

SS. Simon & Jude Parish

155 N. Brady St.
Blairsville, PA 15717

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Dear Parishioners,

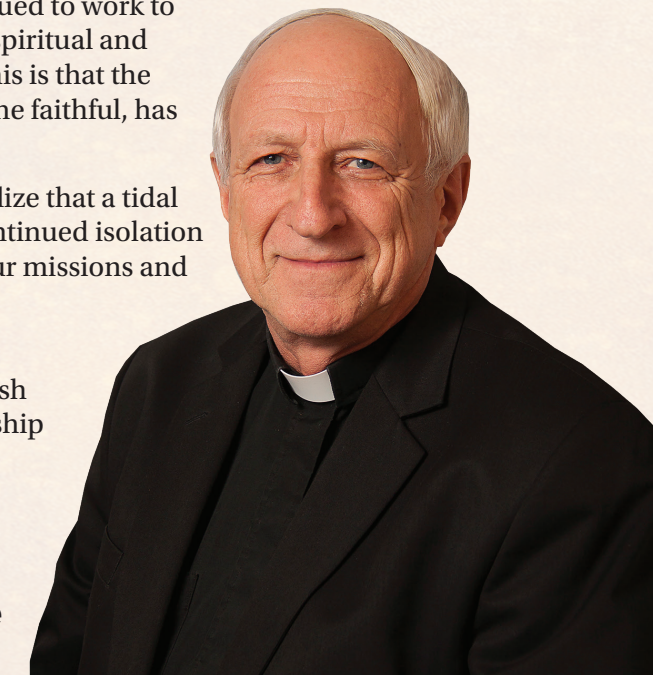
The safety and health of our parish have been in my daily prayers as together we continue to face the ups and downs of the pandemic. Many of you, I know, have endured great pain and personal loss, not to mention the numerous concerns that have developed as the pandemic has imposed an ongoing struggle with fear and isolation in many people's lives. Still today, there is the ongoing uncertainty of what is next.

I hope you have been comforted by our local and Diocesan attempts of outreach through the streaming of Masses, phone calls, special mailings and other opportunities for prayer. Throughout our diocese, there were also special collections to support mission work at home and around the world, food drives to help the hungry, and volunteers who helped clean and sanitize our churches to help protect our at-risk parishioners. These are just a few examples of the outpouring of love we saw in the name of Jesus Christ throughout the pandemic.

I want you to know that through it all, SS. Simon & Jude Parish has continued to work to nourish the seeds of faith that have been planted, seeking to care for the spiritual and material needs of our entire parish community. The good news in all of this is that the harvest has been bountiful! In fact, the overall support provided by you, the faithful, has been remarkable.

As pleased as we should be about the impact of our outreach, we also realize that a tidal wave of need could still be on the horizon. Economic uncertainty and continued isolation mean the most vulnerable among us will need us now more than ever. Our missions and ministries will need the help of all of us in order to continue.

I want to sincerely thank you for all that you have given to our parish. Remember, your contributions of time, talent, and treasure keep this parish vibrant and impactful. Please remember the importance of your stewardship toward our parish this year so that we can continue God's work.



Yours in Christ,
Father Steve

Growing Support for our
FAITH
Community



SS. Simon & Jude Parish Annual Report 2021

Flowers that Feed the Soul: Our Ministry Listing

- Altar Servers
- Angels of Compassion
- Liturgy Arts and Environment
- Cantors
- Children's Leaders of the Word
- Catechists
- Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion
- Choirs
- Lectors
- Ushers



Cultivate the Garden Within: Capital Improvements



Your contributions to our parish are needed to maintain our facilities here at SS. Simon & Jude, helping to make our church a beautiful center of prayer in our community. Funds are needed to maintain our parish programs, pay utility bills, and cover expenses for upkeep and improvements to our parish facilities.

As you know, this year we had to undertake the expensive project of replacing the air conditioning and air

handler units in our church. The former units had served the parish well for more than 40 years and were finally very much in need of replacement. We spent most of the hot summer without air conditioning, requiring us to celebrate many of our Sunday liturgies in Marian Hall. With your needed support, it will be great to return to our beautiful and comfortable church building to, with grateful hearts, worship God long into the future.

Parish Financials

	2020-21	2019-20	2018-19
Offertory	\$ 302,811	\$ 294,386	\$ 303,429
Other Ordinary Income <i>(monthly collections, votive candles)</i>	1,258	1,193	2,201
Extraordinary Income <i>(bequests, donations, fundraising, interest, rental income)</i>	15,212	26,948	92,744
Diocesan Lenten Appeal Refund	10,502	3,793	6,622
Other Non-Assessable Income <i>(The Catholic Accent, sale of property, insurance reimbursements, and PPP Loan)</i>	3,928	39,273	3,233
Special Collections	10,181	14,881	14,679
Total Income	\$ 343,892	\$ 380,474	\$ 422,908
Expenses			
Administration	\$ 98,489	\$ 95,523	\$ 91,685
Church	41,777	44,335	34,049
Rectory	5,820	7,137	5,427
Education and Ministry	30,728	38,200	37,368
General Expenses	157,197	161,356	143,975
Special Collections	10,161	14,249	15,413
Extraordinary Expenses	14,196	15,734	27,582
Total Expenditures	358,368	376,534	355,499
Net Operating Income (Loss)	\$ (14,476)	\$ 3,940	\$ 67,409

Our Garden



Registered Households

2021: 379
2020: 391
2019: 406

Single Member Households

144



Baptisms

2021: 3
2020: 4
2019: 4

Weddings

2021: 2
2020: 2
2019: 2



Funerals

2021: 23
2020: 25
2019: 21



Weathering COVID-19

Just as God has provided for you, so you have provided for the needs of our parish. Your investment is like the tilling of the soil, helping us to grow stronger. Despite the pandemic, our parish offertory remained strong, primarily due to your generosity; but it was greatly assisted by online giving and a record-breaking Diocesan Lenten Appeal.

As I am sure you can imagine, our parish, and particularly our societies, suffered from the loss of fundraising monies during this past year. Many events had to be cancelled or postponed due to the pandemic. Our very popular fall craft show has also unfortunately been cancelled again for this year. Hopefully, circumstances will allow us to plan parish events for the near future that would invite our participation.

I do want to call your attention to an important ongoing initiative here in our parish that certainly requires the support of all of us. This is our parish faith formation program which had to become innovative last year because of pandemic restrictions. Our staff developed a very successful "monthly drive thru" program where families picked up their guided family activities for each month. This was a program that included all family members in the process of faith formation. This year we hope to return to a more traditional program, but one that will have to maintain a flexibility due to continuing concerns over the pandemic.

These important efforts will go a long way toward planting the seeds of faith in the next generation of our parish.

Ways You Can Give



BY MAIL:
SS. Simon & Jude Parish
155 N. Brady St.
Blairsville, PA 15717



IN PERSON:
Drop in Collection Basket
at Weekend Masses OR
Bring to the parish office
Monday - Thursday
9:00AM - 3:00PM



ONLINE:
SaintSimonandJude.org

