

BENEDICTION EVERY THURSDAY AT 6:30 P.M.



LAUGHTER IS GOOD

What kind of food do Priests eat?
Parishable food.

Did you hear about the new surgery kit that lets the patients sew up his own incisions?
It's called Suture Yourself.



\$225,400.00

Debt on Fr. Luehrmann Hall.
St. Mary pays \$2,500.00 per month on the debt, which includes \$500.00 per month paid directly to the principle.

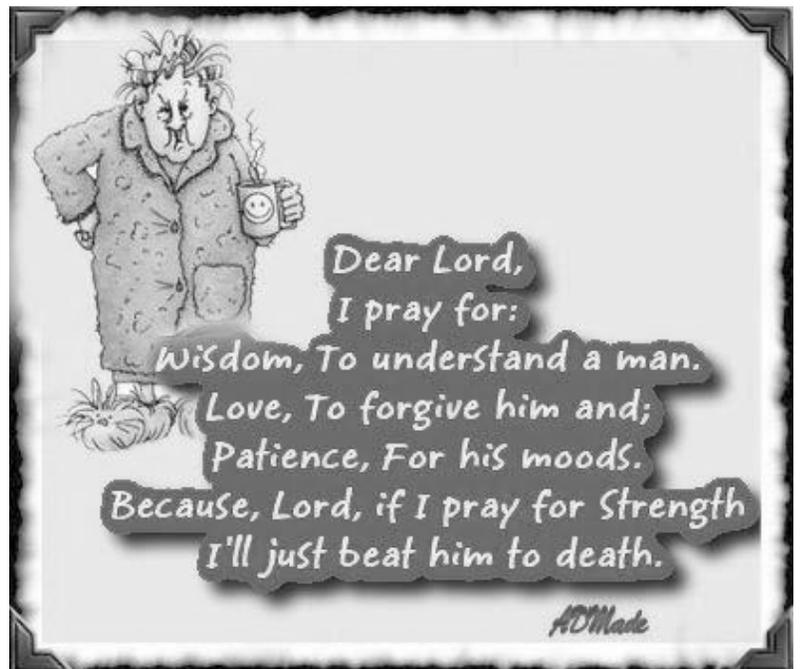
SERIOUSLY GUYS, COULD YOU STOP WITH ONE LIKE/ONE PRAYER THING?



IT DOESN'T WORK THAT WAY.



- February 4 Zachary Humphries, Alexa Jett, Jennifer Link
- February 5 Kay Neugebauer, Nancy Witt
- February 6 Lauren Gunderman, Eric Hapner, George Sakash, Mary Strain
- February 7 Joslyn Rockey, Cailin Wehrung, Haylee Wehrung
- February 8 David Howell



FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Right after my ordination, I celebrated Mass at my Aunt Rosie's house in my hometown of Conway, PA. I felt very honored to celebrate the joy of this occasion with my family. When the Mass finished, I walked outside to my aunt's porch, dressed in my vestments. I looked to my right at the house next door. On that porch sat the one person who caused me more grief in Conway Elementary than anyone else – Mike Ruskin. All those negative feelings came back to me like an old recording of his ridicule for the way I looked and my lack of athletic skills. Then I thought, "This is stupid. I'm 30 now, not 13. He can't hurt me anymore." I yelled over to him, "Hey Mike. How are you doing?" He just sat there guzzling a beer. He was unshaved, wearing a dirty undershirt. Finally he spoke, "I can't believe it. Look at little Mikey Paraniuk all dressed up. I hope you're better at priesthood than you were at catching a baseball." He got up and walked in the house. To him I was still a 13-year-old kid.

Jesus got the same treatment in His hometown. How could this "son of Joseph" claim to know about the Messiah or even be the Messiah? "Do some Messianic stuff like miracles or wonders and then we will believe in you!" The phrase "Physician, heal yourself" means they wanted Jesus to do His miracles at home. That's the only way the home folk would accept Him.

Jesus really ticked them off by reminding them that God sent the great prophets Elijah and Elisha to work miracles among the people the Nazoreans disliked the most and not them – Samaritans and pagans. It would be like rubbing it into the face of a New Orleans Saints fan that a missed call by the ref denied them a chance at the Super Bowl...and then proclaiming in the Saint's locker room God loves the Rams more than you! Talk about fury!

The people of Nazareth didn't understand Jesus because they could see only the familiar son of Joseph. They wanted a miracle before they would believe. Jesus the Messiah says believe in Me first, then you will see my power working in your life. Jesus tells his believers to be bold in prayer. Jesus boldly tells His followers in John 15:7, "If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you." Wow. This is powerful. However, you have to understand the full meaning of the word "ask."

The word "ask" translates into the Greek word "aiteo." Aiteo depicts a person talking with a superior. It expresses humble faith that the Superior will have the person's back covered and take care of all his needs in all circumstances. With aiteo, I fully expect God to will only my highest good because all God's children deserve the very best. I don't have to present to God a laundry list of wishes because I believe He already knows what I need and has already taken care of it. Mary never asked Jesus to make wine for the Cana Wedding. She simply presented to Jesus the problem and then waited for her Son to act.

I very seldom ask God to grant specific prayers for myself. The last time I did was on December 13th of 2017, when, after months of exams, Dr. Ballard couldn't figure out the reason for blurry vision in my right eye. God answered that prayer the next day. On December 14th, my vision improved from 20/50 to 20/20 overnight. To this day he has no medical explanation for this. I could pray that God heal my left knee quicker, however I know what He'll say: "Get off of your butt and go do therapy." Blessings...Fr. Mike