

News for the Pews

Volume 1, Number 8

January 13, 2019

Happy New Year! Here's hoping you and yours had a joyful Christmas blessed by full knowledge of the Lord's ultimate gift to us as it was being commemorated. May your 2019 be equally blessed. You'll be happy to know that I'll be Parish Council president and Grand Knight through the whole calendar year, so you've got that going for you. HAHAHAAAA! I'm just too funny. I'm tempted to say 'I kill myself sometimes,' but I don't want to give anybody ideas.

Parish events for 2019 kicked off with the belated meeting of the Knights of Columbus on Wednesday, January 9. We covered a good bit of ground, donating money for a couple of things and setting the dates for the Lenten Fish Fries. Those will be March 8, March 29, April 5 and April 12. The first of these will be promoted as a fundraiser for the church's HVAC system. Please spread the word and attend in full force. There will be no charge for the meal, but we will be asking for donations at the door. We'll probably have a stretch raffle as well, but with Lent just getting started, we'll likely avoid a pie auction. Unfortunately, skyrocketing fish prices are probably going to force us to boost the admission charge at later events.

Be sure to attend the January meet-n-greet after Sunday morning Mass this weekend (1/13). It's a great way for everyone to get together and compare notes over their Christmas presents and holiday activities. Attending and eating lots of doughnuts would also help me avoid having to make the ultimate sacrifice in disposing of all the leftovers. As usual, CCD class attendees can get a doughnut and juice on their way to class.

As an aside, have you ever noticed the following feature of the church? Do you know where it is? It's rather clearly a bird of paradise. I

think it's pretty obviously placed to serve as a symbol, of which the church is chock-full. Again, don't go gawking around looking for it during mass, pay attention, and pray for all the poor sinners of the parish, starting with me. I noted last month that there seemed to be no representations of cats in the church's art work, but there are two lions. First is the lion accompanying the St. Mark statue on the high altar, second is a painted lion representing a bas relief on Pilate's chair in the first station.



We members of the Parish Council fully back Father Pius and Deacon Brian in encouraging anyone interested in attending the Procession for Life, next Sunday, January 20. It starts at the plaza of the Doubletree Hotel on Markham, runs through

Riverfront Park to the Robinson Performance Hall, where Bishop Anthony Taylor will celebrate a Mass for Life at noon. Contact Deacon Brian, Vicki Ross, Debra Lynn Post or me for more information. The Parish Council is prepared to pay transportation costs for anyone attending. The deadline for signing up for the associated youth event beginning Saturday has passed. Attendees were greatly impressed with last year's event.

Religious education director Lexie Highfill has organized a pizza night and "Circle of Grace" class for the night of Wednesday, January 23 after 6:00 PM mass. The diocese requires that all students attend, and parents are encouraged to participate as well. Pizza will be served around 6:30, followed by several group activities led by teachers of the CCD classes. Lexie says, "the more, the merrier."

All should be aware that the deadline for registering to attend the Steubenville Youth Conference (scheduled for July 19-21) is February 1. Let Debra Lynn know if you want to attend. The conference is for young folks entering the 9th grade to recently graduated seniors. Students are responsible for the \$50 registration fee. If memory serves, the parish and various organizations essentially cover all other expenses. I must say I've never heard any negative comments about this conference. Let's do all we can to encourage our teenagers to attend.

The bible study group continues meeting at Tom and Amy Sexton's house on Wednesday evenings after mass. They decided to do an 'in-house' preview of the Gospel of John study series they had previously proposed to bring to parish small group sessions in much the same manner as was done with the "Why Catholic" and "Catholicism" series. They are not sure when they will push for parish-wide study. I think most people enjoyed those previous series a great deal. I know I did, so I hope everyone is interested. Please talk this up and let's try to improve our own knowledge and understanding of our faith. Contact, Amy, Diane Gray, Bob Conrad, Jennifer Wright or one of the bible study members for more information.

Braxton Leding, our Parish Council member who's commission is focused on Liturgy will soon be in charge of our 'Formed' subscription. In a sense, Formed is like Catholic Netflix, with a huge library of audio/visual content available to parishioners of all ages and groups. Formed has a very good program that can be used for study groups. In addition to videos, it has full-length books, audiobooks and other audio supplements. Look for more on this in the near future. Thanks to Braxton for taking the lead on this. Maybe he'll even be able to teach some of us old fogies how to stream stuff from our WiFi to our television sets.

I'd like to offer our warmest thanks to Joseph and Debra Lynn Post on behalf of the parish for their efforts in organizing and hosting group activities for the parish youth. Did you know they have been holding monthly youth nights, following Wednesday night Masses? They apparently advertise these via word of mouth, texts and social media. Thus, those of us who refuse to 'Facebook' are largely out of that loop. Joseph, Debra Lynn, please don't hesitate to ask other parish members for help and support if/when it's needed.

Now for some Lent/Easter Trivia. Ash Wednesday 2018 fell on St. Valentine's Day and Easter was celebrated on April 1, April Fools Day. That was the first time those dates had aligned since 1956. Thus, it seems really rare, but that alignment of special days also occurred in 1945, 1934 and 1923. Ash Wednesday arrives on March 6 this year, with Easter coming on April 21. That's really late, since the latest Easter can arrive is April 25. In contrast, the earliest Easter occurs in March 22. We came close to the earliest date in 2008, when Easter came on March 23. And we missed the latest date by one day in 2011, when it arrived on April 24. It will come on April 25 in 2038. Easter last occurred on March 22 in 1818 and it won't come on that day again until 2285. I'm planning on celebrating that one in the Ozark Nursing Home. I hope you all will come visit me.

Daniel "I Didn't Do It" Vaught

P.S. The bird of paradise is in the Fourteenth Station of the Cross.