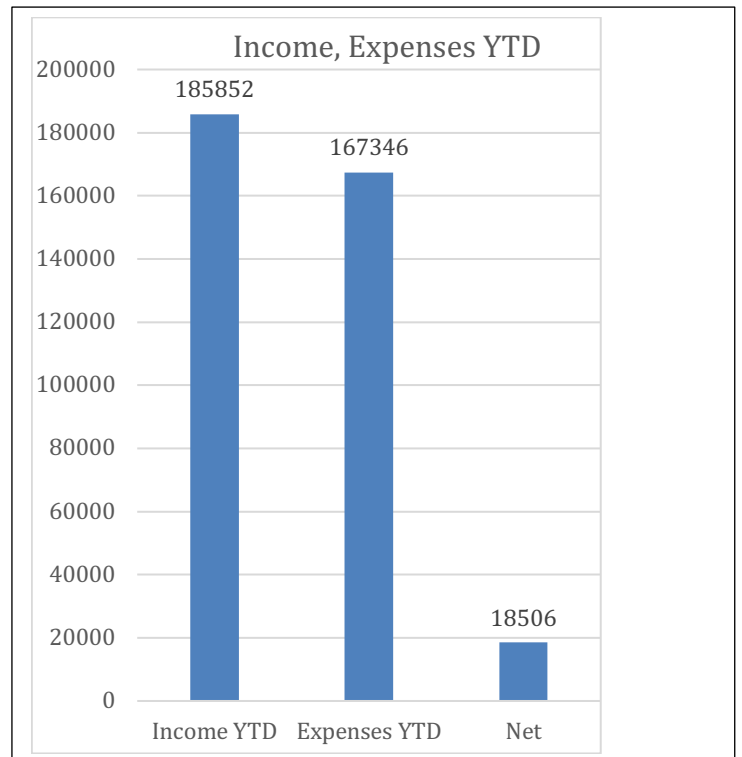


FINANCIAL



Expenses		
Income YTD	YTD	Net
185852	167346	18506

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



NOV2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	01 All Saints	02 All Souls	03 St. Martin de Porres, Religious 9:30am Monthly Parish Requiem	04 St. Charles Borromeo, Priest	05 Feria	06 Feria
07 Solemnity of All Saints (observed) 9:00am Low Mass 10:30am Solemn Mass	08 Feria	09 Feria	10 St. Leo the Great, Pope and Doctor 9:30am Low Mass	11 St. Martin of Tours, Bishop	12 St. Josaphat, Bishop & Martyr	13 St. Francis Xavier Cabrini
14 Remembrance Sunday 9:00am Low Mass of Requiem 10:30am Solemn Mass of Requiem	15 St. Albert the Great, Bishop & Doctor	16 St. Margaret of Scotland 5:30pm Low Mass 6:00pm Parish Dinner	17 St. Hugh of Lincoln NO LOW MASS 7:00PM Vestry	18 St. Hilda of Whitby	19 St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Religious	20 St. Edmund, King & Martyr
21 Christ the King 9:00am Low Mass 10:30am Solemn Mass	22 St. Cecilia, Martyr	23 St. Clement of Rome, Bishop & Martyr	24 Feria 9:30am Low Mass	25 St. Catherine of Alexandria Thanksgiving Day	26 Feria	27 Feria
28 The First Sunday of Advent 9:00am Low Mass 10:30am Solemn Mass	29 Feria	30 St. Andrew, Apostle				