

Fr. Ken's Korner



Greetings and Blessings of the week,

I hope that the week has been a good one for you as we find ourselves more than halfway through the month of February -- and closer to putting this winter season behind us! February school vacation is upon us. Tomorrow, we celebrate Presidents Day. I recall as a child that this day was not on the calendar as such. We celebrated both Abraham Lincoln on February 12th and George Washington's birthday on February 22nd. Last week's "Korner" mentioned Abraham Lincoln. Today, we would do well to reflect upon our first president and the sacrifice, commitment, dedication, perseverance, and ability to inspire others that marked him out as a singularly significant person. We can draw many lessons from him about the journey and struggles that a part of life -- as well as the faith in God, ourselves, and others that is needed to pursue, and sustain, goals and dreams.

I am happy to report that we have been told that Fr. Bob's knee replacement surgery went well. We received a call from a family member that the surgery at Milton Hospital went well and that he will be there a few days

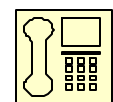


before he moves on to the rehabilitation and recuperation stages. The exact length of that time is not written in stone.

However, from what he was told, the time that he will be away from the parish is in the ball park of what I thought it would be. We expect that Fr. Bob will likely not be back here in the parish for three months. I would also ask that you keep in your prayers a married man in his early forties. He and his wife have two daughters. I received a phone call Tuesday, while on retreat, that they had unexpectedly detected a brain tumor while checking some issue concerning his eyes. He has to undergo emergency surgery on Thursday.

This past week we had some people come to look at the damage to the stained glass window in the lower church so that we can ascertain the extent and the cost of repairing the window that has been boarded up for the past few months. We are hoping to resolve this matter soon.

Several parishioners have recently celebrated personal milestones. Happy belated seventh birthday to Michael Hogan whose birthday was January 31st. We extend to Michael's grandparents, Derryl and Aniece Lawrence, a happy thirty-ninth wedding anniversary as they were married thirty-nine years ago on February 14th. Annie Thompson's seventh birthday was also on Valentine's Day -- a birthday date that she shares with her father, Ken. February sixteenth would have been Fr. Tuohy's birthday. Please remember him in your prayers in a particular way on Monday.



I spoke with Fr. Cormier this past week. He is doing well and loving it in Deerfield Beach, Florida (where several people from Plymouth have "getaways"). He should be back in early

March. I am away on retreat this week, along with thirty four priests and three bishops. The retreat master for the week is Bishop Arthur Serratelli. He is the bishop of Patterson, New Jersey. There are some people on the retreat with whom you may be familiar. Two of them were stationed here at St. Peter's. Bob Hennessey was stationed at St. Peter's as a young priest. After having spent time in South America in the St. James Society, he returned here to Boston. As I am sure many of you know, he is now the auxiliary bishop for the Central Region of Boston. He is the one who organized this retreat. The second St. Peter's priest here on retreat is my predecessor, Fr. Aidan Walsh. Also, participating in the retreat is Fr. Joseph Hennessey, the former pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Kingston. Fr. Marty Connor is also here on retreat. He is stationed at St. Mary's in Hanover, along with Fr. Chris Hickey. I had an uneventful flight to get here -- that is, until the last minute of the flight! As we were landing, and almost touching down on the runway, the plane unexpectedly hit the throttle to climb and circle the airport. The pilot announced that there was a large flock of birds in the area that required us, in the interest of safety, to circle around again and then land!



The Church calendar celebrates several saints this week. The first could very likely not be well known. It is the feast of the Seven Founders of the Servite Order. The order was founded by seven Florentine cloth merchants. They popularized devotion to Our Lady of Sorrows. This feast reminding us of the sorrowful parts of the life of Mary is celebrated on September 15th. February 17th is also connected with Eugene de Mazenod. He was born August 1, 1782 in the charming city of Aix-en-Provence (a beautiful place to visit) amidst the tumultuous times of the French Revolution. The family fled to Italy when he was eight years old. While still a boy, his parents went their separate ways. He was ordained December 21, 1811 at the Cathedral of Amiens, a beautiful Gothic church which, if you are ever in Paris, is well worth hopping on a train to visit. He became the bishop of Marseille, where he served until his death at the age of seventy-nine on May 21, 1861. He was canonized by Pope John Paul II on December 3, 1995. He is the founder of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate. The order was approved by Pope Leo XII on February 17, 1826. The Oblates of Mary Immaculate (OMI) presently serve in sixty-eight countries. St. Eugene de Mazenod has also been referred to as the patron saint of dysfunctional families. February 21st is feast of St. Peter Damian. He was the bishop cardinal of Ostia in Italy (a lovely town not far from Rome). He died in 1072.

As I finish this "Korner" before e-mailing it to the parish for this weekend's bulletin, may the Lord's blessings smile kindly upon you and your loved ones in the coming week. Your brother in faith, Fr. Ken.