

April 11-12, 2015

Thoughts from the pastor,

This is Divine Mercy Sunday weekend. In Church years this is like a baby feast. Pope John Paul II started it. He trusted in Jesus as his fellow countryman, Sister Faustina Kowalska taught. He even died on the Feast that he had started. It is a beautiful reminder that we need to turn to God for forgiveness so that we can receive His Divine Mercy. The mistake that so many of this generation tend to make is to think that any way they want to do it is fine. And yet the primary way has always been through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. There is a good reason why it is harder than just thinking the words "I am sorry." It is the same reason that this wouldn't work with your spouse. A formal apology goes a lot further than just thinking about being sorry, even if your spouse can see it on your face. The more serious the offense the more important this is.

This weekend we will also give everyone the chance to vote with their bodies. As I mentioned last weekend a member of the Parish Council will be at each Mass to get a general head count of those for and those against the stained-glass window project. It will be right after Communion and they will have a short explanation. If you are looking for more information on where I am getting current ideas on Sacred Art in Liturgy you can look up paragraphs 2500- 2503 in the Catechism of the Catholic Church. You can also look up the article called "Celebrating the Beauty of Faith: The Eucharist and Sacred Art." It is available on USCCB website (United States Council of Catholic Bishops). A simple quote from both of them is from CCC, No 2502, "Genuine sacred art draws man to adoration and prayer, and to the love of God".

I am also trying to finalize the decision on Mass times for weekends. There are many factors involved. The CGS classes are really growing and having time for them between the Masses would be a real blessing for families with small children. It would also be helpful in terms of adult education classes like we did with the year-long Bible Study. Even the money counters have given some input as to when things would work best. I have also looked at the Mass schedule of the parishes that surround SEAS and the best compromise I can think of would be 8:00am and 11:00am.

The other factor in this is keeping the schedule as consistent as possible on special days. Two of those days are Palm Sunday and Christmas. With this schedule we will be able to insert a Mass between these Masses, at 9:30am and take care of the extra people on those mornings without the normal confusion of people coming in at the wrong time because they did not read the changes in the Mass schedule for those special days. For Easter we will have to continue with 7, 8:30, 10, & 11:30am, like we had last week.

Another thing that I am looking at is moving some of the confession time from Saturday evening to Sunday morning. Having confessions for twenty minutes before the Sunday Masses might also help some who need this Sacrament. Stay tuned for this change.

My hope is that this is all temporary. That God's grace will be working in our parish and we will start having some of that 70% of our registered parishioners who don't believe the Church when it teaches how important attending Sunday Mass every week truly is. That is a problem that I am really looking forward to having.

God bless you all,
Fr. Frank