



**NEWS AROUND THE PARISH**

1. Sally Frydryk thanks everyone who cooked such wonderful Polish food for Shine's celebration. There was a gigantic toast to Shine with shots of King Sobieski Polish Vodka. As Shine would say, "Nostrovia," which is a Polish/Russian word for "Cheers!"



2. St. Mary Parish Nativity Play and Parish Dinner will be held December 15, at 5:00 p.m., in the Fr. Luehrmann Hall. Drinks, meat and table service provided. Please bring a dish to share. Enjoy a play presented by the talented Kindergarten through 12th Grade students of St. Mary Parish School of Religion.

**20th Annual Candlelight Walk  
Hillsboro, Ohio**

**Saturday, December 14, 2013**

6:00 p.m. First Presbyterian Church  
201 E. Main Street

6:30 p.m. St. Mary's Episcopal Church  
234 N. High Street

7:00 p.m. St. Mary Catholic Church  
212 S. High Street

7:30 p.m. First United Methodist Church  
133 E. Walnut Street

We begin at 6:00 p.m., enjoying 10-15 minutes of music at each church. We then move to the next church on the schedule; all times are approximate. A fellowship time will be provided at the end of the Walk.

**CHRISTMAS LITURGICAL  
MINISTERS NEEDED!**

**All Liturgical Ministers**  
(Ushers, Servers, Lectors,  
Eucharistic Ministers, Sacristans)

The Worship Commission needs to find out which ministers will be available to serve in their particular ministry at each of the **2013 Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses**. The dates and times for each of these Masses are:

**Christmas Eve:**  
Tuesday, December 24, 3:30 p.m.  
Tuesday, December 24, 11:00 p.m.

**Christmas Day:**  
Wednesday, December 25, 9:00 a.m.

Please let Joyce Combs know your **name**, **ministry**, and **all** the **dates and times** you will be available for service. **Email** Joyce at [joycecombs@yahoo.com](mailto:joycecombs@yahoo.com) or **call** Joyce at (937) 764-2030.

**Your response is needed by December 8, 2013**, so the assignments can be printed in the December 15th and December 22nd Bulletin. Thanks!

**Can i haz..**

**4 calling birds, 3 french hens,  
2 turtle doves and would it be  
possible to get the partridge  
without the pear tree?**

MEMEWATCH.COM



*First Sunday of Advent*



## **FR. MIKE'S SERMON FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

I subscribe to a radio information blog written by Jerry Del Colliano. He always gives a positive thought for the day. Jerry talked about an idea from the book "The Happiness Advantage." This book offers the view that anticipating anything positive makes you happy. And it doesn't have to be anything major. Me simply looking forward to the Steelers going to the Super Bowl has already made me happy (or probably delusional, but can't a Steeler fan dream a little?). There is research to show that anticipation makes us happier than actually doing that which we anticipate.

Thus, a Christian should be a joyous person, because we look forward in anticipation to a better world to come. We call that new world the "Kingdom of God." Advent is the time when we celebrate the anticipation of its arrival. So what exactly are we anticipating in the Kingdom of God?

I'll describe it by remembering a 1985 movie that touched me because it is so spiritual – "Cocoon." The Antareans, aliens from deep outer space, offer space aboard their space ship to several old people in a retirement home. They accept the invitation to travel to a world where they will never be ill, never age, and never die. I will never forget that one scene where one old guy (played by Don Ameche) went to his bank, withdrew thousands of dollars in cash, and threw it in the air for anyone to catch. He remarked something to the idea that this new world will offer far more joy than money could ever buy.

I have dealt with so much death as a priest. I figured it out one day that I ministered to 75,000 children over 27 years at Cincinnati Children's Hospital. Of that number, I helped over 1,000 go to see Jesus. Yet, this experience has never lessened my inner peace nor dampened my spiritual joy. Many people have asked me how I can maintain my spirits in the face of such suffering. I always answered this way, "I feel sadness for the parents. But I feel only joy for this child who will never again know pain, never again be sick, never know the experience of growing old, and never know death again."

One young teenager from Akron drove this home to me so wonderfully. He was in a coma, dying from cancer. He was never expected to regain consciousness. Yet, all of a sudden, he opens his eyes wide and begins to speak to the amazement of all in the room, including myself. He yelled out, "Mom! Mom! Look at them! The people of the light! They are so beautiful!" He paused and then spoke again, "Mom, I don't feel any pain! Oh that feels so good!" I truly believe he was witnessing the angels coming to take him to Heaven. Two hours later, he went to that new world. His mom found great peace.

I encourage you to have the joy of "Advent Anticipation" in the New World with Jesus instead of the fleeting happiness of the 70 percent off White Sale at J.C. Penney. (Though I really do need some sheets.) Keep Christ in Advent...Keep Christ in Christmas.

Fr. Mike