



Birthdays

November 28

Audrey Jones
Brooklyn Williams

November 29

Ethan Barber
Tom House

November 30

Susan Moran
Darlene Smith

December 1

Dennis Tovarnak

December 2

Cohen Myers

December 3

Ed Davis
Katie Ewing
Tim Koehl
Jackson Reno

NEWS AROUND THE PARISH

The HHS Student Council invites everyone to the **2016 Christmas Tree Lighting** to be held Saturday, December 10th, at the Courthouse. Free refreshments start at 5:00 p.m., with the Official Lighting at 5:40 p.m., followed by the Christmas Parade at 6:00 p.m. Any donations will go to Adopt-a-Family.

23rd Annual Candlelight Walk Hillsboro, Ohio

Saturday, December 10, 2016

6:00 p.m. New Hope Baptist Church,
128 E Beach Street

6:30 p.m. First Presbyterian Church,
201 E. Main Street

7:00 p.m. First United Methodist Church,
133 E. Walnut Street

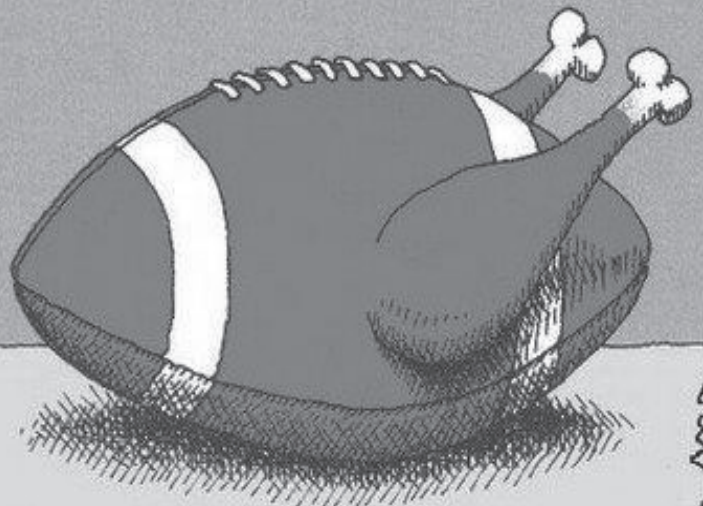
7:30 p.m. St. Mary Catholic Church,
212 S. High Street

8:00 p.m. St. Mary's Episcopal Church,
234 N. High Street

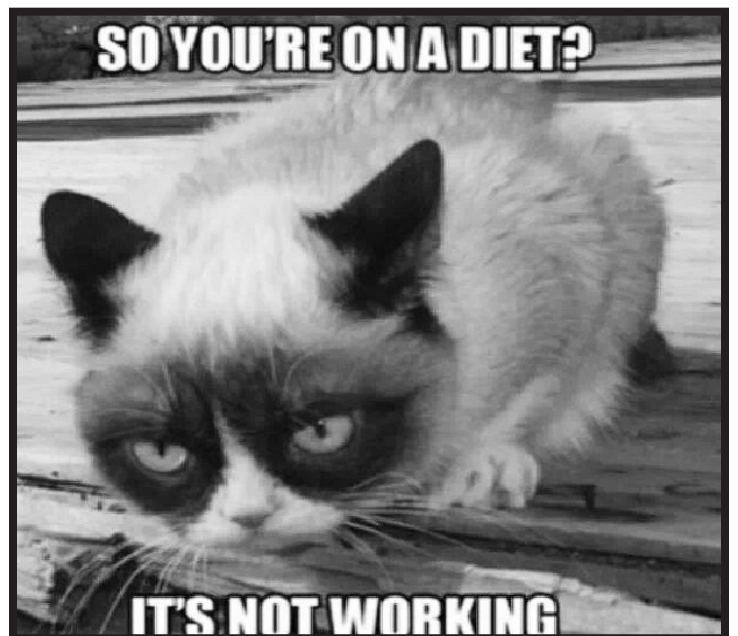
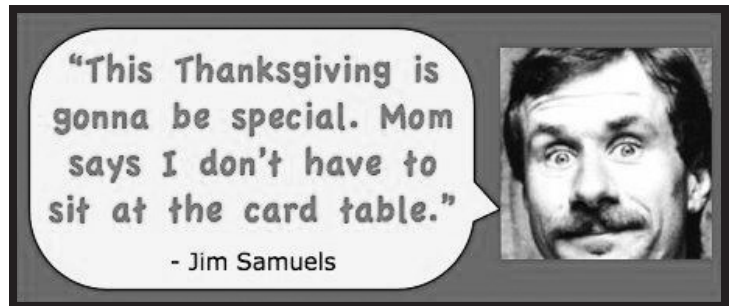
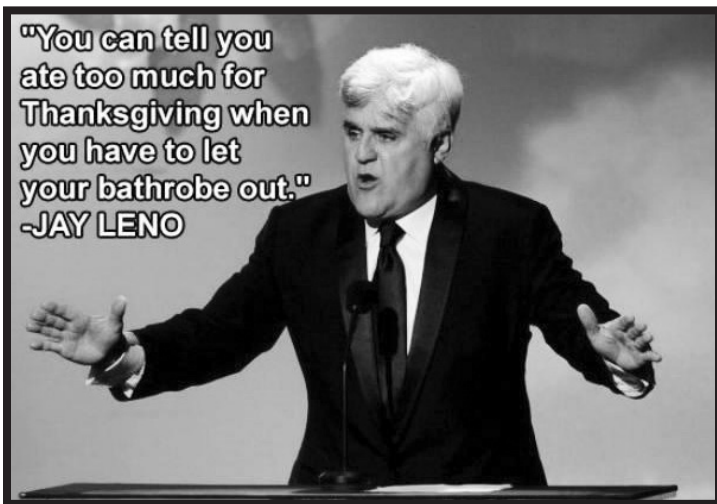
As the Thanksgiving season approaches, remember: All it takes is one undercooked turkey, and you'll be the "dinner rolls" and "soda" person for life.



