



## RECTOR'S LETTER

Dear friends,

As we continue to experience the “four seasons” – wearing short-sleeved shirts one day, and the next putting on our winter jackets – in the Church, we celebrate one sure and steadfast season: Eastertide. For Catholic Christians, Easter is not a one-day event, a single Sunday on the calendar, but an entire season lasting 50 days from Easter Day to Pentecost.



During this and every Eastertide, we celebrate the feasts of the Ascension and Pentecost, two integral and foundational feasts in the formation of the Church. This year we will celebrate Ascension Day, **Thursday, May 18**, with a Low Mass with organ music and cantor, followed by a parish dinner in the Fellowship Hall. The Ascension festivities continue a few days later with Evensong and Benediction on **Sunday, May 21**, at 5:00 p.m.

In previous years, we have held a Pentecost cookout and picnic in Deacon Alex's backyard. However, with his

ongoing recovery from knee replacement surgery and his well-earned sabbatical, we are foregoing this event with the hope that we can offer a Fall cookout and picnic. However, you can still wear **red** on Pentecost!



Before we celebrate Ascension Day and Pentecost at Saint John's, we will celebrate the feast of St. John before the Latin Gate, a new-old feast day (read more about it later in this issue of *The Herald*) as our Eastertide patronal feast day. And as if we didn't have enough observances, on **Sunday, May 14** (Rogation Sunday), we will bless our garden beds for the summer harvest.

As we prepare to celebrate these great feasts and observances in the life of the Church, I want to share two exciting pieces of news. Our seminarian, Kevin Lowe, marks the end of his first program year at Saint John's on Sunday, May 7. He will take a much-deserved break from his duties for the remainder of May. I'm happy to announce that he will continue to serve at Saint John's during all of June and July. During this summer internship, Kevin will focus on preaching and strengthening his general priestcraft.

I'm also very excited to share with you that **Father Kevin Barron**, our former Diaconal intern, priest associate, and long-time friend of the parish, will be returning to Saint John's to once again serve as priest associate. Father Kevin will be with us the second and fourth Sundays of the month beginning in June, with June itself being an outlier – he will be with us back-to-back on June 4 and 11 for Trinity Sunday and the feast of Corpus Christi.

Please welcome back Kevin the Elder and Kevin the Younger to Saint John's this summer!

Yours in the Risen Christ,  
~Father Carlos †

## **OUTREACH GUILD PHASE II** **Sunday, May 7, 9:50 – 10:20 a.m.**



Thank you to everyone who participated in our outreach conversations last month. On **Sunday, May 7**, at 9:50 a.m., we will have an outreach guild gathering in the rectory to help distribute “jobs” to assist our efforts at the Food Bank, Out of the Cold, and the Bellefonte Youth Center for the summer and fall. Similarly, we will begin to discuss new outreach efforts to support and connect parishioners who cannot join us on Sunday and to brainstorm some possible new strategic partnerships in our community.

**A NEW-OLD FEAST DAY: ST. JOHN BEFORE THE  
LATIN GATE**  
**Sunday, May 7**



Prior to changes in the Western Church calendar, May 6 was the Feast of the Martyrdom of St. John before the Latin Gate. Toward the end of the first century, Roman Emperor Domitian tried to execute St. John at the Latin Gate by having him put into a cauldron of boiling oil. The tradition tells us that the Apostle, who was left unharmed, was then banished to the island of Patmos in Greece, where he wrote the Book of Revelation For centuries, this feast day has served as a secondary celebration in honor of St. John, our patron, with his principal feast taking place on December 27 – which guarantees that it will almost always go unobserved, even in parishes that bear his name. This year, and hopefully in years to come, we will

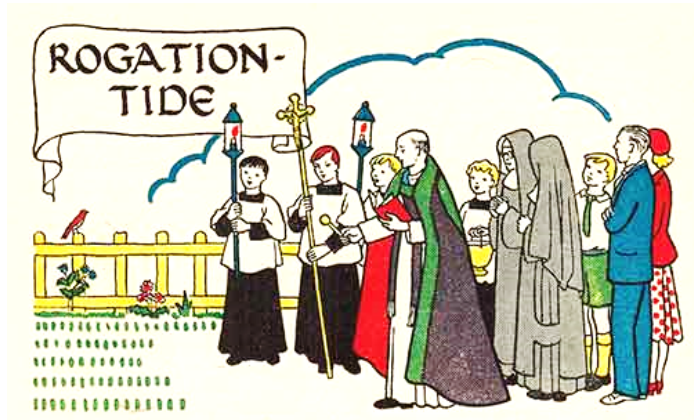
reclaim and observe the feast of St. John before the Latin Gate on the Sunday closest to May 6. This year that will occur on **Sunday, May 7.**

**SPRING CLEANING AND GARDENING DAY**  
**Saturday, May 13, at 9:00 a.m.**



On **Saturday, May 13**, we will be cleaning in and around the church to prepare our grounds and sanctuary for summer. We need 8-10 people to help with weeding and planting (please bring work gloves); 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!

