

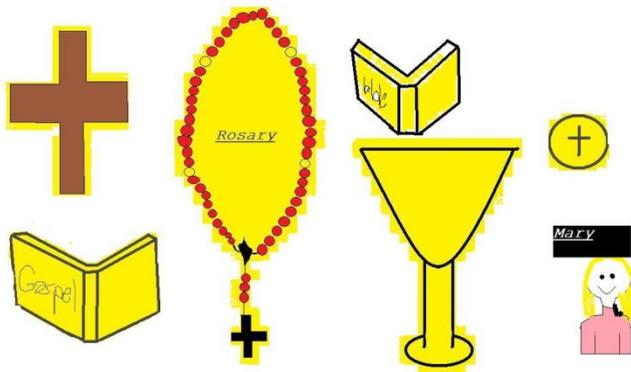
The Rosary and the Feast day of Mary the Virgin

A religious celebration is the Feast day of The Immaculate Mary. On whet ever day of the week it is occurred we come together as a school and we do mass. At the mass we sing a lot of songs that represents Mary. Some sings we sing are Immaculate Mary and Hail Mary Blessed Mother.

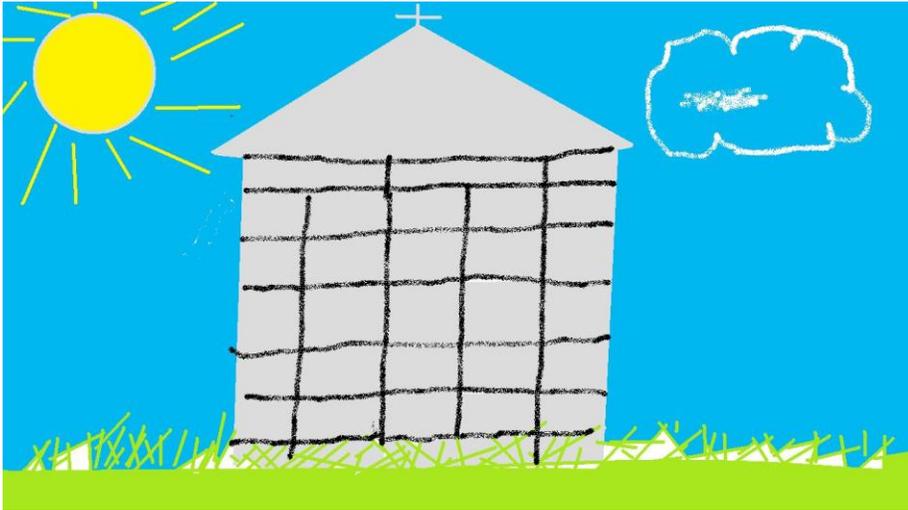
For example say the feast day is on a Wednesday, we have our all school mass and the people who were supposed to do their individual mass (3-5 grades) are rescheduled to the day of the all school mass. It is a complicated process.

On Mary's Birthday we come out side to this big statue of Mary and we sing and praise her. We also say a decade of the rosary. A rosary is a chain of big and small beads. There are 10 small beads in a decade of the rosary. Each small bead we say a Hail Mary (A Prayer for Mary the Virgin). On the Big beads(or different colored beads) we say an "Our Father." Also on the big beads we say more prayers which I don't know the names of. There are 5 decades of a rosary.

In October we say the rosary a lot because it is the month of Mary. We say it with the 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades. Each grade has to say it. The 3rd grade take a circle of colored paper and glue their writings on it and say it in front of the 4th and 5th grades on the Church. The 4th grade does the same thong except in the cafeteria where we eat. The 5th grade does it in the church instead of using circles of colored paper the use a white piece of paper.



The Midnight Mass



During the Christmas season "It's time to go" my mom said. Sleepily I try to get up. With all my energy drained away. "I feel like a snail that just finished having a sugar rush" I say. "Get up now she's yelling at me. I drag myself out of bed and get dressed. The shirts are like boa constrictors getting tighter every second. The weather outside weather is like a snake bite stinging through my whole body.

Church feels like sitting in hot chocolate. "It's so warm and cozy" I said "I know" Sais my mom. After many minutes, the warmness and coziness has crept over me like a blanket in the night. "I can't see" I said. "It's your fault you fell asleep and made us late". The soothing voice of the deacon was almost as smooth as the silk of a spider's web I almost fell asleep again.

