

PASTOR'S COLUMN

Christmas Thank-Yous, New Financial Reporting & Upcoming Events (Fasten seatbelts)

Christmas Thank-Yous. Many people commented on how beautiful the Church looked for Christmas. I wholeheartedly agree. The Church was fit for a King – King Jesus, our God who is with us forever. Special thanks to Jack Siciliano for the interior church décor – for conceptualizing the design and devoting countless hours to executing it; to all the parishioners who donated poinsettias and Christmas decorations to honor loved ones; to Danny Thiele and Allen Lorio for the electrical work (and to Allen for refurbishing the nativity stable); to a group of over 70 people who came out to decorate the church – KCs, Daughters of Isabella, Young Vincentians and a lot of other parishioners. Thank you, one and all. The beautiful interior of our Church was a work of love.

Thanks to the Men's Club for decorating the outside of the Church for Christmas – to Jason Lebeouf, Mike Wibel and others – for the towering Christmas tree and beautiful lights which made our Christmas celebration special; to our music ministers for lifting our hearts to God in joyous Christmas song – to Alyce, Bart, Linda, Frank, Christine, our Adult Choir and our Children's Choir; to our liturgical ministers, altar servers and ushers, who did yeoman's work in making our Christmas liturgies smooth; to our hospitality team for stuffing 1,800 Christmas cards and assembling 2,500 Christmas candy cane packets; to the Daughters, St. Vincent de Paul, the Food Bank and parishioners who provided gifts for the Christmas Giving Tree and food for Christmas baskets for the needy; and last but not least, to our Parish Staff for many behind-the-scenes tasks that made our Christmas celebration merry and bright.

New Financial Reporting. Beginning this weekend, the bulletin will report our parish's weekly income and expenses. This will help everyone know more clearly what our parish is taking in and what we are paying out on a weekly basis. Thank you for the generous financial donations to the parish during the Christmas season.

Upcoming Events Many exciting events and activities are scheduled in our Parish over the next three months, including: "Garden" Play (Jan 18); First Reconciliation (Jan 19); KC Spaghetti Dinner (Jan. 20); Catholic Schools Mass (Jan 25); Daughters of Isabella Mardi Gras Luncheon (Jan 27); Fr. Nile Gross presents "How to get more out of the Mass" (Feb 2); "Dinner and Devotion" with a presentation by Fr. Tony Rigoli (Feb 8); Quarterly Anointing of the Sick Mass (Feb 9); Cub Scouts Pinewood Derby (Feb 16); Parish Volunteer Thank-You Party (Feb 23); Ash Wednesday Services (Mar 6); Stations of the Cross and Lenten Bible Study (various dates); St. Joseph Altar (Mar 18-19); Parish Lenten Mission with Fr. Joe Krafft (Mar 25-27). Fasten your seatbelts! It's going to be a great three months at St. Francis Parish.

God bless,

Fr. Joe