

CURIOUS ABOUT THE CATHOLIC FAITH?

If you, or someone you know, would like to learn more about the Catholic faith, becoming Catholic, or you want to strengthen your own faith, then R.C.I.A. is for you!

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (R.C.I.A.) focuses on providing a comprehensive understanding of the Catholic faith. Preparation Classes for the R.C.I.A. start Tuesday, August 23, 2016, at 6:00 p.m. All adults are welcome. 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 hear the Lord calling, please do not pass up this opportunity to answer Him.

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).

NEWS AROUND THE PARISH

Parish School of Religion aka PSR is in need of religion teachers. We must have parents and volunteers step forward to assist in passing on the Faith. Currently, we need 3 teachers and subs to fill in when a teacher is off or we have a large group activity. No experience is necessary. You will be given many resources and great text books to work with. Please contact Michelle Salyer, CRE, at 937-840-9932, ext 2 or stmarycre@cinci.rr.com. Classes start September 11, 2016, between the Masses, from 8:45 to 9:50 a.m.

Congratulations to Brianna Cannon, daughter of Blain and Sharon Cannon, who was baptized last Saturday.

LAUGHTER IS GOOD

To get his mind off his losing streak at the racetrack, I took my friend horseback riding. Being a novice, he freaked when his horse took off.

"How do I get it to slow down?!" he yelled.

"Bet on it!" I hollered back.

A proud and confident genius makes a bet with an idiot. The genius says, "Hey idiot, every question I ask you that you don't know the answer, you have to give me \$5.00. And if you ask me a question and I can't answer yours, I will give you \$5,000.00."

The idiot replies, "Okay." The genius then asks, "How many continents are there in the world?" The idiot doesn't know and hands over the \$5.00. The idiot says, "Now my turn, what animal stands with two legs but sleeps with three?"

The genius tries and searches very hard for the answer but gives up and hands over the \$5,000.00. The genius says, "Dang it, I lost. By the way, what was the answer to your question?" The idiot hands over \$5.00.

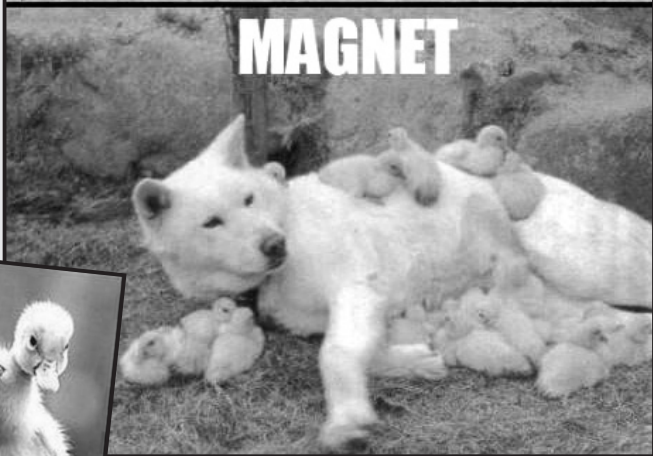
LOSING YOUR TEETH IN...



Winkal.com/share/m/X/a

3.. 2.. 1..

**CHICK
MAGNET**



Winkal.com/share/m/X/a



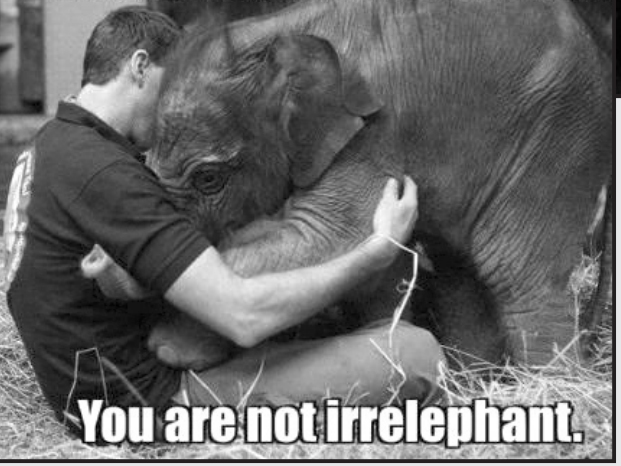
**I said I don't wanna
go swimming!!**



**THE REAL REASON
YOU'RE LATE FOR
WORK**



It's okay man, don't listen to them...



You are not irrelephant.



*Assistant
Branch Manager*

Branch Manager

FR. MIKE'S SERMON FOR THE NINETEENTH SUNDAY

My motto in life is "have fun while being the best." As your Pastor, I want everyone to truly "celebrate" the Mass. God throws us a party every week. Like a birthday party, we give each other gifts. Our gift to God is when we come together joyfully to share our faith, wish each other peace and pray for each other's needs. Then we tell God how wonderful He is. We call that "worship." God likes that. God's gift to us is that He "graces" us with His presence. He honors us by showing up for the celebration of the party we call the Mass. The best part of the celebration is when the Holy Spirit brings Jesus down to our gathering in the form of food. The Body of Jesus will become one within your own body. Our wonderful God who will never be outdone in gifting gives you the wonderful gift of Himself. Did you ever have a birthday or Christmas where someone gives you a really great gift and then you say, "Oh, you shouldn't have!" but down deep you're thinking to yourself, "Yah you should've?" That's why Mass should always be joyful. We rejoice that though we can never give God the love He deserves, He always gives us His Love we don't deserve anyway. Jesus is happy to do that. He wants to do that.

Even though we celebrate Jesus here with us at Mass, there's an even better party coming. The party we throw for Jesus down here is a mere reflection of the party Jesus will throw for us at His Place. We call that Heaven. Heaven is a celebration that never ends. No need for doctor's up there. No need for pills up there. There's no room for sadness, loneliness, fear, want or sickness up there. Up there all your desires, all your hopes, all your longings and all your dreams come true. Eye has not seen, ears have not heard nor has it dawned on the mind of any human what God has prepared for you up there. Mass down here is the celebration of faith that the best is yet to come. I love the Bible's definition of faith. "Faith is the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen." We believe we are on a journey to a better homeland that now we can't see yet, but like Abraham can only salute it from afar down here. But one day you will get up there to that heavenly city God has prepared. We have to get ready for it. We have to prepare.

If you believe the best is yet to come, then the best way to prepare for it is to be the best in whatever God calls you to do now. Be the best mom. Be the best dad. Be the best husband. Be the best wife. Be the best friend. Be the best at using the gifts God gave you...and be the best Christian you can be.

Jesus tells us how to be the best – "follow your heart." "For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be." So I ask you, "What is your treasure?" My treasure is to go to Heaven. This fuels my passion to be the best priest and pastor I can be. When I go to my judgment I want to offer God the best resume I can give. I know Jesus has already saved me. I know He died for my sins. He has done so much for me. Now it's my turn to do something for Him. Though the many Masses I celebrate can make me tired, it is not a burden at all, because I really love what I'm doing. And I'm having fun doing it. The best part of being pastor is that I get the joy to see so many of you and I'm having fun trying to learn and remember your names. The greatest respect I can show you is to call you by name. This reminds me of the song "You Are Mine." I'll sum up my sermon with the last stanza that gives me great comfort:

Do not be afraid, I am with you.
I have called you each by name.
Come and follow Me,
I will bring you home;
I love you and you are mine.