



Winter Carnival

Dear Parishioners-

August 15, 2016


Many are wondering what is to become of the Winter Carnival. This spring, a request was made for anyone that would be interested in filling the chair position for the organizing committee. No one stepped forward. As a result, the Parish and Finance Councils discussed the future of the Winter Carnival and fundraising in general. Historically, the Winter Carnival was largely organized by members of the Home and School Committee. Much of the volunteer support and donations were generated as a result of the school. The past two years reflected a decrease in this support as the profits of the event and the ability to recruit volunteers was challenging. With the refocusing of our parish, our councils have been analyzing what is the best use of our resources. We have decided to modify the Winter Carnival as it has traditionally been recognized. This is likely going to be received by the parish with mixed emotions. Many will also recognize the significant investment in time and talent that is required to host a successful event. Many memories exist from the past carnivals which we will treasure.


The question remains, what will replace the carnival in terms of the funds that were raised? Last year's event was held for the financial benefit of the Faith Formation program. This year's investment in the Faith Formation will be more significant than the past and we are committed to finding ways to financially support our programs. The council has decided to take the parts of the Winter Carnival that were most successful, such as the Big Raffle, and pair them with one of our Lenten Fish Fries. The raffle consistently proved to have the highest return on volunteer investment; therefore we will continue this tradition. Our Fish Fries have always been very successful and we want to expand on what we are good at.

In addition, the Parish and Finance Councils are exploring other ways to partner with Ascension in fundraising ideas for the Faith Formation program. We will keep you updated through council meeting minutes and bulletin announcements as ideas are developed and decisions made. If you have any creative ideas for fundraising, please feel free to share your ideas with any member of the councils, trustees, or Father.

St Bernard's will continue to support and finance Catholic Education in our parish which includes Faith Formation and scholarships for Catholic Education, etc. Every parishioner's participation in this mission, through volunteerism, support, and ideas is crucial to our success. Please pray to discern how you can best support the continuation and growth of our faith.

Sincerely,


Father Gregory
Pastor


Andy Klindl
Trustee


Laura Templin
Trustee