

St. Joseph Marello

Pittston, PA

Saturday June 3, 2017

This is also a nice picnic. I wish they did not use those annoying food tickets. If you can't trust your volunteers then do not have the picnic. Also they did not have the usual picnic food such as hamburgers and hotdogs. My pallet is somewhat limited but what I did have was very good. The band Flaxy Morgan was excellent as expected. Parking was easy. There was a big flea market in the air conditioned hall. Bathrooms also were in the hall and spotless. Why they shut the picnic down at 10pm instead of 11 I am not sure. The crowd really wasn't as big as other years and I don't know why, because it is a nice picnic.

Rating 3 *** and 1/2 * out of 5 *

Divine Mercy Parish

Scranton, PA

Friday June 2, 2017

This is a good picnic. However not as good as it used to be. The food was good, especially the pizza. The band was good but not great. I never did catch their name. My biggest complaint was at the pancake stand. First of all not enough workers. Second they had a sign max 6 per person, people were walking away with 12 and 18. The pancakes were good but not great, after waiting in line an hour. All and all it is still a very nice picnic. The one thing lacking was the crowd. I don't understand why. Because it is a good picnic.

Rating 3 *** and 1/2 * out of 5 *

Jessup Hose Company # 2 Annual Carnival and Picnic

Jessup, PA

Saturday May 27, 2017

This is a good picnic, not a great picnic. The food was good, at the pizza stand the wait was long. You would think they would put in another tray as soon as they take one out. The pizza was very good. The potato pancakes were delicious, since we haven't had any since last fall. The parking was easy there was plenty of open spots in the lot next to the fire house. My main complaint again is the teenagers who attend the carnival, they are very ignorant. They walk right in to you. They don't look where they are walking instead they stare at their phones and tap away. If they had better control of the teens, this would be a better picnic. But it is not a bad picnic. It was great just getting out there for the first picnic of the season.

Rating 3 *** out of 5 *

St. Rocco's Picnic

Dunmore, PA

Saturday August 12, 2017

This is a very nice picnic. The food is very good, no food tickets. They have both a basket raffle and a purse raffle. There is plenty of seating. The bands are great. On the night I went the Jeffrey James band played. There is parking right across the street and the lot is level which is important since I got hurt. This was my first picnic since I got hurt and it was a good one. All their stands are permanent buildings. My only complaint is the band stops and the picnic is over at 10pm instead of 11, but this seems to be a trend at a lot of the picnics any more.

Rating 4 **** and 1/2 * out of 5 *

St. Jude's Picnic

Mountaintop, PA

Sunday August 13, 2017

This is a nice picnic. The food is good but it is a little on the expensive side. They had a chicken BBQ, which smelled delicious, I should have brought one home but I didn't. They did not have any entertainment. The grounds are beautiful. They had a large variety of food, and games. They do use those annoying food tickets. They have plenty of paved parking right on the grounds since they built a new church. The picnic grounds are all gravel and uneven which for most people is not a problem, with my knee problem I had to be careful walking. All in all it is a very nice picnic. I took a chance on the \$10,000, and as expected I didn't win again this year

Rating 3 *** and 1/2 * out of 5 *

Slavic Festival

Downtown Scranton, PA

Friday August 18, 2017

This is a nice small picnic. Parking is right on the grounds. The food is good and reasonably priced. No food tickets. Beer is cold and no beer tent. They have a huge basket raffle and a huge flea market. The staff are very friendly and helpful. It is a really nice small picnic, but what I can't understand is why they do not draw a crowd. They definitely should get a huge crowd with what they have to offer. Possibly if they offered

more non ethnic food and had a non polka band then maybe they might draw a bigger crowd. Which would probably draw more different people. Nobody knows, but may be worth a try.

Rating 3 *** and 1/2 * out of 5 *

Allentown Fair

17th and Chew St. Allentown, PA

Thursday August 30, 2017

The Allentown Fair was fun but one thing that was missing was the people. The fairgrounds were dead. Which was a good thing for me because that was the biggest workout for my knee since I got injured. The step counter on my phone said 3 and 1/4 miles but I highly doubt it is correct. More likely 1 and 1/2 at most. Next morning the knee was sore and slight swelling. But I was able to do it which is encouraging. Just had slight difficulty going down inclines.

Review of John Mellencamp concert. This was the third time I saw him in concert and he hasn't lost it. That man can really rock. He did almost all his hits and some less known songs too. He had a sing along with the audience on Jack and Diane. His band was great. My only two disappointments was he didn't sing "ROCK in the USA and I need a lover who won't drive me crazy". Also he never came back for an encore, when the crowd wanted more. Opening act Carlene Carter was surprisingly very good. She also came out for a few songs with John Mellencamp. She is Johnny and June Carter Cash's daughter. If he comes back again I will definitely go again. Excellent concert.

