





- September 3 Anette Houck, Harley Pack,  
Cathy Shanahan
- September 4 April Roark
- September 6 Mary Bradley, Wendy Culbreath
- September 7 Emily Davis, Tara Karnes,  
Rudy Tomsen, Jr., Maria Wendel
- September 8 Ethan Howard, Ethan Humphries,  
Carol Ann Stafford
- September 9 Jack Cornele, Ellie Cramer

*Ryan Howland's birthday was August 29th.  
Belated Happy Birthday!*



### LAUGHTER IS GOOD

A young man was a very slow worker. He found it difficult to hold down a job. After a visit to the employment office, he was offered work at the local zoo.

When he arrived for his first day, the keeper, aware of his reputation, told him to take care of the tortoise section. Later, the keeper dropped by to see how the young man was doing. He found him standing by an empty cage with the gate open.

"Where are the tortoises?" he asked.

"I can't believe it," said the new employee, "I just opened the door and whoosh, they were gone!"

## NEWS AROUND THE PARISH

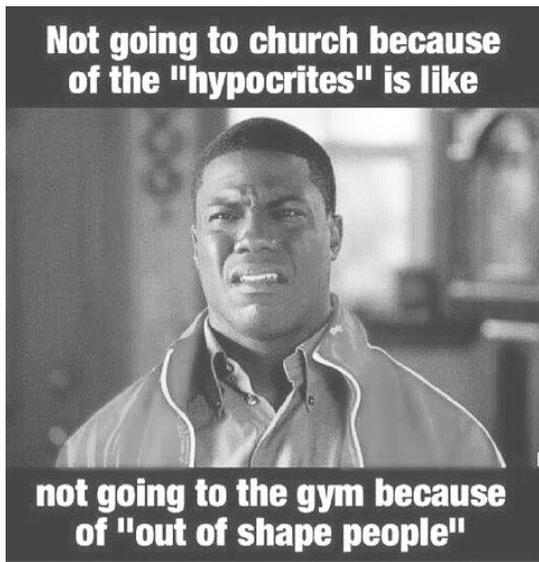
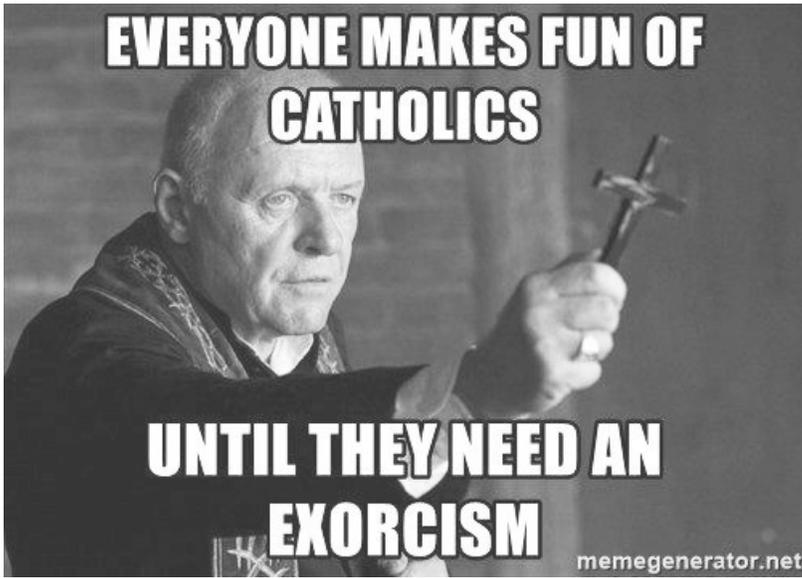
**PSR (Parish School of Religion) starts September 9, Preschool through 12th grades.** Gather time is 8:45 a.m. in the Hall. Dismissal is 9:50 a.m. Packets are in the narthex to register. Email [stmarycre@cinci.rr.com](mailto:stmarycre@cinci.rr.com) for more information. We are excited to add preschool this year; Mrs. Wendel will lead our little ones, as they journey to learn more about Jesus and the Catholic Faith.

### HOPE EMERGENCY

Located in Lynchburg, Hope Emergency Program provides food and clothing outreach services to the rural poor of Adams, Brown, Clinton and Highland Counties, and is currently seeking volunteers to assist Sr. Lucia and her staff. Places are currently open on Tuesdays and Thursdays between the hours of 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m. to organize donations and portioning food, and Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m. for distribution of food and clothing. This is a wonderful opportunity to answer Christ's call to help our neighbors and serve in His name. For more information, flyers are in the Narthex or contact parishioner Cathy Breckel at [cjbreckel@gmail.com](mailto:cjbreckel@gmail.com), 937-205-7535 or Diane Vollman of Hope Emergency at 937-364-1055.

**The Preparation Class for the R.C.I.A. will NOT meet this Tuesday because of the County Fair. Our next Preparation Class for the R.C.I.A. will be Tuesday, September 11, 2018, at 6:00 p.m.** All adults are welcome to learn more about the Catholic Faith.

If you have any questions, please call: Jim Hehl at 937-364-6556 (Home) or 937-661-4835 (Cell), or Joyce Combs at 937-764-2030 (Home) or 937-403-6708 (Cell).



