Celebration in Delcambre

Shrimp Festival begins tomorrow

DELCAMBRE — The 30th annual edition of the Delcambre Shrimp Festival begins tomorrow on a solemn note and ends four days later the same way.

But in between are days of revelry.

There is street fair fun, numerous games and concessions, a fais-do-do, mini-marathons and fun runs.

The festival, called the biggest yet, unfolds tomorrow and concludes Sunday.

A JOYOUS highlight of the five-day event is the coronation of the shrimp queens.

But a solemn note is sounded, too, with the fisherman's mass along the Delcambre Canal bank, and the traditional blessing of the fleet.

Delcambre Shrimp Festival and Fair Association officials are predicting record crowds this year.

Many of the luggers in the Delcambre shrimp fleet began arriving early last weekend because of the threat of Hurricane Allen in the Gulf of Mexico.

The festival gets underway tomorrow at 6 p.m. with a mass at Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church.

Masses like these are traditional ways of beginning the numerous festivals that are held in Acadiana each year.

THE FIRST day of the fair is filled out with a family night at the street fair, at 6 p.m., and street fair-type games and concessions for as long as the crowd is on hand.

All games, concessions and outdoor activities take place at the festival grounds along the banks of the Bayou Carlin (Delcambre Canal) on North Richard St.

Family night is continued at 6 p.m. Thursday, but the highlight of the day is the coronation of the Shrimp Junior Queen and ball at 7:30 p.m. at the Shrimp Festival Building on North Richard, directly across from the festival grounds.

Concessions open again at 6 p.m. Friday. The highlight, though, is the coronation of the Shrimp Queen and ball at 7:30 p.m. at the festival building.

Saturday’s round of activities gets underway at 11 a.m. with the opening of the games and concessions.

THE BABY Shrimp King and Queen Contest will be held at the festival building at 3 p.m.

A mini-marathon is scheduled at 5 p.m., in connection with fun runs that are planned.

The annual fais-do-do at 9 p.m. rounds out Saturday’s activities.

Saturday’s finale includes concessions and games at 9 a.m.

But it is the fisherman’s mass along the canal bank that traditionally attracts the most visitors.

The 10 a.m. mass is followed an hour later by the solemn blessing of the fleet when devout Roman Catholics ask for safe passage for their shrimp fleet.