

## RECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Friends,



I write to you from the garden at the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham. Nestled away in Norwich, England, the Shrine has been a site of pilgrimage for nearly 1,000 years. It is a stunning and holy place. Its beauty and solemnity, like that of all churches and holy sites, is not intended solely to bring us awe and



amazement, but to foster prayer and worship. It invites us to worship and pray for the appearance of the Blessed Virgin Mary; for the ongoing presence of Jesus Christ and for the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives; and for God's small and great miracles. Please know that I have prayed for all of you by name at the Shrine (I pulled up our parish directory on my phone!), and I have prayed for the joys and challenges that you have trustingly shared with me.



As we enter summer, I want to bring to your attention some important news and notices. First, by now you might have heard that Blanche Raymond, a long-time parishioner, has died. She, like many before her, was a pillar of Saint John's. While I never had the chance to interact with her in church, during my visits to The Oaks, it would take no more than a few minutes for us to talk about her Altar Guild ministry. She always reminded me of Fred's light-hearted words to her: "You spend more time at the church than at home." I am grateful that we'll be able to have a proper funeral for Blanche when I return to Bellefonte. For now, please join me in praying for the repose of her soul.

Throughout the month of June, Deb Cree has played the organ while Erik was recuperating from a back injury. As Erik continues to heal and explore a long-term recovery plan, you will see him singing and conducting on Sundays, while Deb continues to play for a few more weeks. My

deepest thanks go out to Deb for her flexibility, gracefulness, and support.

As a reminder, on Sunday, July 3, we bid farewell to Fr. Kevin Barron. Fr Kevin has been with us since his diaconal internship, and it has been a joy to have him with us all these months. While I will miss serving with him and hearing him preach at Saint John's, I know he will bless the people of Saint Luke's, Altoona, and our entire diocese in his work with Shaped by Faith. Please wish Fr. Kevin all the best and attend a coffee hour in his honor on July 3.

Finally, as we enter a slightly less busy time in the life of the parish, I want to share with you a beautiful reminder of why we do what we do—why it matters that we continue to be a presence in Bellefonte.

A few weeks ago, I received a phone call from a father of two, James Torrance, inquiring about baptizing his youngest son at Saint John's. Having recently relocated to Pittsburgh from Southwest Florida, his family is without a church home. With family connections to Bellefonte, James inquired about baptizing Calvin in our church, which I was very happy to agree to, even though I won't be here. Fr. Kevin will do the baptism on Sunday, July 3—talk about a final Sunday!

Calvin's baptism, like all baptisms, is a cause for celebration, but it is particularly a moment for healing, mercy, and hope. A few weeks after his Baptism, Calvin will undergo surgery. As you might imagine, having your child undergo surgery at such a young age brings forth a wide range of thoughts and emotions. I hope that God's grace, which is given to all of us in Baptism, carries and strengthens this family. Our witness at the corner of Allegheny and Lamb is

not only for Bellefonte, State College, or all who live in Centre County. It is not only for those who belong to the Episcopal Church or even those who share in the Catholic tradition, but for all people who are drawn to the love of God made known to us in Jesus Christ. Thank you for allowing us to be a house of prayer and worship for all people; and thank you for trusting me to lead you in this important work.

May you have a wonderful and restful summer.

Yours in Christ,  
**Fr. Carlos†**

### ***FROM THE DEACON'S PERCH***

*"We bless you Father, The Lord of Life to whom all living beings tend, the source of holiness and grace, our beginning and our end."*

As we just have celebrated our summer solstice, I listen to the birds and look at all the plants that Ellen planted in our garden. I enjoy cool mornings and breath-taking sunrises



and sunsets – and 14-hour days! I haven't seen that sunset yet because I go to bed early, but as I lie in bed and see the sun going down behind Perdue Mountain, I think about the words, "I do bless you, Father, o gracious maker of life." I reflect on the wonders of creation and take it all in. I know there is much strife around us and in the world, but even our Lord went off to pray, and this is where I'm leading with this train of thought. Step out of our material world for a

moment and look at this enriched earth that God has given to us. Look around you and within yourself. There are several ways to accomplish this: by daily devotionals, morning and evening prayer, a daily meditational book, Christian music, classical music, and, for some, hip-hop. During the summer months, pay attention to things that we take care of: maybe our pool, lawn, recreational toys, boats, bikes, kayaks, cars, etc. Now look again and ask yourself “*My soul, how are you today?*” Our inner spirit as well as our physical body needs the same attention that we give to our belongings. Take time to nourish the soul, and in doing so, the source of grace and wellbeing will be evident in our outlook on life itself.

