

Apr. 12-13, 2014

Thoughts from the pastor,

This weekend we start Holy Week. For priests it is usually like trying to drive a race car at about 150 miles per hour. It is exciting and scary. It is exciting because it includes six of the most powerful days of the church calendar. Palm or Passion Sunday is a reminder of Jesus' triumphant entry into the "new peace". We actually know it as Jerusalem. New peace is what the word Jerusalem means. At that point only He knew what His real triumph would be; His willingness to face death for us and then overcome it.

Monday is the Chrism Mass at the Cathedral with the Archbishop where he blesses the oils we will use for the following year and has his priest's renew their commitment to serving you, the people of God's family as spiritual fathers. Being a part of about one hundred men promising to serve God with their lives in our Archdiocese alone is a powerful moment. World-wide it is fantastic.

Holy Thursday we celebrate the beginning of priesthood as Jesus ordains the first priests and commissions them to do what He does on that day, which is to present His Body and Blood to the people of God to receive. Being at the celebration of that Mass always makes me feel like I am there with the apostles in the upper room. To help us feel like we are there with Jesus as He went through His Agony in the Garden of Gethsemane, we are encouraged to spend at least an hour with Him after the Mass, sometime between the end of the Mass and midnight. Even if you can't come to the Mass it is would be great if you can make a Holy Hour that evening in the chapel, which will look like a garden that night. Be sure to try and stay awake. Hopefully we can do better than the apostles who kept falling asleep.

Good Friday is so somber. The church looks so empty for it is only decorated with some red, no candles or flowers. It always reminds me of the many times I have been with a person who has died, it is over but I feel helpless and am left with my prayers to God as my only assurance.

Holy Saturday we celebrate the Easter Vigil. It is long but so beautiful. It is all about remembering that we are baptized into Christ's death and resurrection. It starts out so dark but everything slowly starts to be revealed by the increasing light in the church and it looks so beautiful.

On Easter Sunday we sing and celebrate and it feels so wonderful after all that has happened. That day makes me feel sorry for all those who have not been a part of the events of Holy Week. That is the scary part of Holy Week that I mentioned above. They get the good news but miss the parts that make it a glorious revelation and not just good news. So what I am doing is inviting you to come to the whole Holy Week. Don't go about business as usual. Complete your Lent and don't be one of those who miss out on all the amazing events that you can experience.

Be sure and notice that the Easter Sunday Mass schedule is different than a regular Sunday. The schedule of Masses is: 8:15pm on Saturday and 7am, 8:30am, 10am, 11:30pm and no 5:30pm in the evening. Because of that there will be no Bible Study class but I will have my notes on the parish web-site.

God bless you,
Fr. Frank