

RECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Friends,



I pray that you're well, safe, and keeping warm during these cold, frigid days.

While I love Bellefonte and the rest of the Northeast corridor, I am ready for my summer vacation in just a few days. And I really do mean summer vacation—it's actually summer in Peru. The last time I was able to visit my family in Peru was in February 2020, a few weeks before the start of the pandemic. I was fortunate enough to return to the States before Peru's government shut down its borders for five months. As you might imagine, I am both anxious and excited to get back and see my family.

I will be away from Monday, February 7, to Wednesday, February 23. During my travels, Father Kevin Barron will be celebrating Sunday masses on February 13 and 20. Further, Deacon Alex, as always, will be here to hold the fort, along with our Wardens and Parish Coordinator, Trish Weidemann. If any major pastoral emergencies arise, please contact Deacon Alex and email or text me if possible. I will have limited access to phone and email, but I will check both every day.

In my seven years of ordained ministry, this is the first time that I will be away for two Sundays in a row. It's a bit daunting for me to be gone from my parish for so long; however, I know that everything will be in good hands. I will arrive back to Bellefonte before the last Sunday after the Epiphany and the start of Lent. On that Sunday, February 27, I am glad to share with you that we will be welcoming a guest preacher to our pulpit. Ted Christopher, a long-time friend of the parish and a postulant for Holy Orders, will preach at both masses. Later that day, at 5:00 p.m., our choir will offer a service of Choral Evensong and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

It's been a long time since we have enjoyed a service of Evensong and Benediction at Saint John's; and I'm happy to report that this is but one of four extra services that Erik Clayton and I have scheduled for the year. We hope that these additional and musically rich services will augment your prayer and worship life, and that they will also serve those who do not regularly worship with us.

Later in this issue of *The Herald*, you will find more information on upcoming offerings; I commend this to you. On a

final note, by now many of you have received a letter from me with news on a columbarium expansion. The vestry and I are beginning this important work, since as you may or may not know there are presently no unclaimed niches. But before we make any plans, we need to hear from you.

If you have not received a letter about our columbarium expansion and adjacent survey, please be in touch with me and I will send you a copy. Along with my letter, I also included our new funeral planning book which I hope will be a positive resource for you and your loved ones. This document will soon be posted on our website; if you wish to receive a hard copy, please contact me or the parish office.

I look forward to seeing you, or to you seeing me on your screens, on Sunday, February 6, when we will celebrate the Baptism of Booker James Daniels at the 10:30 a.m. mass. If not then, I'll see you in a few weeks! Please keep me in your prayers as I will keep you in mine.

Epiphany blessings,
Fr. Carlos†

FROM THE DEACON'S PERCH

Then I heard the voice of the Lord say, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here I am, send me!"
~ ***Isaiah 6:8***



My Dear Friends,

I chose this verse from a reading for the fifth Sunday of Epiphany, February 6, because it always struck me as odd. During most of my life, after serving in the Marine Corps fifty years ago, I believed that you should never, ever volunteer for anything, because you'll never know what you're getting into. In last week's reading from Jeremiah, the Lord God commands him to go tell the nations. He replies, "Ah Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy" (Jer. 1:6). How difficult it is for us to go, because we don't feel qualified or adequate or have a voice . . . or are we fighting that call for other reasons?

I didn't readily go off to be a deacon. I didn't volunteer or hear a voice from God, but you, the people at St. John's, encouraged me every step of the way. Like God choosing Jeremiah or Isaiah, you, my church family, saw something in me that I didn't see.

As I reflect on how the church has changed me over the years—and not only the church, but you as a congregation who uplifted me to the task—there are many times that I wish I had started before I came to Bellefonte.

So, I wonder, how do you hear the voice of the Lord calling? Can it be by uplifting others or by raising your family with Christian values? Or are you a quiet angel without realizing it? You may volunteer at an organization, be present to someone in need, or maybe participate in our church collections for various community groups. You might participate in altar guild, be a server or reader, or assist with our youth programs. There are so many ways to hear God's call and become proactive, even if you just take our prayer list and pray for those in need. Our community is diverse, and there will never be a shortage of things to be done.

I keep all of you in my prayers because many of you are involved in our community and beyond. This is God's work, and all of creation rests on our being involved and heeding a call.

I have been busy helping with the Out of the Cold program in State College by putting in some night shifts to keep the residents safe and secure. I usually do the 1-4 a.m. shift in order to keep social distance, but also to participate in their well-being. I pray during the morning hours, especially for the working poor to

find suitable affordable housing. There is a very long waiting list, so I am grateful for the organization, which provides shelter and a hot meal before folks go to their jobs. Please pray for those who are less fortunate than us, including those struggling to stay in their own homes due to the rising cost of living.