June has been a busy month for my ministry in the community and around the county. CPI held their technical school graduation, and I was a part of that. Next week I will be assisting with the nurses’ graduating class with the Invocation and Benediction.



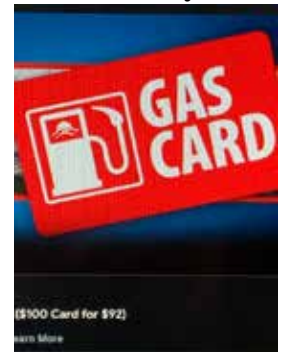
Centre Care is getting busy, so I plan to spend more time with the residents and staff. Out of the Cold has asked me to do some night duty to help them in their new location.

The Monday night men’s group just finished *Christian Discipleship*, which was a great study for all of us. We are taking off for the month of July and will pick up again in August. There is

always an empty chair that we pray to be filled, so please ask me or Larry about the group.

I recently had the honor of serving as Deacon of the Mass at the Zembo Shrine in Harrisburg, serving with our Bishop Audrey, Retired Bishop Baxter, and Presiding Bishop Michael Curry. Approximately 400-500 people were in attendance. It was a truly uplifting event to be with so many Episcopalians.

Many thanks to all of you at St. John’s for your support in our mission in the community. We



gave approximately 150 meals to Out of the Cold, and we provided gas cards to help minimum-wage workers get to work. Your contributions also were used to help student nurses, as well as PAWS and the food bank. Thank you for your gifts to my discretionary fund; without you, these initiatives couldn’t be done. As a closing note, continue to pray for the Ukraine, the world, human rights, an end to gun violence, and our own community. Have a blessed summer.

~Deacon Alex†



## **FLOOR REPAIRS, NEW ALTAR PLATFORM, AND MORE**



In July, we will begin a number of projects to beautify, repair, and care for our church. Here's a list of things to come:

- In July, Larry Roberson and Jeff Wilson will address the sinking floors in the vestibule (church entrance).
- In August, Custom Hardwood by Design from Williamsport, PA, will replace damaged floor pieces in the vestibule, and re-stain and seal the hardwood floors. They will also strip the carpet in the choir and altar area, exposing the original hardwood floors, sanding down the floors, and re-staining the choir and altar area.
- After this work has been completed, our altar area will be in a state of transition as we await a new altar platform to arrive some time toward the end of the year into early 2023. This means that for a few months, things will look slightly different—mainly, the altar will sit a bit lower and even feel a bit smaller.
- Also, toward the end of the year into early 2023, we await the arrival of two new columbarium units. These two units will flank our existing columbarium, adding a

total of 24 new niches. We hope that by next year's annual meeting in late January, parishioners will be able to begin inquiring about purchasing a niche. More detailed information, including prices and the purchase process, will be determined by the Rector and Vestry later this year.

We are very fortunate that we have not needed to launch an appeal for these projects. Funds will be reallocated from the approved parish budget, or will draw on reserves. **THANK YOU** for your generous donations throughout the year. None of this would be possible without your special financial gifts.

## **HELP WANTED: COFFEE HOUR**

We have enjoyed several coffee hour gatherings in the past months. As you can see by the photo, all have been well-attended and obviously enjoyed by the participants.

