

Dragons, Drama, and Dancing!

The laughter of children scurrying to grab the goodies as they fell from a dragon-shaped piñata, the chuckles of adults watching a tongue-in-cheek performance of *The Legend of St. George and the Dragon*, and the clack-tacka-tacka-boom of the frolicing feet of Irish step dancers filled the air at St. George's Church as they celebrated the feast of their patron saint on April 23.

More than fifty members of the parish, and their friends, joined together for this intergenerational event. The night began with a short "readers' theater" production of *The Legend of St. George and the Dragon*, written by the rector, The Rev. Edd Schultz. Cast members for the play were recruited on the spot and included Ken Hasz as the Narrator, Devon Buskaritz as the King, Vanessa Segaline as Princess Cleolinda, Nolan McGilloway as the Dragon, and Shane McGilloway as St. George. Each was given some kind of costume piece to represent their role, and standing below a large white and red flag of St. George, they dove right in.



Narrator: So hungry was he (the Dragon) that he told the King unless he was fed two sheep a day, he would destroy the city.

King Hugh: You mean we have to feed you two sheep every day?

Dragon: Give me two ewe, or I'll eat you, too, Hugh!

The play even ended with a speech by St. George that provided a spiritual message.

St. George: Greater love has no man than this... that he lay down his life for his friends. Jesus gave his life for me; I gave my life to him. If you wish to repay, then let this be the day, that you give your lives to the Lord, and new life walk toward.

Children from ages 5 and younger then gathered around a dragon piñata with numerous ribbons hanging from his belly. Each child pulled a ribbon until one was found that opened the dragon's belly from which dropped a shower of treats. Older children took turns with blindfold and lance, swinging at a second piñata until it, too, burst open with a cascade of goodies.



Everyone gathered around the tables for a pot luck supper with food supplied by all the participating families.

Once stomachs began to settle, more than a dozen young ladies in fancy brocaded and embroidered costumes (and one young man) from Maureen O'Grady's School of Irish Dance entertained with jigs, hornpipes, reels and selections from Riverdance, Lord of the Dance, and Feet of Flames. The effervescent Maureen invited young and old to take part in a simple ceili dance. Then she summoned Father Edd to center stage because she had been told that he, too, is an Irish dancer. In spite of being a little out of shape and a little rusty, he managed to do a brief but "award-winning" rendition of a jig!



The evening's festivities ended with the Irish dancers performing a stirring dance from Michael Flatley's production Lord of the Dance.



This was truly an intergenerational event of fun and fellowship. Children played, danced, performed, and had lots of fun. Adults cooked, applauded, set up the room, cleaned up and also had lots of fun. St. George was well honored by this family affair.