

March 5-6, 2016

Thoughts from the pastor,

We are over halfway through Lent so this weekend we celebrate Laetare Sunday. If you have been working on your Lenten resolutions in a successful way, it is a time to celebrate. If not it is a good time to recommit. If you haven't been doing anything for Lent, now is the time to start, Easter is three weeks from now. This is a great time to remind you that you need to be marking your calendar with the times for the Holy Week services. Palm/Passion Sunday Masses will include an extra Mass. Besides the regular 5:30pm Mass on Saturday and Sunday, and the 8 & 11am Masses there will also be a 9:30am Mass. I have inserted this Mass because the past few years there have been bigger crowds. They have not been as big as Easter but would be very tight for what we have regularly. For Easter we have the vigil Mass which begins after sunset, which means we start at 8:15pm. On Easter morning we have a 7:00, 8:30, 10:00 & 11:30 Mass. There are no 5:30pm Masses that weekend but there will be a Mass in French at 1:30pm.

The parish penance service will be at 7pm on 3/21, Monday of Holy Week. There is also a 7pm penance service at St. Patrick's in Fremont on Sunday, 3/20, and one at 7pm at St. James on Tuesday of Holy Week, 3/22. I did make a mistake on the monthly calendar for Masses. There will not be Mass on Holy Thursday morning at 7am. The Holy Thursday Mass will be at 7pm. There will be last chance confessions from 4-5pm on Holy Thursday. There is also the chance to spend an hour with Jesus in the chapel on Holy Thursday after the celebration of the Last Supper, just as Jesus asked His apostles. This adoration and prayer will go until midnight and then the chapel will be emptied for Good Friday. The Tre Ore will be at noon on Good Friday. This is your chance to spend three hours in prayer and meditation with the Lord. Then Veneration of the Cross and Communion will be at 7pm on Good Friday.

We will have a nice surprise for visitors this Holy Week. There will be two stained-glass windows that they haven't seen, the Nativity and Resurrection. These were installed last Monday. These are part of what we have been working on for the last two years. The installation was delayed longer than I had hoped but they have been worth the wait. I want you to look very closely at the detail of these windows. One of the first things you should notice is the clothing that is represented. It is not what Mary and Joseph would have been wearing in a stable in Bethlehem after having traveled for a week to get from Nazareth. This clothing to portray them as the royal family that they have become by becoming the family of the King of Kings, the Son of the King of Heaven. The robe that the resurrected Christ is wearing in the window is not like the shroud he left behind in the tomb. It is not like the robe that He was stripped of before being crucified. This truly is the vestment of the Great High Priest who fulfills all prophecy. It is glorious. It shows Him ready to reign as the King of Kings.

There is so much detail in each window. They are worth studying closely. They are installed very securely so I encourage you to let your children study them also. There is a protective glass on each side of them so don't be afraid of having the children touch them. The biggest comment that I have heard from those who had a chance to see them this past week, is that now we must figure out a way to light them so they show off in the dark and shine to the streets. My response is that we need to work at one thing at a time. But maybe now we can work on the next windows. Let me know if you are interested. These two are paid for. Maybe we can start collecting for more to be installed.

God bless you,
Fr. Frank