

COLUMNISTS

FISH FRY SEASON

A GLUTTON'S PARADISE

BY KRISTINA NESTEBY

The Lenten Season is meaningful for many in the Tri-States, but for foodies like me, it means seafood specials with shrimp and fish—oh, that fish. Between all-you-can-shove-in-your-gullet fish fries to the tamer I'll-have-light-ranch-with-my-lettuce cod dinners, this time of year could be more appropriately called Fish Fry Season.

Fish fries have always been a part of my life. Growing up, my mom was a teacher at St. Joseph School in Sinsinawa, WI. Besides the very distinct smell of the building and an endless supply of stickers, the main thing I remember about St. Joseph is the annual fish fries. The sides aren't fancy, but the fish is where it's at. That and the carnival games. I promise it's not just nostalgia talking when I tell you that I believe this is the best fish fry in the area. They host two during Fish Fry Season on the first Friday of Lent (March 8) and the Friday before Good Friday (April 12).

Living in the Tri-States also means we have the fortune of dipping into the wonderful world of Wisconsin supper clubs and the year-round all-you-can-eat fish fries. (I'm looking at you and your salad bar, Country Heights.) And you can't go to a supper club without getting and old fashioned. What pairs well with fish fries, supper clubs, and old fashioned? How 'bout a shirt?

"Our inspiration for the Friday tee and for our whole brand truly derives from family tradition," explains Marissa Hoffmann, owner of The Midwest Girl. "We remember Friday nights being really special as kids. Mom and Dad finished the work week and were ready to get out of the house. It wasn't every Friday which is what made the ones we did go out for really special. It was truly a 'treat.'"

The first time I saw The Friday Shirt, I knew I needed it. I don't need a lot of things in life, but this spoke to me on a deep, spiritual level. These girls get me. And the best part of supper clubs is the ability to celebrate Fish Fry Season year-round.

"Fish fries signify a true Midwest tradition. It really is something so unique to our region. We have many people visit



MY BANDMATE LIZ AND I LET OUR SHIRTS DO THE TALKING AT THE ST. JOSEPH FISH FRY

our shop every year and our Friday tee isn't significant to everyone. We have found Wisconsinites and Dubuquers are amongst the ones who read the tee and usually laugh and say, 'Oh my God, it's so true!' We love hearing other Midwest Girl stories of how they grew up with similar memories and traditions as Marah and I."

"Friday nights during Lent were either spent eating Dad's fish he froze from the summer before or hopping in the truck to the local tavern for the all-you-can-eat fish fry," Marissa reminisces. "The best part of going out for fish fries was the endless quarters we would beg out of our dad. It seemed the begging got easier the later the night got!"

Marissa has a few fish fries that are special to her. "Gooch's Greenhouse in Kieler, WI is a special place to our family. Three out of the four of us kids worked there for many years and have celebrated lots of birthdays, anniversaries and my husband and I's engagement there! Guler's Corner located smack dab in the middle of Hazel Green, Cuba City and Benton was the place we went the most as kids. It was close to home, and they had and still have the best home-made french fries! Last but certainly not least is the 3 Mile House Supper Club. The relish tray to start the night and the grasshopper to end the night was always something I looked forward to!"

You can find The Friday Shirt, as well as a kid's version with Supper Clubs, Chicken Strips, and Kiddy Cocktails, online at ShopTheMidwestGirl.com or at The Midwest Girl's shop at 471 W 4th St in Dubuque in Cable Car Square.

Grab your elastic pants (or unbutton your jeans like me), the most dedicated group of friends, and head to your nearest fish fry this Friday! We've compiled a list of various fish fry locations in the Tri-States on the next page. This is not a comprehensive list, but it's all we could fit! If we're missing a fish fry that you think would be a good addition, send me a message at kristina@dubuque365.com, and I'll add it to the list for further investigation.

As The Midwest Girls says in The Friday Shirt description, "It's time to celebrate Friday!" ■

TRI-STATE FISH FRY

Fridays during Lent are March 8–April 19, but many locations offer fish fries year-round!