A special thanks to all who contributed to the January food drive. If you look at all the goods in the back of the church, we did well, faithful servants. Thanks to your donations to the Deacon's Discretionary Fund, I was able to purchase many items. If you haven't noticed, food prices are a crippling factor to those in need, so let us not forget the poor. We will take a break from food collection in February. The food bank will get back to me with specific needs, and we will resume collections in March.

Thanks to everyone who cooked, baked, participated, and purchased meals for our Pork and Sauerkraut dinner fundraiser. A special thanks to Jim and Peggy Jackson, who, through Lutheran Ministries, provided a gift card of \$250 to purchase many of the items needed for the dinner.

A heads-up for our corned beef dinner in March: the cost of food items has increased significantly. Therefore, I ask you to mark your calendars for **March 19** and to help by buying a meal for yourself and/or a neighbor. In order to make this profitable, *we need to have a*

sold-out dinner. Please consider supporting this meal to help St. John's maintain our budget.

The men's spiritual group will resume meeting on Feb. 21, provided there are no further outbreaks. I have taken this precaution to keep us safe so that we can meet again.

As always, pray for me as I always pray for you. "Go in peace to love and serve the Lord."

~Deacon Alex†

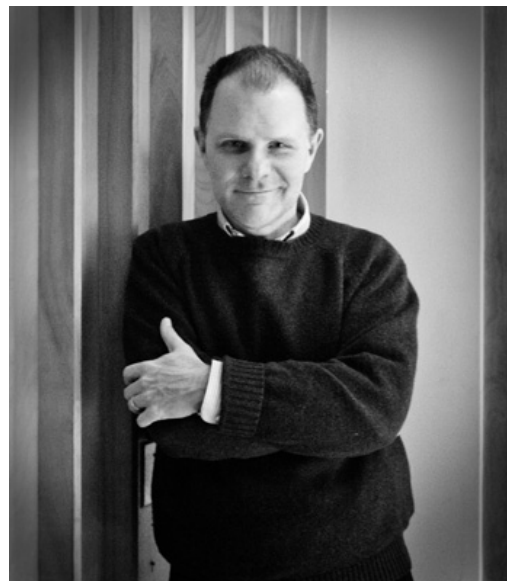
**CHORAL EVENSONG & BENEDICTION
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27**



A Service of Choral Evensong & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament will be offered on Sunday, **February 27**, at 5:00 p.m. Evensong is one of the jewels of Anglicanism. The service consists of chanted Psalms, readings from the Bible, traditional canticles and a Marian anthem, and prayers both said and sung. Evensong is directly followed by Benediction of the Blessed

Sacrament, a service of prayers and hymns offered in praise of our Lord's presence in the sacred mysteries of his Body and Blood. Please mark your calendars for our first Evensong & Benediction of the year.

**GUEST PREACHER: MR. TED CHRISTOPHER
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27**



On Sunday, **February 27**, we welcome Mr. Ted Christopher to Saint John's pulpit. Ted is a member of Saint Andrew's, State College; a postulant for Holy Orders; and a long-time friend of the parish. Ted will preach at both Sunday masses.

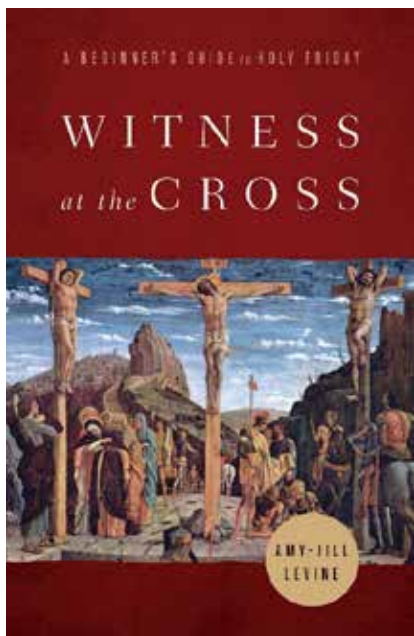
ASH WEDNESDAY: MARCH 2



Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, a time of self-examination and repentance; prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and reading and meditating on

God's holy Word. This year we will begin our Lenten journey on Wednesday, **March 2**, with Low Mass & Imposition of Ashes at 9:30 a.m. and Solemn Mass & Imposition of Ashes at 6:30 p.m.

LENTEN BOOK STUDY: WITNESS AT THE CROSS
WEDNESDAYS, MARCH 9 - APRIL 13
7:00 P.M. ON ZOOM



During Lent, we will embark on a study of Dr. Amy-Jill Levine's newest book: *Witness at the Cross*. Throughout the series we will discover anew our

Lord's passion and death, growing closer to our Lord's sacrifice on calvary. More information, including the Zoom link, will appear in our weekly e-news. You can purchase Dr. Levine's book on Amazon:

https://smile.amazon.com/dp/1791021123/ref=cm_sw_r_em_api_glt_i_ZTSKEN5J4SYTo6YBSZZR

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

2022 Feast Days

Thursday, March 24 – Eve of The Annunciation
Thursday, May 26 – Ascension Day

Worship - 5:30 p.m.

