

# *News for the Pews*

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August 2018

July 2018 was marked by the loss of our beloved priest Father Hugh Assenmacher. As you know, he fell and hit his head early on the morning of July 12. A cracked skull and intra-cranial bleeding resulted, which, if he had survived would have required a great deal of rehabilitation, with little hope for a full recovery. Instead, the Lord called him home on July 24 and he joined his brethren in the Subiaco Abbey cemetery on July 27. We already miss him.

The church HVAC situation is a work in progress. HSA Engineering has designed the new system and the specifications have been sent to three different firms. They have or are in the process of submitting bids for the work. Deacon Brian, the building committee and HVAC expert Jim Rofkahr have started evaluating the bids that have been submitted. Everything also has to be approved by the diocese. The parish will push for a quick start to the work, although, as mentioned previously, we may be more concerned about the boiler and heating the church by the time the project is completed.

Our latest class will be confirmed at 9:00 am mass this Sunday, August 5. The reception after mass will honor or confirmees, and serve as a welcome for Bishop Taylor and our new priest Father Pius Iwu. Father Pius has been stationed at Immaculate Conception in Fort Smith, so he'll probably be happy to be moving from the 'big city' to the country. His accent seems likely to make him somewhat difficult to understand, but let's use that as a reason to listen more closely to what he has to say. Be sure to thank the Knights of Columbus for preparing the breakfast. They're great guys, despite their questionable choice of Grand Knight for the next two years.

Sunday afternoon at 3:30 pm, Micah Elmore and Trudy Lachowsky are sponsoring a baby shower at Lawrence Hall for Micah's sister-in-law and Trudy's cousin on the Vaught side, Erin Casey Lachowsky. She's expecting her fourth daughter, so, obviously, she could use some help. The men-folk are invited too.

There will be another reception at Lawrence Hall after mass next Sunday August 12. It will be a champagne brunch for the parish ladies, with the purpose of reaching out to the women of the parish as part of the parish's women's ministry. It's meant to reignite interest in women's groups, to better serve the needs of the women in the parish and to build social outreach to and from them. Contact Mona Yother or Dolores Neumeier for more information. They say young and old are welcome, even if you didn't sign up.

The parish council will have its next meeting in the rectory at 4:00 pm that same day (8/12). The HVAC system will clearly be the main topic under discussion, with the parish picnic and Halloween event also likely to be discussed. All are invited to attend and give their input. We'll be welcoming Braxton Leding to the council as liturgy commissioner. Many thanks to Jennifer Wright for her previous service in that position. We are hoping to get into the habit of having 24 Hours with the Lord on a quarterly basis and will hopefully set a date for that at the meeting.

The biannual Trivia Night contest is set for the evening of Saturday, August 18. As usual, the doors will open at 6:00 pm, with the contest set to start at 7:00. Popcorn and sodas are free, while pizza is sold by the slice. The set-up is the same, with tables costing \$100 and table numbers limited to 10 participants. The usual games will be played and, since it's summer, the event will be accompanied by a silent auction. Many people think they won't enjoy the trivia questions and answers or that they'll get bored, but they almost invariably have a great time. Remember, you can bring your own drinks and snacks. And, no, you can't use your smartphone! Trivia night is sponsored by the St Joseph and Christian Mothers Societies, with the money raised going to various causes such as Christmas gifts for the needy. The Mothers Society often pays for the entrees at funeral dinners.

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. We realize that school events will be picking up steam at that point, but hope to build the sense of community among parishioners. We'll have drinks, burgers, hot dogs, chips and watermelon, plus whatever you choose to bring. The only cost is the fuel to get there and a \$3.00(?) parking fee.

The St. Joseph Society will have its monthly meeting on Monday, August 20, with a review of Trivia Night events likely the main agenda item. But ALL please plan to attend the September 17 meeting, which is our first planning meeting for the annual Thanksgiving Celebration. We always need more help and appreciate all planning input. As most of you know, some supplies for the celebration are bought well beforehand, then Ken and Rickey Leding hit the stores for food products on the Saturday before Thanksgiving. They and a growing number of volunteers then work Sunday through Thursday to prepare the meal. We build camaraderie through work.

The Knights of Columbus met the evening of August 1. Brad Culver again volunteered to lead our sponsorship of the Kidzone at the Franklin County Fair on August 23. We voted to donate to several causes, along with other business. The quilters still get together every Tuesday morning. The Bible study group is now studying the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians.

Heather Flegel will wed William Carter at 5:00 pm on September 22, with the reception following in Lawrence Hall. We wish them every happiness. Parishioners are invited. Tentative plans have Marcus Berry and Brad Culver's circle group supplying the meal. Come and celebrate with them (and maybe help me wash dishes).

The Parish Council is still planning a parish Halloween event for the evening of Saturday, October 27. We'll have games and other fun things for the kids, with a hay ride being included. The larger purpose is to remind them of the Christian context for the celebration, since All Saints Day and All Souls Day come on November first and second, respectively. All ideas and offers of help would be most welcome.

Please contact me if you think of an issue that needs to be addressed by the parish.

Daniel "Book'em Danno" Vaught