

Dec. 31-Jan. 1, 2017

Thoughts from the pastor,

Happy New Year! I also pray that this Christmas season has been one in which you have been growing in holiness. This is obviously not the same wish for each of you. For each of you live from a different perspective of the Christmas story. Some of you might have felt like Joseph and wonder how you are going to handle what is coming. Some of you might have felt like Mary in that you are working with new life. Some of you might be like the shepherds and feel like you are just trying to make ends meet but are wondering what this relationship with the Lord will be like. Some of you might be in the situation of the wise men and are searching for the Savior and are following the wisdom of the ages to find Him. Some of you might even feel like the angels and just want to praise the goodness of the Lord.

But now there is another year to live out that journey. You have another year to strengthen that relationship with the Lord from where you are right now. But it is important to strengthen it each year. It is not just a matter of letting things go from year-to-year. It is not healthy for any relationship to be stagnant. It has to grow or it will be dying. So for the New Year, look for things that can help your relationship with the Lord to grow.

The Masses at Christmas were wonderful. Thanks to those who cleaned the church and those who worked with the beautiful decorations. Thanks for those who provided the amazing music. Thanks for the altar servers, the lectors, and the EMHCs. Without you, our experience of the Lord's birthday wouldn't have touched us so deeply. A special thanks to Darlene Montague who spent six months making nativity figures that the children could interact with in the church entry. I had to laugh because those figures got a real workout. After several of the Masses the animals figures were laying down. I presume it was from sheer exhaustion. It was wonderful to watch those little children take their place in the Christmas story.

As you should have heard, the second collection at the Masses is going toward the roof repairs. We won't have final figures on what that project will cost until it is over but we know we will not have enough in the general account. Thanks for all who contributed toward this need. It seemed to be the most powerful at the 8am Christmas Mass when the roof was leaking onto people. With that thunder storm God seemed to be providing special effects for our benefit.

As mentioned, next Sunday we will have a St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish pizza and game night in honor of our patron Saint. It will start right after the 5:30pm Mass on Sunday, 1/8/17. We encourage you to bring an old deck of cards or a board game that you might like to play with the children. We ask a donation of \$5 per person or \$20 per family. Any extra donations would go to the roof fund. Last year we came out even on the party. It is not meant to be a fundraiser but simply a time to get to know new people and renew acquaintances with longtime friends. Maybe it would be good to bring a new friend. This week if you see someone in church that you do not know, introduce yourself and maybe invite them to the party.

As a little side event for the party, Tom Schrad will be in one of the side sections of the parish hall with a set-up to help people use Formed.org. For those of you who might not be big on computers this could be helpful. But he will also be showcasing some of the programs that this web-site has available and how to get the most out of them.

I will also be showing people some options on replacement partitions for the church restrooms. You might have noticed that the ones we have are rusting out. So as we look to replace things, now is the time for decorating tips from those of you who would like the restrooms to look their best.

God bless you,
Fr. Frank