



## NEWS AROUND THE PARISH

1. **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.
2. Thank you to everyone who is supporting St. Mary School through the **Kroger Rewards Program.** If you haven't registered or to make sure you still are, you can sign on at their website: [www.krogercommunityrewards.com](http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com).

We still have "**spirit cards**" for sale. They are \$20.00 and many local and surrounding area businesses have discounts when you use the card. They would make great stocking stuffers! Please call the school at 840-9932 if you are interested.

We are in the process of installing an e-board (very similar to a smart-board) in the 3/4 grade classroom. We are very excited about this new technology.

### MOTHER FRANCIS SOUP KITCHEN

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14TH**

**11:00 A.M. TO 1:00 P.M.**

Carol Chambers – Team Leader  
 Bob & Amy Williams  
 Pat Garrett  
 Susie Seyersdahl  
 Jane Ann Cadwallader  
 Justin & Jonda Davidson  
 Wendy Culbreath  
 Maryanne deMilliano  
 Lynn Turner  
 Mary Hempel  
 Dorothy Creed  
 Dr. & Mr. Sid Salido  
 Darlene Eicher  
 Marilyn Rosselott – sub  
 Janet Wilkins – sub

### 20th Annual Candlelight Walk Hillsboro, Ohio

**Saturday,  
December 14, 2013**

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|  | 6:00 p.m. First Presbyterian Church<br>201 E. Main Street       |
|  | 6:30 p.m. New Hope Baptist Church<br>128 E. Beach Street        |
|  | 7:00 p.m. St. Mary's Episcopal Church<br>234 N.High Streert     |
|  | 7:30 p.m. St. Mary Catholic Church<br>212 S. High Street        |
|  | 8:00 p.m. First United Methodist Church<br>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 8th** so the assignments can be printed in the December 15th and December 22nd Bulletin. Thanks!



**My wife was stopped for excessive speeding while shopping!  
She thought she could talk her way out of a ticket  
until the officer looked at our dog in the back seat....**



**There is nothing like Mom's lap no matter who you are.  
This is a newborn offspring of Taskin, a Gypsy Stallion.  
These pictures were taken immediately after his birth.  
The mare lay down, and then he trotted around and crawled right  
up into her lap. Imagine the Baby Jesus in Mary's loving arms.**

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

I was the victim and the target of ...a random act of kindness. A nice young couple were about to enter the doors of culinary bliss... the Golden Corral. He politely opened the door for his wife who entered. Instead of entering behind her, he just stood there, keeping the door open *for me*. This may not sound out of the ordinary, but I was over twenty feet away. I motioned for him to go on, but he just stood there, smiling, holding the door open like a concierge at some ritzy hotel. I walked faster so as not to keep him waiting. He said, "Take your time." As I approached the door, I thanked him profusely. What I saw next just blew me away. His wife never entered the restaurant. I found her standing at the second interior door, holding it open this whole time, awaiting my arrival like I was some important dignitary.

I thanked them both profusely suggesting they didn't have to do that for me. They replied, "Yes, we did." I asked, "Why?" Before they could answer I interjected an observation, "You're doing a random act of kindness, aren't you?" They laughed and she replied, "Oh well, you caught us." I said, "So it's not because all three of us are wearing red "Ohio State Buckeye" sweatshirts?" She said "no" and we all laughed. He replied, "We're just trying to prepare for Christmas by making up for any selfishness in our lives." I told them, quoting Jesus, "You are not far from the Kingdom of God. Keep up the holy work you're doing." I found out their names, Mark and Sue. Mark concluded this brief but happy encounter by observing, "Mike, you seem to know your Bible. You should work for a Church or something." God was once again confirming my call.

This holy couple hit the nail on the head of what we all should be doing during Advent – REPENT. John challenges all of us to "produce good fruits as evidence of your repentance." Repentance means to turn away from sin. There are three steps to repentance. First, you have to *recognize* what your sin is. The devil is the father of lies. He wants you to sin without realizing you are sinning. I have come to recognize the devil was clouding my mind with denial. He was using my poor eating habits to lessen my health which would keep me from ministering to our Church. Now that I see the truth, I have turned away from destructive eating to healthier living that has made me feel a lot better.

The second step of repentance is *remorse*. Remorse means to feel sorry for what I did or didn't do. Remorse is very painful but necessary to motivate you to the next step of repentance – *reparation*. Reparation means to make up for the wrong you did and do the opposite of the sin you committed. We Catholics refer to reparation with the term used from our very first Confession – *Penance*. I am so motivated to live a more healthy life because I want to give back to you and God the blessings you and God have given to me. Reparation is healthy and makes you feel good. My father shared the story of when he was a little boy he stole ten cents from a neighbor lady who laid that dime on her living room table. He felt sorry about that for many years. The day before leaving for WWII in 1943 he wanted to make reparation. He sought out the neighbor lady and gave her a dollar bill (interest accrued over eleven years). He said to her, "Please don't ask why but take this. It will make me happy." She took the dollar and said, "Thanks." My dad said, "No thanks necessary." He would never see her again. He left for a World War, but found peace in his own heart.

Happy Advent  
Fr. Mike