

News for the Pews

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March 2, 2020

For some reason, February 2020 seemed to pass very quickly. The weather did warm a bit from January, but subfreezing temperatures were still quite common through the month. The Ozark Chamber of Commerce banquet started the month with a bang. It was a very nice affair and Jim & Mary Jane's group worked hard to make it a success. Buffalo was joking that his reign as "Man of the Year" was ending, but we all know the Lifetime Achievement award counts for a lifetime. But no resting on your laurels Buff. Trivia Night seemed to go well, with the St. Joseph Society and Daughters of Mary adding a few hundred dollars to enable their work in the parish and community. I guess it went well, since nobody tried to tar and feather me at the end of the night...although Todd Schultz was definitely giving me the stinkeye.

The scripture study group led by Bob Conrad and Diane Grey began the "33 Days to Morning Glory" program as scheduled on February 12. Members are going through daily exercises and are meeting on Wednesday evenings at the home of Jim and Mary Jane Rofkahr. It will end on the Feast of the Annunciation on March 25.

We held a parish council meeting on February 9 and made a few decisions. One was to delay the quarterly celebration of "24 Hours with the Lord" until after Lent on the recommendation of Father Pius. It was also decided to hold Stations of the Cross at 7:00 PM on Friday evenings, with the start time coinciding with the official end of the Knights of Columbus Fish Fries.

We also heard a report on the deteriorated condition of the Lawrence Hall roof. Apparently it had suffered considerable hail damage over the years. Harness Roofing has made what repairs they could, but it has become clear that a new roof for the hall is needed. Members of the Hall and Building Committees, along with Deacon Brian are working with that company and the Diocese to

get that project started. We don't think this development is going to halt progress toward adding to the hall kitchen.

Another thing we did to remedy the lack of a proper confessional in church was to dismantle and remove the old plexiglass unit. I can tell you that the gents who built it did a fine job and we (David Myers, Bob Conrad, Deacon Brian and I) hated to be taking it apart. On the other hand, for some odd reason, I have to admit I never really enjoyed the time I spent in there. Still, the current arrangement is better suited to the need. We are still looking to get something more permanent built this year.



Did you ever notice the plaques painted in the top center of the first and fourteenth stations of the cross? The picture above is obviously from the first station. Can you guess the translation of the Latin? I'm no Latin scholar, but I still didn't get it after looking up the meaning of the words. Part of the problem is that the apparent "J" in JPSE is actually an I...so it's "IPSE."

On the subject of the Fish Fries and Stations, the first of the Lenten season for each was held on the evening of Friday, February 28 after Ash Wednesday arrived on February 26. Stations will be held each Friday during Lent, while additional Fish Fries come on March 6, March 13 and April 3. The two-week gap is left in order to accommodate young families traveling and/or vacationing for spring break.

As usual, Father Pius is offering a blessing to couples married during the month (of March) and the Sacrament of the Sick after Masses this weekend. The World Day of Prayer comes on March 6. A prayer meeting will be held at noon that day at the Methodist Church Gardner Building in Ozark. In addition to the usual group meetings, the Knight's of Columbus will hold their monthly meeting next Wednesday (3/4). The St. Joseph Society will meet Monday, March 16.

Next week also marks the start of the scripture study of the Gospel of Matthew. As pointed out previously, this is year A of the three-year Gospel cycle at the Sunday masses, with readings from Matthew being predominant. The Monday study group will start out at 5:30 pm on March 2 at location yet to be determined. Call Myca Elmore for more info at 479-208-3629. The Tuesday group will start out at Dennis and Jennifer Wright's house at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, March 3. Call Dan Vaught 479-209-7558 or Jennifer at 479-209-3044. As discussed previously, this course will run during the five weeks of March and will cover the first half of the Gospel of Matthew. We'll tackle the second half in late spring or sometime next fall.

Amy Sexton reported plans to give a tour of St. Mary's to a group of descendants from Germanic immigrants on Saturday, March 14 at 10:00 AM. She invites all interested in the tour and/or in joining the group to attend. Several other activities are planned for that day as well.

St. Patrick's day is March 17. Now don't 'get your Irish up' if you forget to wear green and get pinched. That's followed by the Feast of St. Joseph on March 19. If you see Joseph Post, wish him a Happy Feast Day. Whether you pinch him if he isn't wearing green (or red or blue) is up to you.

Many of the parish youth will be celebrating Spring Break during the week of March 23-27, so there will be no CCD classes on Sunday, March 22.

Sunday, March 29 promises to be a busy day. First, the parish will take up a second collection for the Food Pantry at the weekend Masses. I would remind the Knights of Columbus that our council has committed to attend and say the Rosary before masses on fifth Sundays. Sunday morning Mass will be followed by the monthly meeting of the Daughters of Mary in Lawrence Hall. At 3:00 PM that afternoon, there will be a baby shower for Alex and Seth Baldwin. No, not that fart Alec Baldwin. It's Alex Vaught Baldwin, daughter of Herb and Angela, and her outstanding husband Seth. They live in Rogers and Alex teaches at the Catholic grade school there. Also, since it's the fifth Sunday of the month, Singspiration will be held at 6:00 PM at the Presbyterian Church in Ozark.

Of course, Palm Sunday arrives on April 5, followed by Holy Week and Easter on April 12.

On the parish website under "The Church" tab there is a page about the church which also holds an added link to a document giving great detail about the interior of the church and its artwork. Much of this was written by Amy Sexton and Michael Scott Irby. The plaque from the first station means "He gave himself up of his own free will." This is an allusion to a prophecy from Isaiah 53:7, "Though he was harshly treated, he submitted and opened not his mouth." In other words, Jesus' choice to undergo the Way of the Cross was purely voluntary.

Daniel "Herb's other brother" Vaught