



RECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Friends,



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Before our parish embarks on a new calendar year, I want to thank everyone who made our Christmas festivities possible: in particular: Ellen Dyakiw, Deb Cree, and our parish children and youth for all the work they put in to our Nativity Pageant; Erik Clayton for arranging such excellent music for our Solemn High Mass and for our choir's musical offerings; and James Blied, Peggy Jackson, Charlotte Zmyslo, and Tom and Natalie Bathgate (among many others), who decorated our church for Christmas.

During the remainder of this Christmastide and the upcoming Epiphany season, familiar worship opportunities and community offerings will take place. This will all occur while ongoing guidelines and a few new cautionary modifications to our parish life are implemented.

Throughout the month of January, we will not be offering coffee hour after the 10:30 A.M. Solemn Mass. Given the frigid weather, the need for more volunteers, and ongoing COVID-19

concerns, all signs are pointing for us to take a break. Toward the end of January, we will evaluate when to resume coffee hour.

But please note that our monthly *Let Us Keep Feast!* dinner and worship series will continue to take place. Join us on **Thursday, January 6 at 5:30 p.m.**, when we will celebrate The Epiphany of our Lord Jesus Christ. Chalk for



Epiphany house blessings will be blessed at this mass and distributed on Sunday, January 9, The Baptism of our Lord.

After our Epiphany mass, a delicious Tinga de Pollo (a Mexican chicken stew) and hearty side dishes will be served for dinner.

And while on the topic of food, please mark your calendars for our first dinner fundraiser of the year: **Saturday, January 22**. Deacon Alex will be serving up a traditional pork and sauerkraut dinner; this dinner will be *take-out only*. More information on our dinner fundraiser appears later in this issue of *The Herald*.

Last, this year's Annual Meeting will take place on **Sunday, January 16**, following the 10:30 a.m. Solemn Mass, with business beginning at 11:40 a.m. To ensure that we're able to livestream our meeting, we will gather in the church, where all our equipment is set up. During our meeting, the 2022 parish budget will be presented, along with reports from church leaders, and a brief address from yours truly.

I look forward to seeing you at our various offerings in the new year. May Almighty God, who led the Wise Men by the shining of a star to find the Christ, lead you in your pilgrimage.

Christmas Blessings,
Fr. Carlos†

FROM THE DEACON'S PERCH

"I will give thanks to you, O Lord, because of your steadfast love."
~Psalm 108:4
(Paraphrased)



My Dear Friends,

As we begin another year, we are faced yet again with another outbreak of COVID and possible isolation from family gatherings, theater, restaurants, concerts, sporting events, etc., etc. My purpose is not to paint a picture of doom and gloom but rather to see this as an opportunity to strengthen family ties, catch up on reading and playing board games, and doing the little things around the house that need attending to.

I want to add a real conversion experience in our spiritual life during this time. You have read about the many ways to enhance our spiritual life in my postings each month, for as a spiritual director, that's what I do. As we enter 2022, I ask whether you are feeling the Lord's steadfast love. Our church is rich in literature. There is Evening prayer at 5:15 and Eucharistic Mass at 5:30 on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. There are books in digital/Kindle and audio formats. In my opinion, there is nothing like reading a meditation-inducing book on developing the spiritual life to become engaged and feel connected. As we venture with God to strengthen our prayer life, let me be of assistance in

finding your path to give thanks to our Lord for his steadfast love.

As I reflect on all the ministries we as a congregation have accomplished in 2021, I eagerly look ahead to 2022. With your donations to the food bank, VIM, PAWS, Faith Centre, Children & Youth Services, Salvation Army, Habitat for Humanity, and many other projects our church undertook, we are closely knit to the community. Through Fr. Carlos's involvement, we did much to spread God's love throughout the surrounding area. As Jesus said, there is light, yet we still have much more to do. Let us as a family continue his work.

I want to say a special thank you to Eric and Rebecca Clayton for the beautiful music at our services. Rebecca even broke her record for me: I had tears in my eyes three times during the music at the late Christmas Eve service. The music was a gift to us and mostly to our Lord, who I expect also rejoiced with us.

As a spiritual guide for CPI's nursing program, I attended the graduation of 45 new LPNs, many of whom will continue toward their RN certification. The service, which is part of their graduation program, included opening prayer,



blessing of hands, and final benediction. I will be more involved with the 2022 class now that I can visit CPI in person.

The Monday Night Men's spiritual group will resume meetings on Jan. 17. I am taking this precaution to get the holiday gatherings out of the way and making it safe to meet indoors again.

I will be volunteering for Out of the Cold for a few nights at St. Andrew's in helping to watch over the people and keep a safe environment.

The food bank is requesting cans of spaghetti and jars of peanut butter for January. Let us be generous in giving, as we always have been, and not forget the hungry. God's Peace and a Happy New Year to all of you. ~Deacon Alex†

FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL



During the month of December, the children and youth of our parish planned a pageant for Christmas. Although we scaled down the program due to COVID concerns, we were able to enjoy the Christmas mass with our families, which included several offerings from our talented young musicians.

