

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Fr. Ken's Korner



Greetings and blessings of the week,

I hope that it has been a better week for you than it was for the Patriots! We find ourselves firmly entrenched in the season of Lent. Schedules of Lenten activities (pink sheets) are available at all the entrances to the church. Please take one home and put it on your refrigerator



for hand reference. This season calls us to look at the three "R's" in our life: Repentance, Reconciliation, and Renewal. This is reinforced in the Liturgy of the Word as "...The readings for the Lenten Masses have been chosen in relation to the themes of baptismal renewal and penance. The gospels and readings have been selected for their mutual relationship..." The journey of faith during Lent takes us from Plymouth, through our life and heart to Jerusalem, as we strive to make our relationship with God, more clearly defined and focused. One such person in our parish is celebrating a milestone in this journey of faith today. Julie Ann Blanchard, along with other people, gather here in the Parish Center on Tuesday evenings for a cluster (Plymouth, Kingston, and Carver parishes) RCIA program (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults). Today, at 1:30 PM, Julie will join hundreds of others who are on the journey of entering into full communion with the Church through the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation.) All the Candidates and Catechumens are at various stages on this

journey of faith. Julie will take part in the Rite of Election which will take place at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross in Boston. Congratulations, and may God continue to bless her as she continues to unwrap the gift of faith! Speaking of parishioners, Ed Santos was featured in last week's edition of *The Pilot*. *The Pilot* runs an article on a regular basis entitled "Living the Faith." It highlights an individual from various parishes throughout the Archdiocese.

Speaking of congratulations and happy events, Fr. Cormier celebrated his forty seventh anniversary of priesthood on Saturday, February 2nd. Close on his heels, Fr. Bailey marked his Golden Anniversary for fifty years as a priest on Sunday, February 3rd. There are commemorative cards of his golden anniversary on the tables at the entrances to the church. Monday, February 4, Martha Driscoll Hogan celebrated her 90th birthday. (Incidentally, she was a member of the Boston Skating Club. I believe that she said she knew and skated with Dr. Tenley Albright who was also a member of the Skating Club – for those of you who may not be familiar with this name, Tenley Albright is well known in the world of figure skating. Prior to becoming a medical doctor, Dr. Albright took an Olympic silver medal in 1952 Oslo, Norway at age 16. She became the first American woman to win a gold medal in figure skating at the 1956 Olympics in Cortina, Italy.) Happy 11th Birthday to Cassie Hogan, whose birthday was on Thursday, February 7. Friday, February 8, was Emily Alves' birthday.

We ask that you please keep Mary Welchlin in your prayers. She is doing poorly and is now under hospice care. We have been asked to pray for a Vietnam veteran, Richard



Dennis, who is very close to death. He served as a helicopter pilot and was exposed to, and fell victim to, Agent Orange. Also, on a sad note, we ask you to pray for the repose of the soul of sixteen year old Yolanda Torres for whom we had a funeral on February 2. Please also remember Fr. Dan Kennedy in your prayers. Fr. Kennedy, a nine time marathoner, including the Boston Marathon, died January 27th of a heart attack at age thirty four. He was ordained a priest last May. He served at St. John the Evangelist Parish in Winthrop and was scheduled to begin a new assignment of January 31 at Gate of Heaven Parish in South Boston. Please pray for both the Torres and Kennedy families in what is certainly a very difficult time for them Wednesday, February 6th, funeral services were prayed for Zena Andrews. Please offer an "Ave" for her and her family as well. More sadness for a family who suffered a tragedy as the space between crib spindles was a little too wide. It resulted in a one year, one week old infant getting his head stuck between the slats, causing him to die from being strangled. It has been a difficult time for many people in recent days. Our hearts and prayers go out to them and their loved ones whose lives have been deeply altered by the "valley of tears" that is part of the sometimes inscrutable mystery of life.

Tomorrow is a significant day of faith for the entire world. The fact that it has a French connection might be important to some of us. However, its significance also touches those with Marian devotion, as well as those who hope for healing in different ways in life. It is the sesquicentennial (150th) anniversary of the apparitions of Mary, the Immaculate Conception, at Lourdes in France to St. Bernadette Soubirous (whose feast day is April 16th). I hope that some day you may be able to visit Lourdes. There is no place like it. You can sense the holy and, it is hard for me to explain, it is as though you step through an invisible wall into another dimension. February 11th was designated, because of the significance of this day, by the late Pope John Paul II as World Day of the Sick, "... a special time of prayer and sharing, of offering one's suffering for the good of the Church and reminding us to see in our sick brother and sister the face of Christ who, by suffering, dying and rising, achieved the salvation of humankind..." (*Letter Instituting the World Day of the Sick, 13 May 1992*).



We ask God's blessings upon husbands and wives as today is designated as World Marriage Day. We should pray not only for those for whose marriages are happy, but also remember those who are struggling, as well as those whose lives and families have been altered through the heartbreak of an end to their marriage.

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

PS.: pitchers and catchers will be reporting soon to spring training.