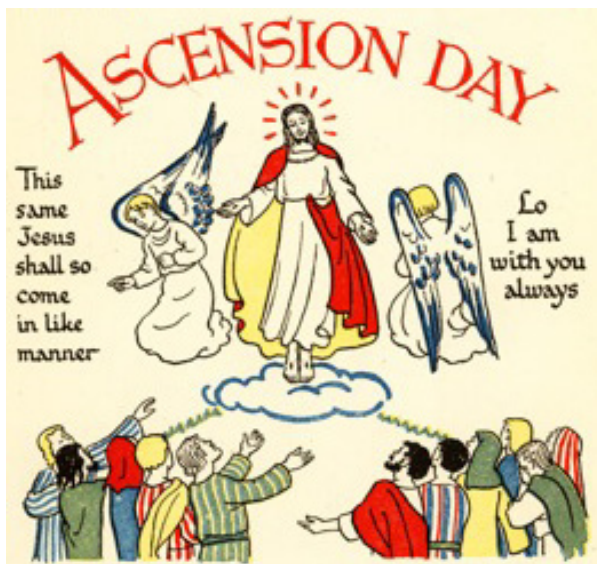
**BLESSING OF THE GARDEN**  
**Sunday, May 14: Rogation Sunday**



The Sixth Sunday of Easter is designated as Rogation Sunday, a day to offer prayers for the summer harvest. On **Sunday, May 14** (Rogation Sunday) we will conclude the 10:30 a.m. mass with an outdoor Blessing of the Garden. A festive coffee hour will follow.

***Let us keep the Feast!***

**LOW MASS & DINNER FOR ASCENSION DAY**  
**Thursday, May 18, at 5:30 p.m.**



*Let us keep the Feast!* is a monthly worship and dinner series that celebrates

feast days of the Church that would otherwise go unobserved.

Mark your calendars as we celebrate the Ascension of Our Lord Jesus Christ. We will begin with Low Mass accompanied by organ music and cantor, followed by a hearty dinner in the Fellowship Hall. Bring your prayers and a hearty appetite.

To assist with food preparations, please RSVP for dinner by confirming your attendance on Facebook or by contacting the parish office:

[office@stjohnsepiscopalbellefonte.org](mailto:office@stjohnsepiscopalbellefonte.org)

Mark your calendar for our June *Let Us Keep the Feast!* Celebration. This will be our last observance until the fall.

**\*\*Please note the new date and observance\*\***

**Thursday, June 29 – The Feast of Ss. Peter & Paul**

**CHORAL EVENSONG & BENEDICTION OF THE  
BLESSED SACRAMENT**  
Sunday, May 21, at 5:00 p.m.



A Service of Choral Evensong & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament will be offered on **Sunday, May 21**, 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, 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 second Evensong & Benediction of the year.

**MOUNT NITTANY HOSPITAL**  
**ER Trauma Patient Clothing Assistance**



Every day at Mount Nittany Health, nursing professionals go above and beyond for their patients. Jenn Traxler, an ER nurse at Mount Nittany Health, coordinates a clothing collection for trauma patients. We've been asked to help collect men's t-shirts, sweatpants, and sweatshirts (XL and up) for patients in need. Many thanks to Steve Dillon for coordinating this effort. You can place your donations in the cloth basket in the back of the church next to the Saint Lawrence altar.

**COFFEE HOUR VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**  
**Sundays after the 10:30 a.m. Mass**



**Please consider volunteering for coffee hour.** Drinks and food items are all provided by the church. To sign up for a slot, please visit our sign-up link: <https://bit.ly/3um2fBp>; or use the sign-up sheet on the lectern in the back of the church. Speak to Trish Wiedemann, Deb Cree, or Carol Fyfe if you need assistance with the logistics of hosting. Many thanks to everyone who's helped with coffee hour; thank you for supporting this vital ministry of fellowship and hospitality!

