

Aug. 1-2, 2015

Thoughts from the pastor,

Here are some news notes to start out this week. The two new trees outside of the chapel area have been donated in memory of Mike Minarik, who passed away in February of 2014. The trees are Crimson Spire Oaks. They will not spread out wide like many oaks and are very hardy. For those of you who were not here, they replace some plum trees that had been there since early on but one had died and the other was splitting down the trunk and was becoming dangerous. These new trees should be a beautiful addition to our landscaping. This reminds me to thank all of you who work to make our islands in the parking lot, our patio area in the back, the area right in front of the church and even our hedges and trees look so nice. I know how much work that can be because I have adopted the hillside behind the facility. It is really fun to keep ahead of the weeds and all of the volunteer trees that keep popping up. It is all a part of our way of honoring God by keeping His house beautiful.

In a few weeks we will have a representative from Liturgical Publications at the office to solicit ads for the bulletin. They do the printing of our bulletin each week. It is paid for by these ads. Approximately half of the money for these ads pay for the printing and shipping of the bulletins and the rest comes back to the parish. I mention this because it is sometimes difficult for Kjirsten to find interested businesses. She is the contact person from Liturgical Publications. Her contact number is on the bottom of the last page of each bulletin under the ads. If you are looking for new customers this is a great way of advertising. I have found businesses I have needed from these ads over the years. I hope you have been or will start doing the same.

Next weekend, 8/8-9, Fr. Don and I will be doing the Anointing of the Sick at all the Masses. Just a reminder, this is for anyone who is seriously ill, or over 65, especially if you have been having health problems. It is not for children who have not made their 1st Reconciliation. The reason for this is that one of the parts of the Sacrament has to do with the forgiveness of sin. So children younger than seven would normally not receive the Anointing but they can be prayed over by the priest so they can still be brought forward if they are seriously ill. It is just not the same format of prayers and anointing on the head and the hands. This can make for a trifecta of Sacraments for some of you. You can receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation before Mass, since we have it before all the weekend Masses now. You can receive the Anointing of the Sick and Holy Communion in less than two hours. Usually you have to be getting ordained, married or dying to have this triple crown of grace.

We are getting closer to the parish picnic. I hope you have picked up your packet in the church narthex. Please be generous in purchasing tickets. I do not purchase tickets for myself. No one would believe it wasn't fixed if I actually drew out my own name. I buy tickets for people who really are in need of the money and so would not be able to purchase tickets. This is especially the case when I know the people would not accept a gift of money directly from me.

I hope you noticed that the Archdiocese is starting a campaign to get people to try Catholic Schools. They are offering a \$1000 tuition reduction for the first year and a \$500 reduction the second year for any students who come from a public elementary school to enter one of our Catholic Elementary schools. St. James/Seton is obviously a part of this program. The Archbishop wants to make sure that people understand what a great education system we have. Pass the word on this program.

God bless you,
Fr. Frank