

**Happy
Birthday**



March 17..... John Otworth (Did mom Julie give him some green-colored milk that day?)
 March 18..... Linda Bradford, Amy Gunderman, Kit Lowe, Maggie Tamborski
 March 19..... Jim Georges, Patti Herron Karnes, Lil Piezer, St. Joseph of Bethlehem
 March 21..... Kenzie Luscek, Richard Luscek
 March 22..... Bob Morrison

NEWS AROUND THE PARISH



1. Virtus Training will be held at St. Mary on Saturday, March 29, 2014, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Virtus is a program the Cincinnati Archdiocese has put into effect that requires all adults having contact with children and teens to be trained in. This applies to teachers, coaches, choir director, sacristan, all school personal, parent volunteers and Priest. You will learn the most up-to-date information regarding protecting our children. All people interested in this class are to preregister. Go to Virtus.org and create a user name and password. You then go to "Live Training Session" and look for March 29, "St. Mary." Click "Register." There is no cost to the program. If you have any questions or problems with the system or who should take this class, please call Michelle Salyer at 937-840-9932, ext. 2.

2. March 18, all parishes in the Cincinnati Archdiocese will participate in "The Light is ON for You." St. Mary will have the doors open from 7:00 to 9:00 for prayer and confession. Cincinnati Archdiocese will have 213 churches open that night to celebrate this wonderful sacrament of Reconciliation.



3. A generous supporter of St. Mary School has offered to purchase a full page ad in the Highland Press to boost awareness of our school. I would like to have testimonials from past and present parents, students, grandparents and school supporters to put in the ad. Please send them to stmaryprincipal@cinci.rr.com. I would like to have the ad ready to print by the 25th of March. Thank you, Mary Stanforth.

4. Mark your calendars for April 8th. It's time for our Spring Quarter Auction!!!! The Spaghetti Dinner will start at 5:30 p.m. and the auction at 6:30. If there are any vendors who would like to participate or if you have an item you would like to donate to the auction, please call the school at 840-9932. The classrooms will be making baskets for the auction.

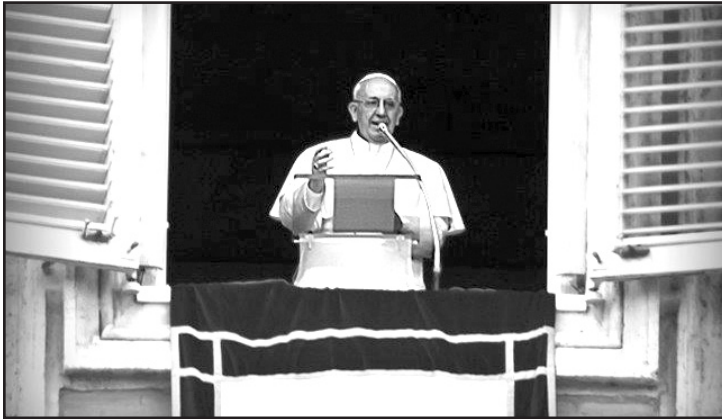


5. St. Vincent de Paul Yard Sale first weekend in May. Start saving your used items now!

FOR ALL YOUR APPLIANCE NEEDS, PLEASE VISIT COLLINS GE

The Collins Family has been associated with St. Mary Church for 80 years. After the passing of Danny Collins, his son, Jeff Collins, is keeping the GE Collins Appliance Store open for great products and service. GE Appliances have greatly improved over the years. Jeff's prices are low because he has no big showroom to pay for. He is very competitive with Lowe's and other appliance stores. Jeff can quickly order you any GE appliance you want. Jeff offers great repair service through Chris Toller with over 20 years of experience. Chris' prices are very low because he works out of his house in Lynchburg and has no big overhead to pay for. After the one year, warranty expires, Lowe's offers no service. *Jeff does.* Chris is a big supporter of St. Mary School and comes highly recommended by our Principal, Mrs. Mary Standforth. I fully intend to buy my next appliance from Collins GE and so should you. Collins is located at 124 South High Street, Hillsboro. Phone number is 937-393-3115. Jeff can quickly reach Toller Appliance Repairs for *any brand name appliance you need fixed, in warranty or out.*

