

New Mass Translation Pew Sheets

are available on tables near the church entrances. Please take one with you when you enter for Mass — it will help you get used to the liturgical changes! Then upon leaving, just drop them onto the same table.



500 Card Party!

Sunday, November 13th

7:30 PM in the parish hall. \$3.00 entry fee.
Great Prizes! Sandwiches, dessert, coffee, milk.
 • Young, older and all those in-between are invited!
 10-game session. Beer and soda for sale.
Sponsored by St. Joseph's Men's Society

This month's workers:

Chairman: Joe Mehr **Co-Chair:** Larry Fleischhacker
Helpers: Jerome Bertram, Ralph Bertram, Leander Blonigen, Tom Doll, Joe Dingmann, Math Keiser, Gene Loecken, Joe Magedanz, Randy Orbeck, Daron Schaefer, Joe Schmitt, Tim Shay, Joey Thelen, Gene Utsch, Jerome Weber.

WHAT'S ELSEWHERE:

Nov 13 – Seven Dolores Parish Center, Albany. **Turkey Bingo.** 11:30 am–2:30 pm. Bingo games 25¢ per card or \$5 per punchcard. Turkey & cash prizes will be given. Lunch consists of turkey or ham croissant, coleslaw, chips, pickles, cookie, pumpkin bar, coffee & lemonade. Cost is \$6 per plate.

Nov 19 – Sacred Heart church basement, Freeport. **Rummage & Soup Sale.** 8:00 am–3:00 pm. Score great deals on clothes, home decor, tools, toys, books and much more. Also, enjoy dine-in or take-out homemade chicken noodle soup, sandwiches, beverages and homemade pies & desserts. National Catholic Society of Foresters Holy Rosary Court 532 matching funds will benefit Sacred Heart School.

If a mom sees an college athletic director at an airport, should she shield her son's eyes? If a football coach says hello to your boy, should you bark at him: "Get away, you monster!" And should we call every follower (fan) of Penn State University an accomplice to this evil? Should we ask PSU students and alumni why they support an organization that condones child rape?

Well, isn't that a pretty fair rendition of how society has treated Catholic priests in recent years?

MIRACLES OF THE EUCHARIST(70th in a series)

Where? Walldurn, SE of Frankfurt, Germany.

In 1330 while Fr. Heinrich Otto was celebrating Mass he accidentally knocked over the chalice containing the blood of Christ. As the blood spilled across the corporal, an image of the crucified Christ plus eleven surrounding thorn-crowned heads appeared on the cloth. He quickly hid the piece of linen under the altar and not until Mass was over did he take a closer look at the corporal. Re-examining it, Fr. Otto noticed that images made visible by the blood had become sharp and clear; he, again hid the linen under the altar. Not until a few days before his death did he reveal the event. Upon his deathbed he confessed the secret and the Miraculous Corporal was found and enshrined. Word of the bloodstained linen spread quickly throughout the nearby villages and soon thousands of pilgrims traveled to see the Holy Corporal. Miracles, healings and conversions were numerous among those who visited. In 1445 Pope Eugene IV recognized the Eucharistic Miracle as authentic.

Under ultra-violet light, the blood-stain images bear an eerie resemblance to those in the Shroud of Turin. The major pilgrimage period for the shrine lasts 4 weeks beginning on Trinity Sunday and is known as the "Pilgrimage to the Holy Blood".

How do you show family and friends that Catholicism is the original and authentic version of Christianity? Obviously you don't want to beat them over the head or get into a lose-lose doctrinal argument — after all, we do share some doctrinal beliefs with many of our non-Catholic friends. But a heated debate over the ins-and-outs of transubstantiation won't go over really big at your next neighborhood cook-out or wake.

So what's a quick and simple way to discuss the merits of Catholicism? After my mom's funeral last week I got to visiting with some old fishing buddies, and they seemed amazed that I was still Catholic. So I steered the talk to something I knew would make the lightbulbs kick in.

Miracles! Perhaps the most effective conversational argument for Catholicism is the simple fact that the Church Christ established has been validated by public miracles for 2,000 years. No breakaway churchgoer can say that. In fact, most will run the other way at the very mention of the word "miracle"— superstition, superstition! But even my lukewarm buddies agreed that the only way to account for Inexplicables is to look to the Author. So we started with general principles first.

Did Mohammad or Buddha rise from the dead? No. Impossible for ordinary humans. So that pretty much quashed any debate about world religions. Christ's message is validated by his resurrection from the dead.

What about the 38,000 denominations that conflict in their own Christian beliefs or morality? Can they all be correct? Obviously not. So next I asked, which has a history of public verifiable miracles?

You can start with Martin Luther. Did Luther perform any miracles? Make prophecies that came to pass? No, none. Yet at the same time period, the miracle of Our Lady of Guadalupe (a **public** miracle) did manifest itself to Juan Diego and millions of Aztecs. In the same time frame, Catholic missionary St. Francis Xavier was miraculously preaching to the people of India, Indonesia and China in their native tongues without study.

Now to bring it up to date: What about the last one hundred years? Does any Protestant denomination claim public miracles in the last 100 years? Not that I know of, and neither did my buddies.

Yet look at the many publicly witnessed miracles in Catholicism:

• **Our Lady of Fatima** in Portugal: Three Catholic children were told by Mary that there would be a public miracle on October 13, 1917. Over 50,000 people assembled to see if it would happen, including thousands of skeptics. Sure enough, the actual miracle of the dancing sun was seen on October 13 by 50,000 people – journalists, believers, atheists, children, scientists and old people. Folks in neighboring regions saw the miracle.

• **Lourdes Water:** The Blessed Virgin Mary appeared at Lourdes, France and promised that waters from that spring would heal people in the name of Christ. Hundreds have experienced medically-verified miracles through holy water of Lourdes. Recently a young paralyzed man was healed in those waters and walked 1000 miles to prove the miracle was valid.

I didn't even mention dozens of healing miracles at the **National Shrine of St. Anne**, near which we all used to fish in the Kankakee swamps.

• **Saint Pio:** Padre Pio bore the five wounds of Christ (stigmata) in his hands, side, and feet for decades – miraculous wounds repeatedly verified by Catholic and non-Catholic medical professionals. Pio also made several prophecies that came to pass. He died in 1968; many photos and videos show his stigmata. Just go to YouTube and watch some videos.

Those are just recent miracles. Go back in time and we find hundreds more. Eucharistic miracles, Marian miracles, amazing miracles by saints: incorruptible bodies, translocations, levitations and so forth.

Faced with these wonders, a person can take only one of two positions: Either God is actively providing public signs and wonders in favor of the Catholic Church that goes all the way back to Christ and the Apostles, **or** there's been a master magician creating false signs for 2000 years. Perhaps a third option is that the Catholic Church is just "lucky," in that natural forces somehow seem to regularly produce events that appear miraculous, and yet these events do not randomly occur in Protestant bodies.

So what's the easiest way to make a quick case for Catholicism? Share what you know about Catholic miracles. Perhaps this information might lead someone to investigate the Catholic Faith in a deeper way.

It seemed to work for Hawkeye and The Kid last week in Indiana.

Sorry this is so long-winded; I had a lot of space to fill. My deepest thanks to Renee T. for filling in for me last week, and for all of you who offered prayer support when mom died. She went easily and gracefully into the communion of saints, rosary firmly in her hands. *yr. obt. svt.*

Expressed mathematically, the odds that you exist at all are basically zero.

But you do exist, and God has a plan for you.

Online, click [here](#) to see the "Odds Against" graphic – it's pretty cool even if the math is questionable.