Coming out was like going naked in the arctic. "Mom it's freezing out here," I said.

"Maybe you should have worn a winter coat".

"It wasn't this cold".

"I don't care" she'd keep repeating. It got so annoying I even thought about walking home even though it was 15 below zero. But again I just kept on toughing it out.

When we got home we turned on the fluorescent lights that gleamed like the sun shining on a crystal. It seemed as if Santa had climbed down the chimney and left the presents and left as soon as the lights flashed on like the sun in the early morning. Everything was perfect even the blazing fire stood perfectly in a line.

By Caleb R.

Parish Festival, Aug 26, 2011

I was on a car that rode along smoothly to the Parish Festival. I was thinking about how many prizes I would get there. My mom asked, "Which games do you think you'll play?" Her tone was calm. I replied, "I think I'll just play whatever games they have there." I looked out the window, and I saw houses in a neighborhood, then I saw St. Stephen the Martyr. The car was making a thumping sound when it hit the cracks on the street.

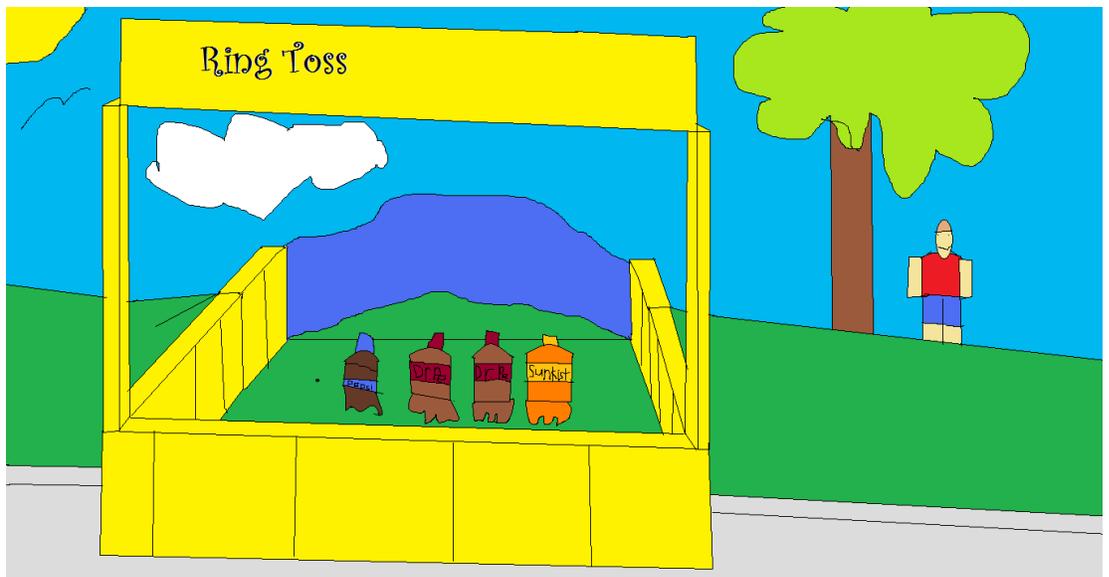
When I got there I walked up the stairs to the church. We celebrated church then I went down the stairs to where the food was. I ate my jumbo hot dog rather faster than how I normally eat a hot dog. Then I went around and played games. I didn't go on a jump house because I had to pay for it and I just had a game card. When it was 7:00, I went to my game station. I felt happy to be helping with a game station. I was working at a crossbow dart station. It felt like it was a dream being there. I was really happy. There were about 10 people who hit the targets and all the others missed them. After each person missed the target, I said "Better luck next time!" and "Thanks for playing".

