

NEWS AROUND THE PARISH

- Senior Breakfast for all graduating High School and College students is set for May 31, 2015, after the 10:00 a.m. Mass. Call the school office at 840-9932, ext 2 for RSVP.
- Vacation Bible School is set for June 8, 9 and 10th. Time is 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Grades K to 6th. Need teen helpers and adults. Call the school office or 840-9932, ext. 2 and leave a message. Registration forms and sign-up sheet on a table in the narthex.
- Michael Waltrip has donated a Racing VIP Weekend again for the Sharkey-Penn Golf Scholarship Tournament. Tickets are \$20.00 each. The package is valued at \$3,000.00. Please call or stop in the office to buy your ticket. We will also be selling tickets in the Narthex after the weekend Masses. The winner can choose any NASCAR Sprint Race except Charlotte. Watch the race from the pit area, lunch with the pit crew, meet and greet, and tour of the pits, garage, and MWR Haulers!
- The St. Vincent de Paul rummage sale netted over \$2,200.00. They thank you for your support of their ministry to the poor. We thank Pat Adams for her card sale which netted over \$300.00, all given to the St. Vincent de Paul.

Summer R.C.I.A. Meetings

This Tuesday, May 19, will be the last scheduled weekly meeting for the R.C.I.A. However, we will be meeting on the second Tuesday of June, July, and August, until we start up our weekly meetings in August or September. Our past participants and anyone who is interested in learning about the Catholic Church is welcome to join us at 6:00 p.m. on the following Tuesdays: June, 9, July 14, and August 11, 2015. The single Walnut Street door will be open and we will have R.C.I.A. signs with arrows directing you to our meeting place.

If you have any questions, please call:

Jim Hehl at 937-364-6556 (Home) or 937-661-4835 (Cell)

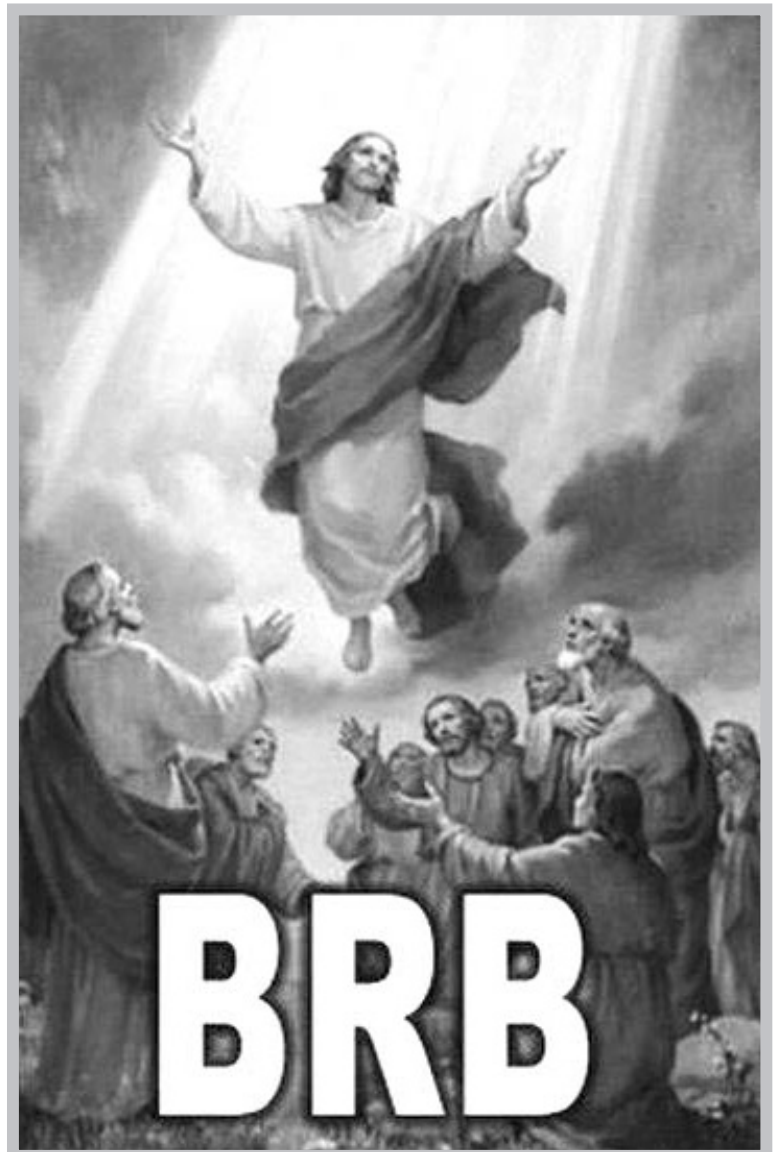
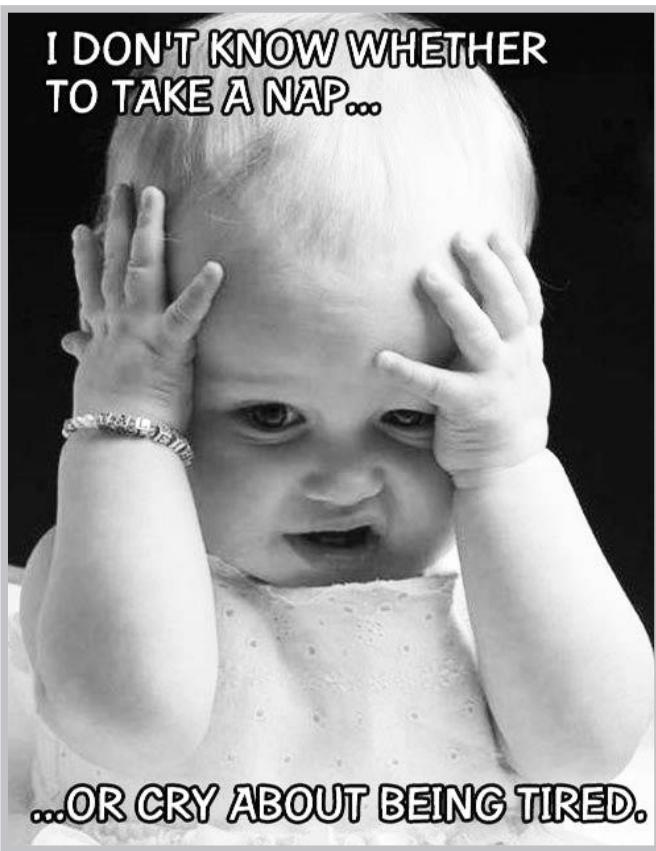
Joyce Combs at 937-764-2030 (Home) or 937-403-6708 (Cell)