Haley Rhone joined our Sunday school team as a teacher this fall, in addition to working at the Centre County's Youth Service Bureau in her everyday job. She is a great addition to our Sunday school staff.

THANKS TO OUR ALTAR GUILD



This year, Jim Blied lent his considerable professional floral expertise in designing our beautiful

decorations. He was assisted by Peggy Jackson, Natalie and Tom Bathgate, and others. Thank you all; it was a truly inspiring vision on Christmas Eve.



2022 PARISH MEETING SUNDAY, JANUARY 16

This year's parish meeting will take place on **Sunday, January 16**, following the 10:30 a.m. solemn mass, with business beginning at 11:40 a.m. To ensure that



we're able to livestream our annual meeting for all those who are not able to attend in person, we will hold the meeting in the church, where all our equipment is set up. Stay tuned for materials and Zoom information; for now, please save the date.

NEW PRICE FOR ALTAR FLOWERS



We've recently received a letter from our florist informing us of an increase in the cost of altar flowers effective January 1. The new price for Sunday altar flowers is now \$40. If you plan to sponsor altar flowers or are interested in making a contribution on a designated Sunday (see the flower chart in the church vestibule), please make sure your monetary donation to the church reflects

the new price set by our florist. Thank you for your generosity.

PORK AND SAUERKRAUT DINNER FUNDRAISER
Saturday, January 22 | 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.



Save the date and spread the word for our first dinner fundraiser of the year! Deacon Alex and parish volunteers will be serving up a traditional pork and

sauerkraut dinner. This dinner will be **take-out only**; the charge is \$12 and comes with dessert and a drink. Stay tuned for more dinner information; a donation list and volunteer opportunities will be posted on a sign-up sheet in the back of the church.

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 parish hall. Please save the dates below, and bring a friend!

2022 Feast Days

- Thursday, January 6 – The Epiphany
- *Tuesday, February 1 – Eve of Candlemas
- Thursday, March 24 – Eve of The Annunciation
- Thursday, May 26 – Ascension Day
- *Please note the new date*

Worship - 5:30 p.m.

Dinner - 6:00 p.m.

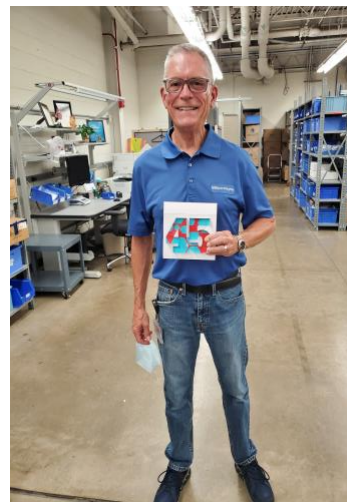
Please RSVP for dinner by contacting the parish office:

office@stjohnsepiscopealbellefonte.org

AROUND THE PARISH FAMILY TABLE



After 45 years and 6 months, **Scott Mauger** will be officially retired from Millipore Sigma on January 10! He has a



part-time job lined up, and a few trips (COVID-permitting!) are planned in the coming months. Congrats, and here's to a new chapter!

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!

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Joyce Banker	2
Rachel Pifer	2
Paula Hough	6
Christine Holt	8
Trinity King	10
Stuart Hough	23
George Holt	27
Scott Mauger	29
Wesley Mauger	29

VESTRY UPDATE

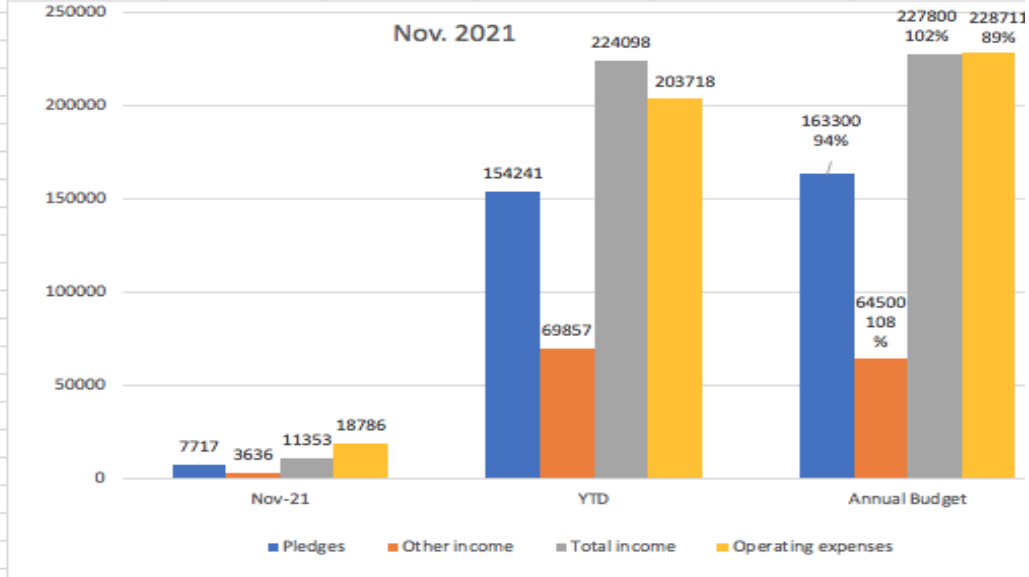
The vestry met on Dec. 15.

