

Dec. 2, 2018

Thoughts from the pastor,

Happy New Year! This 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent is the beginning of the liturgical year for the Church. The readings don't start with: "In the beginning..." but we do hear about some of the preparation that God put into the coming of His Son into our world. But this means that Christmas is coming soon. If you have children you already know that. Before that we have the celebration of the Immaculate Conception of Mary on Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>. Nine months later we celebrate her birth on Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>. The Masses for this Holy Day are Friday evening, 12/7, at 5:30 and an 8:30am Mass on Saturday, 12/8. You can count the 5:30pm Mass on Saturday for your Holy Day Mass or for your weekend Mass, but not for both.

After that Saturday evening Mass there will be Exposition of the Eucharist from 7pm to midnight. This is in conjunction with the National Night of Prayer for Life. The first hour will be quiet prayer time. The 8, 9, 10, & 11 hours will have specific prayers that you can participate in. The prayers are to ask Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, who is the patron of our country to help us to put an end to abortion. I hope each of you will be willing to put in an hour of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament that evening between 7:00pm and midnight in the chapel.

Some of you have already had a chance to see the last of the ten stained-glass windows from St. Patrick's Church. It is in the cry room and is an image of Jesus giving Peter the key to the cry room. They are actually the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven because Jesus told Peter: "Whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." So Peter and his successors as pope are given the power to make rules that would let us into heaven or not.

In another bit of news SEAS will be dropping the HOPE program. It has been a wonderful program over the years. Over the years we have gotten our song books, new cordless mics, part of our roof paid off, and a few other things by this program. Renilda Mishek has been running the program for a bunch of years and she has done a great job but it is reaching the place of minimal returns for the amount of work involved. Eventually we might have to set up other fund-raisers for specific needs, but hopefully they will be less time consuming. Over the next month we will be trying to use up the inventory that the parish has. This will give us some funds. Those of you who have been using this program to lessen the cost of tuition at SJS will not lose any of your benefits. They can be applied to this year's tuition or use it for next year. Anne in the school business office will be keep those records.

I want to thank Renilda for her efforts and her hard work in making this successful. As you might have noticed most parishes have already closed these programs down. It is going the way of BINGO because of government regulations. So you can still purchase cards for the next few weeks after Masses or at the office but Renilda will not be placing orders for things that she doesn't have in stock. St. James is still trying to figure out if they can keep the program running. I will let you know about that as they make that decision.

Some of you have been asking for Fr. Don's address so you can send him Christmas cards. He has a temporary place at 19217 Costanzo Plaza, 1B, Elkhorn, NE 68022. He will be there for a couple months.

God bless you,  
Fr. Frank