

Oct. 31-Nov. 1, 2015

Thoughts from the pastor,

Monday is All Souls Day. It is a special day of prayer. First and foremost there will be a Mass at 7am on Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>. I wasn't sure that I would be around on that day, not just because of it being Monday and sometimes I get that day off, but I had other things juggling so I didn't know if I would be around. But I will have a Mass on Monday morning this week. The other All Souls Day Mass is the regular 5:30pm Mass with Fr. Cleary. As usual this year I will be putting your lists of loved ones, who you pray for, in the tabernacle; which I hope reminds you like it reminds me that we want those people close to the Lord. I also pray for those souls in Purgatory whenever I have a Mass with no other specific intention. This happens quite a lot since I have three nursing homes that I have Mass at during each month, which is six extra Masses. I also am called upon to have other Masses around the area. So our loved ones are getting a lot prayers.

Last week you saw two letters from me. One was about the financial results of the picnic and I mentioned that we would be starting our annual stewardship updates. Besides the things I mentioned that we would need as far as time and talent, like new people to coordinate the picnic and raffle, I want to also put out a request for people who might like to work with the social media reality of our parish. Our *SEA Breeze* editor has moved out of the state so we could use someone to work with that. There is also work that needs to be done on our website, e-mail and Facebook communication. This is definitely not a strength of mine. I still think that my super-power is to be able to call up a business and have their computer freeze up. I am afraid that I may even have made a mess of the new computer system that our country has to check people in through Customs at International Airports. They made me use one of these new computers and within 24 hours their whole system broke down. Maybe I am just paranoid but I don't think computers like me.

I also mentioned that I would update you more on the financial situation of the parish. I have checked back a few years and there is a definite pattern for contributions over that last six years that I have looked at and it is easy to read that each year there has been a slight decrease. I am sure that this is partly because there has been no crisis, because I know how very generous you are. Every year we have been able to make ends meet. This is partly because of personnel. The first part of that is that Fr. Frank the elder and I think alike in that we both try to be as thrifty as possible. The other aspect is that we have downsized over the last years. There were more people working in the office before I came. We even had Kathy Sledge who was working full-time with finances and coordination events. Now we have Dawn and Marge working the office part-time and Bev doing the bookkeeping less than quarter-time. We do still have the same amount of staff to handle maintenance and cleaning. Fr. John was slightly less expensive than other associate pastors because we did not pay for a retirement plan for him. Now we have Fr. Cleary, who is retired, so we don't pay a salary for him or insurance.

The other good news is that as of this month we have paid off the debt. This is very exciting. That was costing us over \$11,000 per month. With contributions continuing to decrease a little each year that is a great relief for me. Thank you for all the generosity that you showed over these years to make that possible. But even with these cuts we are short. So as you are filling out your pledge cards please remember the importance of your parish in all the giving that you do. Again, I will have more on this later.

God bless you,  
Fr. Frank