

MARDI GRAS FUN AND THANKS

If you missed last Saturday's **Mardi Gras Potluck Dinner Party**, either because of the snow or for some other reason, you missed a really great time. Although it wasn't a Winter Picnic size crowd, around 100 people came to share amazing food, be entertained by a fantastic Dixieland band, win some great prizes and, most importantly, enjoy one another's company—all for free—aside from bringing food to share and making a freewill offering to help cover some of the minimal expenses of the night. This is the sort of thing we need to do more often, not so much to make money (though that's always helpful) but simply to enjoy one another's company.

I'm grateful to all who came and shared some of their favorite dishes (there was WAY more than enough food!), bought raffle and door prize tickets, and chose to spend a couple of hours on a cold winter night with their fellow parishioners. And I'm enormously grateful to the committee members—most of them veterans of the Winter Picnics—for their generous gifts of time and creativity. One of the great things about this event was that it was far less labor-intensive, with the gym being cleaned up by 9:15 and the kitchen not too long after that. And finally, I want to thank the generous parishioners who anonymously donated \$1,500.00 to cover the Amtrak and American Express gift cards and some of the other expenses such as decorations, beverages and the band.

So as I said above, this is the sort of thing we need to do more often in the course of the year. If you have an idea—and willing hands to help make that idea a reality—please let me know.

Fr. Bob