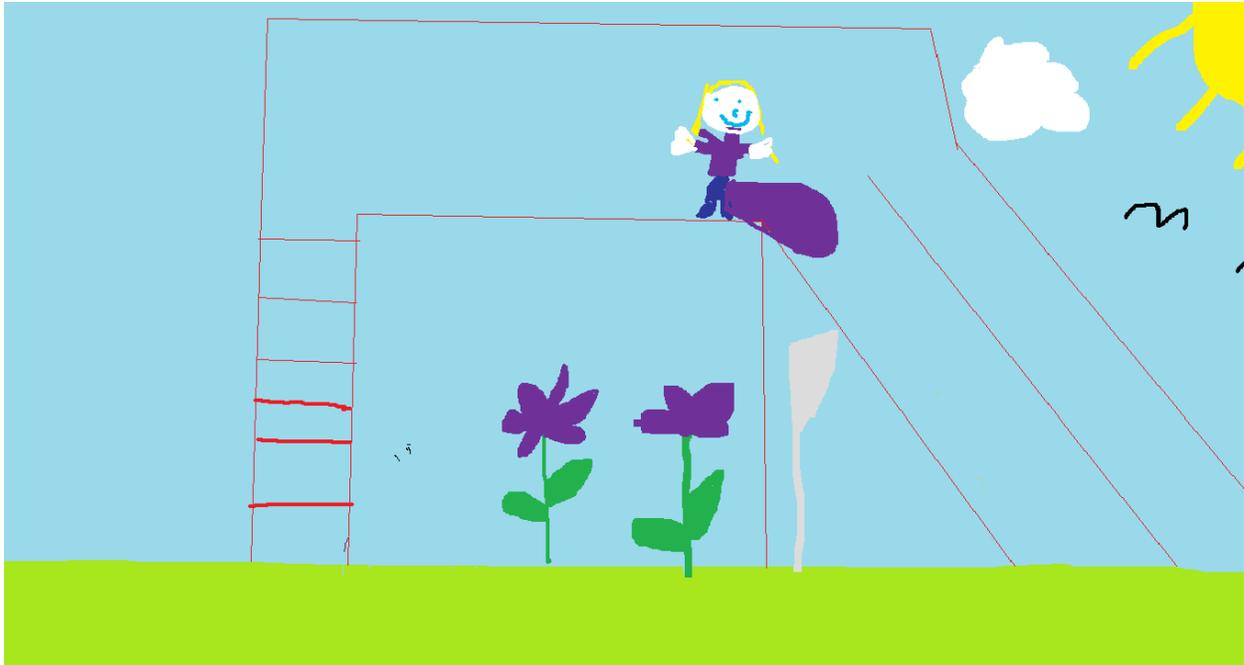
I found a \$20 punch card at my station, so I took it with. I played a lot of games with all of my punch cards (I had 2 \$20 ones and 1 \$5 one). I got bored of all of the games so I went to a candy stand and bought a lot of candy and 15 glow rods. I was happy. One of my classmates asked me if he could have one, so I said yes. There was a ring toss game where you had to throw a ring over a soda to get a 2 liter bottle of your choice of soda. I won twice, so I got 2 soda containers. They were really heavy, so I rushed to get back to the table where I was holding all of my prizes. My dad was surprised to see all of the stuff that I got.

The ring toss line is always long, so it takes a long time to get to the game. It gets boring waiting in line to toss the rings. There was this small group of girls that weren't paying attention to the line, so I just passed them. But then they realized that I had gone in front of them, so they went in front of me. I was angry at them. People kept going in front of me to get around the line when they could've went behind the line. I kept telling them that they could go around the line, but they didn't listen. It was very crowded there, so it was hard to get around to another game station. There were 2 musical chairs stations: 1 for cake and 1 for a stuffed animal.

One of my favorite inflatable entertainment stations was the log roll. You and someone else got on a fake log and it spun around and you tried to stay on as long as possible. It was hard, but fun for me. One year I rode with my best friend and we both couldn't stay on the log. The background of the inflatable was Niegra Falls. That was my fun Parish Festival.

By Luke





Parish Festival

I was in my car on the way to the Parish festival at St. Stephen the Martyr. The windows were down and I could feel the breeze. When I got there I walked on the cement to the playground. I waited and waited until my friends came. When my friends came they said “hello”. I said that back. We all walked to the stand where we get our wristbands and punch cards to do all the rides and games. I put on the wristband. It felt so weird around my wrist. I put the punch card in my pocket.

We walked with our feet hitting the ground to this ride that chairs go around in circles high. There was a line. We stood still waiting. Then we went on the chairs. They started to spin faster and faster and higher and higher. We said WEEEEEE!!!! We could feel our hair go back and pressure on us. We got off. We went to the exit door. We opened it and it was a cold doorknob. Then we wanted something to eat. We walked again with our feet hitting the ground to the food. We went in line. With our cold hands we grabbed a hotdog, sprite, and fruit. We paid for it by grabbing money and giving it to the girl. Then we sat down in the grass. It was squishy. We ate.

