

News for the Pews

Volume 1, Number 5

October 2018

September 2018 has come and gone, with the highlights being the parish's celebration of 24 hours with the Lord September 14-15 and the Heather Flegel/Bill Carter wedding the following Saturday. Attendance at 24-hour adoration was pretty good, but we should always try to improve. It's been suggested that we have two sign-up sheets. One with hour increments again set on the hour (as usual), and another set on the half-hour, so no one will be alone in the church at any time. The wedding and reception were very, very nice. The only flaw was that the power poles on the groom's cake were aligned improperly (Horrors!). ☺

October won't have all that many parish events aside from the usual; CCD and adult faith formation classes after Sunday mass, quilting after mass on Tuesday morning, RCIA classes at 6:00 pm on Tuesdays and Scripture study after Wednesday evening mass. The St. Joseph Society meeting is set for Tuesday evening, October 16. There will be no meet-n-greet this month. ☹ The as yet unnamed women's ministry organization will have an "Ocktoberfest" meeting after mass on Wednesday, October 17. Beer and snacks are on the menu.

The Knights of Columbus have already held our October meeting, and a good meeting it was. Our guests were Father Patrick and Father Reginald from Subiaco. Father Patrick is now the state chaplain for the Arkansas K of C. One thing decided was that the Knights will donate \$500 for prizes for a stretch raffle (and manage the event) at the Thanksgiving celebration, with all proceeds going toward the HVAC fund. We were thinking of a gun for the gents and something nice for the ladies. I suggested a reeeeeeally good vacuum cleaner, but was shouted down. Also, we set a "workday" for 3:30 pm on Monday, October 15, when we will

set up the parish's new playground equipment. Weekends are just too busy for many of us. All help will be most welcome.

The other big event coming after Saturday evening mass on October 27 will be the parish's Pre-Halloween Party/Fundraiser. It will have something for all ages, including a hay ride, ring toss/dart throw and fish ponds for the kids. They will also get some treats.

There will also be a chili cook off, with entrants asked to pay a \$10 entry fee. We plan to award prizes for the top three finishers, with part of first prize being a nice apron that proudly proclaims that person the St. Mary's cook-off champ for 2018. Parishioners will be the judges. Voting will take the form of \$1 donations to the cook's jar. You can vote as many as 20 times (\$20). Entrants please make enough to feed several people. "Judges" will take sample cups of chili at the start, vote, then take a bowl for supper. We're also asking entrants to pay for their own chili ingredients. Remember this is a fundraiser. We are asking members of the parish to bring extras such as cheese, sour cream, crackers, etc... We'll cook some hot dogs for kids that don't like chili.

There will also be a 'chicken drop' very similar to the Learning Center's semi-annual bull drop. There will be 100 squares, with each square costing \$5.00. The grand prize for the winner will be \$100, with owners of adjacent squares getting \$10. This will be outside under a lighted canopy.

We'll also hold Halloween costume contests for all ages, including toddlers, grade schoolers, young teens and adults, along with one for couples. There is no entry fee for this. The tentative plan is for winners to get a nice little trophy.

In addition, Lynda Evans will be running a cake walk. We are asking for donations of cakes, pies and/or cookies to use as prizes. Other details have yet to be determined. Preliminary thought is \$1 per chance.

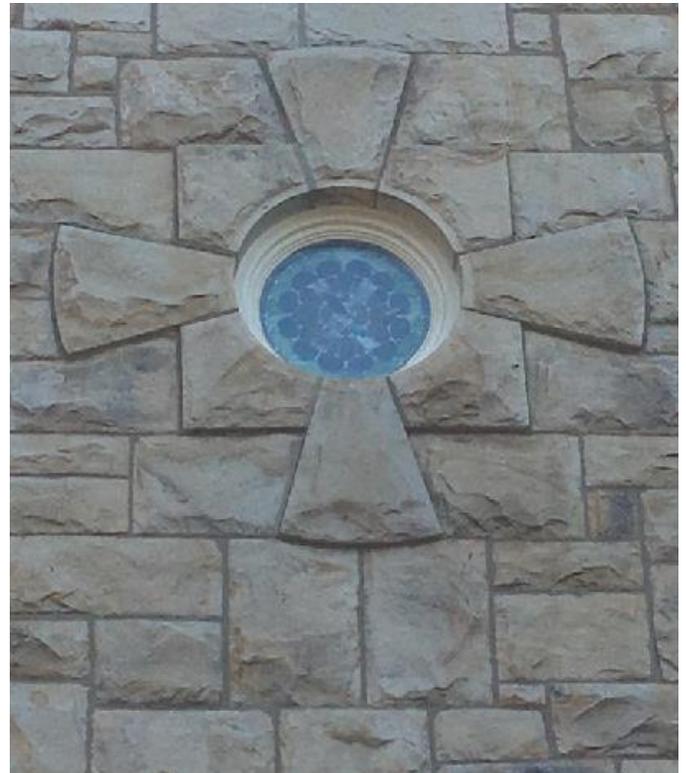
We must point out that ‘the cops’ will also be there to make sure everyone behaves themselves at the party. They’re even going to have a temporary jail set up in the hall. Unfortunately, we hear these ‘cops’ are not shining examples of the ethics desired of law enforcement officers and will willingly arrest anyone in attendance for a ‘donation.’ Word has it that they’ll then release the arrestee for a matching ‘donation’ from that individual and/or their friends. One good thing about these cops is that they’re smart enough to know that excessive ‘donations’ might get the attention of higher ups, so they won’t take a bribe, ...oops..., ‘donation’ of more than \$20.

Ultimately, we on the Parish Council want the Halloween party to be as much about bringing the parish community together and bonding as Catholics as it is a fundraiser. The hay ride will include a trip to the cemetery where Father Pius will give a short talk about the religious roots of Halloween and its connection to the Nov. 1 and Nov. 2 commemorations of All Saints and All Souls days. We won’t charge admission, but will ask for donations at the door. Please come and help make it a great evening. BYOB.

Fundraising efforts for the church HVAC system are ongoing. If you haven’t already, please develop a list of friends and relatives along with their mailing addresses so we can send them a letter asking for a donation. Drop your list into the collection basket or give it to Vicki Ross and she’ll take care of the rest.

The exciting news about the HVAC system is that the contracting firm has informed us that they plan to start the job on Monday October 29, with a

goal of finishing the whole project before Thanksgiving! We’ll need to do some work on the church floor where it has rotted from condensation dripping off of the old wall units. The building committee is on the job there. Of course, the contractor will want to be paid ASAP after completing the job, so we really need to step up the pace of giving in order to minimize the amount we have to borrow from the diocese.



Here’s a quiz for you. *Where is the stonework pictured above located on the church?* I’ll tell you in a moment. The reason for the question is that we are thinking of using some sort of design featuring this beautiful stonework on the St. Mary’s t-shirts we plan to sell at the Thanksgiving celebration. Let us know if you like this idea or if you’d prefer a traditional line drawing of the church as we’ve done in the past. The center of the stone work is the St. Andrews Cross window behind the crucifix above the high altar.

The parish council will next meet at 4:00 pm on Sunday, October 14. All are welcome to attend. The next meet-n-greet is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, November 7 after 9:00 mass.

Daniel “Hey You” Vaught