From the Editor

During my most recent trip to Old Mines in May that coincided with the Brigade à Renault Rendezvous (see photo below), I took some time, as I often do, to walk around the grounds of St. Joachim Church, taking in the rich history of this community and the parish. A rainy day had suddenly turned sunny, and I took advantage of the change in weather to take photos of all of the statues that are found on the church grounds. Others are undoubtedly much better equipped than me to address the symbolism of this statuary, but I hope that by sharing these images we can all better appreciate St. Joachim and all it encompasses. The photos can be found on page 2 of the newsletter.

I will also take this opportunity to offer an apology to anyone who has been sending emails to the oldminesfrench@gmail.com address and not receiving a response. I have been having some issues with the email account over the course of the past few months and have not been able to respond to messages in a timely manner, but all seems to have been satisfactorily resolved, thankfully. If you have sent me a message and not heard back, please feel free to write again, as some messages may have been lost.
The Statuary of St. Joachim Catholic Church
Photos by Will Thompson
In recent months Kent Bone of Old Mines has been working on a set of posters tracing the history of St. Joachim Catholic Church in Old Mines, looking at both the origins of the parish and the construction (and subsequent transformation) of the brick church which has stood at the center of the Old Mines community for nearly 200 years. I am extremely grateful to Kent for allowing me to reproduce some of these posters in this issue of the newsletter. Kent’s intent is to have the posters be featured at upcoming events at the church as numerous anniversaries are on the horizon in the next few years, including the establishment of the parish, the construction of the brick church, not to mention the original grant awarded to Philippe Renault to conduct mining operations in the area in 1723.

On this page and the next you will find a few examples of the wonderful work Kent has done. He truly is the expert on the history of the current church building, and hopefully we will see more of his work in future newsletters.
The presbytère of the Old Mine is finished and I am lodged there about two months. 19 October, 1833 Jean Boullier C. M.

At some time between 1833 and 1942 the brick Presbytère was doubled in size.

April 20, 1942 Father Naes asks for help, tearing down the old rectory.

Sept 22, 1866 Peter Kenrick Archbishop of St Louis blessed the new bell named Mary.

Hewn trusses of 1831 church.

Tomb of John Cotter under the floor of 1854 Sanctuary addition.

Third and present bell.

Piers in basement supporting steeple.

Looking up into the steeple. 92 feet to top of cross as per Benny Thebeau.

Roof of 1854 addition inside wooden steeple.
Upcoming Events
(By no means intended to be an exhaustive list; readers should check each source regarding event status.)

July 24
St. Joachim 200th Anniversary Commemorative Mass

August 13-14
Jour de Fête, Ste. Genevieve

September 11
St. Joachim Fall Festival

September 17
Ste. Genevieve History Conference

October 2
Old Mines Fête

October 21-23
Center for French Colonial Studies Conference, Ste. Genevieve

October 22
Rural Heritage Day, Ste. Genevieve

October 22
Déjà Vu Spirit Reunion, Ste. Genevieve

November 5-6
Fort de Chartres Winter Rendez-vous

December 31
Guiannee, Ste. Genevieve and Prairie de Rocher

Recent Articles of Interest

A French Catholic Heritage is alive in Washington County

St. Joachim Alumni to Gather Marking 200 Years of St. Joachim Parish

Center for French Colonial Studies Conference (2022)
The annual conference of the Center for French Colonial Studies will be held in Ste. Genevieve on October 22, 2022. More information will be found on the CFCS website at: www.frenchcolonialstudies.org.