

SPCC Happenings



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Mark Your Calendar: Fall Festival Promises Family Fun

In less than a month the parking lot and parish hall of St. Patrick Catholic Church will be the scene of family fun and entertainment as the parish holds its first annual Fall Festival on Sat., Sept. 24, from 11 a.m.–7 p.m.

Games booths will include a bean bag toss, a dice roll, a ring toss, a lollipop pull, a fish pond, and more with prizes awarded to the winners. Salvadoran, Filipino and Mexican food items will be available for purchase as well as traditional servings of hot dogs and hamburgers with beans and chips. Cotton candy, snow cones, and popcorn will also be sold.

For the children’s enjoyment a bounce house with a slide will be set up on the church grounds. Face painting is also planned. In addition, a cake walk—in which both young and old alike will have a chance of winning a delicious homemade dessert—will be featured. An especially exciting contest will involve festival-goers competing for the opportunity to throw an aluminum pie tin filled with whipped cream into the face of a local public figure who agree to participate.

Raffle drawings will be held on the day of the event. Prizes are (1) a 1/2 side of beef, cut and wrapped, along with

a freezer (\$1,000 value); (2) a weekend at Graeagle (a private residence); and (3) an overnight stay with dinner at the Peppermill in Reno. Tickets at \$10 each can be obtained after the weekend Masses, from a Fall Festival committee member, or by calling the parish office at 423-2846. Individuals need not be present to win.

Proceeds from the festival’s various activities will benefit St. Patrick’s building fund. To maximize profits parishioners are welcome to donate items still needed for the festival or make cash contributions to assist with its expenses. Volunteers to offer aid on Sept. 24 are also wanted. Contact Mary Erquiaga, 423-2607, for a list of the festival’s needs and how you can help or check the flyer on the church bulletin board.

“We hope to have a lot of people come to the Fall Festival,” commented Ginny Dugan who was given the responsibility of publicizing the community event. “Posters and flyers have been distributed all over the City of Fallon and have also been sent to Catholic parishes in northern Nevada.” Publicity releases have gone out to area newspapers.

A special thank you ♥ to Parkside Bible Fellowship for permitting the use of their parking lot to accommodate visitors on the day of the Fall Festival.

Deacon Poyo To Speak Oct. 9

Deacon Ralph Poyo of Steubenville, Ohio, and founder of New Evangelization Ministries will visit St. Patrick Catholic Church on Sun., Oct. 9, and speak to parishioners on the theme of “Go into the World and Proclaim the Gospel” from, 9 a.m. to 12 noon in the parish hall.



Deacon Poyo

With many years of training in, and experience working with, church ministries Deacon Poyo is described as displaying an “engaging and passionate style of preaching” as he challenges listeners of every age “to get outside of their comfort zones in their day-to-day practice of the faith,” according to the New Evangelization Ministries website. It continues to state that Deacon Poyo “is passionate about helping others to make Catholicism more a way of life than just a religious identity.” His special mission is helping parishes across the country to become agents of self-evangelization by assisting pastors in training their parish leadership and parishioners in evangelization and discipleship, that is, in bringing others to Jesus. With the help of the Holy Spirit, the website states, stronger Catholic parishes that will lead hearts to Christ can be built. For more information go to the New Evangelization Ministries website at

<http://newevangelizationministries.org>.



MINISTRY SIGN UPS—On Aug. 27-28 after the Masses parishioners learned about various St. Pat ministries at a Ministry Fair held in the parish hall. Here Dani and Gary Laca as well as Connie and Bob Knoll help with sign ups at the Greeter-Lector-Altar Server table. Other ministries represented were Bible Studies, Bingo, CCD Religious Education, Choirs, Eucharistic Ministers, Holy Rosary Society, Homebound Ministry, Joanie’s Pantry, Knights of Columbus, Ladies Guild, Spirit of the Lord Prayer Group, and Prayer Shawl Ministry. The parish organizations in need of leadership are the Filipino-American (Fil-Am) Society and The Marthas. Contact the parish office at 423-2846 if you missed the Ministry Fair and are interested in any of these opportunities to serve.

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Sean Scherschel Shares Meaningful Far East Memory

In the Sept. issue of the parish newsletter the travel and teaching experiences of Sean Scherschel in the Far East were described. Sean was also asked to name a highlight of his adventures overseas. The following explains in his own words an event which was very meaningful to him and is worth sharing with the parishioners of St. Patrick Church.

There are a few moments when the experience of living overseas becomes less of something you want to do and more of something you are.

I remember a trip to Cebu, a rather large city in the Philippines famous for dried mangoes and otap (a type of sugary and delicious cookie/cracker). I was returning home from a training session and the boat landed at the convenient time of 4:30 a.m., long before anything was open.

Since I was there early on a Sunday morning, I decided to head for Mass, which, in this case, was going to be at a rather large mall called SM. SM had two other virtues: a 24-hour luggage check and a Starbucks. Up until that point, I hadn't had a Frappuccino in a year or so and being able to walk around a little without my bags seemed a good plan.

Since the only thing that was open was the luggage place, I waited in the traveler's lounge for a few hours before the doors of the mall opened so that all could go to

Mass.

There, among the trappings of stores, water features, advertisements, and other comforting mall paraphernalia were row upon row of chairs surrounding a central altar. I sat down in the middle and to the side and waited. In comes a rather large class of junior and high school aged students.

It wasn't my intention to ignore them; I was trying to pray a bit. Still, who can ignore a large class of excited students for long, no matter how prayerful you tried to be? There was one consideration: they were talking American Sign Language. But it just happened to be my second language! I finished my prayer, waited for a conversational break, and introduced myself in sign.

The effect was amazing.

I cannot tell you about Mass in the mall that day, how many priests there were exactly, how many stores busied themselves with opening, nor what time it all ended. The next hour was a hive of activity as every student switched seats to chat with me. Apparently the young people don't get to talk to many foreigners and those that they do don't speak sign. It was at that moment when I realized that I was not only on the right path, but I may actually have found an apex moment of my experience so far. I chatted with them as long as I could, skipping my intended itinerary, and eventually headed back to the dock to switch boats and finish my journey.

This is a bright memory for me, and I find myself praying for that class, wishing them well and hoping they are happy.

Sean Scherschel

**ITALY REVISITED—**

In late May Deacon Kurt Carlson and his wife Judy joined thousands of others in a pilgrimage through parts of Italy celebrating the Deacon Jubilee. They recently narrated a slide show of their experiences as they visited historic churches in Rome and surrounding communities. Approximately 30 parishioners and their guests attended to listen to and view the presentation. The worldwide assembly was the result of the request of Pope Francis to meet deacons and their families. Among the six deacons from northern Nevada who participated in the Deacon Jubilee pilgrimage were Deacon Carlson and Deacon Robin Cervantes, representing rural Nevada.

Important Dates

Sept. 11—Sun.—9 am—Parish Hall—Knights of Columbus pancake breakfast—\$5
Sept. 11—Sun.—CCD classes begin
Sept. 24—Sat.—11 am-7 pm—Fall Festival
Oct. 9—Sun.—9 am-12 noon—Parish Hall—Deacon Ralph Poyo's presentation

Free Math Tutorials Offered

Dr. Apollo Vaz is once again offering free math tutorials during the school year. Focus will be the middle school (6th, 7th, and 8th grades) level but all grades are welcome. Algebra I (9th grade) will also be covered. Classes meet Thursdays, 3-5 pm. In the parish hall.