POPE FRANCIS: THE MAN WHO WON OVER THE WORLD

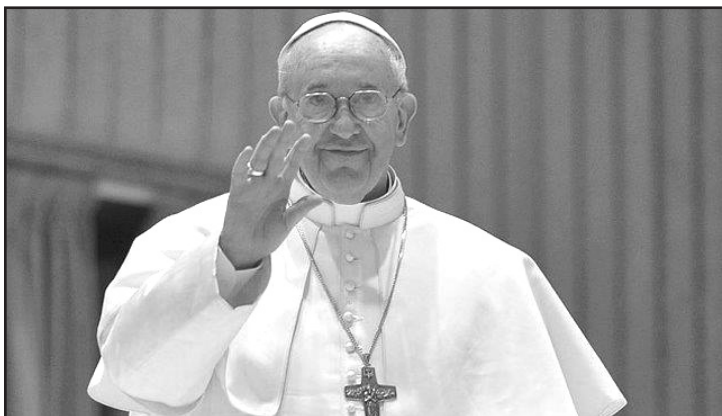


FRANCIS SPOKE OUT AGAINST EXCESSIVE RICHES IN THE CHURCH

The average set of a cardinal's clothes costs as much as \$20,000.00 In October, Pope Francis urged officials to dress more modestly and to not squander such money. In the same month, he ordered a German bishop to explain how he had spent \$3 million on a marble courtyard.

POPE FRANCIS INVITED A DOWN SYNDROME BOY TO RIDE WITH HIM IN THE POPEMOBILE

During a general audience, Pope Francis invited Alberto di Tullio, a 17-year-old boy with Down Syndrome, to ride in his Popemobile while thousands watched. The boy and his father were said to be “choked up” when he was embraced by the Pope.



HE PERSONALLY CALLED AND CONSOLED A RAPE VICTIM

A 44-year-old Argentinian woman, raped by a local policeman, was one of thousands to write a letter to Pope Francis in 2013. The woman was surprised when she later received a phone call from Francis himself – who consoled the woman and told her, “You are not alone.”

DURING A MAJOR ADDRESS, FRANCIS ALLOWS A LITTLE BOY'S LOVE

During the Year of Faith Celebrations, a young boy ran on stage as the Pope was giving a speech. When assistants tried to remove the boy, Francis allowed him to stay.



FR. MIKE'S SERMON FOR SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

I am looking forward to see the movie that has Christian hearts fluttering with excitement, "Son of God." But for those who have seen it, please don't spoil it for me by blabbing what happens to Jesus at the end. It is rumored Hollywood has Jesus rising from the dead after the people killed Him, which is a really cool idea. I bet they ripped off the resurrection idea from "E.T." :>))) I'll judge for myself.

But I have made a judgment on the actor who plays Jesus. In my opinion, he is way too handsome. One movie critic wrote, "Jesus looks like a tanned model in robes." Diogo Morgado (who is dubbed the "Brad Pitt of Portugal") uses "more hair product in this movie than all the dancers in an entire season of 'Dancing With The Stars.'"

I don't want people to be attracted to Morgado's handsome chiseled jaw or light blue piercing eyes or ripped washboard abs to make Jesus attractive. I want people to be attracted to Jesus' message of loving each other as children of God no matter how they look. I believe the human Jesus was an average looking Jewish guy whom people found attractive due to the love pouring forth from His Beautiful Heart.

Jesus is not into looks and appearances. That is why He charged His three amigos, "Don't tell the vision to anyone." Jesus hid His Divinity so people would embrace His Divine Message and not the awesome trappings that come from being God. I believe Jesus was plain looking so as not to overshadow the most beautiful teaching in the Universe – "Love one another." Jesus didn't have to be a hunk. The message speaks for itself.

I know God tells us to see the "spark of the Divine" in each and every person. That every person is loved by God who charges us to do the same. Yet, I find this so hard to do at times. It's hard to see God in another person who has hurt, lied or cheated me. It's hard to see God in someone who doesn't respect me, my beliefs or my religion. Not too long ago, I was appalled when a sales person from a local store in Hillsboro where I do business called our St. Mary Carillon "horrible." I replied, "It's not the bells. You don't like Catholics, do you?" Her response, "Not really." Now how do I see Jesus in her when she's acting like such a shmuck?

I offer three ways to do this:

- There is a difference between the feelings of love and spiritual love. I may not have loving feelings to someone who hurt me but I still can love them spiritually by desiring that no harm come to them. Did you notice Jesus never condemned those who were beating Him senseless? "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do."
- Pray for those who hurt you. This is the best way to remove any negativity from your soul. Prayer for those who hurt you cleanses you of resentment which keeps you from giving free rent of your mind to someone who really doesn't care.
- Forgive. This is not the same as Reconciliation. Reconciliation is the act of two people becoming friendly again. Some times that just can't happen. Forgiveness is giving up the right to demand that someone make up for the offense. Forgiveness gives up anger and resentment. It doesn't mean you will be buddies again.

I encouraged everyone to see "Son of God." But I would rather see Jesus in my neighbor even when they do not look like Fabio in an open robe.