- Launching new Christmas schedule:
 - Solemn mass @ 10:00 p.m. for Christmas
 - Pageant and mass @ 4:30 with Ellen and Deb coordinating

- December 26th only one service – low mass @ 9:30
- Still have mask mandate
 - Added level of protection with KN95 masks for all who attend Christmas services
- As we start the new year – new vestry members
 - Father Carlos and L. Roberson will meet to discuss incoming vestry class and present names for consideration and discussion at next vestry
 - 2022 Annual meeting will be on Sunday, January 16, maybe in church for social distancing purposes
- Shaped by Faith Campaign
 - Thank you to Scott Mauger and to Charlotte Zymslo for joining Father Carlos at first meeting.
 - Potential grant money of \$2.5 million for projects will be available for us to apply to help fund any new programs and initiatives
 - The first step in this campaign is to foster relationships with other parishes and find shared values and goals; then to explore collaborative ideas with other churches and local community partners. Father Carlos has been in touch with new and soon-to-be new clergy in our region about working together to explore a Shaped by Faith initiative
- Capital Campaign
 - Already have \$5K allocated toward a capital campaign
 - Could potentially use money from Ruth Eby estate to increase the starting fund
 - Next step: identify capital projects and explore their financial viability (fundraising) at this time – C. Zymslo volunteered to assist Father Carlos and L. Roberson
 - Once completed, next steps will include developing a timetable and financial goals, and creating a strategic communications campaign

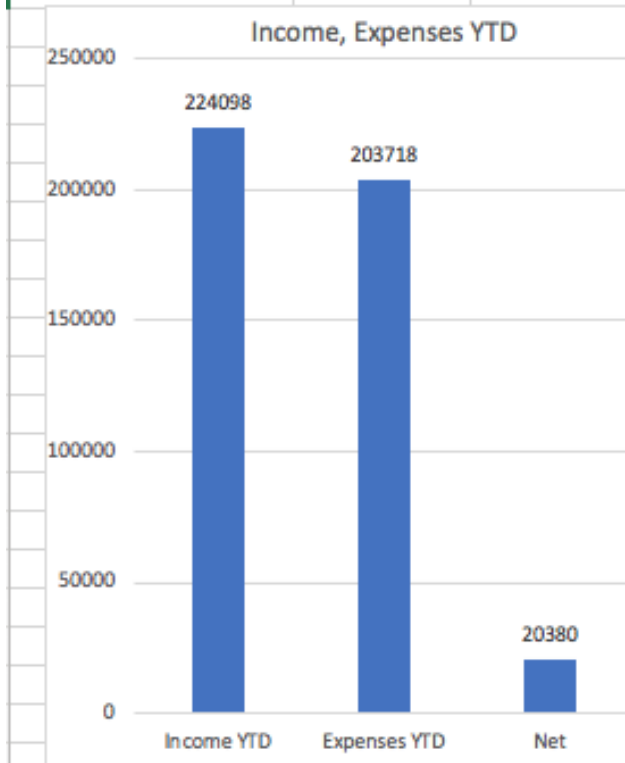
FINANCIAL

	Nov-21	YTD	Annual Budget	YTD % of Budget
Pledges	7717	154241	163300	94%
Other income	3636	69857	64500	108%
Total income	11353	224098	227800	102%
Operating expenses	18786	203718	228711	89%
Net	-7433	20380		



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

Income YTD	Expenses YTD	Net
224098	203718	20380



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

JAN2022

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

01

The Feast of the Circumcision of Christ

9:30am Low Mass of Requiem

02

The Second Sunday after Christmas

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

03

Feria
NO Men's Group

04

Feria
5:15pm Evening Prayer
5:30 Low Mass

05

Feria

06

The Epiphany (Let us keep the Feast)
5:30pm Low Mass
6:00pm Dinner

07

Feria

08

Feria

09

Baptism of our Lord

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

10

Blessed William Laud
NO Men's Group

11

Feria
5:15pm Evening Prayer
5:30 Low Mass

12

St. Aelred of Rievaulx
*7:00pm Vestry
*Special Meeting Date

13

St. Hilary of Poitiers
5:15pm Evening Prayer
5:30 Low Mass

14

Feria

15

St. Paul of Thebes

16

The Second Sunday after Epiphany

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

17

St. Anthony of Egypt
7:00pm Men's Group

18

The Confession of St. Peter
5:15pm Evening Prayer
5:30 Low Mass

19

St. Wulfstan

20

St. Fabian
5:15pm Evening Prayer
5:30 Low Mass

21

St. Agnes

22

St. Vincent

11:40am Annual Meeting

23

The Third Sunday after Epiphany

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

24

St. Francis de Sales
7:00pm Men's Group

25

The Conversion of St. Paul
5:15pm Evening Prayer
5:30 Low Mass

26

St. Timothy

27

St. John Chrysostom
5:15pm Evening Prayer
5:30 Low Mass

28

St. Thomas Aquinas

29

Feria

30

The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

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

31

Saint John Bosco
7:00pm Men's Group