

March 28-29, 2015

Thoughts from the pastor,

Whether we participate in it or not this week is Holy Week. We celebrate Palm Sunday when Jesus entered His city, Jerusalem. That city was the focus of the promises of the Old Covenant, where the Lord would live with His people in the Promised Land. It is a foreshadowing of the New Jerusalem where God has invited us to live with Him. It is greater for with the Old Covenant you still died. With the New Covenant, there is no end to the covenant or rental agreement. As we rise with Jesus we will live with Him forever.

On Monday the Archbishop gathers with his priests at the Cathedral and many people from the Archdiocese for the Chrism Mass. It is a powerful celebration of the blessing of the Holy Oils we will be using in our parish throughout the rest of the year. It is also a day when priests renew their vows to serve the Lord as priests of His New Covenant.

Also on Monday we have our Parish Penance Service. It will start at 7:00pm and there will be eight or more priests. The preparation part of the service will be very short for the main purpose is for everyone to have an opportunity to find forgiveness for their sins. If you happen to come in late be sure and let the priest know that you came in late so he will have you say your act of contrition. If this is usual, we will have most of the first round finished by 8pm.

On Holy Thursday we celebrate the Last Supper, the sacrifice that goes on forever and I am not talking about how long Mass seems to children some days. The one sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross is continually offered to God the Father in atonement for our sins. So Holy Thursday is actually incomplete unless it is fulfilled on Good Friday.

So this day is obviously connected with Good Friday, when Jesus actually died so that God would not leave us to die in our sins. The three hour, or Tre Ore service that begins at noon is a wonderful way to live with the Lord Jesus as He went through those hours of agony. We have the Veneration of the Cross and Communion at 7pm on Good Friday.

The Holy Saturday Vigil Service begins at 8:30pm. It should be plenty dark by then. This is a very moving time as we celebrate the new hope of resurrection and also new members in the Catholic Church. The beauty of our church with all the work that goes into decorating it with signs of new life accentuations the whole Easter Season. For on Sunday, Lent is over and we end our fasting and extra sacrifices to celebrate what the Lord has done for us.

You can bring your Rice Bowl contributions to be put into the collection anytime over the next two weeks. As you have realized, you don't need a special bowl to know that there are always many in need. This year we will again have a collection on Good Friday to help the Franciscans with their work in the Holy Land. They work to keep up the churches and shrines, and also run schools to keep the faith alive in the war torn area.

Like last week this weekend's the second collection will go to help Fr. John with his project of starting a Theological library in his home country of Togo West Africa. As I have mentioned before, this is to help them go a step forward from their oral culture of seminary training. Fr. John and I believe that to go direct from that to a computer culture is not good for seminarians. Research and other study books are a better step. Also stay tuned to the bulletin and the website for more info on the results of the town hall.

God bless you all,
Fr. Frank