

Oct. 22-23, 2016

Thoughts from the pastor,

Last weekend I was the Spiritual Director for the Women's C.E.C. Weekend. It went very well. It is actually fun for me because I can teach all the things that I teach here at St. Elizabeth Ann and summarize it and everyone thinks it is amazing. Trust me, I know that it has very little to do with me. The Holy Spirit works very hard helping the message to get through to people on those weekends because many people are praying very hard for the candidates. You might want to sign up for the one coming next spring.

**Next weekend the second collection will be for the Hurricane Matthew relief efforts.**

Just so you know what to pray for, we have heard from the Vocation Office that Scott Watts is taking time away from his seminary studies. In talking with him recently he let me know that he is still very strongly feeling a call to the priesthood but will be working on some personal issues during the next few years. He has a job lined up and a place to stay in the area so he will be very much a part of the parish. If everything goes well he can continue towards the priesthood so keep up the prayers for him.

If everything goes according to plan you will be receiving your annual parish stewardship form in the mail sometime this week. You will notice the new option of online giving along with the direct deposit option that we have had for a few years. The online option gives you more control as life changes for each of you. It is great for those of you who love computers and can make them work. Actually it is so easy that I was able to sign up but I'm still the dinosaur that wants to actually write a check to give to the church. I ask that you please fill the form out and put it in the collection basket or get it back to the office some other way. Many of you have changed who lives in your home, your e-mail, your phone, etc. Even if you haven't had any changes, maybe you can send it back with a check mark on some of the boxes for volunteers, or even one of those dinosaur checks. After all, it is your parish that this is asking you to participate in.

This past week the Archbishop gathered almost all of the active priests in the Archdiocese to learn about his five-year plan. You should be reading about that in the Catholic Voice. The idea is to build leadership teams in parishes so that more things can happen without simply depending on the priest to put in more hours. The plan will take a while to implement and I will keep you informed as best I can, but for now we simply need people to continue to volunteer to help at the parish. Many of you volunteer at SJS School. That is awesome. To make a family operate well takes a lot of work.

As mentioned last week, I will be heading out on vacation this Monday, 10/24. I remember the old story of the pastor who asked his congregation for more than a week vacation and they said okay and actually gave him a month. He was shocked because they were always short on money. Their response was that if he was doing a good job, he deserved a month's vacation. If he wasn't then they deserved the month of him being away. I will be gone 2 ½ weeks and will get back late on Saturday, 11/12. So there will not be a letter from the pastor in the bulletin for the next three weeks, but you will get one in the mail as mentioned above. Maybe Fr. Cleary or Fr. Mario will write you one. I will be praying for you.

God bless you,  
Fr. Frank