

April 23-24, 2016

Thoughts from the pastor,

Now that the parish has celebrated 1st Communion we can get right into Confirmation. Archbishop Lucas will be here on Thursday evening to confirm our 8th grade candidates. Fr. Tom Weisbecker, pastor of St. James and the 2nd grade teachers at St. James/Seton and the PRE program did such a great job with the 1st Communicants. It is always such a beautiful thing to witness children coming up to the Lord. I can imagine Jesus being taken by them and He smiling as He becomes one with them as they receive Him and go back to their pew to pray.

The 7th and 8th grade teachers for St. James/Seton and the PRE program have worked with our Confirmation candidates for the last two years. I have met with the SJS students throughout this past year and met with the PRE students as a group and individually. But their experience this weekend is more like being rained on. The Holy Spirit is wanting to shower them with gifts of wisdom, understanding, right judgment, knowledge, courage, reverence, and wonder and awe. This is an age in which they have to open themselves up to receive these gifts for they can easily be blocked or ignored. We pray that the candidates will be ready for this opportunity to open themselves to these gifts.

The next sacrament will be the Anointing of the Sick. Fr. Don and I will be doing that at all the Masses next weekend, 4/30-5/1. This sacrament is for anyone who is seriously ill, physically or mentally. Spiritual healing comes with the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Anyone over the age of 65 is also eligible for the Anointing. As I have mentioned before, the Church feels that at this point in our life most of us have enough things going wrong with our body that we are in need of this healing grace. A year and a half and I can go for it. It is one of the benefits of old age.

I learned something new about this sacrament this past week. I knew that the priest was to anoint the person's forehead and hands. I didn't know that it is appropriate to anoint most people on the palms of their hands but if anointing a sick priest it should be on the backs of the hands. This is because the priest has already had the palms of his hands anointed at his ordination. It is valid either way but this custom helps us understand the distinctions between the different types of anointing.

There are many other things that you can learn about the Catholic Faith on the www.formed.org web-site. We did renew the subscription for this program for another year. The parish code that you need to **login is: 67e4f3**. You might want to put this on a sticky note by your computer or whatever you use to view movies, shows, programs, or read books from this wonderful web-site.

You might want to mark your calendar for May 15. The Archbishop is inviting us to be a part of any of three Masses at the Cathedral, but you are encouraged to make it a pilgrimage by walking from Duchesne Academy (about 2 ½ blocks) and then entering the Holy Doors of the Jubilee of Mercy. The Masses are 9:30am, 11:30am and then 1:30pm in Spanish. I will not be attending but parishioners are encouraged to go as a group. I will have more information on this next week.

God bless you,
Fr. Frank