

## PASTOR'S COLUMN

### *Old Metairie Fest, New Vestments and New Paintings*

Old Metairie Fest. We've been announcing it for months and it is finally here: the St. Francis Xavier "Old Metairie Fest." Our version of a Parish Fair, Old Metairie Fest will be held on Saturday, April 6, from 11 am to 8 pm in the Church yard and School yard. Parking on the premises for the Vigil Mass on April 6 will be limited.

The theme of this year's Fest is "Old Metairie Fest Goes West." The organizers promise a fun time with a distinctly Western theme. The Fest will have inflatables, games, booths of many varieties, auction items, a raffle, food, drinks, performances by the St. Francis School Children, and a much-anticipated musical performance by the popular local band, the Bucktown All-Stars at 5 pm. See the full-page flyer in this bulletin for more details.

All funds raised from the Fest will go to the purchase of a new computer lab for St. Francis School. Come pass a good time with your St. Francis Parish family at this year's Old Metairie Fest.

New Vestments. Although the liturgical color of the penitential Seasons of Lent and Advent is purple, a priest and deacon can wear rose-colored vestments at Mass twice a year – on the 4th Sunday of Lent and the 3rd Sunday of Advent. The rose color calls us to rejoice as both seasons of penance move toward their conclusions, which is Holy Week and Easter for the Season of Lent, and Christmas for the Season of Advent. I am happy to advise that one of our families has funded the purchase of new rose-colored vestments which Fr. Thien, our deacons and I hope to wear this weekend – if the vestments arrive on schedule from the manufacturer.

In addition to getting new rose vestments, we have acquired a new set of white Easter vestments for the priests and deacons. These vestments are beautiful and were donated by our Knights of Columbus and Daughters of Isabella. They will be worn at weekend Masses throughout the 50-day Easter season. Thank you to the generous sponsor family, the KCs and the Daughters for enhancing our collection of vestments.

New Paintings for Altar Sanctuary. We also have acquired two new paintings for the altar sanctuary for either side of the tabernacle. The paintings measure 32 x 40" each. One is an image of Jesus, the Alpha and Omega (the Beginning and End of all things). The other is an image of the Sorrowful Madonna and Child. Both paintings are the work of Lithuanian artist, Svitozar Nenyuk. We will hang and bless the paintings at this year's Easter Vigil Mass. Special thanks to the St. Joseph Altar for funding this project.

Happy Laetare ("Rejoice") Sunday.

God bless,  
Fr. Joe