



RECTOR'S LETTER

Dear friends,

Each year, we begin our journey through Holy Week on Palm Sunday. As we bless and lift up our palms, we recall Jesus' glorious entrance into Jerusalem. In the days that follow, we remember and meditate on the final events of Jesus' life, as we participate in our Lord's Passion and Resurrection on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Great Vigil of Easter; they all culminate with our great Easter Day celebration.



Traditionally, at this point in my letter, I would highlight the importance of our Holy Week liturgies. However, I won't be doing that this year. Instead, I want to share with you a reflection written by David Tilli after experiencing Holy Week last spring for the very first time. David wrote this after attending the Triduum liturgies (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Vigil) at Saint John's during his senior year at Penn State.

Yours in Christ,
~Father Carlos †

It's easy to overlook the utter strangeness of the Christian faith, especially while living in a country whose version of Christianity can become easily warped by external forces: political parties, temporary ideologies, the dreaded powers and principalities discussed in Ephesians.

What Holy Week offers, then, is the gift of disruption, a reminder that the Easter message of Resurrection and Triumph is indeed strange but nevertheless true: that Christ's victory over death disrupted the entire cosmos and decisively turned the tides in the battle between Good and Evil. Most strange and wondrous of all, we are reminded that Good prevailed and will continue to do so.

The fact is that this massive disruption to the status quo came to us in the form of an impoverished Galilean carpenter—a curious God-Man capable of unspeakable tenderness in one moment and then ruthless rebuking in the next. This is an historical occurrence worth disrupting our lives over.

And that's exactly the opportunity afforded to us by Holy Week.

Since this was my first real Holy Week experience, I did not know what to expect nor how to prepare myself. And to be fully honest, some emotional preparation was

probably needed. There were moments of intense ancient beauty throughout the services, climaxes, and crescendos where everything but Christ seems stripped away.

What comes to mind immediately: Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, where clergy and laity recreate the kangaroo trial of Jesus, and the congregation plays the role of the bloodthirsty crowd who demands His death.

I remember being told as a child that Jesus died for our sins—now I received the bitterest reminder that our sins and apathy killed him directly and that every sin is a new piercing. But Holy Week isn't all tears and bitter laments—the whole affair had a pulsing, life-affirming vividness coursing through its veins, and your veins inevitably coursed the same way by Holy Week's end.

A moment that, by God's graces I shall never forget, occurred during the Great Vigil, again during its conclusion. Father Carlos stood in the back, lighted by candle glow alone, and declared the best news we could ever hope to hear: "Alleluia! Christ is Risen!"

Each utterance increased in volume and was followed by the congregation's reaffirmation: "The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!" Every repetition was underscored by gradual lighting of the church proper, and a slight organ purr, until the call-and-response repeated itself three times and the entire

building exploded in a release of light and sound and teetering ecstasy.

The organ swelled and went full-blast, and a hymn brought us back into gorgeous reality: Jesus Christ is Risen Today. Death lost dominion. God regained and redeemed His fallen peoples. Now come let us adore Him in song and feast.

Christianity has been preaching the same message for more than 2,000 years, simple as it is divine. Christ is risen indeed. This fact disrupted every inch of creation. Now allow it to disrupt your own life.

2022 HOLY WEEK & EASTER SCHEDULE





FROM THE DEACON'S PERCH

“God loves each of us as if there were only one of us.”

— *St. Augustine*

Dear Friends,

As we enter the end of Lent and go into Holy Week and the Easter Season, I still am on a journey of contemplating the cross and my deep emotions. I find it difficult emotionally when we do the Stations of the Cross each week. I feel as though I am on a solo journey with Jesus and his cross, even though there are 5-6 people in church walking the stations. I feel anguish and pain in my soul at the fact that Christ is doing this for me. During Wednesday night's book study *Witness at the Cross*, A.J. Levine puts ourselves as witnesses in the story. I look at my own fragile, sinful human nature and the fact that Jesus has carried my sins as well as the sins of the world with him on his journey to the place called The Skull to be crucified.

As in the quotation from St. Augustine above, Jesus loves me as if I were the only one, just as he loves each one of us and forgives all our shortcomings. In order to feel the reconciliation process, it helps us when we are active in this journey with him to the cross. We have been hearing scripture stories of the prodigal son, or of the lame man at the

portico, or of raising Lazarus from the dead. Father Carlos and I invite you to enhance your spiritual growth this season by joining us during the week at all the services St. John's provides in order to journey with Christ and to feel the love that God has for each of us.

