

Ms. Barichello,

(Received 3-17-2009)

Thank you for bringing your concerns before the Parish Council at open mic and for the email follow up. The PTO always welcomes feedback for our events.

With respect to the "charge" for the Fish Fry, we'd like to reiterate that our event is a complete free-will offering. Last year we displayed no cost and advertised as free-will offering. We found that most people asked for a suggested amount because they wanted to give appropriately for the meal being served. This year, in response to the previous year's confusion, we are advertising only a suggested price. Guests are still allowed to donate an amount of their choosing into a closed box. We also provide change if someone needs it. No one is ever turned away.

As for the serving of shrimp, we have come to the conclusion after meeting with Fr. Zehren that we are well within the Lenten guidelines of the Catholic Church. Everyone must form their own conscience and do what is right for them on Fridays during Lent. Because our event is mainly a community builder, we strive to bring those in the neighborhood into our parish community and welcome Catholics and non-Catholics to break bread with us. It's a great way to show the Epiphany hospitality!

The PTO has been very fortunate to cover all costs of the Fish Fry with the free-will donations. Any funds raised above and beyond the costs go directly back to Epiphany School to help support our mission statement of helping students, teachers and staff. We also tithe 10% of our proceeds to the Church and local charities. Last year, there were three charities outside the parish that we donated to. This year, we are considering making our entire donation to Epiphany by helping the food shelf.

Finally, we invite you to join us for a Friday Fish Fry to see first hand the great work by all the volunteers and experience an atmosphere of stewardship.

Sincerely,

Epiphany PTO Fish Fry Committee

Susan Crook
Jeanne Sorsen
Denise Mueffelman
Bob Mueffelman