Dinner - 6:00 p.m.

If possible, please RSVP for dinner by contacting the parish office:
office@stjohnsepicopalbellefonte.org

FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

*SAINT JOSEPH'S FAMILY DAY
SATURDAY, MARCH 19
10:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.*



Families with young children; grandparents and grandchildren; and parishioners with little ones in their lives are all invited to our Saint Joseph's Family Day. In honor and in thanksgiving for Saint Joseph's love and care for our Lord, we will be offering a morning of family activities, learning, and worship. Please confirm your attendance by contacting Ellen Dyakiw: setinsun@aol.com



Genavieve and Vivienne Clayton snuggle in one of the blankets the Sunday School children received for Christmas.

AROUND THE PARISH FAMILY TABLE



Rebecca Clayton has been hired as co-lead teacher of the Rainbow Raccoon class at Stay and Play Preschool, a class of three- and four-year old children. She has been substitute teaching there since October.

VESTRY UPDATE

The vestry met on Zoom on January 12.

Rector's Report:
Christmas

- Thank you to those who helped with decorations.
- Happy that we were able to have in-person Christmas services.

New Year

- More cases of omicron COVID variant are occurring in the area.
- Guidelines from Diocese asking all clergy to take Rapid Test on Saturdays prior to Sunday Services.
- There are now K95 masks in the narthex; however, limited number until more can be ordered/found.

- Sunday services and Sunday school expected to continue.

Lent

- Book Study planned with Father John Harwood and Father Kevin; Stations of the Cross on Fridays.

Columbarium and Funeral Planning

- Currently editing document to go out to parish by February.
- Letter on record discerning possibility of expanding Columbarium.
- March or April—step 2: decide whether to enact plan.

Capital Campaign Project

- Larry Roberson, Charlotte Zmyslo, and Father Carlos will meet and create a punch list of projects to consider as Step 1.
- Some work took place two years ago regarding organ maintenance.
- Discussion with vestry will take place regarding which projects are reasonable and their approximate cost after securing two estimates.
- Step 2: Create a group to write an appeal letter and develop a timeline (before Easter, if possible).
- We have outside donations from people who have given online as well as in person.

Grant Money

- Father Carlos can apply for grant money towards his college loans via the loan forgiveness program.

Line item showing church budget payments

- for his education needed.

Youth Service Bureau

- We are offering our space for a 6-week course at the church for families who are having trouble connecting with their children, to begin next week.
- Hailey is spearheading the project.
- Will be held on Wednesdays and will not conflict with any church activities.
- Insurance rider has been submitted.

Shaped By Faith

- Bishop had a vision to reorganize money within diocese, not based on one-size-fits-all.
- \$2.5 million approved at Diocesan level for funding Shaped by Faith.

- We can apply every year for up to five years for any formal partnerships, new initiatives, etc., with support from vestry.
- Discussion of expanding music program.
- Diocese is open to any idea, even a rough one. Does not need to be fully developed.
- Bishop is aware of possible failure doing it this way, but wants to move forward.
- This money can fund current needs or new initiatives.