Our congregation had a busy month in March with our corned beef dinner. I want to thank all the people who came to purchase, help set up, bake goods, serve, collect money, and especially the clean-up crew. What a church family we have at St. John's! Everyone who came through the line for food was so happy for this event, and they look forward to it each year . . . so many thanks to all.



I restarted the ministry at Centre Care and distributed ashes to the residents and staff on Ash Wednesday. What a homecoming it was, as the people and staff were

happy and grateful for our ministry there. The monthly liturgy service has also been resumed, and I will be visiting regularly again as chaplain.

I spent a few nights supervising Out Of The Cold, taking the 1-4 a.m. shift. With your March donations, we collected many sheets,



mattress covers, and blankets. The residents there really appreciate our involvement, so again, thank you for your support.

This month we ask you to direct all generous

contributions to our youth, as they prepare for confirmation and participate in projects that will help our community. I always appreciate your generosity toward me, and I know that you will extend that generosity to our oldest children in their confirmation projects.

UKRAINE FUNDRAISER
Saturday, April 30



We all have seen the horrors of war in Ukraine. Literally millions of people escaped their homes with just the clothes on their backs. On **Saturday, April 30**, St. John's will



hold a short prayer service in the church, followed by a corned beef hash, egg, and

pancake breakfast in the fellowship hall. The cost is \$10, and ALL the proceeds will go to the Ukraine, so please pray and eat with us. More information and volunteer opportunities will appear in our weekly e-news and Sunday bulletins. For now, please mark the date on your calendars.

I wish a blessed Easter to you all.

~Dcn. Alex+

FURTHER PUBLICITY FROM PEGGY JACKSON:

I'm currently running a Thrivent Actions Teams project to support St. Johns' Episcopal Church, and I've created an online fundraising page for it!

Would you be able to share this page on social media and email? Sharing the page will help me make an even bigger impact for your organization: <https://thrivent.cotribute.co/events/635275/detail?src=crowd-fundraise-active-charity-mailto-185>



SPRING CLEANING DAY

Saturday, April 9 | 9:00 a.m.



We will be cleaning in and around the church to prepare our grounds and sanctuary for Holy Week and Easter. We need 8-10 people to help with weeding and planting; cleaning pews and wood surfaces; and general spring tidying. A continental breakfast (bagels, fruit, yogurt, and coffee) will be available in the Fellowship Hall to fuel your work!

EASTER DAY FELLOWSHIP

Sunday, April 17



On Easter Day, following the 10:30 a.m. Solemn Mass, we will be hosting an Easter

egg hunt in the rectory garden. Our youngest parishioners and guests are invited to participate in this fun event, which will take place during our festive Easter Day coffee hour. A spread of sweet and savory food items, coffee, and mimosas will be served to celebrate our Lord's glorious Resurrection.

COFFEE HOUR RETURNS!



Coffee hour will make its triumphant return on Sunday, **April 10** (Palm Sunday). We are looking for volunteers to help set up, serve beverages, and clean up afterwards. Drinks and food items will be provided by the church. We are in need of volunteers for April and May. To sign up, please visit our sign-up link: <https://bit.ly/3um2fBp>; or contact the parish office. Thank you for your help!

EARTH DAY GARDEN WORKDAY & DINNER
Friday, April 22 | 3:00 p.m.



On Friday, **April 22**, youth and staff from the Bellefonte Youth Center will tend the soil in our garden beds and begin planting for our summer crop. To help launch and celebrate our second year working together, we will be hosting a cookout as part of our garden workday. We are looking for 3-5 volunteers to greet our community partners, assist youth with gardening skills, and help prepare and serve dinner. If you are interested in helping with this event, please be in touch with Fr. Carlos.

***PILGRIMS IN CHRIST: BAPTISM, CONFIRMATION,
AND RECEPTION FOR ADULTS***
Sunday, April 24 | 11:30 a.m.



On Sunday, **April 24**, following the 10:30 a.m. mass, adults who are interested in learning more about Baptism, Confirmation, and Reception into The Episcopal Church are invited to a learning session in the rectory. We will review the rites for the Sacrament of Baptism and Confirmation, as well as formal Reception into The Episcopal Church for those Baptized and Confirmed in the Roman Catholic, Orthodox, or Lutheran churches. Those interested in sacramental preparation are encouraged to attend this gathering in order to participate in Confirmation on Saturday, **May 14**, or to schedule a Baptism on a Sunday in Eastertide.



CONFIRMATION MASS

Saturday, May 14 | 11:00 a.m.