Spiritual Humor

- A Sunday school teacher asked her children as they were on the way to church service, "And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?" One bright little girl replied, "Because people are sleeping."
- So what if God made man first? Doesn't everyone make a rough impression before making a masterpiece!
- A man is granted three questions to God;
His first question is "God, how long is a million years?"
God replies "To me, it's about a second."

His second question is "God, how much is a million dollars?"
God says, "To me it's about a penny."
So the clever man asks his third question, "God may I have a penny?"

God says "Can you wait a second?"
- How is it one careless match can start a forest fire, but it takes a whole box to start a campfire?
- Children: You spend the first 2 years of their life teaching them to walk and talk. Then you spend the next 16 years telling them to sit down and shut-up.
- Did you know that dolphins are so smart that within a few weeks of captivity, they can train people to stand on the very edge of the pool and throw them fish?



SERMON FOR ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Jesus commands us to proclaim the Gospel. How do we proclaim Jesus? How do we announce that Jesus has saved us? Many years ago, I ministered to a little girl in the cancer ward. Her mom was Catholic. Her father was full blood Native American Indian, with dark skin, high cheek bones and beads in his long hair. Strikingly noble face. I prayed over the child everyday with her mom. But dad just sat quietly in the corner. He never joined us. In fact, the father did not talk with anyone – not the nurse, not the doctor, not the social worker. His silence puzzled everyone.

One day, the little girl passed to Heaven. After praying the last rites over her, the father broke his silence. “Come with me Holy Man, we must talk.” He took me into a private room where for over an hour he cried and wailed, pouring out all his pain. He concluded by saying, “I want you to do the sacred burial rites of my people.” I was both honored and shocked. I never did an Indian Burial. I didn’t want to mess it up. I had to learn fast without the help of the internet which did not yet exist.

The funeral was held on their farm, near a running stream. Many of his tribe were present. Dad set up a teepee. Inside he placed the cremains of his daughter in a painted box with Indian symbols. Surrounding the box were the many things she touched in this life: toys, dolls, clothing and even forks and spoons. The weather looked ominous. Dark clouds hid the sun, turning day into night. I prayed in my heart, “Dear Lord, please keep this storm away. Give me just one more hour.”

Just as I was placing my right hand to my head to make the sign of the Cross, I could see rays of sunlight shimmering through my fingers. Suddenly the teepee and the place where we stood was bathed in warm light. Yet just a few hundred feet away it was dark. It’s like God just turned on a spotlight from above.

I remember using a lot of incense and a feather. I prayed an Indian Prayer to the Great Spirit, *Make me always ready to come to you with clean hands and straight eyes. So when life fades, as the fading sunset, my spirit may come to you without shame.* I concluded the service with my belief about salvation through the Great Spirit I call Jesus.

The service lasted about 50 minutes. Just minutes later the entire sky opened revealing a brilliant sun. It’s like God was looking down on us from above.

I asked the father why he wanted me instead of an Indian holy man to do his daughter’s funeral. He said, “I admire your faith in your God. When you prayed those many times over my daughter to your God Jesus, I could tell you really believed.” A few years later, I received a call from the wife who joyfully told me her husband was studying the Catholic Christian Faith.

So if you want to proclaim Jesus, live what you believe. As I proclaim at the end of Mass, “Go and Announce the Gospel of the Lord...by your life.”