

Saint John's Annual Summer Carnival

Report on the 2018 Carnival

The **2018 St. John's Summer Carnival** was operated from Friday, July 20th through Sunday, July 22nd. in conjunction with the Town's *Celebrate East Lyme day* which occurs on Saturday each year. The weather was forecast to give us a mix of sun and rain, but - blessedly – it actually *never rained* during the Carnival's hours of operation! So, we had a very large crowd. On Saturday, Carnival-goers were in line to purchase tickets from before the time we opened with no let-up until closing. The carnival owner/operator, Ron, **reported that our ticket sales this year were a record for them!** Net Income totaled **\$ 9,608.91**. With our great teamwork, renewed effort and a little imagination, we can easily **TOP the \$10,000.00 mark in 2019!!** Over the past 4 years we have increased our fundraising capacity by adding the **PARKING CONCESSION** on Rogers Field, first run in 2015, and our **first**, very successful **FOOD CONCESSION** added this year. *Thank you, Lord!*

The Summer Carnival is St. John's Parish most successful fundraiser, in more ways than just the amount of money we raise each year. Just as important, is the great opportunity the Summer Carnival provides for us all to pitch in and work together as a team, building relationships with recent newcomers and seeing familiar faces too. We feel that we all had a great time working together. This year's success was the result of many parishioners stepping up, pitching in and giving of their talents, treasure and substantial volunteer hours. Thank you all!

Some observations...

NEW THIS YEAR: Our food concession was wildly successful. Throughout the Summer Carnival we sold fresh made lobster rolls, hot dogs, Italian sausage grinders, pulled pork sandwiches and lemonade. It was all delicious and most everything was sold out. It appears our first attempt at a Carnival Food Concession established "a following" too. Carnival goers who enjoyed our great food will likely be back next year looking specifically for our menu of delicious treats. We can expect an even greater demand next summer, so we're preparing to recruit more parish volunteers to help set-up, cook, serve and clean in 2019!! Many hands make light work, *as the old saying goes.*

This year we increased the parking donation to \$10-still in line with other parking venue fees in town. We parked slightly fewer cars, but collected the same amount of money. We must **increase the promotion of our Parking Concession** in the off season by stressing our convenient location. Its simply the best place in Niantic to park and watch the Saturday night fireworks display. Another area to improve next year is by recruiting **MORE PARKING VOLUNTEERS** to step up and sacrifice an hour or two. More parking volunteers will mean *shorter shifts*, more income and support of our Outreach ministries.

Ron, the amusement co.'s owner/operator expressed his appreciation, and that of his crew, for the hospitality we extend to them each year. He pointed out that we're the only non-profit he contracts with to offer his staff hospitality. We offer the same hospitality to the police and first-responders working on Saturday. **First instituted by Lynne and Dave Lersch**, it goes a long way in maintaining good public relations throughout the year. Please note that the hospitality "budget" shows *zero expenses*. The snacks, food and beverages are all purchased, prepared and donated through the generosity of many, many parishioners. **THANK YOU ALL.** Thanks, also, to Leslie Sollima for taking on our publicity needs. She did a great job.

Thank you all and we'll see you at St. John's Summer Carnival next July1
Respectfully,

Dick and Annette Hall