

April 16-17, 2016

Thoughts from the pastor,

This is a very exciting weekend for our second grade students. They are receiving their 1st Communion. There are many different events that we remember throughout our lives. This is one of them. It is something that they have waited for, then prepared for, and now dress-up for. Everyone is gathered around them, especially Jesus, and they are very conscious of the whole event. When they were baptized they were not aware of what was happening. This time the Lord can touch more than their souls. He touches their bodies and mind. This is really when they can start to understand the great commandment of love God with all your heart, mind, body, and soul. Our soul gets touched with sanctifying grace in baptism. But now mind and body are also touched by the Lord in Communion. When they will be ready to give their hearts to Him is the question. And the question that goes with it is whether you have given your heart to the Lord.

Last Sunday's concert was wonderful. The Santos family musicians, Nicole, Renee, Kristen, Jenna, & David, were amazing. One of the comments I heard the most when it was over was how excited people felt that they had a chance to observe these talented young people before they got really famous. Seminarian Conor Bopp's violin pieces were a hit. As commentator, just like Ed Sullivan, I mentioned that the main piece that he played was something that he had never had a chance to perform publicly even though it was one of his favorites. I told everyone that this was not really a bad thing because the song was written to be a love letter to the composer's fiancé. Conor won't be having that chance if he continues on his path in the seminary. Scott Watts wowed us with his skills on the trumpet and pipes. Being the wonderful performer he is, this was just a taste of his abilities that will also shine and he gets closer to priesthood. Fr. Rich Gabuzda was more subdued but did a great job of substituting for an orchestra as he accompanied some of the musicians on the piano. He also has great talent. It was a great afternoon. Hopefully we can do it again sometime.

This concert was originally something that was to include Fr. Tim Lange, a retired priest of the Archdiocese. Fr. Tim died before he could make this happen but he had pledged up to \$10,000 as a matching gift for what we made at the event. Luckily, even though Fr. Tim could not help with this, there was still a matching gift of \$5,000 that was offered if the money that was collected above the admission fees got that high. I am happy to report that our admission fees were about \$1,250 and the amount collected above that was about \$5,100. So the total amount toward a third window was \$11,300. We still need about \$4,000 for that window. This weekend's second collection will go toward that amount.

Now that we have the new sacred oils from the Chrism Mass I wanted to do the Anointing of the Sick at the Masses again. I try to have that twice a year. This next time will be in two weeks, Saturday, April 30th and Sunday, May 1st. I will have more information on this next week.

God bless you,
Fr. Frank