

Restaurant Review 11 Smitty's October 29, 2014

FOOD: Saturdays at Smitty's The neighborhood bar and grill with daily "blue plate specials," makes Smitty's a unique kind of West County restaurant. A cousin of my wife called Smitty's "A South St. Louis air-conditioned corner tavern" making reference to the places with "Air Conditioned" stenciled on the front window that used to be found on every other corner in South St. Louis.



Smitty's at the corner of Clayton Road and Baxter Road.

Smitty's is possibly most famous for their Wednesday fried chicken blue plate special that has the place filled with a wait for a table from 5:30 to 7:30. We don't go on Wednesdays, it is just too crazy, but the price is right...\$6.95 for dark meat and \$7.95 for white meat.

We used to be regulars on Thursday's Country Fried Steak night, but now make it out maybe once a month. The big complaint was always how the mash potatoes and white gravy were often cold and required a trip back for some time in the microwave. I now specify "hot mash potatoes and gravy" when I order. But when they come out hot they are very good. The mash potato side dish is only served on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Two weeks ago when my wife and I along with former Chesterfield patch.com editor Jean Whitney went out to Smitty's to see Anita Rosamond, we also decided to review lunch.

Jean and I got Pork Steaks, which normally come with cole slaw and baked beans. We substituted fries for baked beans and I got potato salad and Jean stuck with the cole slaw. We also ordered chicken tenders for everyone at the table to share.

Smitty's has maybe the best chicken tenders around. Over a year ago Smitty switched from frozen tenders to fresh ones that are lightly breaded at the time of your order. They are served with an ample amount of honey mustard sauce. These might just be better than Wednesday's fried chicken and they are available all week.



The pork steaks (\$9.95) arrived and were hot, moist, large and tasty. Once in a while you might get a pork steak with too big of a bone or a little too much fat. But on this Saturday there was nothing but tasty pork coated in a BBQ sauce but not smothered in it. The cole slaw was good. The potato salad was just okay, better than Miller's Crossing, but not as good as Charlotte's Rib or Lester's. The only pork steaks around West County as good as the ones served at Smitty's are at Charlotte's Rib.



My wife has never had a salad she didn't like at Smitty's. I find this strange at a neighborhood bar, but the salad's are always good. On Saturday she got a Greek Salad.



The next Thursday night my wife and I returned. The the place was packed. The blue plate special was Chicken Fried Steak. My wife ordered a bacon and cedar cheese burger (\$7.95). It was amazing how a neighborhood bar had an option for a side besides French fries, cole slaw, corn or mashed potatoes. My wife got zucchini and squash as a side. I got the chicken fried steak with double mashed potatoes and white gravy (the cardiologists' special for \$7.95).

Everything was perfect.



On Thursday Smitty's two sons worked the dining room as waiters while Michele worked the bar side and Smitty tended bar. On Saturday Allison was our waitress. She had a striking resemblance actress Kaley Cuoco-Sweeting who plays Penny an aspiring actress who also waited tables at a Cheesecake Factory on the TV show "The Big Bang Theory." She admitted that some customers do call her "Penny."



Allison aka Penny



Kaley Cuoco-Sweeting as "Penny"

The one drawback at Smitty's is there are no overprices desserts. In fact there are no desserts at all. Booze, soft drinks and American comfort food, plus some good salads you can buy at Smitty's, but no desserts.