Then we wanted to do a game! We went to the Safari Walk. We paid for it and then walked in a circle around all the chairs and stopped when the music stopped. Then I won. I got to pick out a warm fuzzy animal. Then we started to walk with our feet hitting the ground to the jump house. I paid by showing the guy my wristband. Then we went in and started jumping. We felt our feet hitting the squishy inflatable jump house. Then we wanted a snow cone. So we walked with our feet hitting the ground again to the shack. We told the girl what flavors we wanted. When we ate it we talked and talked and laughed and laughed. The snow cones were very cold.

Then we wanted to go play on the playground. We went down the slide with our feet going down first. It was fun! We played more games than so we walked over there. We played ring toss. I threw a ring toss over one liter pop so I one it. Then my friends said “good job”. Then I said “thank you” back. Then we said are goodbyes. Then we walked with our feet touching the ground to our cars. That’s what I did at the Parish Festival.

By Maegyn R.



The Parish Festival

Every year we hold a parish festival at St. Stephen the Martyr. Before the festival we all eat and have a pop or two and try to meet some new people. After we have all eaten and our stomachs are full we head out to play games and to ride rides. For example, I went on the mechanical bull and stayed on for forty seconds. I also played ring toss, which is where you toss a ring onto a bottle of pop to win it. We also have a cakewalk. You walk around a bunch of chairs and sit down on the right number to win a cake.

Some other things I did were a bouncy house, (you bounce around in a bouncy house). The game I felt was the easiest was the football throw (American football), you had to stand two inches away and throw a football into a big hole. I did it three times in a row so I won these glow up teeth and a colored hat. The best game was basketball, you had to shoot 6 baskets and make all of them to win a prize.

At the end of the festival the priest would announce the winners for the raffle ticket drawing. One person would win 100,000 dollars and another would win 50,000 dollars, I would never win. ☹️ When they would shut down all of the games they would give all of the other prizes away. My sister grabbed at least ten animals from the animal walk. They would also give out free rides on the mechanical bull. Those were the best times to hang out with friends and family, playing games and drinking pop. That was my favorite festival.

Our Parish Festival is an important time of our school year. It is when the school year starts and everyone gets ready for school again. Usually it gets really crazy and fun. There is a lot of rides and games. There is lots of prizes and food. I love that time of the year.

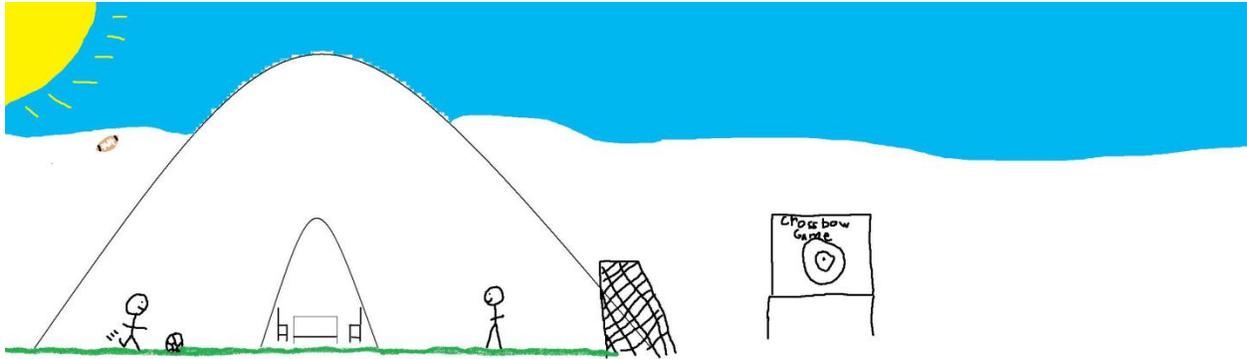
I always have a great time with my friends. I always win lots of prizes and get lots of food. After it gets dark we play in the field. There is a lot of stuff going on in the field. So I always have good hiding spots.

When we race in a blow up racing ride we go crazy. We battle in the battle arena which is really fun to whack each other. We have a budge cord game where a bunge cord pulls you back to the blow up wall and you have to put down a Velcro side. There is a snow cone stand to. I love our parish festival.

There is a huge slide that is really bouncy which is awesome! At the games you can win a glow stick and lots of other stuff too. There is lots of deserts and food. I love the parish festival because the mechanical bull that you ride.



