

Fr. Ken's Korner



Greetings and blessings of the week,

I hope that the week was a good one for you. February vacation week is over as the children head back to class. We are in the final week of February. Hopefully we are able to see the finish line of this

winter coming into sight as the month of March will be upon us in a matter of days.

I spoke with Fr. Bob this past week. He is coming along as he begins the comeback process. He has been discharged from the Milton Hospital and is now at a rehabilitation center where they are working on his knee with the needed therapy. He is presently at the Radius-Alliance nursing and rehab in Braintree. He is from Braintree. Consequently, it is ideally situated for him. Once he has sufficiently completed the therapy at that facility, he will move on to the next stage of recovery. He will not go home for this phase, nor will he return here to St. Peter's. He will be staying at the rectory in his home parish in Braintree.

There are other priests there, as well as a cook (which we do not have here at St. Peter's). It will be a good situation for him. He will not have to worry about making meals, nor any of the other issues that are part of trying to recuperate at the same place where you work.. This way he can recover without having to be concerned about the day to day expectations and business of trying to get better while "living at the shop."

Speaking of surgery, Bob Glynn, one of our ushers underwent surgery. Last Sunday, at the 10:30 AM Mass, he came to church using a pair of crutches that help him to get around. Also, while on the subject of health, we have been asked to pray for a child who is seriously ill and is being treated at Children's Hospital. Likewise, we ask your prayers for a long time parishioner to whom I administered the Sacrament of the Sick prior to her surgery last Tuesday on her carotid artery. Fr. Serena, who also is retired and helps out here at St. Peter's, is away for the next two weeks, as is Fr. Cormier who is also away until early March. I am sure that they are both enjoying the warm climate.

Belated Happy Anniversary to Bob and Carol Houston on the occasion of their fortieth wedding anniversary on

Monday, February 16<sup>th</sup>. Sharing the same anniversary date, Donald and Jane Mullen celebrated their thirty-fifth wedding anniversary.

We extend Happy forty-second wedding anniversary to Phil and Sheila Boucher whose anniversary was Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>. Today, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, Thomas Wedge celebrates his twelfth birthday. This coming Tuesday, the 24<sup>th</sup>, is Heidie Hogan's birthday. Following her, the next day, Wednesday, the 25<sup>th</sup>, we say "bonne anniversaire" to Krissy Noyes as she celebrates her fifteenth birthday. We likewise extend happy birthday wishes to Judy Brisbois as she celebrates her birthday on February 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Save the date: June 27<sup>th</sup>.** Saturday, June 27<sup>th</sup>, is the date for our fifth annual parish golf tournament. It will take place on a Saturday morning, with a shotgun tee time of 8:00 AM.

This effort has proven to be both a successful fun-raiser and fundraiser for our parish. It doesn't seem possible that this is the fifth year! This could never have happened without a dedicated core of individuals who

comprise the golf committee. The time, effort and dedication of this wonderful group of people have made all the difference in terms of "getting the ball off the tee". There is a lot of legwork and behind the scenes work that goes into something of this nature. We urge and invite as many people as possible to become involved, in one way or another, in this effort. These past four years we have raised just under \$70,000.00. All of the funds realized through the tournament have helped with the on going, and necessary repair work that has taken place on the church during the last four years. These fund have helped to pay the following: 1) the repairs on the roof and steeple - 2) Repair work on the heating system - 3) the new steps on the church - 4) the entire expense of sandblasting the old paint, repairing, pointing the brick where necessary, and sealing the brick with a water repelling coating. The next effort that has been determined, after much discussion about the pros and cons, is to work towards the air conditioning of the church. We have been doing some groundwork in this area as to what this entails.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Mary Lamond for whom we had a funeral mass on Thursday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, as well as Richard J. Kilroy who was buried on Friday. May they rest in God's peace and mercy, and may their families find strength and hope in their memories, faith, and friends.

It is hard to believe that the season of Lent is already upon us. This Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, is Ash Wednesday! The season of Lent runs from Ash Wednesday until the Mass of the Lord's Supper exclusive on Holy Thursday. As in the past, there will be Lenten devotions to help us focus in on the Lenten themes of repentance, reconciliation and renewal.

The calendar of saints for this coming week finds only one saint. He is one of the early saints who actually had a connection with one of the twelve apostles. Monday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, we celebrate the feast of St. Polycarp. He suffered a martyr's death around the year 155 A.D. He was a disciple of St. John and was the bishop of Smyrna. The *Martyrdom of Polycarp* records his being burned at the stake. He is one of the first martyrs to be venerated. He was eighty-six years old when he suffered martyrdom.

The message running throughout the Lenten weekday readings speaks of the call to a life of Gospel conversion. They speak of beginning anew, of fasting, prayer, and almsgiving. Also we hear of conversion, of mutual forgiveness, of hardness of heart, of love of enemies, of the call to holiness. "...The readings for the second half of Lent are presentation of the mystery of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, of whom John says that all who believe in him will have eternal life. Christ is presented as the healer and life-giver, as the one who gives life through his confrontation with death and gathers into one the scattered children of God..." Lent calls us to look at the quality of our lives in terms of how we are living as followers of Jesus and to renew our efforts in striving to remain faithful to that call - as well as to place our trust in God's grace and providence as we strive to make our lives conform more closely to that of Jesus Christ.

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

