

Feb. 3-4, 2018

Thoughts from the pastor,

It was interesting doing the Sign of Peace in ways that don't create problems with the flu viruses that are going around. The elbow bump is popular. A simple bow with the arms crossed on your chest is also workable, but I forgot the easiest one. That is to simply offer the peace sign that was started with the '60s. Two fingers still is a viable sign of peace if done with a smile.

Lent is right around the corner. Valentine's Day is also Ash Wednesday. I have thought about getting books for trading but we don't have very many good ones available that people have read and returned at this time. One way for all of you tech savvy people is to look up The Catholic Company and search for the *Morning Offering*. You can sign up for that and get the daily readings, a meditation for the day and much more. You will get it free by email each morning. I have used it in the past and have just signed up again. It is free. You will probably get other offers occasionally from the Catholic Company but the biggest problem with that is the temptation to get even more great materials.

Fr. Don will be gone this weekend as he subs out at St. John's in Valley. Having all the Masses will get me warmed up for the Lenten schedule. We will be adding the Friday 5:30pm Mass back during the weeks of Lent. Most weeks that will be followed by Stations of the Cross. The Stations were a very important devotion for my family. We went together and the priest led us through the 14 steps of Christ's Passion. I pray that more families will take advantage of this opportunity this year. The children have them in St. James/Seton School to help them understand what they are about, but in my mind it really seems to be more of a family activity. After it is over there really is no greater time to discuss who Jesus is and what He has done for us. Parents can take this opportunity to help their children to come closer to the Lord during Lent.

Catholic School's Week is over for this year, but now comes registration and things like kindergarten round-up. If you have hesitated to sign your children up for SJS School, you might want to take the chance and talk with the administration over there. The principal, Mr. Kelly, will help you understand the benefits and also work with you in terms of the finances. Obviously it costs more than our public school program because you are already paying for that with your taxes. Someday I hope our Unicameral will solve some of that. But either way, a Catholic school is a bargain.

My spiritual tip for this week is to help everyone realize that the opposite of sinning isn't just not sinning. It is living a holy life. It is like eating. Being healthy doesn't mean cutting out junk-food. It is a matter of eating healthy food. If we don't get this into our heads and hearts, they remain open to more temptation. Filling our lives with things of the Lord has to be our goal. Lent is a great time to work on that. What radio station do you have on when driving? Is it 102.7 KVSS? What TV station do you watch the most? Is it EWTN? ESPN might be exciting but it won't get you to heaven. What books are you reading? What are you doing on the internet? Does it have to do with your eternal salvation or your eternal damnation?

God bless you,  
Fr. Frank