

Nov. 22-23, 2014

Thoughts from the pastor,

For those of you keeping up with the yearlong Bible Study, you have about one hundred days to go and you will be finished. If you are behind a little I have some good news. There will be no class on the Sunday during Christmas week, Dec. 28. That will be a possible catch-up week for you. I will be on vacation on Sunday, Jan. 11, so there will not be a class on that day either. That will be another catch-up week. That puts the last class for the Bible Study on March 22, 2015, the Sunday before Palm Sunday. It should be perfect timing to finish right before Holy Week. So hang in there. The end is in sight. You took on a Lenten Penance that will have lasted a year.

This weekend we celebrate the Feast of Our Lord, Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. I have been describing how big the universe is since last Lent. We are a speck of dirt, on a speck of a planet, in a speck of a solar system, in a speck of a galaxy, which is a speck in the universe. Jesus is the King of that universe. His Father is the King of Heaven and they want us to be a part of their kingdom. What an amazing concept. It is hard to imagine that love can work like that. But that is what their love is like.

The question is what is our love like? Can we return that love so that we show God we appreciate His gift? Are we really reaching for that inheritance or are we just trying to survive as long as we can on this planet? We even have to ask whether our goal is really to achieve the American dream rather than eternal life. The American dream is about having a house, a spouse, some kids, a few vehicles, a great job, and security in every way so we can live happily ever after for as long as possible on this earth. Some of our greatest sins against God have to do with holding too tight to this dream.

Are we constantly worried about our finances or are we constantly worried about our salvation? Do we yearn to buy, or pay off, a house or are we working to live in a mansion in heaven? Are we desperately trying to save for a secure old age or are we storing up treasure in heaven? Are we worried about whether our children will get a great job or are we worried about whether they will lose their heavenly inheritance? Are we worried that our friends will think we are too religious or are we worried that God will not judge us worthy of being with Him?

This is an interesting feast that should give us a chance to think a lot about the kingdom that God is inviting us into. We miss out somewhat by not having many images of kings or kingdoms in our world at this point. But scripture gives us a fairly clear idea of what it is about. You might want to do some chatting with your family or friends concerning the concept of a kingdom and what it means in terms of where you are with your faith at this point.

Next week we start with Advent. We have sign-up sheets for families to light the church Advent candles. This is a great opportunity for families with children to see their mom and dad leading the way in faith. It is something that they wish they could do so it impacts them that dad or mom is doing it with them. If you cannot do this in church at one of the Masses, you might make sure you are doing it at home with your own Advent wreath.

God bless you all,
Fr. Frank