

Fr. Ken's Korner



Greetings and blessings of the week,

I hope that the week has been a good one for you. Today, there is some sort of a football game going on in Arizona. I wonder if that is the reason that at the time of writing this week's "korner" there seem to be no regularly scheduled baptisms taking place on the first Sunday of February! As some of you may be aware, at the beginning of January the church was broken into. It appears as though whoever the people were that they were looking for some quick cash as they broke some locked doors in the sacristy damaging them so that they need to be repaired. This is the reason that for now the church will be locked during the day and only the side door opened up later in the day for the homeless to be picked up to be brought to the shelter. Last Wednesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, as you may have heard or seen in the recent police reports, there was a problem in the Parish Center. It occurred, we believe as we fit the timeline together, between the hours of 7:30 PM and 9:15 PM. The office that Fr. McCarthy and I use had my laptop stolen, along with the data. These two events are causing us to review and reevaluate how the parish center will be used and the security that needs to be in place in order for it to be used – and by which groups – and an accountable individual who may be using the center.

Speaking of computers, thanks to the gargantuan effort of Bob Howard, we now have something here in the parish that I have hoped would be done since I arrived here just about three years ago. We now have a parish web site. It is still being populated with information and other data. The website will also have the bulletin on it as well as much other useful information. There are links to everything from Pre-Cana classes to the internet site at the Vatican... and much more to be added. Profound thanks to Bob for coming forward and volunteering to spend countless hours to make this dream become a reality. The website can be accessed (use the top search site on the page ([www.stpetersplymouth.com](http://www.stpetersplymouth.com))) by typing in [www.stpetersplymouth.com](http://www.stpetersplymouth.com). It will be an invaluable tool in disseminating information on upcoming events, etc.



While we are on the subject of upcoming events, please join us at the Parish Center on Saturday, February 9<sup>th</sup>. The St. Peter's Women's League is sponsoring a night of eating and entertainment. The meal will be a spaghetti supper. Coupled with the meal, there will be a magic show (about a half hour in length) provided by David Brisbois (his mother is Yvette). David has been performing for many years. As a matter of fact, recently here in Plymouth, he and his children: Amanda, Nicholas, Ashley, and Alex, were all on stage together at Plymouth North as they graciously performed as a fund raiser to help the Plymouth North dance Team to raise funds for new uniforms, You may have noticed the new uniforms if you have been to any of the home basketball games at Plymouth North. Tickets are available from members of the St. Peter's Women's League. Should be a great night – come on down and join together as we share pasta with the "pastah".



It is hard to believe that Lent is upon us this week. There will be a complete listing of parish Lenten activities in next week's bulletin. This Wednesday, February 6<sup>th</sup> is Ash Wednesday. It is a day of fast and abstinence. Abstinence applies to Catholics over fourteen years of

age. Abstinence is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays of Lent. This means that on days of abstinence meat may not be eaten. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fasting. Catholics over the age of eighteen and up to the beginning of their sixtieth year are bound to the obligations of fasting and abstinence. On these days only one full meal is allowed. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids are allowed. If you have a medical condition that requires that you must eat over and above the Lenten regulation, then, by all means, in order to maintain good health, please do so (for example: diabetics who must eat several times a day at regular intervals in order to maintain blood sugar levels). Ash Wednesday, February



6<sup>th</sup>, there will be a 9:00 AM and 7:00 PM Mass. Ashes will be distributed during the Mass. This Friday, we will begin our evening Stations of the Cross. They will take place in the upper church at 7:00 PM.

Happy Birthday to Matthew Wedge, who recently received First Reconciliation and will receive First Holy Communion this year. It was his birthday on Monday, January 28<sup>th</sup>. We have been asked to pray for Flora Barbieri. Also, please pray for a woman who has been in our parish, longer than I have been alive. She is undergoing a series of tests to clarify some health matters. Speaking of health, we are thrilled to hear that "Sonny" Provenzano is home after his surgery and is making progress. This afternoon's game could be interesting for him in that he has been rooting for the Patriots all season (even though he is a New Yorker) who will now be playing his Giants. This past Monday we had a funeral mass for Helen Schreffler. Kindly pray that she may rest in God's peace.

And now for an Archdiocesan bicentennial blurb. Did you know that the first bishop of Boston was a Frenchman: Jean-Louis-Anne-Madeleine Lefebvre de Cheverus? Born in Mayenne, France on January 28, 1768, he was ordained a priest on December 18, 1790. He was the last priest to be publicly ordained in Paris prior to the French Revolution. Due to a decree on August 26, 1792, he, along with many other priests was deported because of the French Revolution. He was given passport to go to England. Having to pass through parish at the time of the September Massacres, he had to go into hiding before continuing his trek to England – arriving in England with very little money and not able to speak English. He learned English while there. He received a letter from a priest friend in New England asking him to come to New England to help minister to the people of our region. The priest who asked him has a Catholic High school named after him in the Archdiocese: Fr. Francois-Antoine Matignon. Fr. Cheverus undertook his work with zeal and zest – even travelling north to spend months working among the Passamaquoddy and Penobscot tribes. Returning to Boston, he undertook the project of building a catholic church in Boston. He was well liked and respected, so much so that Catholics and Protestants alike supported him in this effort, including such supporters as President John Adams. The dedication of the church took place on September 29, 1803.



After the Concordat in 1801 in France, his friends wanted him to return to France. However, he wanted to stay and continue to help Fr. Matignon. April 8, 1808 he was appointed bishop of Boston and ordained as such on November 1, 1810. Even though he was appointed bishop of Montauban, France on January 15, 1825, he wished to stay and continue his work here in Boston. Hundreds of non Catholics were among those requesting that he be allowed to stay in Boston. Such was not to be the case. He was transferred on May 3, 1823 to France. October 1, 1823 to serve as the bishop of Montauban. His ministry there was short-lived because of his great work. October 2, 1826 he was appointed as the new archbishop of Bordeaux. He was named a cardinal on February 1, 1836. He died on July 19, 1836 before receiving the red hat and titular church).



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

