

MARDI GRAS - MAYBE, MAYBE NOT?

Our Mardi Gras celebration last year (that replaced the Winter Picnic) was a wonderful pre-Lenten gathering, with a great Dixieland band, amazing food brought and shared by so many and just a plain good time being together. If only the weather had cooperated, the crowd would most likely have been larger.

This year, Lent begins very late, which means that the Saturday on which a Mardi Gras would be held is March 2nd. Yes, it certainly can snow in March—even in April—but at least there's a slightly better chance for good weather as we move closer to Spring. However, weather isn't the only problem. The bigger concern is that we really don't have anyone as yet who feels up to the challenge of organizing the preparations and overseeing the evening. The extremely generous folks who organized the Winter Picnic and then the Mardi Gras have gone above and beyond the call of duty in taking on those projects and I'm reluctant to ask the same people to step forward over and over again.

The important thing to note is that the Mardi Gras required significantly less preparation and organization than the Winter Picnic, and the clean up was completed well before midnight. The fact that most of the food was provided by attendees, the silent auction was much simpler, and the time frame was shorter made it a comparatively painless project for all involved. I suspect that many of those who helped in the past would be happy to help again, but we really need to have one or two new people to oversee the preparations and get everyone else on board. Those who handled the various aspects of the celebration last year would still have the information and the expertise needed to make it happen and would certainly be supportive of anyone who was willing to take the lead in getting things started.

There's still time to get things organized, though the one sticking point might be the music with only six weeks to go. So, if anyone feels inclined to offer their help, please give me a call this week (I'll be away the last week of January) and we'll see what we can do.

Fr. Bob