

May 14, 2017

Fifth Sunday of Easter



May 9, 2017

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

Greetings! We hope this week finds you and yours happy and healthy.

St. Stephen Protomartyr Parish Picnic is traditionally held on the second Wednesday of June as a major fundraiser to support our wonderful parish and school. This year, the Parish Picnic will be held on **Wednesday, June 14**. This is a wonderful event for our children and parish community, and we are mindful and appreciative of the time and effort that goes into making this day a success. We are extremely fortunate that our school has increased its enrollment in recent years. St. Stephen Protomartyr school offers many opportunities that include a strong focus on faith formation on life's journey, up to date technology, a Robotics Program, Spanish for all grade levels, and music, as well as grade-level programs such as J Biz and Meet the Masters, an award-winning art appreciation curriculum for grades K-8, to name a few.

This is the first of many communications to keep you apprised of our plans and progress as we approach the Picnic. We will be sharing more details through the bulletin, school emails, and social media to keep you informed. We also encourage all of our parish families to "like" the St. Stephen Protomartyr Parish Picnic Facebook page.

You will notice a few changes this year. Our three "Raffles of Fun" prizes feature a retired American Girl doll, an X Box One, and a Cardinal overnight package that includes Cardinal tickets, dinner, and a hotel stay. **This year, revenue from our "Raffles of Fun" ticket sales will be earmarked for specific needs of both our school and parish. Our two "fund a need" projects are as follows:**

School-Keeping up with advancements to technology is an essential part of our school curriculum, and proceeds from our raffle sales will go towards the purchase of Surface Pro Tablets for our students prior to the 2018 school year. This updated technology will replace our Chrome Books.

Parish-There are numerous spotlight fixtures located in the sanctuary and the east and west transepts of our church that no longer work. Proceeds will be dedicated to replacing these light fixtures with more energy efficient fixtures to reduce long term costs.

Our other raffles, including the Grand Raffle, will remain the same this year and are an important part of our fundraising effort. **Over half the revenue generated from our parish picnic comes from our raffle ticket sales.** One way we can all help is by selling tickets to our families and friends prior to picnic day. If every family participates by selling any combination of raffle tickets, we have the potential to significantly increase our revenue this year. Additional tickets are available by contacting the rectory directly.

We are hoping to make this year's Parish Picnic a great success, so we appreciate your dedication and willingness to participate as a member of St. Stephen Protomartyr Parish. Let's continue to pray for great weather and many smiling faces on picnic day.

Sincerely,

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2017/2018 St. Stephen School Picnic Chairs