

News for the Pews

Volume 3, Number 2

October 3, 2020

St. Mary's is getting back into the swing of things as the Covid-19 pandemic persists. Attendance at daily and weekend masses has been improving up and will likely surge after Bishop Taylor ended his waiver of Arkansas Catholics' obligation to attend Sunday Mass as of October 3.

Speaking of Mass this weekend, remember that the usual Food Bank collection on the last Sunday of the quarter was postponed one week by the Bishop's collection for the needy and victims of recent hurricanes and wildfires last Sunday.

As you have almost surely heard, the annual Thanksgiving Celebration was canceled at the planning meeting hosted by the St. Joseph Society on September 21. Ken Leding pointed out the obstacles facing the preparation of the meal, especially if someone helping with the meal prep came down with Covid. Everyone who had worked with that person would have to be quarantined, which might leave us with a mountain of partially prepared food and no one to finish getting it ready. Rickey Leding also indicated he couldn't commit to helping, particularly with his wife Angel in the hospital with pneumonia after having just recovered from a bout with Covid. Buffalo Leding and David Myers agreed about the potential problems, so after some further discussion, those present voted unanimously to cancel. We'll gitterdun' next year.

However, the quilting club has been working away each week, and has amassed a sizeable inventory of finished quilts. They have indicated a willingness to sell some to interested buyers in the absence of a Thanksgiving auction. If you're interested, contact Lynda Evans or one of the other quilters for a viewing.

Several prayer and devotional programs are ongoing at this point. The Scripture study group is meeting after Wednesday evening mass

each week, working on the "Consoling the Heart of Jesus" program. This is one of the most interesting and fulfilling programs I have attended. The parish is still doing the "Five First Saturdays" devotional program as well. We had a nice turnout on the first Saturdays of September and October. Some of us are also praying a Novena for the United States being led by EWTN.

So...., do you know where this emblem is located in the church?



The Daughters of Mary met after Mass this morning (10/3). In the wake of the celebrations of the Archangels Michael, Gabriel and Raphael last Tuesday (9/29) and the Guardian Angels on Thursday (10/1), they asked me to include the prayers to St. Michael and to our Guardian Angel in this week's newsletter. The specific wording of the first isn't set in stone; This is how I learned it.

"Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle, be our protection against the malice and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host, by God's divine power, thrust into Hell Satan and all the evil spirits who roam throughout the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen."

“Angel of God, my Guardian dear, to whom God's love commits me here. Ever this night/day be at my side. to light, to guard, to rule and guide. Amen.” They also suggest we memorize Psalm 91.

The Daughters are also sponsoring a “Campfire with Father Jerome (Kodell)” starting at 4:30 PM on Sunday, October 18. The Daughters will provide packaged snacks and drinks for the event and are inviting all who attend to dress up like a saint. Everyone is also asked to bring lawn chairs, although the Daughters are looking for hay bales for folks to sit upon. The former abbot of Subiaco will give a talk and lead us in prayer. This will take place in the playground area, likely west of the sisters house. This sounds interesting. Maybe I'll get a bunch of helium balloons and come as St. Joseph of Cupertino. Look him up.

The Knights of Columbus will have their usual monthly meeting after 6:00 PM Mass next Wednesday (10/7). That caused those involved in the “Consoling the Heart of Jesus” program to reschedule their mid-week meeting to 6:00 PM on Tuesday (10/6). Both events will be held in Lawrence Hall. The Knights meeting seems likely to be rather routine, but we strongly encourage all our brothers to attend. The Knights will be sponsoring another devotional event at 6:00 PM on Tuesday, October 27. This will mark the local arrival of a Silver Rose stewarded by the K of C as it makes its way from Canada to Mexico. Every stop the Silver Rose makes throughout its annual pilgrimage is a rosary-centered event for Knights, parishioners and community members to pray for life, for the spiritual renewal of each nation and for the advancement of the message of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

After long years of maintaining the flower beds and pots around the church buildings, Clara Ann Del Soto has indicated she is ready to pass that ministry on to someone else. Thank you so much Clara Ann for your dedicated, faithful service. If someone in the parish is interested in taking on this job, or a portion of it, please let

Deacon Brian, Vicki Ross or me know and we'll offer our sincere thanks as well as any assistance you might require. If you don't volunteer, the job will surely fall into my hands. Who knows what disasters might ensue? As in the Ghostbusters movie, “Old Testament stuff, real 'wrath of God' type stuff, fire and brimstone coming down from the sky, 40-years of darkness....dogs and cats living together, mass hysteria.”

Keep in mind that the feasts of All Saints (11/1) and All Souls (11/2) will be here before you know it. We'll almost surely hold the usual cemetery service in early November. I suggest that those who place flower arrangements on the tombstones of your loved ones, write your/their names on the bottom of them. That way if/when they are displaced by storms in the coming months, I can replace them instead of being forced to throw them away due to uncertainty about their proper placement. Also, I will extend my ongoing war against fire ants to the cemetery in the days ahead, but keep the presence of those little devils in mind when you visit your loved ones.

So, have you figured out where the emblem displayed on page one is actually located? Did you see it above the St. Joseph altar? When seen in that context, it becomes clear that it is an identifying marker for St. Joseph, who is depicted in the mural just below with the child Jesus blessing the world's workers. Once again, the symmetry of the church's decorations is maintained with a similar emblem above the Blessed Virgin's altar and accompanying mural.

By the way, there are now less than three months until Christmas. Have you given serious thought as to what you're going to get me? Keep in mind that cash is fine. :) Actually, your time would probably be better spent preparing spiritually for Thanksgiving and Christmas. “God bless us, every one.”

Remember, no parish Halloween party this year either.

Daniel “Hey You” Vaught