

March 12-13, 2016

Thoughts from the pastor,

I have a lot of different topics this week. First of all, Fr. Don is gone this weekend. He will be up in one of his old stomping grounds, Fordyce and Constance. That was where he was assigned as a first time pastor. He will also have Mass in Menominee which is where I was assigned as a first time pastor. He and I are both hoping that once the new ordination class gets to work and the seven priests retire this year that there will be more retired priests to help out in the rural areas as the priests out there need subs. But until July 1st he is providing help in a very critical area. One of the results is that all of you have to deal with me another weekend. Don't get your hopes up that this won't happen with the new assignments for priests. Fr. Don will still be doing some sub work but hopefully the need won't be quite so desperate.

The second bit of information is a reminder of last week's reminder that Palm Sunday morning Masses are at 8, 9:30 & 11am. Start out Holy week by praising the King of Kings. The 5:30pm Masses are the same next weekend. I will remind you of Holy Week again next weekend.

Another bit of information has to do with the new stained-glass windows. Last week I mentioned the clothing that is portrayed in the windows. For Mary it is royal robes. For the Risen Christ it is a priestly garment. I also want to mention the lamb in the Nativity window. We are not used to seeing a lamb tied up in our nativity images. But think about how amazing this image is. The magi brought gifts. Don't you think that the shepherds would have wanted to give a gift also? What do they have to give? They can only give what they have, sheep. Now the artist could have simply portrayed the lamb as being tethered to the manger. But the main thing everyone would have thought about that was that they were afraid of the lamb getting away before they took it back home with them. Having all four of its feet tied up reminds us that this was definitely a gift that the shepherd knew would be used as food for the Holy Family. The shepherds didn't know, that like the gifts from the magi, it symbolized Jesus who would become the lamb of sacrifice that would be food for us all.

The Resurrection window has the soldier knocked to the ground. We are more used to seeing this in portrayals of the resurrection. I mention this in case you have seen or are going to see the movie, Risen. It portrays the Roman soldiers' confusion during the time between the Resurrection and the Ascension. The movie does a good job of showing what kind of things that they would have done to figure out what was happening. If you read the Gospel accounts of the Resurrection you have to read into them in order to understand what a dilemma this was for non-believers and what confirmation it was for believers. If the Romans and the Jewish leaders couldn't find a way to explain the Resurrection away, it gave more credence to the stories from those who did see Jesus.

The next news is that there will be another Rosary Rally in support of Traditional Marriage on Saturday, March 19, at noon at 76th & Dodge St. (Northeast corner near Charleston's restaurant). There are 3000 of these Rosary Rallies planned nationally on this day in defense of God's marriage. The rosary is a powerful weapon. Many Saints, including St. Padre Pio called it a weapon. Join in on this prayer if at all possible. For more info contact Christine at 402-880-4620 or Linda at 402-333-6167 or go to the America Need Fatima website: www.ANF.org.

God bless you,
Fr. Frank