3 MILE HOUSE

370 US 35, Hazel Green, WI
608-748-4455
Every Friday @ 4–10 PM

7 HILLS BREWING CO.

1085 Washington St., Dubuque, IA
563-587-8306
Fridays through Lent @ 4–9 PM

ASBURY EAGLES CLUB

5900 Saratoga Rd., Asbury, IA
563-588-4458
April 19 @ 5–8 PM

BLUFF LAKE CATFISH FARM

9301 95th Ave., Maquoketa, IA
563-652-3272
Every Friday @ 4–10 PM

BREITBACH'S COUNTRY DINING

563 Balltown Rd., Sherrill, IA
563-552-2220
Every Friday @ 4–9:30 PM

CAJUN JACK'S BAR & GRILL

1336 US HWY 20 W, Elizabeth, IL
815-858-3535
Every Friday @ 11 AM–10 PM

CAROLINE'S RESTAURANT

200 Main St., Dubuque, IA
563-588-5595
Fridays through Lent @ 11 AM–2 PM and 5–10 PM

CATFISH CHARLIE'S

1630 E 16th St., Dubuque, IA
563-582-8600
Fridays through Lent @ 11 AM–10 PM

COUNTRY HEIGHTS SUPPER CLUB AND MOTOR INN

1152 Badger Rd., Hazel Green, WI
608-748-4687
Every Friday @ 4:30 PM

DUBUQUE EAGLES CLUB

1175 Century Dr., Dubuque, IA
563-582-6498
Every Friday @ 11:30 AM–2 PM

GANGSTER'S BAR & GRILL

2020 N. Main St., Hazel Green, WI
608-854-2724
Fridays @ 4:30 PM

GINA'S RESTAURANT

45 N. 2nd St., Platteville, WI
608-348-6505
Fridays through Lent @ 4–9:30 PM

GOOCH'S GREEN HOUSE TAVERN

3544 County Rd. HHH, Kieler, WI
608-568-3040
Fridays through Lent @ 4–9 PM

GREEN STREET TAVERN

230 S. Main St., Galena, IL
815-777-0090
Fridays @ 11 AM–9 PM

GULER'S CORNER

1895 Hwy 80, Cuba City, WI
608-744-8498
Every Friday @ 4 PM

HAPPY'S PLACE

2323 Rockdale Rd., Dubuque, IA
March 8 @ 4:30–8:30 PM

J.M.'S TAP

7625 N. Menominee Rd., East DBQ, IL
815-747-7730
Fridays Jan–Apr @ 4–9:30 PM

JOLIET EVENT CENTER

781 Locust St., Dubuque, IA
563-588-2011
Fridays through Lent @ 5–7:30 PM

JUG'S MAIN STREET TAP

200 N. Main St., Elizabeth, IL
815-858-3333
Every Friday @ 5–9 PM

MID-TOWN MARINA

285 5th St., East DBQ, IL
815-747-3310
Fridays through Lent @ 5 PM

MORACCO SUPPER CLUB

1413 Rockdale Rd., Dubuque, IA
Every Friday @ 4 PM

MULGREW'S TAVERN

240 Sinsinawa Ave., East DBQ, IL
815-747-3845
Fridays through Lent @ 7 AM–3:30 AM

NEIGHBORS TAP

1899 Rockdale Rd., Dubuque, IA
563-556-9633
Every Friday @ 4–8 PM

OXUS GROTTO

3011 Autumn Dr., Asbury, IA
Fridays: March 15 and 22 and April 5 and 12 @ 5–7:30 PM

PARADISE BAR & GRILL

205 N. Main St., Galena, IL
815-777-3245
Every Friday @ 4–10 PM

RHODY'S

14167 Old HWY Rd., Dubuque, IA
563-585-1500
Every Friday @ 5–9 PM

ST. CLEMENT'S

24287 New Vienna Rd., Epworth, IA
March 15 @ 4–8 PM

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH

203 2nd St SW., Dyersville, IA
563-875-7325
April 5 @ 4:30–8:30 PM

ST. JOHN PLACID CATHOLIC CHURCH

22453 East Pleasant Grove Rd., Epworth, IA
March 8 @ 4:30–8 PM

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

235 Peosta St., Peosta, IA
March 22 @ 4:30–8 PM

ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL

780 County Rd. Z., Sinsinawa, WI
608-748-4442
March 8 and April 12 @ 4–8 PM

SUNSET LANES

410 S. Main St., Dickeyville, WI
608-568-7999
Every Friday @ 5–8 PM

TASTE COUNTRY ROADHOUSE

14877 US HWY 20, East DBQ, IL
815-747-6656
Every Friday @ 2 PM

THE BARN

5090 Sherrill Rd., Sherrill, IA
563-552-2353
Every Friday @ 4:45 PM

THE MARKET HOUSE RESTAURANT

204 Perry St., Galena, IL
815-777-0690
Every Friday @ 4 PM

THE ORIGINAL POTOSI SALOON

192 S. Main St., Potosi, WI
608-763-2230
Fridays through Lent and 2nd Friday of every month @ 11 AM

TIMMERMAN'S

7777 Timmerman Dr., East DBQ, IL
815-747-3316
Fridays through Lent @ 4:30–9:30 PM

VILLAGE BAR

3410 County HWY HHH, Kieler, WI
608-568-3004
Every Friday @ 4–10 PM