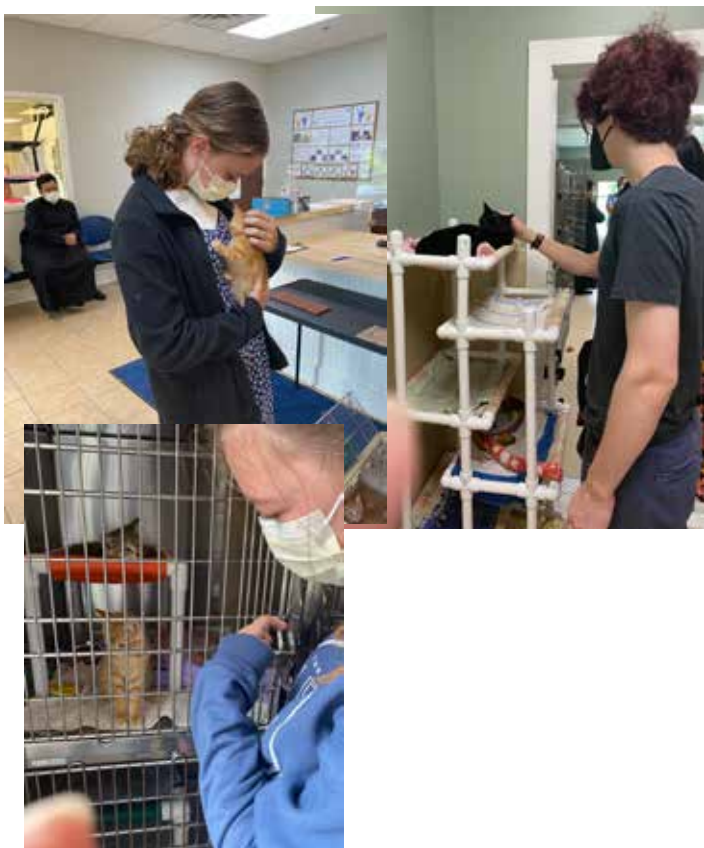


Now for the “Help Wanted” part 😊: While we post the link to sign up for hosting every month, the same few names continuously appear on the

list. If you have been enjoying this time of fellowship (and food), won't you step up to help? We need volunteers to set up, serve beverages, and clean up afterwards. ALL items are provided by the church, so *you don't need to prepare anything*. You can also speak to Trish Weidemann, Deb Cree, or Carol Fyfe for guidance on the logistics of hosting. To sign up, please visit our sign-up link, <https://bit.ly/3um2fBp>, use the sheet in the back of the church, or contact the parish office. Thank you for your help!

### FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

As a result of one of their confirmation projects, our youth raised money for PAWS. They donated \$500 to the animal shelter, and afterward were given a tour of the facility.



### AROUND THE PARISH FAMILY TABLE



**Emily Sterk** and **David Cree** play in the clarinet section of the Bellefonte Community Band. The group presents concerts of popular and patriotic music throughout Centre and Clinton Counties. The band's schedule of appearances is listed at <https://bellefonteband.net/schedule/>.



