

NEWS AROUND THE PARISH

A very special thanks to all those who helped with set-up, cleanup, taught a class or was a helper for VBS. We had a total of 40 students and teen helpers. Thanks go out to my teachers: Karen Humphries, Katie Paugh, Julie Briole, Sarina Briole, Patty Reinholz. Teen Helpers: Elizabeth and Victoria House, Katie Ewing, Jonah and Marissa Humphries, Tessa Ernst, Callan and Cadence Myers, Ellie Howland, Colin Brown, Quinn Conlon, Sevrin Florek, Brennen Priest. Thanks to my support crew that worked all week helping with whatever needed done: Kathy, Katie, Heather and Jennie Ewing and Karen Munson.

JUNE 21 to JULY 4, 2013



FORTNIGHT4FREEDOM★ORG

Fortnight for Freedom

§ Check out the **latest action alert**...and please write to Congress opposing the mandate, calling for conscience protections. Ask your Representative and Senators to support the Health Care Conscience Rights Act and to ensure respect for the religious liberty and conscience rights of all participants in our nation's health care system. You are encouraged to personalize the action center's message body.

§ In addition to sending an e-mail, please call your local Congressional Representatives. The U.S. Capitol switchboard number is 202-224-3121, or call your Representative's local office. Additional contact info can be found on Representatives' websites at www.house.gov.

§ Lastly, to stay up to date on current religious freedom issues, sign up for text messages from the USCCB. It's easy. Just text the word "FREEDOM" to 377377.

§ A postcard campaign (launched in 2009) generated tens of millions of postcards to Congress and yielded great results. Prompted by the Church's pro-life and religious freedom concerns, the USCCB will host another campaign, the "**Project Life and Liberty**" **postcard campaign**. We need your support for the success of this campaign.

For more information about the Fortnight and current information regarding the ongoing threats to our religious freedoms, go to USCCB.org.

Events taking place at St. Mary:

Adoration – between the 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. Masses.

Prayer for Religious Liberty – led by Father Mike during each weekend Mass.

Mass and the Patriotic Rosary with Mass beginning at 9:00 a.m. and the Patriotic Rosary following the Mass.



Joke of the Day

A doctor was addressing a large audience in Oxford University...

"The material we put into our stomachs should have killed most of us sitting here, years ago.

Red meat is full of steroids and dye.

Soft drinks corrode your stomach lining.

Chinese food is loaded with MSG.

High trans fat diets can be disastrous and none of us realizes the long-term harm caused by the germs in our drinking water.

But, there is one thing that is the most dangerous of all and most of us have, or will, eat it in our life.

Can anyone here tell me what food it is that causes the most grief and suffering for years after eating it?"

After several seconds of quiet, a 70-year-old man in the front row raised his hand, and softly said, "*Wedding Cake.*"

IMPOSSIBILITIES IN THE WORLD

- 1) You can't count your hair.
- 2) You can't wash your eyes with soap.
- 3) You can't breathe through your nose when your tongue is out.
Put your tongue back in your mouth, you silly person.

Ten (10) Things I Know About You.

- 1) You are reading this.
- 2) You are human.
- 3) You can't say the letter "P" without separating your lips.
- 4) You just attempted to do it.
- 6) You are laughing at yourself.
- 7) You have a smile on your face and you skipped No. 5.
- 8) You just checked to see if there is a No. 5.
- 9) You laugh at this because you are a fun-loving person and everyone does it, too.
- 10) You are probably going to send this to see who else falls for it.

“And You Think You’re Having a Bad Day?”





**“And You Think
You’re Having a Bad Day?”**



FR. MIKE’S SERMON FOR THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Pope Francis is so cool, the way he lives a simple life. The Pope stunned the Cardinals by refusing to attend a big gala concert in his honor that he never agreed to, and sent a signal he does not like the Vatican high life. A big Papal white chair that was set up in

the middle of the hall would remain empty. The Cardinals “looked disoriented” and realized Pope Francis was sending a message to them: you have too much pastoral work to do than attend fancy concerts. The Pope’s decision was a show of force to give an example of the simple lifestyle he wants the Cardinals to embrace. The day before the concert, Francis said bishops should be “close to the people” and not have “the mentality of a prince.”

So what was Pope Francis doing in the humble, small Vatican Guest House where he lives instead of the opulent and spacious Vatican apartments? He was working on his list of the Cardinals he intends to fire because of the scandal they brought to the Church. He was also deciding on the Cardinals who will lead the spiritual reform of the Church Hierarchy. Ironic that Pope Francis was just yards away from the Hall where he refused to go.

But Elisha did not refuse to follow Elijah. Picture this scene. Here is Elisha plowing the field. The number of oxen you owned indicated how wealthy you were. The poor were lucky to have one. Most farmers had two. You would be considered upper middle class with four oxen. Elisha had twelve pairs

of oxen, totaling 24 oxen! That showed how wealthy he was. Elisha had so much wealth he never had to work in the fields, but like Pope Francis, he wanted to be close to his hired servants and work hard by their side.

Then the moment happened to change his life forever. Elijah takes off his prophetic cloak, called the “adderet,” which was worn only by Kings and religious leaders. He threw it over Elisha and walked away without saying a word. The mantle automatically marked Elisha as a prophet, a spokesman of God. Elisha knew it immediately and ran after Elijah to become his helper. Without hesitating, he gave up his life of luxury forever.

Elijah gives Elisha permission to kiss his mom and dad goodbye. Then as a sign of total commitment to God and the renouncing of his wealth, Elisha slaughters all 24 oxen and cooks them for food, building a fire using his wooden plowing equipment. He invites all the town folk to the feast where he feeds them. He and Elijah then walk away to wherever God leads them. Elisha never returned home.

You, too, have been given a cloak from God. We call it “Baptism,” where God has thrown His mantle upon you. He calls you to do something for Him. God has a special call for you. There is a reason why you live where you live, and work where you work, and know who you know, and have the family that you have, and attend the Church that you attend. God did not put you on this Earth to have pleasure, position, power, prestige, or possession. God doesn’t care about how much money you make. God does care how well you wear your mantle.