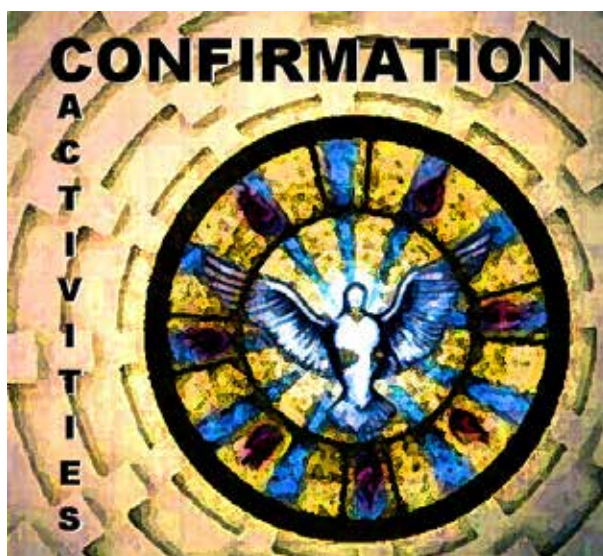
On Saturday, **May 14**, Bishop Audrey Scanlan will celebrate a Confirmation mass at Saint John's. Come and support our teen and adult confirmands and those who will be received into The Episcopal Church. We encourage all to attend as a sign of support for their fellow parishioners and to welcome back our Bishop. Veni Sancte Spiritus!

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

April 4	Sara Witmer
April 9	Myrna Alterio
	Steve Dillon
	Cody Fitzgerald
	Mitchell Holland
April 20	Susan Christy
April 23	Finnegan Quigley
April 29	Dan McGinley



TEEN CONFIRMATION PROJECT



As part of their Confirmation program, our teen confirmands are taking on two outreach projects: creating grooming kits for Out of the Cold and sponsoring an animal or two at PAWS. In April, our teens will be leading our monthly Deacon's appeal to support one of our community partners. You will hear from them at church and receive more information on how you can support this month's outreach effort.

FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

During Sunday School, children learn to



blend their spiritual and social lives. Our Sunday School lessons are connected directly to

the weekly scriptures and Christian living. This month children learned about the

Beatitudes. A catchy rap song helped us to understand each Beatitude. Also this month,



families were invited for a special program on Saint Joseph's Day. Fr.

Carlos led a lesson at the altar; we learned a Saint Joseph's prayer; ate lunch together; and finally, like Joseph, we did some carpentry work by building birdhouses. We look forward to hosting more family events during the year. Come and join us each Sunday during the 10:30 service.



AROUND THE PARISH FAMILY TABLE



Quigley represented Penns Valley High School at the 2022 PIAA District 6 Boys'

On March 4 and 5, **Liam**



AA Swimming and Diving Championship



Meet, where he placed third in 200-meter freestyle and second in 100-meter breast stroke. His placements

earned him two spots at 2022 PIAA Boys' AA State Swimming and Diving Championship, where he represented the PV Rams as an alternate in 200 m. freestyle and was seeded 27th to compete in 100 m. breast stroke. He swam the 100 m. breast stroke for the Rams on March 19, where he placed twenty-second.

Susan Christy writes: "Thank you to all who remembered and sent well wishes to our mother, **Mary K. Jones**, on the occasion of her 100th birthday. One small act of kindness expressed like that really does multiply a hundred times more in the heart of the receiver. She enjoyed and appreciated each and every one. You all played a part in our glorious, wonderful, fun-



filled celebration. We will see you in May when we return to Bellefonte.”

VESTRY NEWS

The vestry met via Zoom on March 17.

Rector's Report:

- Holy Week/Easter Schedule reviewed.
- Update on COVID 19 Guidelines:
 - Masks no longer required.
 - No formal record keeping.
 - Introduction of Common Cup again.
 - Sign of Peace was brought up; let it evolve naturally.
- Coffee Hour: Will resume early April, maybe Palm Sunday.
- Confirmation Mass: Saturday, May 14, at 11:00. Bishop Audrey will be here.
- Floor Project: still working with contractor.
- Kevin Lowe:
 - In process of becoming a priest.
 - As a requirement for his degree, he must spend time in parish formation, and he has asked if he could do this at St. John's.
 - Ten hours a week starting in Fall 2022.
 - Launch a lay committee (4-5 people: perhaps 2 vestry members).
 - Looking into how much it will cost us to have him here.
- Columbarium survey:
 - Received 2 yeses; 5 would consider (out of this five, one would buy for another person).

