by Mark Rumreich

Just Judy's is located a block west of Keystone, on 54th Street. They're well known for their hearty and affordable breakfasts, but have a full lunch and dinner menu too.

The central dining area has a sunroom on one end and a cozy bar area on the other. There's also a large private dining room available for meetings or parties. The Kiwanis Club was using it for their monthly meeting on the night we visited.

The lunch and dinner menus include a broad selection of pub fare. There are appetizers, sandwiches, subs and burgers. You'll find salads galore, steak and fish dinners, and of course, pizzas. There are nightly dinner specials and a kid's menu. Pizzas come in 7, 10 and 14-inch sizes. Toppings include all the popular favorites plus bacon, tomatoes, pepperoncinis, jalapenos and anchovies. Beer-wise, there's a modest selection of mostly domestic brews in bottles and cans.

Just Judy's Restaurant & Pub
2210 E. 54th Street
317-254-8796

kitchen hours:
Mon-Sat: 6:30AM - 8PM
Sun: 6:30AM - 3PM

One of the great things about doing the Pizza Scene is that there's an incentive to try pizzas I otherwise might not. For the reviews, we always order at least two or three pizzas and try to include something that's the specialty of the house or out of the ordinary. Such was the case here. The "Judy's Favorite" specialty pizza is a crust covered with cream cheese with a hint of garlic and oregano, topped off with broccoli, cauliflower and 3 cheeses. This is not something I would venture to order on my own, but we couldn't pass up ordering one for the review. We also ordered our standard pepperoni and sausage pizza.

When the pizzas were delivered to our table, I had to try Judy's Favorite first. I was expecting something reminiscent of broccoli and cauliflower casserole, served on a crust. I was wrong. The vegetables were crisp and fresh, not overcooked, and the spiced cream cheese provided a very cheesy but not the least bit gooey foundation for this pizza. This pie had the proper balance of all its ingredients, and the result was out of the ordinary and exceptionally good.

The pepperoni and sausage pizza had spicy pepperoni, plenty of mozzarella, and very tasty sausage - it had the right blend of spices and came in the hefty hunks I crave. The weakness was the sauce - it was sparse and bland. (Admittedly, I like abundant spicy sauce.) This pizza could also have benefited from a homemade crust. But the flavorful toppings overcame much of these deficiencies.

If you're looking to get out of your pizza rut and get cruciferous, you'll find Just Judy's is just the ticket!

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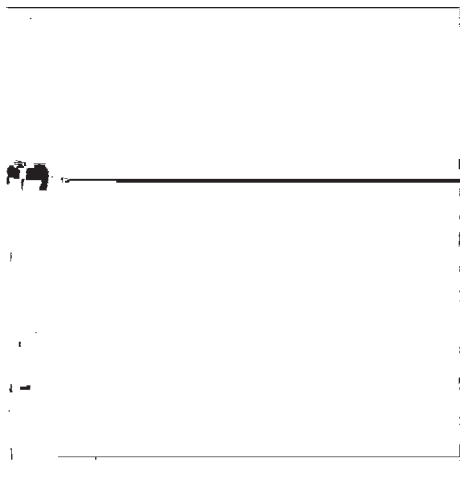
Mark Rumreich has been vigilantly surveying the pizza scene in the Indianapolis area for over two decades. He is an avid home brewer, has written for several magazines, and is the author of the Car Stereo Cookbook.

Crossword solution
puzzle on Page Nine



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Add a new pizza since your last review?
Did our review overlook your specialty pizza?

Contact the Gazette at 508-6634