

Dec. 23, 2018

Thoughts from the pastor,

Just a couple of days and we will be having a birthday party for Jesus. He is getting old and it is very important that we come together, at his wish, to celebrate his 2019 birthday. That may be off a year or two but either way it was a long time ago, but nothing has been the same since. Who else has impacted human history and the future of the human race more than Jesus the son of Mary and God, the Father. We can imagine being with the first guests, the shepherds and the magi. He didn't have relatives come to see him. They were too far away. Mary and Joseph couldn't send out cards to announce his birth. Actually they didn't have to because the angels took care of that.

This whole event of his birth created great joy but also great tragedy. King Herod's paranoia of a king who might take his prestigious position, set up the death of many infants in Bethlehem. It added to the first holiday travel chaos. First Mary and Joseph had to go the sixty miles from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Then they had to go from Bethlehem to Egypt. They were just going to visit the pyramids. They were fleeing to keep Jesus safe. So as we go about our holy day celebrations, with all of the hassle involved; keep in mind what was happening over two thousand years ago. Also remember the **Christmas Mass schedule: 4:00pm, 6:30pm, & midnight on Christmas Eve. Then 8 & 11am on Christmas Day.** Last week we hadn't changed the Christmas Day schedule on the parish website, so make sure you have the right times. Things are corrected now.

The roofing project is moving forward rapidly. You may have noticed the pile of rocks on the east side of our facility. Those are what the workmen had to scoop off the roof in order to do the new flat roof. This \$149,000 project will take care of all the leaks we have had over the parish hall. A year and a half ago we replaced the sloped part of the roof over the church and parish hall. The flat part we held off because we didn't know how much actually needed to be done at that time. The sloped part was partially paid by insurance. We added to that for the sake of going from asphalt to metal shingles. That has worked out great. This flat part is a seamless system that should help keep the problems we are facing now from happening again. We are still waiting on getting the skylights replaced. Getting these manufactured has been difficult, but those will be covered by insurance. **But any extra Christmas gifts you can give to help the building fund would be appreciated.**

Please keep your schedule open for the afternoon of Sunday, January 6th for the celebration of the Feast of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton. We will be starting right after the 11am Mass with pizza. Donations for the pizza will be appreciated. \$5 per person or \$20 per family should cover it but any extra will go towards the building fund. We will then move to the church at 1pm for a one hour concert put on by the Santos Family. It looks like I will be the MC. Then we will go back to the Parish Hall for more activities until about 4pm. I am even contemplating giving tours of the rectory, just so you can get a feel for the whole facility again. Stay tuned.

God bless you,
Fr. Frank