- Father Carlos spoke with the liturgical artist who built our current columbarium. Looking into building something on a smaller scale given the current demand, perhaps a simple niche extension on the side of the current columbarium rather than creating a new columbarium area. Waiting for cost.
- Boiler Maintenance
 - Discovered that the boiler is leaking and there is corrosion, which snuffed out the pilot light.
 - Must replace the block along with repair of pipes. Could cost from \$3K-\$5K.
- Spring Clean-Up Day
 - Saturday, April 9; will offer breakfast.

Senior Warden

- Huge thank you to Charlotte Zmyslo for donating office chair.
- Fixed light switches in hallway downstairs.
- Adjusted lock on side door.

<p>Vestry Members: Larry Roberson (Sr. Warden), Matt Perkins (Jr. Warden), Liz Helms, Carol Fyfe, Debra Cree, Susan Christy, Peggy Jackson, Thomas Quigley, David King, Charlotte Zmyslo</p>

EASTER FLOWERS & DECORATIONS



Saint John's Altar Guild is receiving contributions to assist in decorating the church for Easter. Please use this form for making your donations. All forms and donations should be returned to the parish office no later than Monday, **April 11**. Checks should be made payable to St. John's Episcopal Church and should be clearly marked "*Easter Decorations*" on the memo line. You can also make a donation online by visiting our giving page and selecting "Easter Flowers" from the drop-down menu. You may type your dedication in the message box, or email the Parish Office with your dedication, which will appear in our Easter order of service.

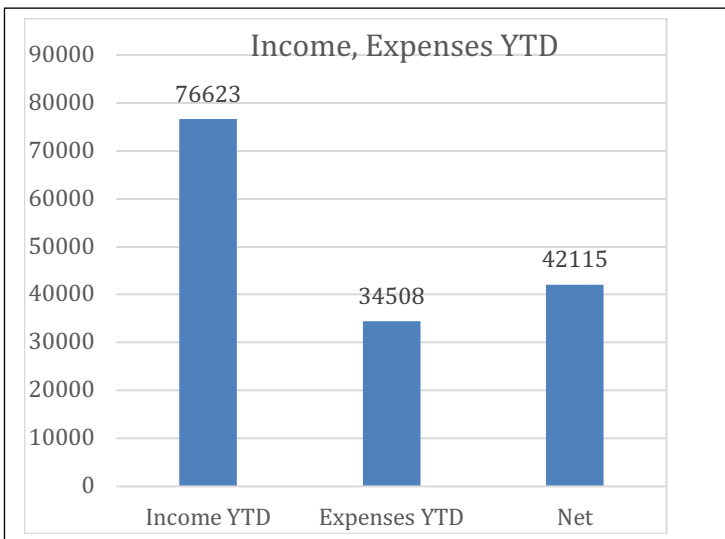
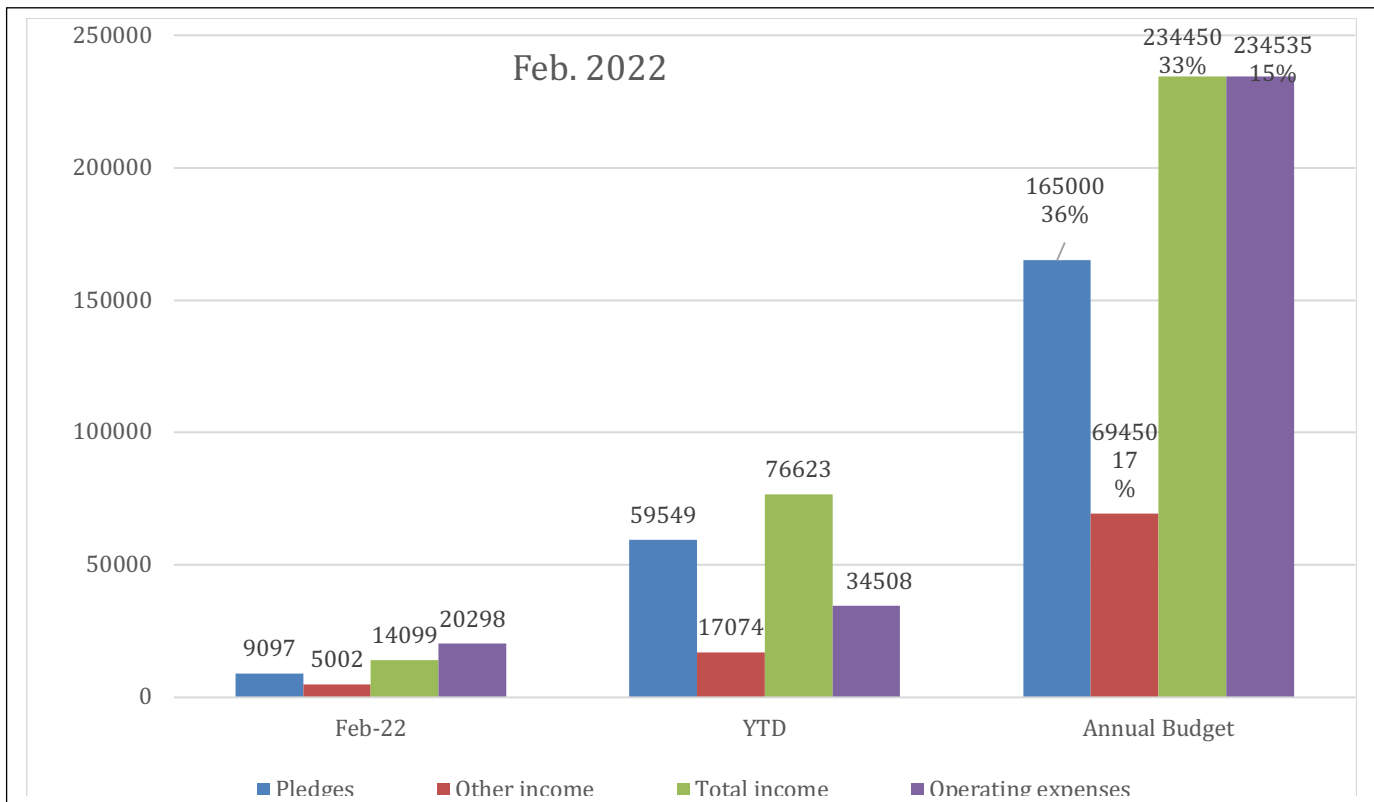
YOUR NAME(S):