Sam P.



Parish Festival

“You have to be back at our table at 10o’clock, ok?” mom said. “Ok.” I said back. The Parish Festival is one of those cool places that you never want to leave. They have a mechanical bull, a crossbow game, and really tall inflatable slides that you can jump all the way to the bottom on. I decided to go on the mechanical bull first.

After a one hour wait in line, I was 3rd in line. Minutes seemed like hours before I got on. I had a terrible ride. It was only 30 seconds. So I went on it again. After an excruciatingly long wait I was next. I got up and had the best ride of the night! It lasted 3min 30seconds. Next I went to the crossbow game.

My hair stood on end as I fired my third shot. The others missed, but I had a good feeling about this one. I heard the *thwack* of the bow string. The second seemed like hours. I could stand there. So I stood waiting and watching. Then it hit the target. Bull’s eye, I got a bull’s eye! I took my first place prize and walked away felling like a king. I put the glow in the dark shutter shaded sunglasses and started running around lighting up the night. I felt so good. It felt like the best moment of my life. Then I realized it was past 10o’clock. I had to get back to our table!

I started running for it because my mom doesn’t like it when were late. I was under the tent but I didn’t know which table we were at. I finally found our table, but where was everybody? Could they have gone home without me? My hairs stood on edge and I started shaking. They left me here in the bitter cold night. But school isn’t that far away from home so I started the one mile walk in the cold dark sidewalk. I came upon a gas station so I went inside and got a hot chocolate and a candy bar.

When I got home they weren’t there so I started getting frantic. I went out back and heard someone say “Preston?” it was my dad! They were in the back yard.

Preston



The Parish Festival

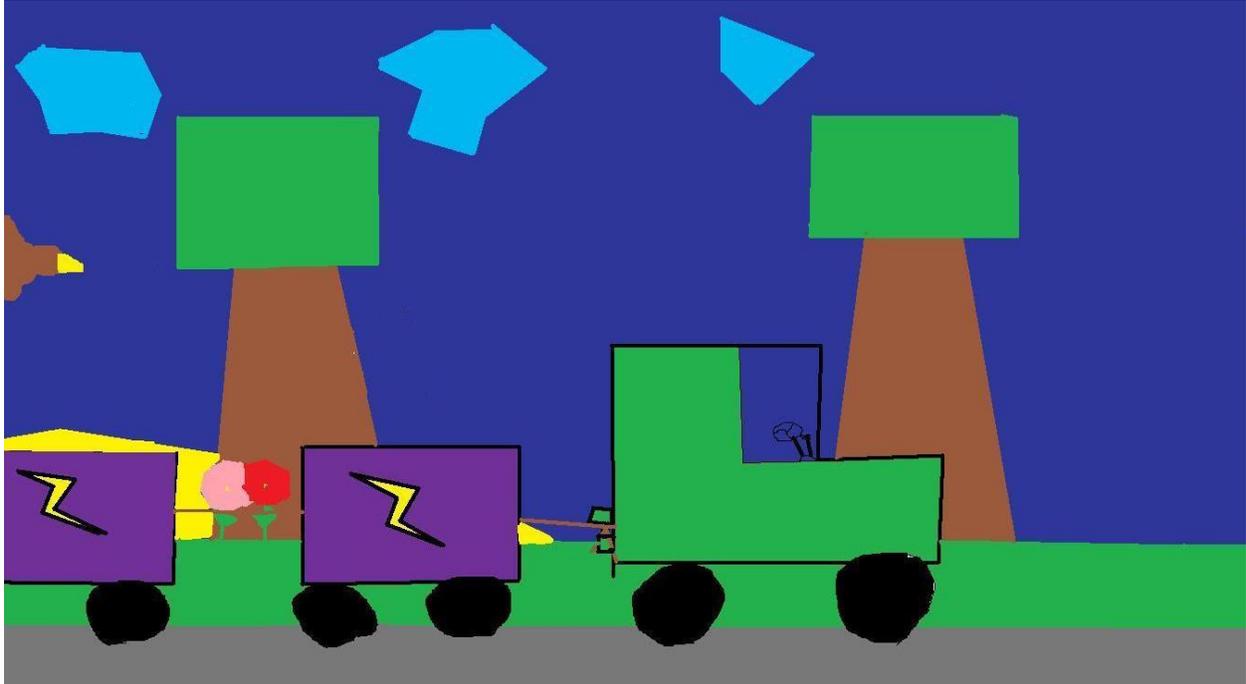
Every year here at St.Stephen's we have a parish festival to raise money for the parish. At the festival there is a mechanical bull, tons of bouncehouses, and really good food. Don't forget the spinning tea cups, spiny rides and the tram. You can't go five seconds without seeing a friend or five. You can't ever get a moment of peace and quiet ,but sometimes that is a good thing. There are always kids screaming to their heart's content on rides, a roaring load band, and three-year-olds demanding candy and soda.

