

Fr. Ken's "Korner"



Greetings and blessings of the week, I hope that the week has been a better one for you than it was for the Arizona Cardinals! As we enter the shortest month of the year, it looks as

though "Punxsutawney Phil" seems to be right about six more weeks of winter. The warm weather can't come too soon. One heartening thought is that pitchers and catchers report this Thursday, February 12th, for spring training. The 12th, Abraham Lincoln's birthday, reminds us the importance of commitment, dedication, and perseverance by remaining faithful to one's principles and values in the face of difficulties.



We spoke with Fr. Cormier last week. He is doing well and is enjoying his break from the New England winter in a snowless, albeit not always warm Florida. He will be back here in early March, and will once again be helping us with weekend Masses (as he does in other parishes as well). Fr. Bob will be undergoing a total knee replacement surgery tomorrow, February 9th. We anticipate that between his time in the hospital, followed by rehab and recovery, that he will not be here in the parish until *at least* early April! We wish him well and hope and pray that his surgery goes well, without any complications. If anyone wishes to send him a card you may send it care of here at St. Peter's until we know where he will be staying to recover. Any cards that are sent here will be forwarded to him. I will be away this week until late Friday night. I have been signed up for a retreat with thirty-seven other priests from the Archdiocese. This retreat has been organized by Bishop Robert Hennessey, whom some of you remember from the time that he was stationed here at St. Peter's. We have made arrangements to insure that there will be a priest available while I am on retreat, as well as during Fr. Bob's time for recovery from his surgery. We are very fortunate that there are retired priests living in the area who help in several parishes in the area (some parts of the archdiocese do not have this luxury!). Fr. Serena, who is retired, will be helping out while I am on retreat. Also helping during this time will be Fr. DeRoche and Fr. Shea.



We are happy to hear that David Wylie is back in the USA after having completed a tour of duty in Iraq. David is a member of the Army's Ranger unit. Also, on a happy note, this past weekend Fr. Bob baptized two children here at St. Peter's. We welcome Claire Madeline Heller and Nathaniel Ryan Pina as the newest members of our parish community. May they grow during the years in their knowledge and love of God and come to an appreciation of God's love for them as he beloved children. We pray that Claire and Nathaniel may find in the example of their families and friends a witness to the importance of a relationship with Jesus Christ that is also supported by a

parish community and in participation in the Mass and the Sacraments as a regular part of the rhythm of their life and faith journey. We extend happy birthday wishes to Cassandra Heffron who celebrated her birthday on February 1st. Also, happy milestone birthday to Carol Holland whose birthday is Wednesday, February 11th.

Wednesday, February 11th, is World Day of Prayer for the Sick. It was designated as such by the late Pope John Paul II. The reason that this is the day that has been set aside for this is that February 11th is the feast day of Our Lady of Lourdes who appeared to St. Bernadette Soubirous in 1858. Lourdes has always been seen as a place of prayer and pilgrimage for those in need of healing in the various and many ways in life. Lourdes is one of



my favorite places on earth. I have been blessed to have gone there as an individual and as a chaplain and interpreter, as well as celebrating the Mass in the grotto at Massabielle where Our Lady of Lourdes appeared to St. Bernadette. It is difficult to explain it, but the sense of peace and the spiritual and holy presence that one senses there is very real. We ask, that in a particular way you pray for the sick on this day. Please also keep in your prayers, those of our parish who are ill. Among those who are ill please keep in your prayers a woman who is having some medical issues in her life, as well as Alice Centeio. I anointed Alice in the CCU unit in the Jordan Hospital this past week. I asked her if she would like to have her name mentioned in the bulletin for prayers. She said yes.

This past week has been particularly difficult for several families who have lost loved ones. Please pray for those who have died, and for their families as well. Monday, February 2nd, Otto Seigel was laid to rest. The next day: Tuesday, February 3rd. Carmella Smith's funeral Mass was prayed at St. Margaret's Church in Buzzards Bay. Fr. Serena, Fr. Bob and I concelebrated the Mass assisted by Deacon John. Carmella, Pam's mother, is Deacon John Hulme's mother-in-law. She and her husband, James, were married fifty eight years. It was wonderful to see the wonderful turnout of St. Peter's parishioners we attended the wake in Bourne on Monday night. Friday, February 6th, a funeral Mass was prayed for Peter O'Brien. His mother is Ruth O'Brien. May they rest in peace and may their families find hope and strength in their memories, loved ones, and faith.



In addition to the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes on February 11th, we celebrate the feast of St. Scholastica on Tuesday, February 10th. She died circa 543 at Monte Cassino. She was the twin sister of St. Benedict and is the patron saint of Benedictine women religious. Saturday, February 14th is the feast day of Saints Cyril and Methodius. Cyril died in 869 and his brother, Methodius, died in 885. They are known as the "Apostles to the Slavs". They are said to have been the "spiritual bridge between Eastern and Western traditions." They are patron saints of the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and all Europe.



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