

# *News for the Pews*

Volume 3, Number 4

December 5, 2020

Well, Thanksgiving 2020 for the St. Mary's parish family was certainly different from those of the past 74 years. I noticed in the 75 Year Ago section of the Spectator that the St. Mary's Thanksgiving Celebration was held in late 1945 after having been skipped in 1942-44. The Vaught family had a small get-together and nobody was injured. Deacon Brian and I collaborated on a pretty good dressing, but it wasn't quite as good as that baked on the hill each year.

Although they didn't get to auction off their beautiful products this year, the quilters sold one to Kevin and Blair Casey of Fayetteville (son and daughter-in-law to Kathleen Vaught Casey) and two to Debbie Hodges also of Northwest Arkansas. The quilters offer them sincere thanks, as should the parish since the quilters donated the proceeds of those sales to the parish.

The scripture study group wrapped up the 10-week program "Consoling the Heart of Jesus" on November 18, just before the celebration of Christ the King. All viewed it as one of the most inspirational and helpful programs we've done. We'll be offering it again in early 2021 and strongly urge anyone looking to build a closer relationship with our Savior to participate. You'll be glad you did.

As for December, this year's Christmas season is going to be different as well, especially with Covid-19 cases rising once again. Still, parishioners will be participating in several events in the coming weeks. The first event already occurred this morning (12/5), with the celebration of first Saturday Mass and devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. This was the fourth Saturday of the five-month cycle, with it to be completed on January 2.

As usual, Father Pius will offer a blessing for those married during the month (December)

and those wishing to receive the Sacrament of the Sick after the weekend masses. Fortunately, we aren't asked to fast and abstain as actively in Advent as in Lent, BECAUSE, the Daughters of Mary, who held their monthly meeting after Mass this morning, are having a bake/arts/crafts sale after the Saturday and Sunday masses this weekend. Mom (Gertrude) made a couple of pecan pies for it. I'm planning to do my part by buying and helping eat at least one pie. I thought about making and donating one of my famous peanut butter pies, but I didn't want any fights to break out between potential buyers or to show up the products made by the ladies. JUST KIDDING, there's no need for violence!

I'm thinking most folks will be pretty quick to find the subject of today's picture from the church. Do you know what it means and/or symbolizes? Much more at the end of page 2.



Tuesday (12/8) is the feast of the Immaculate Conception, a Holy Day of Obligation. Father Pius will celebrate Mass at 7:30 AM and 6:00 PM. Be there or be unsquare.

The Knights of Columbus are once again sponsoring a poster contest for the parish youth again this year. This year's theme is "Keep Christ in Christmas." Most young'ns have probably heard about it at recent CCD classes. If not, they still have until Tuesday (12/8) to submit their poster or a picture of it to Knights Youth Director Brad Culver at [brad.culver@ozarkhillbillies.org](mailto:brad.culver@ozarkhillbillies.org). There are three age groups, with first, second and third prizes for each group being \$25, \$15 and \$10. That was big money back when I was a kid.

Next weekend promises to be rather eventful as well. The parish will hold an Advent Celebration "Journey to the Inn" right after the 9:00 AM Mass on Sunday, December 13. This event reflects the Franciscan tradition of depicting the events leading up to Christ's birth via a reenactment of Joseph and Mary's search for an inn prior to the Nativity. The Knights of Columbus are encouraging this practice. Participants are asked to come to a rehearsal at 4:30 PM on Wednesday (12/9). This seems likely to be inspiring. It's also a way to encourage and educate parish youth. Unfortunately, there will be no Christmas Pageant at the 5:00 Children's Mass on Christmas Eve.

Note that we will be holding a Parish Council meeting in the school library at 4:00 PM that same afternoon (12/13). All are welcome, although we don't seem to have a great deal on our agenda at this point. One thing we will likely discuss is whether to increase the frequency of second collections for the Food Bank in Ozark. At the Knights of Columbus meeting last Wednesday (12/2), Marcus Berry pointed out that the organization is hurting financially. We currently take up a collection on a quarterly basis. Maybe we should make it monthly. We have a collection scheduled for the last weekend of December.

It currently looks as if the schedule of Christmas masses will be that same as last year, with the Children's Mass coming at 5:00 PM on Thursday, (12/24), Midnight Mass starting at 11:00 PM on Christmas Eve (and ending at

approximately Midnight on December 25). Mass on Christmas Day will start at 9:00 AM.

The St. Mary's choir will begin caroling about 30 minutes before the start of Midnight Mass. Choir director Amy Sexton has scheduled rehearsals for 6:00 PM on the next three Monday's (12/7, 12/14, 12/21). Most choir members will be dispersed among the congregation.

The picture depicts the paired coats of arms on the north side of the high arch between the main part of the church and the sanctuary. The coat of arms on the right is that of Pope Leo XIII, who was the pope when the cornerstone of St Mary's was laid in 1901. Note also the cross on the staff above that coat, which popes carry. The staff on the opposite side is a shepherd's crozier, which symbolizes a bishop. So, I strongly suspect the coat of arms on the left is that of Bishop Edward Fitzgerald, who was the Bishop of Little Rock in 1901. Unfortunately, I couldn't find it on the web.

This begs the question; who's coats of arms are in the matching illustration on the south side? The seeming papal coat matches neither that of the predecessor (Pius IX) nor the successor (Pius X) to Leo XIII. But the coat of arms of Subiaco Abbey has two ravens (with flowers on their back), so I believe the coat of arms on the left is for Subiaco or for the Benedictine order (it doesn't match those for St Meinrad's in Indiana or Einsiedeln in Switzerland). What the one on the right, with a laurel wreath, three stars and a crown might represent, I have no idea. It's not that for the Diocese of Little Rock

The Post family has heard that the small triangles between and below the two coats of arms on each side represent Father Placidus and Fridolin Fuchs. This seems to be the case, since the Oeschle family crest has a bull rampant, and as you can see, the triangle in this picture is classic bovine skull. The one of the south side can easily be seen as a fox head (Fuchs is German for fox). I would certainly love to hear from anyone with more/better information on these coats of arms.

Daniel "Hey You" Vaught