

Nov. 18-19, 2017

Thoughts from the pastor,

I am on page 68 of my book. Most of that came last Sunday night and Monday. It is getting there. Keep praying.

The book trade did go well last weekend. Over half of the books are in your hands. That is the idea. Books on a shelf don't do much good. Part of why I started this is because I had shelves of books that I had read and was keeping for that day when I would have tons of time to read and then I could go back to them and re-read them. Then I figured out that my interests had changed and I had gained more interests so I knew I would never go back to them. Hopefully now they are doing some good again. If you find Catholic books like that, you can bring them for the next time. By then it will be for summer reading.

As we get to Thanksgiving people start to make plans for the coming holydays and holidays. Christmas Eve is on a Sunday this year. That makes things exciting. We will just get done with the 11am Mass for the Fourth Sunday of Advent and have a couple hours to change the decorations in Church for the 4pm Christmas Eve Mass. It is a church decorator's nightmare. It doesn't do much for the mental health of priests either. One very special thing to remember is that there are no two-fers for Christmas. There will just be the 5:30pm Saturday, 8 & 11am Masses for the Sunday obligation. Then we will have the 4, 6:30, and midnight Masses for Christmas. Christmas Day will be 7:30, 9, & 11am. For those of you who only get to one Mass that weekend there will be confessions from 4-5pm on Saturday, 12/30.

Before we get to that we have our Thanksgiving holiday. The Gospel of Luke 17:11-19 gives the story of Jesus curing ten lepers. Only one comes back to thank him, but the one who does come back hears some very special words: "your faith has saved you." This is more important than having his leprosy cured. Gratitude is a wonderful thing. It brightens days. It can mend friendships. It can even make God happy. Wow! So this Thanksgiving is not a holyday. It is only a holiday, but that doesn't mean we can't pay attention to what God has given us and thank him specifically. The Mass on Thanksgiving morning is at 8:30am. I know that I am grateful for many things.

I have been blessed with a wonderful job that gives me many chances of serving the Lord. I have had many people who have been awesome influences on me throughout my life. I have been given tasks in my life that have scared me, driven me crazy, or burned me out, but helped me grow in ways that only God could have imagined; which is why he allowed them to happen to me. I have enough work ahead of me to keep me busy for twenty years so I don't have to worry about getting bored. Those are a few of the things I am grateful for in my life. How about you? Do you have an attitude of gratitude? It is definitely worth it if, at the end of your life, you get to hear the words: "Your faith has saved you."

God bless you,
Fr. Frank