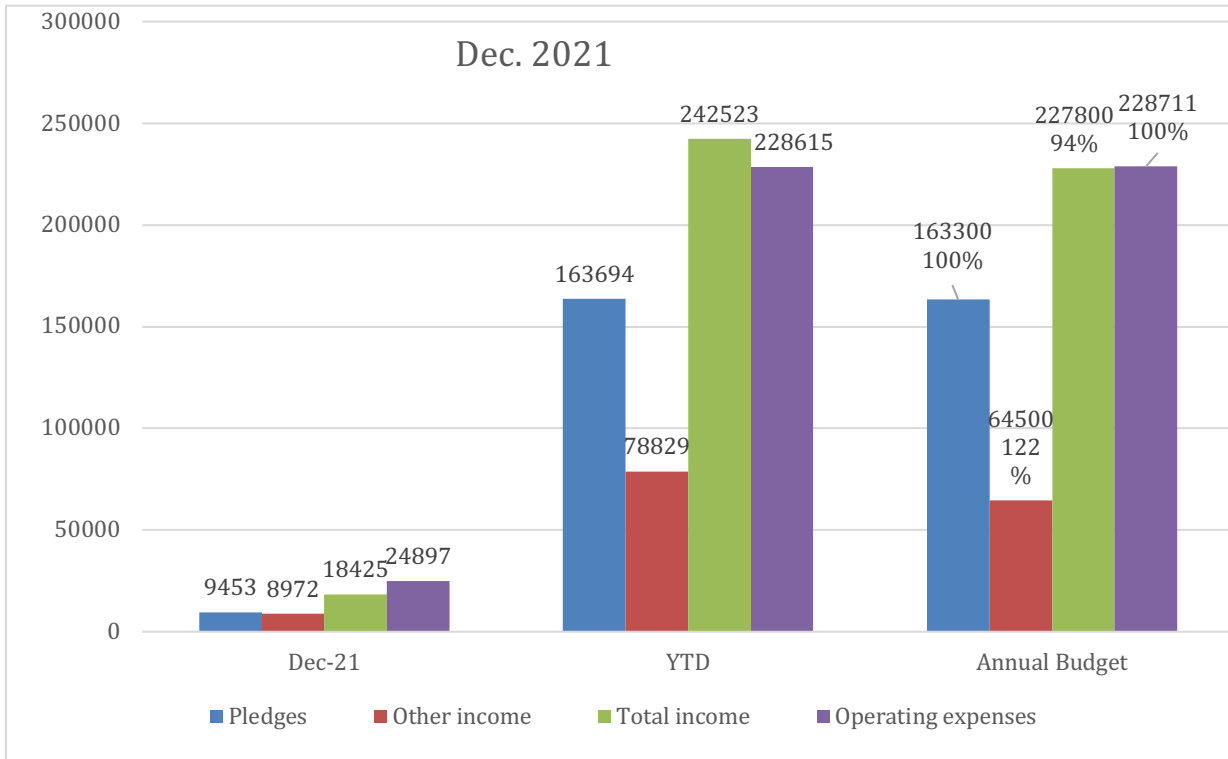
FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

John	Fusco	February 01
Michael	Fusco	February 13
Gabe	Holland	February 13
Trish	Weidemann	February 13
Andrew	Pifer	February 14
Paul	Fusco	February 14
Matt	Perkins	February 15
John	Harwood	February 16
Debra	Cree	February 18
Isaac	Pifer	February 28



FINANCIAL (DECEMBER 2021)

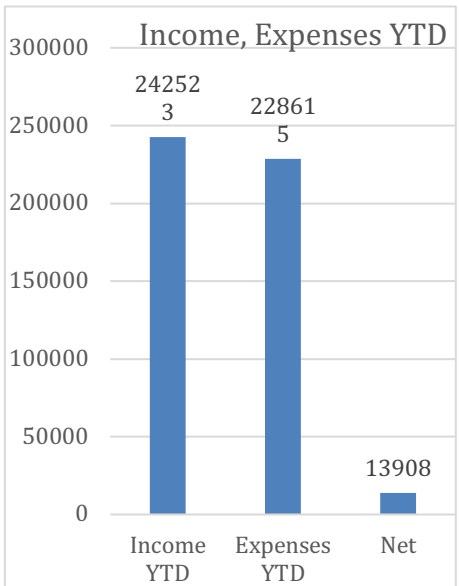
	Dec-21	YTD	Annual Budget	YTD % of Budget
Pledges	9453	163694	163300	100%
Other income	8972	78829	64500	122%
Total income	18425	242523	227800	94%
Operating expenses	24897	228615	228711	100%
Net	-6472	13908		



Income YTD	Expenses YTD	Net
242523	228615	13908

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

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



FEB 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		01 Eve of Candlemas 5:30pm Low Mass & Dinner	02 Candlemas	03 St. Blaise 5:15pm Evening Prayer 5:30 Low Mass	04 Feria	05 St. Agatha 9:30am Monthly Low Mass of Requiem
06 The Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany 9:00am Low Mass 10:30am Solemn Mass	07 Feria Fr Carlos away	08 St. Josephine Bakkhita Fr Carlos away	09 Feria Fr Carlos away	10 St. Scholastica Fr Carlos away	11 Feria Fr Carlos away	12 Feria Fr Carlos away
13 The Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany 9:00am Low Mass 10:30am Solemn Mass	14 St. Cyril and Methodius Fr Carlos away	15 Feria Fr Carlos away	16 Feria 7:00pm Vestry Fr Carlos away	17 St. Simeon of Jerusalem Fr Carlos away	18 Feria Fr Carlos away	19 Feria Fr Carlos away
20 The Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany 9:00am Low Mass 10:30am Solemn Mass	21 St. Peter Damian Fr Carlos away	22 The Chair of Saint Peter the Apostle Fr Carlos away	23 St. Polycarp Fr Carlos away	24 St. Matthias the Apostle 5:15pm Evening Prayer 5:30 Low Mass	25 Feria	26 Feria
27 The Last Sunday after the Epiphany 9:00am Low Mass 10:30am Solemn Mass 5:00pm Choral Evensong & Benediction	28 Feria					