

## EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

### Fr. Ken's "Korner"



Greetings and blessings of the week,

A happy and blessed New Year. I hope that the week was a better one for you than it was for the New England Patriots. The schedule of Masses for the last two weeks has been a tad confusing as to what day of the week it was with ordinary weekend Masses, along with Christmas and Solemnity of Mary on January 1<sup>st</sup>. This week's bulletin, due to January 1<sup>st</sup> being a non-work day for Liturgical Publications that prints our bulletins requires that next Sunday's bulletin needed to be transmitted on Monday morning before the events of the week transpired.

Please join us in the Parish Center after the 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM, and 10:30 AM Masses for our annual "Breakfast with Saint Nicholas." Last year we moved this event from before Christmas (on the Sunday closest to the feast of St. Nicholas on December 6) until after the Christmas rush. The pace is slower and having the breakfast after Christmas proved to be a better time for people, as was shown by the numbers who attended. In addition to breakfast, there are activities for the children to do, as well as to take home. We are grateful to the St. Peter's Women's League and the Knights of Columbus who have coordinated this event, making sure that everything is in order and taken care of. It is a nice time to come together with fellow parishioners and friends to share food, fun, and conversation.



Tomorrow, schedules get back to a normal routine for many people. Once again, the familiar yellow school buses will be on their regular routes as classes resume after a prolonged Christmas vacation. So too, with parish schedules. The multi-parish RCIA program will resume its regular Tuesday evening 7:30- 9:00 PM sessions for those people who are on a spiritual journey as they move towards full communion in the Catholic Church. Also, religious education classes for school children are also back in regular session.

It was good to see some of our parishioners who turn into "snowbirds" for the winter back home for the Christmas holydays, as well as those parishioners who are home from college for semester break.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Anton Pinto, whom Fr. Bob anointed last week at Life Care. A funeral Mass was prayed for him on Tuesday, December 30<sup>th</sup>. We ask you to continue to pray for our many parishioners who are ill and undergoing tests for various ailments. Gerri Krebs grandson, Jamie, is recuperating from ACL surgery on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of December. We have been asked to pray for Rose Veiga and her husband, Al. I was told that they both were recently discharged after a stint at the Jordan Hospital. Al also, I was told, underwent some surgery as well.



We recently had some work done at the church. There appeared to be some drainage matters that needed to be tended to. The drain in the stairwell that goes down to the boiler room on the parking lot side of the church needed to be cleared out so that the drain could work. The grate over the drain also needs to be fixed. There is a temporary grate that was put over the drain. It is now functioning properly. We will take a closer look at it once the warm is here. There are also some of the kneelers that are in need of repair due to the fact that the pad on the kneeler has

come loose or completely off. This matter is also being taken care of.

We thank you for your continued support of the parish food pantry as well as the soup kitchen as well as the food pantry. The Sunday newspaper had an article on how the present state of the economy is putting an increasing demand upon soup kitchens in trying to help meet the needs of people in need of assistance. There continues to be new faces at the parish soup kitchen as the numbers continue to grow for the Sunday afternoon meal at the soup kitchen. This past week, once again, all the food was eaten -- with no leftovers remaining. Salad, bread and butter, cheese potatoes, green beans, ham, cake and ice cream, coffee and other drinks was the meal for the day. John Malloy and our other volunteers do a great job in preparing a delicious and nourishing meal every Sunday. This is, for some, possibly the only meal for the day.



Today is the feast of the Epiphany, known to some as "Little Christmas". The word, *Epiphany*, has its roots in a Greek word that means a manifestation. This is the day that is traditionally associated with the Wise Men and their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. These searchers found the manifestation of God's presence in the birth of Jesus. We too share a common spirit in them in that we too seek truth and knowledge on our journey of life and faith. This twelfth day of Christmas does not bring the Christmas season to an end. The actual end of the Christmas season is the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. January 5<sup>th</sup> on the calendar of saints is the feast day of a saint who immigrated from Bohemia and spent his life working in the United States. It is the feast of Saint John Neumann, who died in 1860. He was a member of the Redemptorist Order. (The Redemptorists staff Mission Church in Boston.) He was the bishop of Philadelphia who was well known for his holiness and learning. He was a pioneer and promoter of the parochial school system in the United States. He was, in 1977, the first American bishop to be canonized as a saint. January 6<sup>th</sup> is the day we honor another man of faith who lived and died in North America. He is probably better known among Canadians than here in the U.S. He may well be better known in New England and New York than in other parts of the U.S. because of the geographical proximity. The man is Brother Andre Bessette who died in 1937 at the age of ninety-one. He was orphaned at the age of twelve. He became known as a healer and the "Miracle Man of Montreal". He is the one who founded the Oratory of St. Joseph in Montreal (well worth a visit!). He was dedicated to and fostered devotion to St. Joseph. Over one million people paid their respects at his death!!



Happy Birthday to Pat Gallagher who celebrated her birthday on January 6<sup>th</sup>. Likewise, happy birthday to Emily Bartula who left behind her teenage years on January 10<sup>th</sup>. Also happy 7<sup>th</sup> birthday to Robert Paul Abruzzi on January 5<sup>th</sup>.

May the Lord's blessings smile kindly upon you and your loved ones in the coming week. Your brother in faith, Fr. Ken