

Dec. 17-18, 2011

From the Pastor,

You can see pictures of my Sabbatical experience after Mass this Sunday. The showing will probably take about an hour.

Thanks to everyone who helped to make the St. Gerard Mass so special last week. If you weren't there be sure to check out the bulletin board in the main entry of the church on the elevator side. It has some St. Gerard memorabilia. Also be sure to pick up a prayer card. There was such a nice crowd of mothers there; expectant mothers, worried mothers, thankful mothers and those who are hoping and praying to be mothers. It was wonderful. This event was the idea of the Confraternity and they did a great job of making it a blessing for many people.

Our second graders did a great job with their First Reconciliation. Of course the recognition goes to the parents and teachers who helped them to prepare. Now they will be preparing for their First Communion. These are such critical stages in their life in Christ. Please pray that they will never take either Sacrament for granted.

Be sure to pick up a parish calendar at the entries of the church. Your Christmas gift that keeps on giving your tithing envelopes, should be at the main entrance of the church,. Don't leave for home without them.

The January 8th debut of Fr. Barron's Catholicism series is coming up quickly. I have had several calls from people who are hoping that this is the answer to their prayers. Over the years I have run into a fair number of people who are interested in joining the Catholic Church but don't have the free time to go through an entire RCIA program. I know the feeling of trying to figure out how to find a free evening. The thought of trying to free dozens of them is beyond me. This is an opportunity for people to consolidate their time commitments and still have the experience of what the RCIA is all about. The ten forty-five minute presentations by Fr. Barron are very well done and contain a tremendous amount of information. Having a chance to ask questions and discuss some of those topics will also be helpful. The other benefit is that if you miss a session you can borrow the DVD and get caught up. I even have coupons for people who like the series enough that they would like a copy of it for themselves.

After we get started I will meet with each person who is interested in joining the Church but still has some unanswered questions. Anyone can just come to the class in the cafeteria at 9:00am every Sunday from January 8th until Palm Sunday on April 1st. That way those who are ready will be able to join the Church this Easter. No pre-registration is needed.

One of the things that everyone must remember about being or becoming a Catholic is that you never know it all. There might be books called "Everything you ever wanted to know about the Catholic Church" but the very thought of that is silly. With the help of my sabbatical I am stepping into my 26th year of Catholic Education. Much of my education concerning the church came outside any class so don't worry that you don't know everything. Just realize there is a reason we call it faith.

God bless you all,
Fr. Frank