**Catholic Mass Gymnastics**

The "Someone is trying to pray behind you"

The "Person in front of you is sitting while you try to kneel"

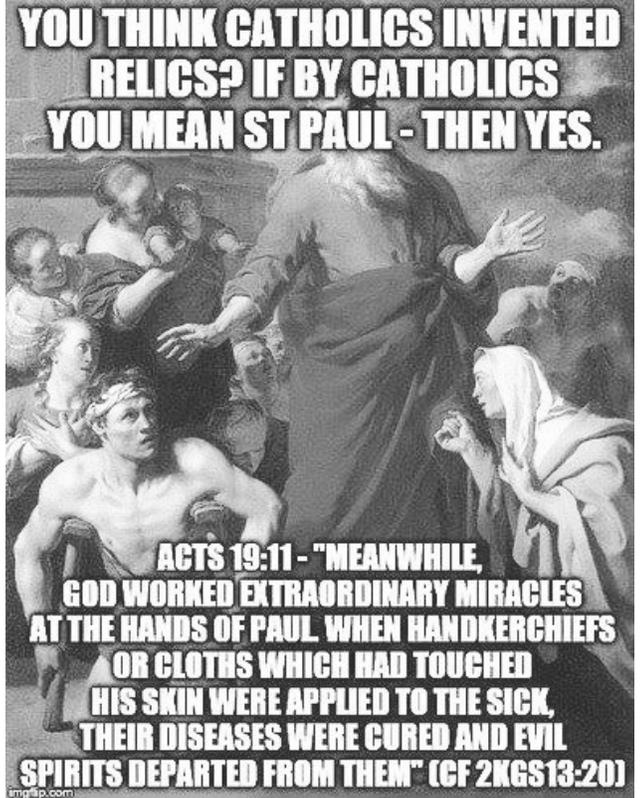
The "Letting someone get into your row"

The "Stepping over someone not going to Communion"

The "Running after child rushing altar"

The "Find the way through the crowd after Mass"

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## SERMON FOR TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY

I loved my Uncle Nick. My family would make the drive from Beaver County, PA, to Canton, Ohio, to visit him and Aunt Mary on a Saturday morning for breakfast. I still remember him cooking blueberry and pineapple pancakes smothered with hot liquid butter that melted in my mouth. Uncle Nick was a hard-working steel worker who told it like it is. He despised hypocrisy. Knowing that I was studying for the priesthood, he shared his feelings about the Catholic Church. Uncle Nick was Serbian Orthodox. He didn't go to church but he was spiritual man who lived a Christian life.

He said to me, "There's something about Catholics that doesn't make sense to me. I work with a lot of Catholic guys at Timken Steel. They won't eat meat on Friday because it's, what you call it, a mortal sin. Yet I know these same guys will go down to Sabolic's Bar after work, drink too much, start swearing, get in fights and flirt with women even though they're married. I faithfully come home to your Aunt Mary who cooks me Kielbasi that I eat on a Friday. So Michael, as a priest, would you tell me I'm going to Hell, but those cheating guys are going to Heaven? I replied, "Uncle Nick, God wants you in Heaven to cook your delicious pancakes. Those guys in Hell don't deserve them." He laughed and gave me a big hug. We both agreed sin doesn't go into the belly. It comes out of one's heart. The church allowed eating meat on Friday in 1983. Uncle Nick never lived to see his vindication. He started cooking Heavenly pancakes in 1970.

There are a lot of "Uncle Nicks" out there today who question the moral authority of the Catholic Church because of the child abuse by priests and the cover-ups by Bishops. There are some who are even calling for Pope Francis himself to resign because he apparently knew Cardinal MacCarrick abused minors since June 23, 2013. The Pope allowed MacCarrick to minister for another 5 years before defrocking him.

It's hard to identify yourself as a Catholic in the face of these scandals. People judge us. They feel the Church has no right to call others to righteousness when the clergy is not living up to their own call to righteousness. In spite of this, I want to offer you hope.

I am very proud to call myself Catholic Christian. I'll tell you why. There is a difference between the moral authority of the hierarchy (Pope, Bishops and priests) and the moral authority of the Catholic Church. By moral authority, I mean the ability to guide others to decide right from wrong. The hierarchy may lose its moral authority due to sin, but the Catholic Church which is established by Jesus can never lose its moral authority because it comes directly from God whose teachings are true and worthy of belief. Jesus said in Matthew 16:18 "upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it." Vatican II, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, states all what Jesus intends for His Church exists in the Catholic Church. The teachings and sacraments of the Catholic Church can never be destroyed by the devil no matter how sinful our shepherds.

My Uncle Nick was very proud that his nephew wanted to be a priest. He told me before he died, "Lead others to Jesus by your example." You know why people still want to join St. Mary and St. Benignus? They are attracted by members of our church who show God's love, who teach God's kindness and who live their faith. Converts don't give a hoot about the hierarchy.

St. James defined pure religion as "caring for orphans and widows in their affliction." They were the weakest of society. The Catholic Church teaching on this has never changed since St. James wrote about it, even though some of the shepherds failed to protect. Please pray for all Church leaders, especially myself, that we be doers of the word of God and just not hearers. I close with the last words of a true hero for our country, Senator John McCain. He wrote, "Do not despair of our present difficulties."

Blessings, Fr. Mike