

Fr. Ken's Korner



Greetings and blessings of the day,

I hope that it has been a good one for you. Good news and bad news: the bad news is that the plowing and heating of the parish is already running into the thousands of dollars – and we are just beginning February! The good news: spring is coming as pitchers and catchers report to spring training on February 12th. Rumor has it that there is some sort of football game being played today in a location that is warmer than here in Plymouth.

We have had a couple of telephone calls regarding getting into the lower church in order to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Penance Confession). If you are looking for access to the lower church, please enter by the entrance on the parking lot of the church, and then enter the lower church by the door to the lower church. The front outside door (under the new steps) is not being used due to some issues with the door that will have to be taken care of once the warmer weather arrives.

We are grateful to the Plymouth North High School hockey team for volunteering to clean the kitchen and other rooms in the parish center. As you know, our parish center is used as an outreach location for the community at large. That is why they volunteered their services -- because of the outreach that goes beyond our particular parish by means of such programs as Alcoholics Anonymous and Al-Anon who meet here regularly – as well as our weekly parish soup kitchen that feeds anyone that is in need of a hot, delicious, and nourishing meal on Sunday afternoons, in addition to our parish food pantry. The food and meal outreach is one that extends its service well beyond the borders of our parish to those in need. The town, as many of you are aware, also makes use of our parish center for graduations at memorial Hall as well as other events during the course of the year, (not to mention the free use of our parish parking lot!!) The hockey team did a terrific job of cleaning the floors, stoves, grills, and much more. We thank them for their service as they give back to the community in an unselfish way that will benefit others who may not be as fortunate during these particularly difficult times.

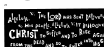
Thank you to all those who helped to coordinate and take part in our First Penance Service last weekend. We are grateful to Karen LeBlanc, Joyce Hokanson and all teachers and volunteers, as well as to Carl for providing the music for the morning and afternoon sessions. We also extend a “merci beaucoup” to Fr. Anthony Medairos, Fr. James Braley, Fr. Ken Overbeck, Fr. Joe McCarthy, and Fr. Ed Serena who helped Fr. Bob and I administer the Sacrament to the seventy children, as well as to those parents who gave a wonderful example to their children by participating in the Sacrament of Reconciliation themselves.



We ask that you keep several people in your prayers. I received a note asking for prayers for Ashley Cappola, who is very ill. Please continue to keep Moneen Short in your prayers as she continues her fight with cancer. We have also been asked to pray for a twenty-three year old woman whose name is Kimberly. She has suffered possible brain damage and is on a vent at Brockton Hospital. Likewise, please keep in your prayers a mother of a child who is in kindergarten. This past Wednesday she underwent a second procedure in two years on her heart. The list continues as we request your prayers for a thirty-seven year old mother of two who has undergone her second operation at Brigham and Women's Hospital in the past two weeks. As of this writing, Deacon John's mother-in-law, Pam's mother, continues to hold on. Hospice has now become involved. We ask that you pray for the father of a woman in our parish. He too has been hospitalized.



This past week we prayed for two men who have “gone to the Lord.” Last Monday I anointed Fred Novicki at Radius Nursing Home. He died on Tuesday. A Mass of Christian Burial was prayed for Fred here at St. Peter's on Friday. Also on Friday prayers were offered for Bradley Dean Gappa as he was laid to rest at Vinehills Cemetery on Friday morning. May they rest in peace and may their families find strength and hope in their faith, family, friends and memories.



Finally, on a happier note we extend Happy Birthday wishes to Cassie Hogan who celebrates her birthday on Friday, February 7th.

The calendar of feasts and saint this week includes several, some of which may be more familiar than others. February 2, is known as the feast of the Presentation of the Lord. This feast began to be commemorated in Jerusalem in the 4th century. It takes place forty days after Christmas. It is more popularly known as “Candelmas Day.” It is also a day on which many people bring their candles to church to be blessed for use in their homes. This day was, for many years, the traditional day on which ordinations to the priesthood took place. Such is no longer the case. Tuesday, February 3rd, is the feast day of St. Blaise marking the traditional day on which the Blessing of the throat takes place. This blessing will be given at the 9:00 AM Mass on Tuesday. It is believed that St. Blaise was martyred during the persecution of Licinius in the early fourth century. St. Blaise was bishop of Sebaste in Armenia. He shares this feast day with St. Ansgar, the “Apostle of the North. A Benedictine, St. Ansgar died in Bremen in 865. This bishop of Hamburg is the patron saint of Germany, Denmark and Iceland. Thursday, the 5th, is the feast day of the martyr, St. Agatha. February 6th marks the feast of St. Paul Miki and companions who all suffered martyrdom. They were crucified at the order of the ruler, Hideyoshi, on February 5, 1597 at Nagasaki. Along with Paul Miki, a Jesuit scholastic, twenty-five others were killed including two other Jesuits, six Franciscans, fifteen tertiaries, and two laymen. Among them was a Mexican, Felipe de Jesus. Was the first martyr from the Americas to be beatified. These protomartyrs of the Far East were canonized in 1862 by Pope Pius IX.



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