

News for the Pews

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February 2, 2019

Happy Ground Hog Day. Wow, for some reason I've got a strong feeling of a déjà vu. January sure seemed to fly by. It's probably because Toni Plugge was off runnin' around Texas instead of making trouble here in Altus. Welcome Back!

February is getting off to a quick start this weekend with the Ozark Chamber of Commerce Banquet on Saturday night (2/2). Jim Rofkahr's circle group is working the event, so we know it will go well. Bill Leding was nominated for a lifetime achievement award. I sure hope he wins. I'm sure he's done a lot for the Ozark/Altus community, but I wonder how he finds the time, since he does so much for St. Mary's, particularly in keeping Lawrence Hall prepared and presentable. Of course, the other Hall committee members Jim Rofkahr and Vicki Ross also do a great deal. There's no telling how many thousands of dollars Jim saves the parish by maintaining hall equipment and appliances, while Vicki keeps the calendar and orders supplies (among other things). I thank you all on behalf of everyone in the parish.

The Daughters of Mary had a champagne breakfast on January 27. The main order of business was electing new officers. Those are: President, Trish Alston; Vice President, Emily Morrow, and Treasurer, Megan Mayeaux. We wish them great success during their forthcoming tenure. Did I hear somebody say those are 10-year terms? 😊

It's time for this month's church quiz. Where in the church is the Holy Trinity explicitly represented? The answer is on the back.

The small group that attended the Circle of Grace meeting enjoyed pizza and a good time, although the turnout was rather disappointing. DRE Lexie Highfill will be working on follow-up

training in the weeks ahead. However, there will be no Faith Formation classes on February 17, since the following day is a school holiday.

As usual, the first Wednesday of the month (2/6) (which coincidentally is the birthday of several great Americans, including Babe Ruth, Ronald Reagan, Joel Vaught, etc..) will see the Knights of Columbus holding their monthly meeting after Mass. We encourage all members to attend and invite all Catholic men to join.

As pointed out last month, the Knights voted to make the first fish fry of the 2019 Lenten season, on Friday, March 8 a fundraiser for the church's HVAC system. The fish and fixin's are always good and we make sure you get your money's worth. Please encourage all your friends, relatives and acquaintances to attend...and give generously, of course. Whatever we raise will be that much we won't have to raise internally.

The fish fry will be preceded by the biannual Trivia Night on Saturday, March 2. It will be much the same as past events, although we (the St. Joseph Society and Daughters of Mary) will change a couple of things. The table charge remains at \$100, with a maximum of 10 team members per table. We're eliminating the candy guessing game, as well as the practice of selling 'correct answers.' Please gather as many members and teams as possible, attend and have a good time. As usual, we'll be giving away sodas and popcorn and selling pizza by the slice. BYOB and food. The money raised either gets spent on the parish or given to charity. We didn't do a very good job of publicizing it, but we gave \$1,000 to the Franklin County senior center in 2017 to help pay for a new HVAC unit.

Be sure to attend the February meet-n-greet after Mass next Sunday (2/10). Come, have a doughnut and visit with your parish family. And if you haven't seen her lately, wish Vicki Wiederkehr a belated happy 49th birthday. We will also be having a parish council meeting at 4:00 PM on February 10. We'll discuss the church HVAC system and fundraising among other things. We'll probably talk about the project to refurbish/build the church confessional. The building committee, Jim Rofkahr, Father Pius, a professional builder and I met twice in January in an effort to get the project off the ground. We're waiting on potential designs & estimates from the builder and will go from there.

Make a note on your calendar to attend a presentation by Sister Macrina Wiederkehr, OSB, who most of you know grew up in our parish, at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, February 13. She's famous as a writer and thinker. Her topic will be, "Piercing the Heart: A Celebration of Your Brokenness," with the central idea being to recognize Lent as a time to appreciate our failings and how recognize the blessings that flow from an awakened and open heart. It need not be a gloomy season.

