

**You are cordially invited to a reception to see some  
of the treasures for our new church  
and to consider contributing to the treasures  
on Sunday, February 11, 2018  
from 2 to 6 pm  
at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 10490 N. State Street.  
Refreshments will be served.**

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2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time

January 14, 2018

## FROM THE PASTOR'S PRINTER

### ON MANY THINGS

**First of all**, I want to thank everyone who made this Advent and Christmas seasons the uplifting and rich spiritual times they were. This includes, but is not limited to (sorry for sounding like an insurance policy), decorators and un-decorators (between Advent and Christmas was a tight squeeze), poinsettia waterers, cleaner-uppers between Masses, snow clearers, donors to the flower and music fund and the Christmas collection, lectors, musicians, choirs, cantors, ushers, Communion ministers, servers, Mass coordinators, and Frs. Shine, Dormann, and Deacon Don. Your work was definitely part of your prayer, and your time part of your offering to God. Of course, thanks to all who came to celebrate, because a beautifully decorated church with no one in it cannot give full glory to God.

**Secondly**, I am grateful to all who patiently endured the chilly church. Our heating system was thrown for a loop when the electricity went off twice while I was out of town. It took quite a bit of time for things to come together, but it seems to be running well now. While I whined (hopefully only to myself) about church being in the 50s for a high, I also remember reading about priests in the early years of this diocese (i.e., 1820's), writing about scraping ice off the water cruet to have to add to the wine. (My idea of roughing it is going to get ice in my bare feet at a Holiday Inn.)

**Thirdly**, just a reminder that you should not come to Mass if the weather may in some way threaten your health. In this case, you are not obliged to

attend Mass.

**Fourthly**, pray for our nation as it addresses a number of issues that cannot simply be seen as policy issues, but can have dire consequences on those who are affected by them. As a powerful and wealthy nation, as a democracy where we are able to make our opinions known, we incur a moral responsibility to see that, as much as we are able, every person is treated with dignity and respect and has the basic resources for a dignified existence. Because we believe that we have been blessed by God, and that we are people bound to him by the Covenant sealed in the Blood of Christ, we recognize that we will be held accountable for our actions or non-actions in the treatment of the poor and powerless. We profess that we are "one nation under God," and that proclamation requires us to heed God's word about the right treatment of people.

**For the LORD, your God, is the God... who has no favorites, accepts no bribes, who executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and loves the resident alien, giving them food and clothing. So you too should love the resident alien, for that is what you were in the land of Egypt. (Dt. 10: 17-19)**

While we have a right and obligation to address immigration issues, we need to remember Who will ultimately judge us on our actions.

Have a blessed week ahead. – Fr. Jeff