IN MEMORY OF:

IN THANKSGIVING FOR:

Financial:

	Feb-22	YTD	Annual Budget	YTD % of Budget
Pledges	9097	59549	165000	36%
Other income	5002	17074	69450	25%
Total income	14099	76623	234450	33%
Operating expenses	20298	34508	234535	15%
Net	-6199	42115		-4%



Expenses		
Income YTD	YTD	Net
76623	34508	42115

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

APRIL 2022

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

						01	02
						Lenten Feria 5:30pm Stations of the Cross	Lenten Feria 9:30am Monthly Low Mass of Requiem
03	04	05	06	07	08	09	
The Fifth Sunday in Lent 9:00am Low Mass 10:30am Solemn Mass	St. Isidore of Seville 7:00pm Men's Group	St. Vincent Ferrar 5:15pm Evening Prayer 5:30pm Low Mass	Lenten Feria 7:00pm Lenten Book Study: Witness at the Cross	St. John Baptist de la Salle 5:15pm Evening Prayer 5:30pm Low Mass	Lenten Feria 5:30pm Stations of the Cross	Lenten Feria 9:00am Spring Cleaning Day	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
Palm Sunday 9:00am Blessing of the Palms & Low Mass 10:30am Blessing of the Palms & Solemn Mass	Monday in Holy Week 7:00pm Men's Group	Tuesday in Holy Week 5:15pm Evening Prayer 5:30pm Low Mass	Spy Wednesday 7:00pm Lenten Book Study: Witness at the Cross	Maundy Thursday 6:30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper	Good Friday 12:00pm Solemn Liturgy & Veneration of the Cross	Holy Saturday 8:00pm The Great Vigil of Easter	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
Easter Day 9:00am Low Mass 10:30am Procession & Solemn Mass	Monday in Easter Week 7:00pm Men's Group	Tuesday in Easter Week 5:15pm Evening Prayer 5:30pm Low Mass	Wednesday in Easter Week 7:00pm Vestry	Thursday in Easter Week 5:15pm Evening Prayer 5:30pm Low Mass	Friday in Easter Week 3:00pm Youth Garden Day	Saturday in Easter Week	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
The Second Sunday of Easter 9:00am Low Mass 10:30am Solemn Mass	St. Mark the Evangelist 7:00pm Men's Group	Feria 5:15pm Evening Prayer 5:30pm Low Mass	Feria	St. Peter Chanel 5:15pm Evening Prayer 5:30pm Low Mass	St. Catherine of Sienna	St. Pius V	