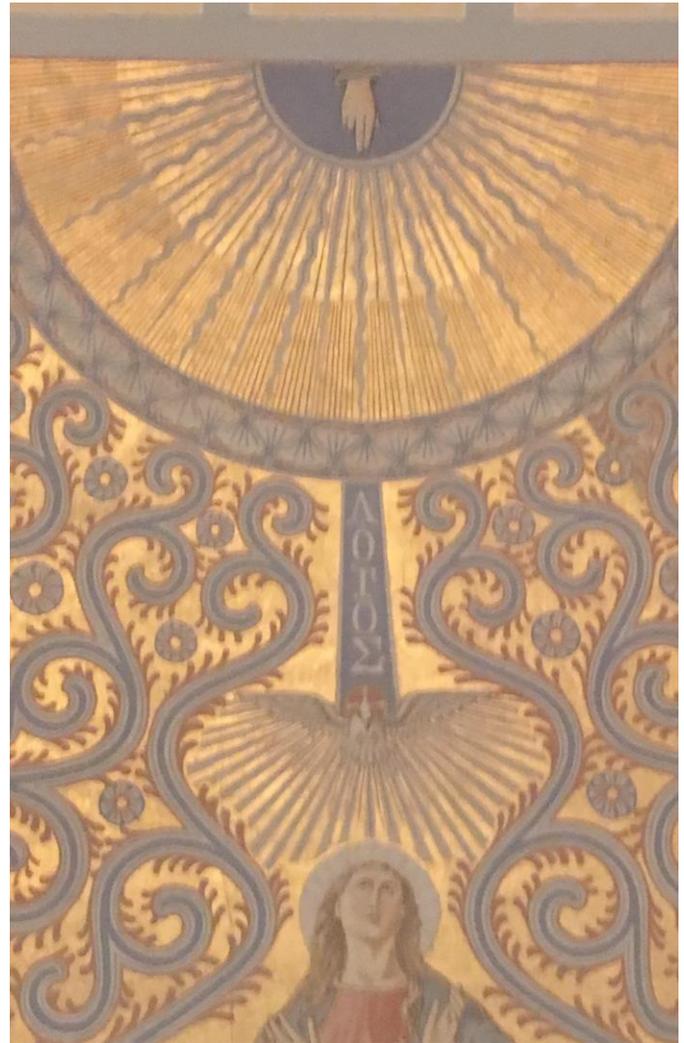
The bible study group is still working through the Gospel of John study series on Wednesday evenings at Tom and Amy Sexton's house. I think I'm not at all alone in hoping they find it very fulfilling and will renew their push to have parish small groups go through the series.

As noted last month, Braxton Leding, is in charge of the parish's subscription to Formed, a sort-of Catholic Net-Flix. I've watched several documentaries on it and found the one on St. Solonus Casey very informative and inspiring. To connect to it, go to the link [stmaryaltus.formed.org]. You may need to enter the access code MHBWWN. Once there, you will be prompted to create an account (with username and password) that will link to the parish's subscription. The parish is paying a not-insignificant sum for this service, so check it out and help make it worth the investment.

Debra Lynn Post asked me to remind the youth of the CYM church camp being held July 12-14. It's for those entering the 9th grade to recent high school graduates. Also, if any college age

youth would like to help as counselors, contact Debra Lynn ASAP. I attended something similar around Memorial Day one year. Judging by the temperatures that night, it was t,t,t,t,too e,e,e,e,early in the y,y,y,y,year. Of course, that was back during the ice age experienced in the 1970's.

Have you ever heard guest choirs sing in St. Mary's church? They are well worth the time and effort taken to attend. You'll get an opportunity to attend a concert by the Clarksville school choir(s) on Tuesday, February 26. We heard these kids last year and they were very impressive.



I always knew the hand at top represented God the Father and that the dove was the Holy Spirit. It was only recently that the word ΛΟΓΟΣ (LOGOS) in the blue bar was pointed out to me. That's Greek for 'Word', and we all know Jesus Christ is the Word of God.

Daniel "Number 3 Son" Vaught