My dad always takes me, and he walks along with me. I normally see people from my neighborhood and classmates. My neighborhood friends and I always go sit and watch the pony-ride and say hey to the horses, bounce in the houses, and ride the thrilling rides.

My brother comes to and when we meet up he has candy, soda, stuffed animals, and a full belly. My favorite part is all the games like wheel of fortune, duck pond, safari walk, and cake walk. I also really like the spinning tea cups.

Over all the parish festival is fun, crazy, and a great place to hang out with friends and family.

By Josie



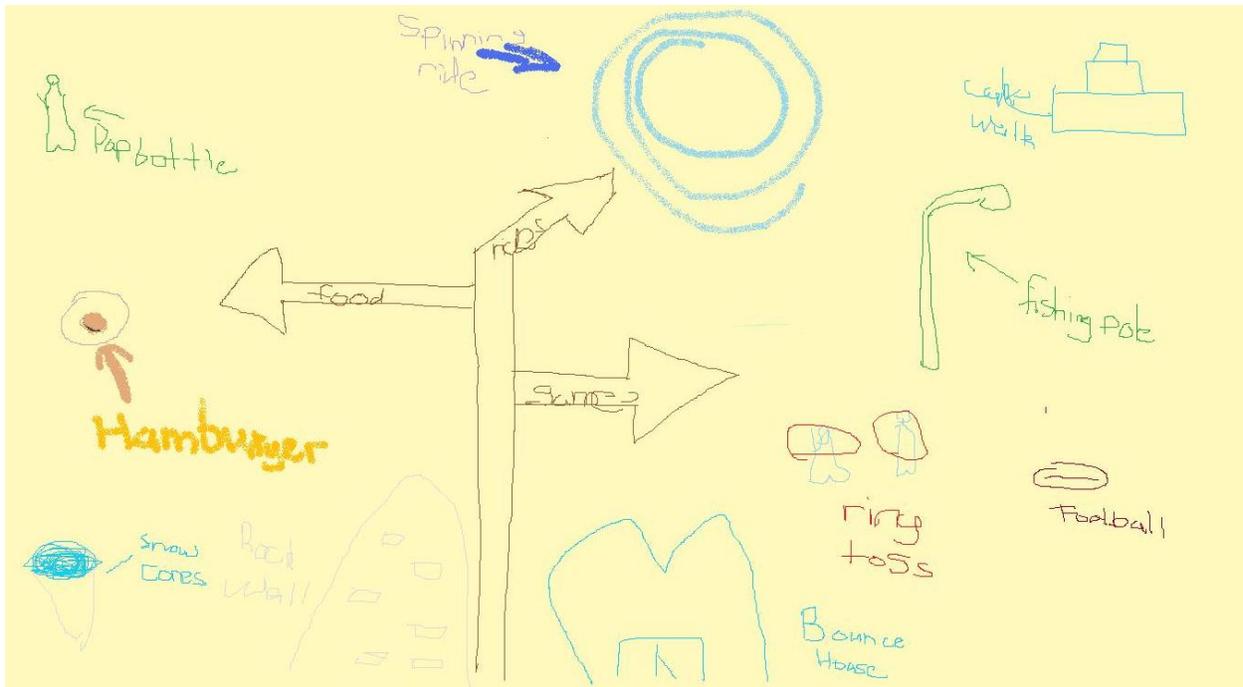
Parish Festival

The Parish Festival is a festival for the begging of the school year. All the kids are playing on the field, play ground, or playing the games. As I was on the small little train it was going in a fast like circle and I jumped off on the last round, and did a summer salt and scraped my elbow. My elbow hurt but my ankle felt horrible that I could hardly walk! Everyone asked if I was okay. This one kid got band from going on the train because he kept on jumping on and off the little train.

