



Alive in Christ



Come and Eat! By Jessica Brown

On September 18, 2022, St. Thomas the Apostle parishioners filled the Parish Center to eat, laugh, and enjoy each other's company for the Annual Parish Picnic. While the Parish provided the meat, beverages, plates and utensils, the St. Thomas Men's Society served the food to the hungry people. Parishioners brought salads and desserts filling up tables with their homemade goodness. After eating their fill, people sat and talked with friends and family, or headed out to the west lawn for games. Cornhole, ladder ball, mini golf, and other lawn games filled the space giving kids the reason to stay a little longer. Their parents didn't mind as they talked with friends and enjoyed the warm late summer day.

After the 10:30 Mass ended and people filled the hall, Heather Hasiak told everyone to put name tags on. "Father Steve wants everyone to wear a name tag, because there are so many new faces," she explained. When I talked with Heather about helping with the picnic, she said that her husband, Cory was a member of the Knights of Columbus and the St. Thomas Men's Society. "I was voluntold to help with the name tags," she laughed. Talking with people as they passed, Heather told one parishioner that there was plenty of dessert, "you can never have too many desserts at a potluck. Kids are going to eat one piece of chicken and 42 pieces of dessert". I can concur with this, as my teenager ate only fruit and cookies.

Paul Duncil came to the potluck, "because this is my spiritual family. I like and know the people here and want the opportunity to meet the new people". Throughout the day, I heard a common theme: growth. Our Parish is growing! Baptisms, Weddings, and new registrations are keeping our office busy with all of the new members.

Anne Holm echoed Paul's sentiment. "It was a great turnout, and so many new people!" Anne doesn't believe me when I say that many people know who she is, so next time you see Anne make sure you say hello!

Father Steve mentioned that he was grateful that we could gather again for this special day. He expresses his appreciation to the St. Thomas Men's Society for helping to coordinate, setup, and serve the food. He also thanks Yellowstone Kelly's for providing the pulled pork for the event.

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