The true meaning of Thanksgiving...



COMEDY



FR. MIKE'S SERMON FOR FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

I brought with me today a very special family heirloom – a rolling pin. It was handmade by my grandfather for his new bride, my grandmother, in 1915. At 101 years old, it still feels greasy from the oil and if you put it to your nose, you can still smell the dough. I think of all the times this rolling pin was used to make bread, cakes, pies, cookies, noodles, Polish doughnut balls and pierogis for all the Thanksgivings, Christmases, Easters, Birthdays and Weddings of their children, including my parents. More than likely, this rolling pin was used to make the bread served at my grandfather's funeral in May of 1957. A rolling pin has one purpose – to prepare dough for baking by squeezing it flat, so it can be more easily molded into whatever you are baking.

As we begin Advent Jesus tells you, "So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come." How do we prepare our souls for Jesus? Like a rolling pin that squeezes dough so it can be molded into something good to eat, you need to squeeze out of your souls the works of darkness, so you can be molded into the likeness of Jesus. As darkness is the absence of light, so the works of darkness are anything you do that takes Jesus out of your life. All of us have something we struggle with that keeps us from being more like Jesus. St. Paul warns us to make "no provisions for the desires of the flesh."

I struggle daily with my food addiction. The very things that this rolling pin can make so well are the very things that I fight against – noodles, bread, desserts and any foods made with dough that taste so darn good, especially, if stuffed with vanilla pudding or whipped cream. If I give in to the temptation to eat these things, I will gain weight, set off my diabetes again, and not be able to minister to you, as well as Jesus wants me to. Many a time the devil has tempted me with a chocolate éclair or a Boston cream pie. Then if my diabetes kicks up it affects the way I act. I will be less patient, maybe a little snippy, perhaps getting angry, decreased energy, and not being as kind as I should. There is a reason why gluttony is one of the seven capital sins. With God's grace I have been winning this battle. Even the little bit of weight I recently lost has made me feel better and most importantly act better as Jesus wants me to.

This Advent be honest with yourself. What desire of the flesh are you fighting against? Do you have any addictions that are hurting your life? Do you overindulge in anything like spending money, or working so hard you have no time for your family? Do you make your material pleasures more important than the needs of others? Is your desire to succeed, to have power, to have recognition more important than God's call to sacrificial love and humble service? Do you give in to lack of faith that leads you to sadness and feeling sorry for yourself?

St. Paul tells us the best way to prepare for Jesus is to "put on" the Lord Jesus. What does that mean? Maybe my grandmother's rolling pin can provide an understanding. It symbolizes her desire to be like Jesus who came "not to be served, but to serve." (Matthew 20:28) She "put on" Jesus by using her life in service to her family. She cooked and baked for them good Polish food, cleaned the house on hands and knees, washed their clothes in a wringer washer and dried them in the sun, gave my grandfather eight children and stood by his side when three of them died young, and was always there when her family needed her. She could not read nor write nor drive a car. She lived a humble, quiet life of service. Her family was her world. Yet as busy as she was serving them, she could always find time for God. She prayed five Rosaries every day, the first one prayed before the sun rose at 3:30 a.m., in the morning. She never read the Bible, but she heard it from the priest, knew it in her heart and lived it in her life. This short little woman who wore a flowered dress wrapped with an apron "put on" Jesus every day. When I look at her rolling pin, I see the relic of a saint.