### JULY BIRTHDAYS

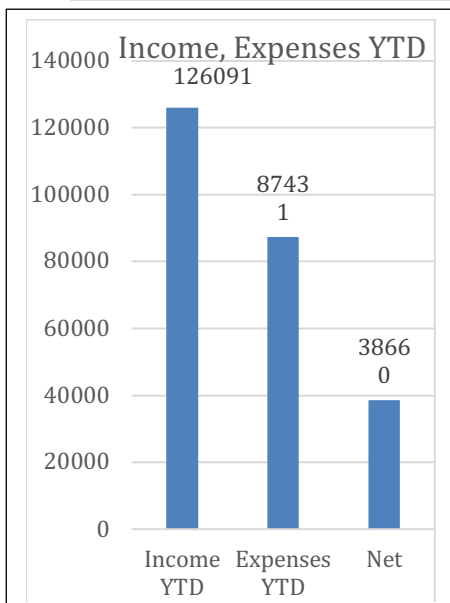
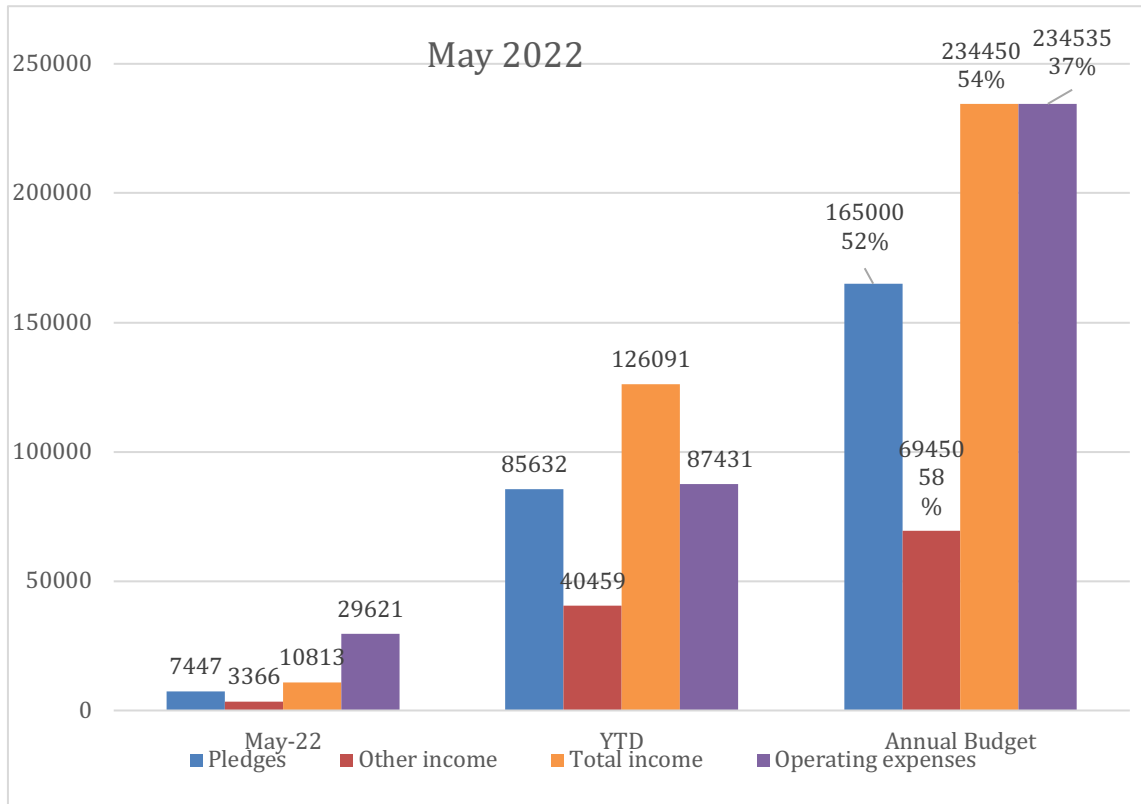
Mark	Eminhizer, II	July 02
Charity	Holland	July 04
Liam	Quigley	July 06
Ross	Pifer	July 10
Julie	Duminiak	July 16
Timothy	Clayton	July 18
Lois	Fetzer	July 18
Daniel	McGinley	July 19
Larry	Roberson	July 23
Christopher	Clayton	July 24
David	King	July 28

### AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Ben	Harwood	August 04
Sydney	Fetters	August 08
Peggy	Jackson	August 09
Billie Jo	North	August 11
Nancy	Andrews	August 24
Elizabeth	Pifer	August 30

## MAY FINANCIAL:

	May-22	YTD	Annual Budget	YTD % of Budget
Pledges	7447	85632	165000	52%
Other income	3366	40459	69450	58%
<b>Total income</b>	<b>10813</b>	<b>126091</b>	<b>234450</b>	<b>54%</b>
<b>Operating expenses</b>	<b>29621</b>	<b>87431</b>	<b>234535</b>	<b>37%</b>
<b>Net</b>	<b>-18808</b>	<b>38660</b>		



Income YTD	Expenses YTD	Net
126091	87431	38660

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