



Fest History

In the spring of 1972, the St. Joseph School Board was faced with finding a way to raise money or cancel the 7th and 8th grades. With the support of Father Kearney, the planning committee and many parishioners donated materials, money and time to build booths, obtain supplies and promote the Sausage Fest. The first stage and buildings, built by parishioners, were in use for 25 years, and then replaced. The first festival had fresh fruit, vegetables, a chicken wagon, fashion shows and a dunk tank. The first year, they made just over \$12,000.

The annual Sausage Fest continues to be one of the city's premier events and is celebrated every year on the weekend immediately following Labor Day. Each year over 1000 volunteers work to create this fun-filled community activity for the whole family. With a full size carnival, many handicraft booths, a variety of live music and entertainment on our Main stage, and beer & wine in our Fest Garden, there is surely something to please everyone.

Activities you can find at the Fest

Food Booths - The food is the item that keeps bringing the guests back every year. At the Fest you can enjoy Sausage Sandwiches, Sausage on a Stick, or our famous Sausage Dinner. Chicken, hamburgers, corn on the cob, potatoes, elephant ears and all the sweets you can imagine are also available.

Carnival - The carnival rides and games are provided by Hawthorne Family Shows. Pre-sale ride tickets are available about a month in advance. Hawthorne Family Shows provides rides sure to entertain youngsters of all ages including the Zipper, bumper cars, the Graviton, the Sizzler and the Star Trooper. The special-discount is offered for ticket purchases prior to the start of the Festival. Regular ride tickets are available for purchase at the Fest throughout the three day event.

Vendor Booths - The arts & crafts booths are the favorites of many Fest goers. Local artists have an opportunity to show their hand crafted wares as well as qualified craft patrons. Many colorful and exciting items are available at this one-of-a-kind event. Also featuring nursery & garden booths showcasing a variety of fall plants & hand crafted garden art.

Exhibitor Booths - The Animal Awareness & pet adoption is popular with all ages. As well as the gardener's delight with local gardening information.

Main Stage - The Main Stage showcases live music and entertainment Friday, Saturday, & Sunday throughout the Fest weekend. You can watch the Opening Ceremonies, performances by local dance studios, & kid's contests.

Fest Garden - Your visit to the Vancouver Sausage Fest would not be complete without a visit to the Fest Garden. Besides the same wonderful food available in the main part of the Fest, the Garden has beer and wine available. In addition, our favorite DJ plays music Friday and Saturday evenings. The Fest Garden is a fun meeting place for new and old friends.

Parking - Free satellite parking with shuttle service is located at McLoughlin Middle School and Marshall Elementary School. Handicapped parking is also available on the parish grounds.

Celebrated every year on the weekend immediately following Labor Day!
Coming home never tasted so good!