

# *News for the Pews*

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July 2018

June was mostly quiet for St Mary's parish. The temporary chiller was installed and has worked pretty well. The wedding of Cody and Kimberly Elliott Vaught went pretty well and they are very thankful to all of those who helped it happen and/or attended. They apologize for any inconvenience. The collection for the Food Bank brought in a goodly sum, but seemed diminished from those in recent quarters. The parish council election was held and Braxton Leding was selected as Liturgy Director. You also re-elected me as Parish Council President. I thank you for your vote of confidence and hope I can meet your best expectations. Please contact me if you have an item or development you think the parish council should address.

The church HVAC situation is slowly being worked out. We haven't gotten a proposal/design for the new system from HSA Engineering yet. Obviously, it will be reviewed by our resident expert Jim Rofkahr, Deacon Brian and the building committee. But the bottom line is that it also has to be submitted to the Diocese for approval. A major reason the new system will cost so much and take weeks to install is that the major components will be built to order. Manufacturers simply don't build these machines randomly and have an inventory of them sitting around.

Things are going to 'heat up' in July and August. Vacation Bible School is set for this next week (July 9-12, 6:00-8:00 PM), so all parents are urged to have their children participate. I went through grade school before VBS had been invented and have always been envious of those who have that opportunity. I'd like to cite chapter and verse on why it's a good idea, but can't because I didn't get to go as a kid (that's my excuse and I'm sticking with it).

A church camp for Deanery youth is scheduled for next weekend (July 13-15) at the Pinecrest camp near Ozone. Father Hugh will say mass Saturday night, as he did last year. Contact Debra Lynn Post [phone: (479) 468-2999] for more details.

The Knights of Columbus meeting was delayed until this coming Wednesday, July 11 after 6:00 PM mass. For some reason, no one wanted to meet on July 4. The St. Joseph Society will have its monthly meeting on Monday, July 16. The quilters get together every Tuesday morning. Of course, they're still hand-quilting everything, but are learning to use the long-arm machine for supplemental stuff. The Bible study group meets at Tom and Amy Sexton's house after Wednesday evening mass most weeks; they're now studying St Paul's letter to the Colossians.

Many of the parish teens will be going to the annual Steubenville Conference in Springfield, Missouri on Friday and Saturday July 20-21. Previous participants reportedly find it extremely worthwhile. The parish and its various organizations are 100% behind this event and we strongly encourage all eligible youths to attend. They are only responsible for the \$50 registration fee. The parish and organizations pay the rest.

We will be having a Meet 'n Greet after Sunday morning mass on July 22. We had thought about turning it into a farewell reception for Father Hugh. But we were also reminded that we'll be

having confirmation on Sunday, August 5. That means Bishop Andrew will be here, as well as Father Pius. And Father Hugh will be back for the ceremony since he has taught the confirmation class. So, we are planning on have a full breakfast reception with plenty of fixin's after mass that day. We'll hold a planning meeting for it immediately after the July 22 Meet 'n Greet in Lawrence Hall. All are welcome to attend and, of course, all help will be more than welcome.

The Altus Grape Fest is set for Saturday July 28. Parish Life Director Sonita Pledger wants St. Mary's to have a booth from which we'll sell fruit cups and funnel cakes. We'll be raising money for the church, but a bigger reason for running the booth is to build camaraderie between members of the parish. There's nothing like working together to create powerful bonds between participants. The goal is to have both adults and teens working the booth. Please volunteer.

Note that July 29 is the fifth Sunday in July, which means the Knights of Columbus are scheduled to join in saying the rosary before 9:00 mass that morning. Be there by 8:30. It also means the Council of Church's fifth Sunday Sing-spiration is scheduled for 6:00 that evening. It will be held here at St. Mary's this month. All are invited to attend and to sing if they so choose.

August 12 will be marked by a champagne brunch for the parish ladies. It's intended to serve as a way of reaching out to the women of the parish, as part of the parish's women's ministry. It's "fellowship" for the ladies. What is the correct term, "ladyship," "companionship," "comradeship?" Contact Mona Yother or Dolores Neumeier for more information.

That will be followed by Trivia Night on the evening of Saturday, August 18. Sponsored by the St. Joseph's and Christian Mother's Societies, the funds raised go to good causes such as the student trip to the Steubenville Conference. A large portion of last August's proceeds went toward the badly needed HVAC system at the Franklin County Senior Center. It's a fun and entertaining time for all (when the emcee doesn't make the questions too hard), ask any who have attended in the past. The August contest is also accompanied by a silent auction.

The parish will hold a picnic the following afternoon (August 19) at Horsehead Lake. For those who have never been or haven't been there for a long time, they've improved the park. The road is now paved all the way to the campground and the picnic/camping area has been expanded and improved all along the old lakefront on the northwest side. The Lachowskys and Vaughts had a birthday party there late last July and had a fabulous time. This is intended to bring the parish together and build community Please attend and plan to have a wonderful afternoon-evening.

Looking farther forward, the Parish Council voted in June to schedule a Halloween event for the evening of Saturday, October 27. Our aim is to have a night of fun and games for the kids, with a hay ride being included. But the larger purpose is to remind them of the Christian context for the celebration, with All Saints Day and All Souls Day following on November first and second, respectively. We'll get you more information about that in the coming weeks.

Ultimately, the Parish Council wants to help bring us all closer to God, to help us make the Church, and not just St. Mary's church, a larger part of your life.

Daniel "Dan" Vaught