

Nov. 11-12, 2017

Thoughts from the pastor,

I am still on page 50 of my book. I did have a friend go over it with me to correct some mistakes. I hope to get back to it this weekend. Keep praying.

I did get one person interested in helping with the hillside behind the church. I also found out that planting tall trees might be a problem because the neighbors on top of the hill want a view of our parking lot. It must be very pretty from up there. This means a big part of the hillside would have to be bushes of different kinds. Wild flowers go crazy and can look very trashy after a while. That is why I have been happy with the vetch these last years. It fills in but doesn't look trashy. Other flowers that are more delicate would need watering and that is not going to be happening over the years. It looks like tulips had been tried years back and those are almost invisible because they don't get the moisture they need because of the vetch overrunning them. Even bushes will have to be watered until they are well established. I do plan on staying away from ones that have berries that make for colorful bird droppings.

Since Fr. Don is gone I am having the book swap this weekend. You can pick up reading materials for the long, cold winter. When you finish a good Catholic book, you can bring it back to go through the cycle again. This is only for Catholic books. The library is geared for other types of reading materials. Fr. Don will be getting back late on Thursday. He will then start getting ready to sub for the priest in Boyd County next weekend.

I was going to order booklets for Advent reflections but Bishop Barron ran out. That is the bad news. The good news is that you can get his reflections on the Gospel reading of the day sent to you by email. Just go to [adventreflections.com](http://adventreflections.com) and look for the ones from Bishop Barron. Type in your email and you are set.

Just for your information on how tough your penances could be when you go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation with me, I have been giving a penance of saying the Our Father three times. I quit saying: "Say three Our Fathers" because I had children who were confused because they thought that there was only one. When I give that penance I usually have them focus on a particular line, which would be a helpful focus for the person, depending on what sins they struggle with the most. For instance, focus on the first word if they are having a hard time getting along with people. Focus on "hallowed be thy name" if they are using profanity. Focus on "thy kingdom come, thy will be done" if they are dealing with issues of pride. Focus on "thy will be done" if they are worried about where their life is going. Focus on "give us this day our daily bread" if they are having trouble with envy. Focus on "forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us" if they struggle with people who drive them crazy. Focus on "lead us not into temptation" if they are dealing with an addiction.

Once again, the wisdom of God has given us something that is so helpful. For those are just some very basic ones. There are more ways in which the Lord's Prayer can be helpful. So keep up your prayers. We will not be seen as wise in the eyes of God if we do not search for His wisdom in what He has given us.

God bless you,  
Fr. Frank