

Fr. Ken's Korner



Greetings and blessings of the week,

I hope that the week has been a good one for you, even with the cold and ice and the temperature that is, to say the least, somewhat less than balmy.

The holydays and holidays are behind us and now everyone is settling back into the regular routine. How many days until spring training begins bringing along with it the promise that the warm weather is coming. One sure sign that winter has descended upon Plymouth is down at the waterfront as the Mayflower II has gone away for repair and refurbishing.

Today is the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. This, the final of the four feasts of the Christmas season (Christmas, Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God, and the Epiphany being the other three). Tomorrow we begin the season in the Church calendar that is known as Ordinary Time. One noticeable reminder of this fact is that the color of the vestments worn at Mass change from white to green. The colors of the vestments have a meaning as well. White is the liturgical color that symbolizes joy. Green, the color of Ordinary time, symbolizes the virtue of hope, one of the three theological virtues (along with faith and charity). The anchor also carries the meaning of hope in church symbols. (Take a look at the Rhode Island state flag and its motto!) The *Ordo*, the book that gives us the guidelines for readings, feast days, etc., speaks of Ordinary Time stating that "... We cannot speak of Ordinary Time without speaking of Sunday... Ordinary Time is not very ordinary at all. Ordinary Time, the celebration of Sunday, is the identifying mark of the Christian community which comes together, remembering that on this first day of the week the Lord of Life was raised up and creation came at last to completion. Sunday as a day of play and worship is a sacrament of redeemed time. How we live Sunday proclaims to the world what we believe about redeemed time now and forever..."

Last Sunday, our annual "Breakfast with St. Nicholas" took place. People gathered after the first three Sunday morning Masses to share food and conversation. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. Thank you to all those who had a part in making this a successful "fundraiser". It could not have been done without the help and cooperation of many people. Thank you to the St. Peter's Women's League and the Knights of Columbus who spearheaded the event. We are grateful to all those who came on Friday and Saturday to prepare the hall and get everything set up. Also "merci beaucoup" to those who handled the tickets and other things in the foyer, as well as some Confirmation students who helped as a part of the community service component for the Confirmation program. We would certainly be remiss were we not to mention those "behind the scenes" people who kept the food coming: those who cooked the food and those who served it. Thank you "St. Nicholas" who visited with everyone in the Parish Center. Last, but by no means least, thank you to all those who broke down the tables and chairs and cleaned the hall so that everything was ready for those parishioners who prepare the Sunday meal for the parish



soup kitchen. The numbers are growing at the soup kitchen as more and more new faces appear.

The new year began for three families who welcomed newborn infants into their families as we gathered for the Sacrament of Baptism on the feast of the Epiphany. Welcomed into our family of faith were Stuart Broderick Allard, Joseph Davis Luscko, and Wyatt William Monaghan Whittaker. May they as they grow come to know of God's love for them. May they find in their families a supportive environment and example for their life's journey of faith and coming to know and have a relationship with Jesus that is supported at the table of the Lord by sharing in the Sacrament that draws us all together: the Eucharist. Speaking of the Eucharist, we welcome our two newest altar servers, the "Quinn Twins", Shauna and Casey Quinn who served their first Mass at the 7:30 AM Mass last Sunday. We are grateful for their ministry to our parish community as they help us in our prayer and worship.

We ask you to kindly keep in your prayers a couple of parishioners who are undergoing some significant medical tests. Also, I would ask you to keep in your prayers two parishioners to whom I administered the Sacrament of the Sick at Jordan Hospital. Likewise, please offer up an "Ave" for Marie Kaseta who is also hospitalized.

Happy belated birthday to Anne Wylie. One of her grandchildren informed me that it was Anne's birthday on December 28<sup>th</sup>. Speaking of the Wylies, please keep Anne and Larry's son, Joe, in your prayers. Joe is in the US Army Special Forces. This past Monday he reported for his *fourth* tour of Iraq, in addition to I believe a tour served in Afghanistan.

This past week, we prayed for two of our parishioners who have left this earth.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Ralph Conti for whom we had a Mass of Christian Burial on Tuesday, January 6<sup>th</sup>. Also please pray for the family of twenty-six year old Andrew Carriera who was buried at our parish cemetery on Wednesday, January 7<sup>th</sup>. May they rest in the peace of the promise of Jesus Christ. May their families find strength and hope in their faith, in their memories, and friends during this very difficult times in their lives.

This week's church calendar includes the feast day of two saints. The first, a married convert from paganism, is St. Hilary of Poitiers in France. A bishop and doctor of the Church. His feast day is January 13<sup>th</sup>. St. Hilary died in 367. The second saint's feast day is celebrated on January 17<sup>th</sup>. He is the first St. Anthony (also known as St. Antony) He was born in upper Egypt. He became a hermit and is an early founder of religious life and is referred to as the "Patriarch of Monks". He died in 356 at the age of 105!

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