The Allentown Fair is probably not worth another visit. It is definitely not like it used to be. The only way I would go back is if somebody good was playing

Rating 2 ** and 1/2 * out of 5 *

La Festa

Downtown Scranton

Monday September 4, 2017

La Festa, the good, the bad, and the ugly "in reverse order". First the ugly the parking situation lead by ABM parking. I first started to pull into the lot at Adams and Spruce, was turned away, even though a car just went in before me.. Maybe lot was full?? Then a 20 minute ride down 2 blocks of Adams ave. to get to the other garage on Adams. Finally got back to lot at Adams and Lackawanna. Last year the lots took the money as you went in. This year a person at the gate with NO MASTERY of the English language was totally clueless. A "supervisor", at least he spoke English, said they will take the \$5 when you leave. So I took a ticket. Since my knee injury I need to use an elevator going down that many steps is not an option. After the festival back to the garage, no one working at the gate. So I had a ticket so I can pay with that. Got to pay machine at elevator, it was not working. Back around the block to the main gate where the other pay machine was working, then back around the block again to the elevator. Since ABM took over parking in

the city they do a piss poor job of managing the garages. Remember the mayoral election is coming up in November. If you are not happy with the parking and the sewer authority deals. Let your vote count.

La Festa, The good. The food was amazing. The prices were a little high but that is expected. The variety of food was great including some new vendors. The grounds were clean. The entertainment The Infernos were very good, however the Cameos last year, and the Bronx Wanderers two years ago were a little better. But none the less The Infernos were still very good as was some of other entertainment on other stages. All your friends were there, all in all it was very enjoyable. Now the bad. Even though it was on the website NO PETS, I counted at least 30 or 40 dogs there. That is no place for your pet dog. Even though it was on the website. NO SKATEBOARDS AND BIKES, there were many teenage boys riding on bikes and skateboards. I even almost got ran into by an idiot teenager on a skateboard. They have no respect for a person who can't walk as fast as everyone else because of my knee brace and cane. The police and sheriffs did not do anything about the teens. The best thing was I was able to do 3 times around the courthouse with only minor knee pain.

La Festa is still very enjoyable even with my knee and the teenagers. Hopefully next year I will be able to attend more than one night, also I hope the idiots that run ABM parking get their act together.

Rating 4 **** and 1/2 * out of 5 *

(Due to the parking situation)

Felittese Festival

Old Forge, PA

Friday September 8, 2017

The Felittese festival was good as expected. The food was good and homemade. The Revellos pizza and Yogi's pancakes were also good. There were less stands this year than other years. The band Fab 3 was good but all they do is the Beatles. I like the Beatles but not that much. There were hardly any people at the picnic. Partially due to how cold it was. By 9:30 it was pretty much over. I like this picnic but it seems it gets smaller every year.

Rating 4 **** out of 5 *

Our Lady of the Abingtons

Dalton, PA

Sunday September 10, 2017

This picnic is definately not exciting. The food is decent and reasonable. The chicken BBQ looked good. They have the typical stands and food. They have ice cold beer and no beer cage. Their entertainment is boring. The Quietmen remind me of the Irish Rovers, unfortunately I am not a fan of that type of music. The other act Vocal Accord remind me of a barbershop quartet. Unfortunately not to my liking. They used

to get great bands such as the Poets, not any more. The silent auction was lackluster. The car show was good but much smaller than other years. Parking is close. It does support the church so it is worth the visit.

Rating 2 ** and 1/2 * out of 5 *

St. Paul's Parish

Scranton, PA

Friday September 15, 2017

This picnic some years is great some years ok. This picnic has a lot going for it, but they do not control the children and teens, mostly boys. This year I felt that I was at a Penn State game and the X games together. "Children" were throwing a football back and forth and I saw it come close to hitting people. Other "children" were doing tricks on their skateboards and riding bikes through the grounds. The sad thing is the policemen are just standing there not doing anything about it. The teenage girls are much better just standing in circles tapping on their phones not really bothering anyone. This would be a great picnic if they would control the children and teens. The food is good and reasonably priced. They have TV in the beer tent. A huge basket raffle and lots of fun games. I was disappointed they didn't have the roast beef this year. But this is the only picnic where they allow children to act up. Have the police control them. There is no reason to bring balls, skateboards, or bikes to a parish picnic.

Rating 3 *** out of 5 *

Bloomsburg Fair

Bloomsburg, PA

Wednesday September 27, 2017

The Bloomsburg fair is one of the best events of the season. The food is good, although some is sort of expensive. There are plenty of things to see and do. This year on the day we went it was very hot, but they had cooling stations which were greatly appreciated. I was able to walk over 7 miles according to my phone, but felt it the next day at PT. I recommend McCormicks homemade soup and Top of the Beef. Its a shame to admit it but picnic season is almost over.

Rating 5 ***** out of 5 *

Berwick River Fest

Berwick, PA

Saturday October 14, 2017

Went to the Berwick River Fest for the first time. This is a very nice fall festival. They have plenty of food, arts and crafts, games and rides. Parking and admission are free. They even had air boat rides, boy are they loud. My only suggestions would be when the band is done on one stage then have the other stage start instead of playing the same time. Also they could have more than one pizza vendor. They said there were 150 vendors, but they have room for about 50 more. McCormicks home made soup was delicious as expected. Will I go next year. Yes this is a nice way to spend a few hours on a weekend after the Bloomsburg fair is gone. Walked only 1.89 miles, maybe they will get more vendors next year. Not hard to find. Leaving the grounds the back way is a little confusing.

Rating 4** of of 5 ***