

Parish Festival-goers explain why they love the festival



“It’s wonderful that we have so much variety—bars, cookies, cakes, breads,” Susan Collier said. This is her second year volunteering at the bakery booth. Parishioners provided all the home-baked goods that volunteers packaged and labeled for sale. By Sunday morning very little was still available for purchase.



Tammy Abrahamson sold baked goods at her “Bubba D” booth. “My husband does the baking. He braids the dough,” she said. “The Chunky Bubba cookies have a secret recipe.” Bubba D is her father, whom they named the bakery after. They sell at the Farmers Market in Okauchee every Wednesday from 2-6.



Butler firefighters Mike Larsen and Josh Seidl run the main food booth at the festival, a staple since 2017. “The fish fry on Friday is new this year,” said Brad Dall, a 36-year member of the Butler Fire Dept. The St. Agnes Boy Scout Troop 72 also helps,” Dall said. “Whatever we make, we give some back to the church.” (Geoff Gardiner waves from behind as he works at the fryers.)



The Second Annual Cornhole/Bags Tourney was underway Saturday from noon to 2 p.m. Joanne Ische and Dave Gross took turns tossing to their partners on the other side of the tent. Half of the \$20 team entry fee goes to St. Agnes. Sussex Bowl lends the equipment and winners get a set of eight bags.



Ellie Burbach, a long-time parish member, said she looks forward to the festival each August. “It is fun seeing people that I haven’t seen in many years.”



Kids’ games and activities provided not only fun for children of many ages, but prizes for winning. The Knights of Columbus 4240 donated \$200 for prizes. “We can get whatever we want for prizes with the money,” said Tina Pohl and Rachel Brummage. People also donated prizes.



“I’ve been coming to the festival for 17-18 years,” Lynne Malsack said. “I can’t remember how long I’ve been volunteering. I love to help people.” Malsack just retired from Milwaukee Public Schools as a para-professional. “I now teach piano lessons at the White House of Music,” she said.



Friends Mary Sal Pohl and Leslie Hasenbush took their turn selling raffle tickets at the festival. “I help out because it’s family. It’s what we do,” Pohl said. “This is St. Agnes family,” Hasenbush said. “It’s good to get together. I see more people here than just the ones at the 8 a.m. Mass.”



Jan Endries has been calling Bingo at the festival for a dozen years or so. “There are people who come just for bingo,” she said. “A lot of these people love to play bingo. I enjoy calling. It’s fun. I like to see people get excited when they win.”



Angela Grant (left) and Bobbie Frederick (right) have been in charge of the Rummage Sale for five years now. “We put in the most hours before the rummage even starts,” Frederick said. Grant added, “We bring in \$4,000-\$5,000 each year. I’m amazed each year at how much we make.” Frederick said there’s always a line on Friday when they first open. So when happens to the left-overs at the end of the festival? “Camo Crew in Butler takes our left-overs and eventually sell or dispose of everything,” Frederick said. “And they waive the pick-up fee every year.”



Prentina Rama, an exchange student from Kosovo, has been here in the U.S. for a week. “My host mom went to school here and when we saw the announcement about the festival, we decided to volunteer,” she said. “This is my first volunteer gig.” Rama attends New Berlin West High School.



Heidi Kohlen came to the festival with her granddaughter Chloe (left), her son Mike Larcheid and grandson Mason (photo above center). “This festival is the only one I go to because it’s more family-oriented,” she said. “I don’t care what the weather is like. I’ll be here!”



“I love having community in my backyard,” Jean Sekula said. “I like wine, so I volunteered to work in this booth.”

DUNK TANK EXCITEMENT

St. Agnes principal, Rachel Kolbeck, took her turn in the dunk tank first thing on Saturday afternoon. The weather was cool but we heard no complaints as students dunked her time after time.



“I like the fellowship and community of St. Agnes,” Mari Mauer said. “With Wine for Humanity, the company has been able to donate more than \$10,000 through wine tasting and the Wine Bistro at the festival, sharing up to 12% of every bottle purchased.”



“I like seeing my former students and how they’ve grown up,” Jackie Schulz said. “It’s fun. I like hearing what they’re doing these days. But in my mind, I can still picture them as what they looked like when I had them in second grade.”



Jessica Mullins and her husband, Casey, are second-year co-chairs of the St. Agnes Festival. She went to school here from 1999 to 2008. “The festival is a great way to bring everyone together,” she said, “and it builds community within our church.”



Michele Matthews and her husband, Jimmy, have been festival co-chairs for the past eight years. “It’s like having a family with all the volunteers each year. It’s refreshing to see so many people having fun and enjoying themselves.”