

Dec. 16-17, 2017

Thoughts from the pastor,

This week there are a lot of news options but without the rotating pictures like the ones that drive me crazy on websites and things like that. You will just have to deal with words, but it does make me realize why Jesus was not born in our time period. His birth would probably have been announced along with other sliding pictures about magi lost in Israel, shepherds having visions of singing angels, the overcrowding in local inns, and sightings of a strange star. You would just have to click on whichever one you found interesting and then forget about it as soon as something else drew your attention.

The first bit of news is that the Ablaze worship will be held at SEAS this Friday at 7pm. They had been at St. James until Fr. Michael Voithofer was transferred to St. Gerald's. This month it is being moved up here to SEAS because of a conflict at St. Gerald's, so you have a chance to experience this powerful prayer-time in your home setting.

There will be no Bible Study the next two Sunday mornings so everyone can pick and choose their own scripture readings for the Holydays and so families will not be as pushed as they keep their other plans in place. It is also a chance for everyone to get caught up if that is a struggle. So on Sunday, 1/7, you should be starting to read the chapters for Day 85.

Also on January 7, we will have a chance to celebrate the Feast of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, which is actually on January 4<sup>th</sup>. There will be Rocky & Bullwinkle cartoons showing in the afternoon from 2-5pm. You can come and enjoy Rocky, Dudley Do-Right, Fractured Fairy Tales, or Mr. Peabody and Sherman. I will have a couple TVs going so different ages can gather. There will be juice and popcorn. Then we will have a celebration of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton at the 5:30 Sunday Mass. This will be followed by Pizza and games after Mass. Bring your favorite game and mix and match with members of other families to make new friends with people who also like your favorite game. It is only \$1 for the popcorn afternoon and \$5 for pizza night. This is per person or \$20 per family for any and all of it. Obviously any other donations are welcome. We are a church after all.

As you have time during the holiday time, you might want to watch something a little more uplifting than regular TV. I suggest you check out Formed.org. It has a marvelous collection of movies and shows that will keep you and your family in tune with the actual meaning of Christmas. For those of you who are new the parish code is **67e4f3**. Of course there is now an app for that. You can now download one for your Apple or your Android device for when you are on the go.

The Christmas collection is a very important one for the parish so I hope everyone will remember their parish in their Christmas giving. Knowing that many of you travel during the holidays I just wanted to remind you that it is still possible to give online. Just go to the parish website: [www.stelizabethann.org](http://www.stelizabethann.org) and click on Give Online. It is safe and you can choose different options of payment, charge or debit card, or direct from a bank account.

The SEAS penance service is Monday, 12/18. The St. James penance service is Tuesday, 12/19. Both are at 7pm. Even though I really believe being a part of a penance service in which we are faced with the reality of many people in the same boat we are, I know that some of you might not want to risk waiting an hour if you might be the last one in line. We will have lots of priests but I did want to let you know that if you wanted to come a little late like around 7:45 you can skip part of the waiting time. I'm sure we will be hearing until 8pm. If you do this be sure and let the priest

know that you came in late and didn't say your Act of Contrition with the group so he gives you a chance to express your sorrow and intention in this important way.

I did receive my book manuscript back from Fr. Gutzsell and he had a few suggestions that are helpful. I am hoping to have those dealt with by the end of the week. Then I really have to pray about publishing for I haven't heard any directions on that.

**Another reminder, the last Mass for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent will be the 11am one on 12/24. That evening will start the Christmas Masses, 4pm, 6:30pm, midnight, 7:30am, 9am, & 11am. I made a mistake on the Advent calendar concerning the New Year's Eve Mass at 5:30pm. It counts for Sunday, the Feast of the Holy Family. The 8 & 11am Masses on New Year's Day count for the Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God, which is not a holyday of obligation this year because it is on a Monday.**

God bless you,  
Fr. Frank