

Jan. 6, 2019

Thoughts from the pastor,

First I have a couple quick reminders. Right after the 11am Mass this Sunday we are gathering to celebrate our patron St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, even though her feast was actually on Friday, Jan. 4. We will have pizza in the Parish Hall. We have plenty so come on in. \$5 per person or \$20 per family donation for the pizza. Any extra donation for the pizza or the concert will go to the roofing project. The concert will start at 1pm and will feature Christmas music by the Santos Family musicians. This is a perfect way to close off the Christmas season which we usually consider over with the Feast of the Epiphany. The Christmas Season could be considered to go until the Baptism of the Lord, which is next Sunday. But Jesus is thirty years old at that time and would no longer fit in a manger. After the concert everyone is invited for the Open House at the rectory. You will get to see all the unhidden secrets of a home for unwed Fathers. Right now I am the only unwed Father in the house so it works to have the showing. There will be snacks as you pass through.

Next Sunday after the morning class I will be heading off to Mundelein Seminary to have the 6<sup>th</sup> of nine classes for becoming certified as a Spiritual Director. I will also have the chance to see their collection of stained-glass windows from churches that closed down in the Chicago area. There might be a few that might add to the ten we now have from St. Patrick's Church in South Omaha. I am starting a class on the book I wrote. It will be five sessions that will be in the usual time slot between the 8am and 11am Masses. I have not opened it up for everyone because I am testing out the class with the ones who have been a part of the "Reading the Bible in a Year" class. With the help of their feedback I will then present the contents of the book for the Parish Mission, which will be March 10-12. If there are any of you who would really like to be a part of this and haven't been to the bible study, it is still possible to come, but let me know so you can have a copy of the book to follow along. I can get them ready for you at the office.

As you know we are celebrating the Feast of the Epiphany this weekend. This is to acknowledge that time when a group of magi were wise enough to search for Jesus. For them to go on this quest, they most likely knew several things. They knew about prophecies that told of a king to be born to rule the Jewish nation. That would not have impressed them. They would probably have known that those prophecies also said that this king would end up having an eternal and universal kingdom. That was the promise to King David and would have been worthy of paying him homage. They would have realized that to have an eternal kingdom he would have had to be divine, thus the gift of frankincense. They must have realized that he would have to suffer for the sins of previous kings and their people so he would have to die, thus the gift of myrrh. How they would have conceived this apparent contradiction might have led to some very interesting arguments along the way. Having a star to guide them would have kept their interest and alleviated their confusion.

That was then, over 2000 years ago. Since then we have had many wise men and women who have spent their lives searching for Jesus, or trying to get to know him better. Every year we have Saints galore to learn from. Everyone should have their favorites that help in their personal quest to come to know the Lord.

God bless you,  
Fr. Frank