

Devoting Support ^{to our}

FAITH

Community

STAYING CONNECTED

God's work continues during
the COVID-19 pandemic.

INSIDE

How COVID-19 has
impacted our parish

PLUS

We need you! All the
ways you can be part
of our parish!

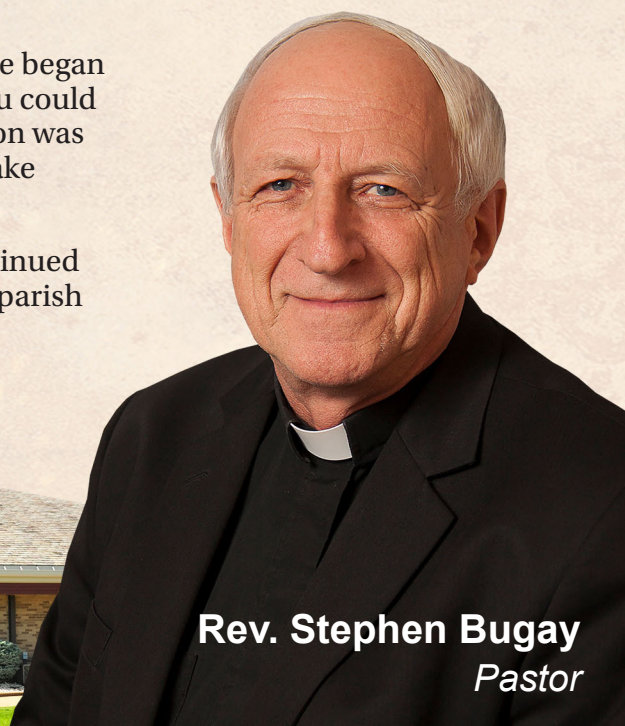


Staying Connected During COVID-19

I have been keeping the parishioners of SS. Simon & Jude Parish in my prayers during this pandemic. I can't even imagine the difficulties you must be facing; balancing family, job, school and everything else that has been made more complicated by COVID-19. During this stress-filled time, I want you to know that our parish continues to care for the spiritual and material needs of our faith community.

Once our church building was closed to public worship in March, we began to inform parishioners of locations online or on television where you could continue to participate in Mass and other devotions. This information was communicated through our parish bulletin that we continued to make available on our parish website and at other locations.

Faith formation students and their families were provided with continued information and formation opportunities through the internet. The parish staff was also able to keep in touch with many of you through phone calls. Once the church building reopened, we created volunteer cleaning crews to sanitize the church and restrooms after each use.



Rev. Stephen Bugay
Pastor

Ways You Can Give



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



Parish Office Hours
Mon - Thur
9 AM - 3 PM



www.saintsimonandjude.org

Sadly, as you can imagine, the virus has greatly impacted every form of stewardship. If you are willing to give of your time and talent to help those in need, please look for our ministry listings and contact us to volunteer. Even though we cannot gather as we normally would, this may be an especially good time to consider a ministry in our parish so that when we do begin to gather, you will have an idea of how you want to serve our community of faith.

Additionally, as you might imagine, your continued financial support during this difficult time will help our parish to maintain and to continue God's work. And so, with great sensitivity to whatever your circumstances might be, I humbly ask, if you are able, that you consider an increase your weekly or monthly offertory. You can make that commitment online or by sending those donations directly to the parish via U.S. Mail or by visiting our website for online offertory.

COVID-19 and its Impact on our Faith Community

Our parish offertory thankfully remained strong during the time of the pandemic as many of you continued to provide your offerings through the mail. This was also greatly assisted by opportunities provided for online giving and by another very good Diocesan Lenten Appeal this year.

However, our parish, and particularly our societies, suffered from the loss of fundraising monies. Activities normally held by the Knights of Columbus or the Catholic Daughters of the Americas were not held this year because of the circumstances in which we are living. Our very popular fall craft show has also been cancelled for this year.



Parish Statistics



Registered Households



2018: 407
2019: 406
2020: 391

Single Member Households



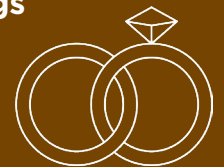
150

Baptisms



2018: 6
2019: 4
2020: 4

Weddings



2018: 2
2019: 2
2020: 2

Funerals



2018: 23
2019: 21
2020: 25

Parish Financials

	2018	2019	2020
Offertory	\$ 302,931	\$ 303,429	\$ 294,386
Other Ordinary Income <i>(monthly collections, votive candles)</i>	2,001	2,201	1,193
Extraordinary Income <i>(bequests, donations, fundraising, interest, rental income)</i>	19,726	92,744	26,948
Diocesan Lenten Appeal Refund	6,313	6,622	3,793
Other Non-Assessable Income <i>(The Catholic Accent, sale of property, insurance reimbursements, and PPP Loan)</i>	2,603	3,233	39,273
Special Collections	24,897	14,679	14,881
Total Income	\$ 358,471	\$ 422,908	\$ 380,474
Expenses			
<i>Administration</i>	\$ 94,905	\$ 91,685	\$ 95,523
<i>Church</i>	41,575	34,049	44,335
<i>Rectory</i>	5,193	5,427	7,137
<i>Education and Ministry</i>	34,379	37,368	38,200
<i>General Expenses</i>	140,976	143,975	161,356
<i>Special Collections</i>	24,821	15,413	14,249
<i>Extraordinary Expenses</i>	80,346	27,582	15,734
Total Expenditures	422,195	355,500	376,534
Net Operating Income (Loss)	\$ (63,724)	\$ 67,408	\$ 3,940

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 up-keep and improvements to our parish facilities.

Within the past few years we have done needed repair work on our beautiful stained glass windows, as well as replaced some of the outside protective glass panels that were broken. Most recently, we converted all of the old light fixtures in the church to LED lighting. This provides better lighting and should be more economical for the future.

Ministries at SS Simon & Jude

SS Simon & Jude encourages its parishioners to participate in one of our liturgical, social or music ministries. If you are interested, please contact the parish office.

Altar Server

Children from grade 3 and up assist at the weekend and holiday Masses. Adults also are needed to serve for funeral Masses.

Angels of Compassion

The Angels cook, serve and clean up for funeral dinners.

Liturgy Arts and Environment

Volunteers help decorate the church for the different seasons, such as: Advent, Christmas, Lent, Holy Week, Easter and Ordinary Time.

Cantors

Cantors are in the choir and help lead the music for the Mass.

Children's Leaders of the Word

Leaders take the young children to a separate area and celebrate with them the liturgy of the word at a level appropriate to their age.

Catechists

Catechists are teachers of the faith formation.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

These ministers assist the priest in the distribution of Holy Communion.

Choirs (Men's, Funeral, Women's)

Parishioners provide musical support of full and active participation in the liturgy

Lectors

Lectors proclaim the word of God during Mass or other liturgical functions and devote time to preparation and understanding of sacred Scripture.

Ushers

Ushers help parishioners find seating, if needed, and pass the collection baskets during the presentation.