**MAY BIRTHDAYS**

- May 01 Avery North
- May 03 Genavieve Clayton
- May 03 Bette Shugert
- May 07 Elizabeth Helms
- May 19 Andrea Skirpan
- May 20 Michael Duminiak
- May 28 Erik Clayton
- May 28 Abby Fetters
- May 30 Jeffery Wilson



**QUICK REFERENCE FOR UPCOMING MAY DATES**

May 7   9:50 a.m.	Outreach Guild Meeting
May 13   9:00 a.m.	Spring Cleaning/Gardening
May 14   11:45 a.m.	Rogation/Garden Blessing
May 18   5:30 p.m.	Ascension Day Mass/Dinner
May 21   5:00 p.m.	Evensong/Benediction

## FATHER CARLOS HONORED AT COUNTY DINNER



Fr. Carlos was presented an award at the Youth Service Bureau's annual Rose Cologne Volunteer Dinner. It honors one volunteer from each of the area human service agencies. The YSB wrote a wonderful description of how Fr. Carlos spearheaded the collaborative effort between the agency and St. John's. It emphasized a three-year partnership of working together to prepare garden space, plant and harvest vegetables, and prepare food in St. John's rectory space. It also mentioned the use of the parish hall for the YSB to meet and plan programs for area families and their children. In accepting the award, Fr. Carlos made remarks about the satisfaction of promoting the well-being of the area youth involved in the program.

We at St. John's are very proud!

## AROUND THE PARISH FAMILY TABLE



**Liam Quigley** was recently inducted into the Penns Valley chapter of the National Honor Society.



Congratulations, Liam!

## GOODBYE AND GODSPEED!



Our friends and members, **David Frego** and **Jim Bliet**, will be departing St. John's and Pennsylvania this month to retire to their former residence of Columbus, OH, where David once served on the faculty of OSU. We will especially miss Jim's artistry with the Altar Guild's stunning floral displays. Rumor has it that Fr. Carlos has offered to fly Jim to Bellefonte for future decorating events!

## VESTRY NEWS

The vestry met via Zoom on April 19.

### Rector's Report:

- Thank you to everyone for being part of Holy Week and Easter.
- Attendance over the four days was over 200.
- Let us Keep the Feast is April 25.
- Evensong is May 21 – Father Ted Christopher will be guest preacher in the morning and will officiate Evensong.
- New floors were put in prior to Easter. Still waiting for final stain and then altar rails will be put back. Hopefully, by the end of May everything should be finalized.
- Bat mitigation process is long term. We are monitoring the process and have decreased access points.
- Youth Center Garden: David King and Father Carlos meeting with YSB tomorrow to begin this year's garden.
- Thank you for participating with Alex's celebration of ministry. He has called twice to express his gratitude.
- Fr Carlos will be away June 21-25 for a conference.
- Father Kevin Barron's parish (St. Luke's Altoona) is in the process of closing. He will be stepping away and will now be serving the Diocese at ¾ time. We have asked him to join us as priest associate

beginning in June; he will assist at the altar twice a month. Except for when he preaches, no remuneration is required.

### Treasurer Report

- Looking really healthy. Pledges coming in nicely.
- Waiting for bills for Easter flowers.

### Senior Warden

- Thank you to everyone who participated in the Corned Beef dinner. We sold out. Alex plans to do corned beef breakfast later on.
- Spoke with the vendor who is doing bat mitigation; should hear less bird chirping.
- Lawn mowing process will begin. Thank you to all who helped with this.

### Junior Warden

- Tree in front of church is now down. The area will be cleaned and reseeded on Friday.

### New Business

- Spring cleaning day – planning on May 13 with a rain date of the 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Parishioners Jim Blied and David Frego are moving away in May. Will offer a blessing/prayer for them.
- St. John's Website: our website admin is no longer working. Consider looking for a new design. Cost would be around \$1K. Would like approval to do research. Deb Cree volunteered to help Father Carlos.



- Lighting removal: Liz Helms has offered to take the burned-out fluorescent bulbs to the recycling center. We should begin to replace fluorescent bulbs with LED ones. Larry and Father Carlos will decide which ones.
- Keep Deacon Alex in your prayers as he is set to have surgery on Friday.

**Vestry Members:** Larry Roberson (Sr. Warden), Scott Mauger (Jr. Warden), Liz Helms, Carol Fyfe, Debra Cree, Alex Germano, Peggy Jackson, Thomas Quigley, David King, Charlotte Zmyslo

	Mar-23	YTD	Annual Budget	YTD % of Budget
Pledges	13992	58016	165000	35%
Other income	15322	30970	69500	45%
<b>Total income</b>	<b>29314</b>	<b>88986</b>	<b>234500</b>	<b>38%</b>
<b>Operating expenses</b>	<b>23414</b>	<b>72685</b>	233418	31%
<b>Net</b>	<b>5900</b>	<b>16301</b>		

