

Fr. Ken's Korner



Greetings and blessings of the week,

I hope that it has been a good one for you in spite of the wintery weather that seems to be a part of the weather pattern that seems to have settled in. I don't know about you, but I am so ready for June! The only things this winter that seem to be hot in New England are the Boston Bruins and the Boston Celtics! The mounds of snow in the church parking lot are growing – and along with it, the plowing and heating bills.

Yesterday, the second graders in our parish religious education program gathered, along with their parents, families and teachers to take part for the first time in the Sacrament of Reconciliation (known by other generations as the Sacrament of Penance or Confession). This sacrament, often neglected by some, is a wonderful gift from God. It is a means of sharing in the love and mercy of God who recognizes our need to allow God's grace to let us begin anew when we stumble and fall through the reality of sin in our lives. It offers us hope and the reassurance that God will never abandon us, as well as the fact that there is nothing beyond the forgiving grace of God's love and forgiveness to those who come before the Lord with a humble and contrite heart. We would do well to reflect upon the words of the consecration that say "... this is the cup of my blood... it will be shed for you and for all so that sins may be forgiven..." The Sacrament of Reconciliation is the loving and merciful embrace of God that extends to us ever-new beginnings and hope in the midst of the sin and shortcomings that are a part of the lives of each of us who walk on this earth.



On behalf of Fr. Bob, our visiting priests, Deacon John, and myself, thank you to everyone who dropped off "goodies" and other gifts at Christmas. It was very kind of you and was enjoyed by all. This past week, we administered the Sacrament of the Sick to eight people at the Jordan Hospital. I would ask that you keep all of these people in your prayers. Two of these people I mention by name. Please keep Sister Mary Pires in your prayers. She is stationed at Sacred Heart School in Kingston. The other person is a priest from the Miramar Retreat Center in Duxbury. His name is Fr. Ed Dudink. Some of you may remember him as the priest who gave the homily at Fr. Tuohy's funeral. He is 89 years of age. Last Sunday, he was helping out praying a Mass at St. Ann's in Marshfield. He got out of the car, slipped on the ice, and broke his clavicle. Hopefully, he and Sister Mary are "on the mend" as you read this.



This past weekend, we welcomed another pair of sisters, not twins as are the Quinn sisters, to the ministry of altar server. Libby and Ryan Hurley made their debut as altar servers at the 4:00 PM Saturday evening vigil Mass. We thank



them for their service and willingness to help our parish community as we gather to celebrate and partake in the Eucharist, the center and identifying characteristic that brings us together as a Eucharistic community of faith.

A couple of weeks ago, Linda Thayer was a guest speaker for the freshmen in our religious education program. The presentation involved other parishes as well. This week, she will, once again, be the featured speaker for a gathering of eighth grade religious education students. This multi parish presentation will take place at Our Lady of Lourdes parish in Carver. This affords us the opportunity to pool our resources and time in order that we can maximize the opportunity without duplicating efforts. I am sure that this type of inter-parish cooperation and collaboration will, more and more, become a reality in the church in the years to come.

"Mea culpa, mea culpa." I inadvertently forgot to mention Cara Sidoti's birthday. Happy Belated seventeenth birthday to Cara whose "special day" was January 14th. Happy Birthday to Matthew Wedge as he celebrates a milestone in his life on January 28th. He leaves behind the single digits and enters into double digit birthdays as he celebrates his tenth birthday.



This week's calendar of saints includes several notable individuals. January 26th, we celebrate the feast of Saint



Timothy and Titus. They were companions of St. Paul on his missionary travels. Timothy and Titus were overseers of the Church in Ephesus and Crete respectively. The following day, the 27th, we celebrate feast of an Italian saint: Saint Angela Merici. She died at Brescia in Italy in the year 1540. She was the foundress of the Ursuline sisters, the first teaching order whose ministry was dedicated to poor, young girls. She herself was orphaned at the age of ten. The 28th, we celebrate the feast of one of the great and pivotal minds in the theological life of the Church: St. Thomas Aquinas. This Dominican, who died in 1274, is the patron saint of Catholic schools, college and universities (including Providence College), as well as philosophers, theologians, and booksellers. The 31st, we celebrate the feast of one of my favorite saints: Saint John Bosco. He died in 1888. He founded, in 1859, the Salesians in Turin, Italy. They are dedicated to educating youth. He is the first saint in Italy in whose honor a national holiday was established. Along with St. Mary Mazzarello, he founded the Salesian Sisters. A pioneer in vocational training, St. John Bosco was the first saint to submit to a press interview. Forty thousand people passed by his body at his death. Years ago, while visiting the Holy Shroud in Turin while it was "on exhibit", I had the privilege of visiting Valdocco and his living quarters where he died. I also had the opportunity to pray Mass at the altar in his chapel where John (Don) Bosco celebrated Mass. He was certainly a man for his times, who opened to door for many young men and boys who, because of the state of the times and working conditions, would never have been able to see new doors of opportunity open in their lives.

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