

St. Paul's Catholic Church had their summer festival for 2024. As is the case with other churches in the area a time and places is set aside annually for these local events. You don't have to be a member of the parish to attend and many visitors like this for this excellent late spring event.



## St. Paul Festival





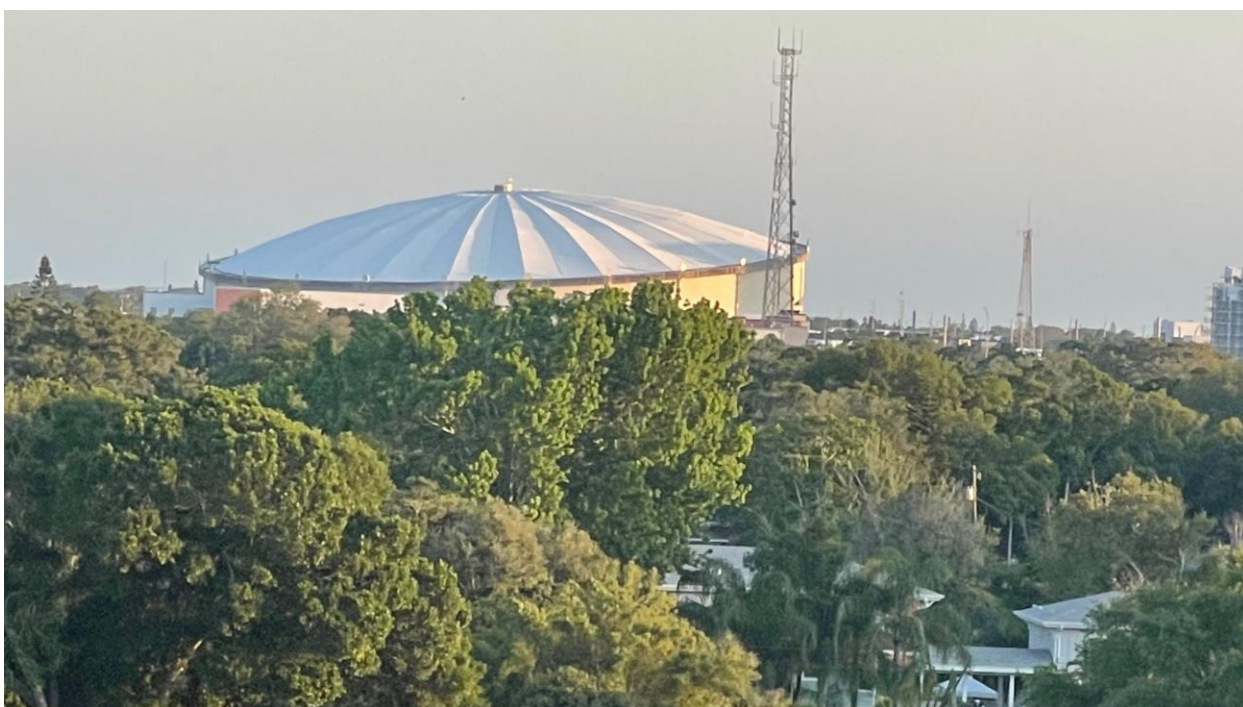
These are all time county fair rides. They are updated and are not quite as rickety as you would expect. But they are old-school. The Ferris wheel, the bottomless pit ride or whatever you call it, and tower of doom were all there. They also had a small area for children, but everyone goes to be spun and scared and plunged.



I would recommend the Ferris wheel as the first ride that you take. We took it late in the day and it was a spectacular view. You could see the town clearly as well as the entire fair below. St. Paul's occupies one entire city block, and surprisingly the church has been at this location for over 100 years.



The fair was completely full. We went on a Sunday, which was the last day and there was no shortage of children and families. Lots of activity, lots of food and a live band.



It's really interesting to see the city from a height of 80 feet. That doesn't sound like much but for St Petersburg that's plenty. You can really see the surrounding area. And Ferris wheels are great to ride because sooner or later you stop at the top and you can just look around.



On the ground is plenty to do, plenty to eat and plenty to ride. It was jam-packed. What I liked about this fair which was different is that the parish families had an opportunity to set up their own kiosks. They were able to sell food and drinks directly and raise money for the church. This was a personal touch that I have not seen before.





And of course, there are the arcades. Everyone dreams of winning that giant stuffed animal. The problem is by the time you do you probably could've gone on Amazon and bought five of them. But of course, that is the trophy of all trophies at a fair like this. You get to walk around with this giant stuffed toy, which tells everyone that you either spent \$1 million to buy it or that someone was extremely gifted or lucky. Either way it's so cool.



This image I will use for blackmail against my granddaughter for many years. I was able to very carefully hold onto my cell phone while we took the pharaoh boat pendulum ride. It's pretty dramatic. It swings back-and-forth with tremendous thrust and it's most uncomfortable if you don't like to feel queasy. As you can tell my granddaughter enjoyed herself immensely.



But the beauty of youth is that you can bounce right back. After terrifying her on the pharaoh boat ride, she decided on her own to take the tower of doom ride. This is where they take you up about 90 feet and then you plunge to the bottom where the Ride comes to a sudden stop. I couldn't do it, but amazingly after suffering through the pharaohs ride she did it with flying colors.





As evening fell the temperature did likewise. It was a beautiful cool dry spring day. The evening was just as pleasant. The grounds of the church are beautiful and these church buildings were built in the 1920s! It's a very nice setting for a fair and if you are here during the spring time, it would be your benefit to buy tickets and attend.



So as evening fell we also were winding up the day. You can buy a sheaf of tickets for 30 or \$40 and of course the more you spend the more tickets you get. Each of the rides was either four tickets or six tickets. It doesn't sound like much but for \$30 or \$40 to get more than your pick of rides. Food and drinks of course, or extra.



So remember Saint Paul's festival. It happens every year, probably in April. Look for it. Don't feel that you have to be a member of the parish to attend. We were not and we had a great time. There's plenty of healthy family entertainment. What I like the most is that the children ran free all over the grounds. You could see them just enjoy themselves. It reminded me of when I was a kid back in the 60s and 70s when your parents did not have a problem and let you run around. Everyone felt very safe here and it was. Please attend if you can you will really enjoy yourself.





Be happy!  
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