On the field it's mainly 6th-8th grade kids there at night. They go there at night because little kids go on the field at day. Sometimes on the field they have a big ball that you can go in, and roll around. The play ground is right next to the field. Barely any of the kids go on the play ground. Our play ground has 2 big slides that are yellow and red, yet one of them is an open one so you can see outside. They also have face painting and hair die, but the face paint stays for an hour.

At the Parish Festival you get a punch card that you have to pay for. The punch card is many different colors every year. When you play a game they stamp your card and they also do that when you order something to eat. You have to have a wrist band to ride the rides. The wrist band is different colors also every year. 1of my favorite rides is the train. The train only goes fast when it's dark and all of the little kids are gone. One of my favorite games is the cake walk. The cake walk is like musical chairs but if they call the number of chair you are sitting on you win a cake. Then you go to the cafeteria and pick out a cake.

By Erica



Here at St. Stephen the martyr we have an annual festival with lots of games and rides. This event is non-religious. The festival is fun and exciting because one of the rides is a thing that spins. You are pretty much capable of making it go faster. I made mine go so fast everything was a blur.

Last year my friend and I went on and we were going faster than anyone else. My heart was racing and all of sudden the carts stopped but ours was still going. We did not stop until FIVE minutes later. When we finished we were so dizzy we had to wait a while till the dizziness wore off. That was probably my favorite part of the night.

The games are weird but fun because on one of them you basically have to hold a stick that has a string and you fish. The prizes for that are lame because you either get stickers or a kazoo. There's a game where you have to toss a ring around a pop bottle and if you do you get that bottle. When you do wacky wire you have to go around the wire without touching the sides then you get a football as a prize. My favorite game is tic-tac toe because the prize is glow in the dark glasses.

By Abby M



The Parish Festival

As I was walking up the rode I could already smell the hot dogs and hamburgers. I could hear the band playing as everyone around them was talking. I felt the heat of the grills smoke and I knew today was the parish festival. As I walked toward the scariest ride there, my stomach turned. It was getting closer, and closer, and then before I knew it, I was in line. As the last group went on the ride, I knew it would be my turn next.

As my friend Riley came over to me, I felt a lot better knowing she would go on the ride with me. When the group in front of us came off, we went on it. It started off slow and then it got faster and faster. I started laughing and it was so much fun we went on it again. The second time was more fun because there was a wheel to turn the cart. We spun around really fast until the ride stopped. Riley said "that was so much fun". I said "I know". Since the line was so long we decided to go get some dinner. As I bit into my hot dog I tasted it tasted very tenderized I wanted another one.

Riley and I didn't want to do the obstacle course just yet so we went and played putt putt golf. I felt so happy when I won a mini soccer ball we went to play the cake walk. I sat in the number eight and Riley sat in number two. "Number two" said the caller. The caller gave us a slip and Riley and I went in the cafeteria to get her cake. We got a white cake with chocolate frosting. It looked so yummy I wanted to eat it right there. We decided to then go to the obstacle course and waited in line for a long time. Finally when it was our turn, the workers said go! We went as fast as we could, I could feel my hair blowing as I went down the big slide. The best part was that I won, but only because Riley isn't that tall.

I sat down because I was so exhausted. I didn't want to go home just yet so I got a delicious flavored ice to cool off from the hot summer heat. I got Riley one flavored ice too and she loved it. We went on a ride called fly on the wall and had a great time jumping on the Velcro. When we were walking to the car, I was sad that it ended, but then Riley invited me to sleepover and I felt a little bit better. Hey, there's still one next year. By Greta

Our celebrations

Our festival that we do at St Stephen The Martyr is called The Parish festival. When you go there you get to play games eat food and play kickball or play on the playground. It is a traditional festival that we do every year. The parish festival is open to any school members or the parish community. They also have a raffle for a car every year. It is very fun going every year.

Another celebration we have is all saints day where everybody comes that is in our school and a lot of parents. The mass is long because of all the people that come it delays the mass for about 5 minutes. My experience was bored because of waiting but when the mass started I wasn't bored anymore.

Another celebration we have at the end of the year is the last mass. That is at the last day of school. Everybody is just wanting the mass to end so they can go home and relax. When the mass is over we go back to the classroom get our report cards and leave. Everyone loves the part when you leave.

By Ryan Martin