

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Fr. Ken's Korner



Greetings and blessings of the day,

I hope that the week has been a good one for you – and that you remembered to set the clocks one hour ahead last night. Finally, the daylight will be with us for a longer time as we move towards the summer months. We have been taking care of some necessary repairs here in the parish during the past week or so. You may have noticed that the stained glass window above the altar has not been as well illuminated as in the past. This was due to some issues with the bulbs and ballasts that needed to



be addressed due to the fact that the structure was not built with foresight as to possible eventualities and problems. We are taking the necessary steps to repair this problem and make it possible to access the inner workings of this artificially illuminated stained glass window if the need arises in the future. Also, this past week, the rectory kitchen floor that is in tough shape and has been the same linoleum for about a quarter of a century finally needed to be replaced. This work, as with the window in the church, has all been done by local people who have parish connections. This certainly is the preferred route whenever possible. This past week, we also had meetings with a couple of security companies as we work to upgrade the security of the Parish Center. We hope to get this done at the soonest possible available time. As you are no doubt aware, the Parish Center “gets a lot of play” as people are in and out of the building all day and evening. There are times when Terry, or Karen and Carol in the religious education office may be alone in the building. In light of some of the goings on in Plymouth of late, I am concerned about not only their safety, but also, the hundreds of children that pass through the doors for religious education classes. At present, no child attending religious education classes may leave unless accompanied by a parent or authorized individual. This is a good security measure. However, what we propose to do will augment this. This past week as part of the reading across America week, I was happy to have been asked to read stories with third graders at the Hedge School. The Plymouth Schools have installed a new security system at the schools that is similar to what we



have in mind. This gave me the opportunity to see it at work. The projected plan will have a camera at the front entrance to the Parish Center (the other doors are locked allowing only parish staff access through locked doors).

It will work in such a way that when someone rings the bell, monitors stationed in Terry's office and the Religious Ed office will allow visual checking of the person standing at the door. Parish Staff in either office will then speak to the person by means of the intercom that is a part of the system. Then, and only then, will someone in the office push the electronic release button to allow entrance to the building. I realize that this may be a change in “business as usual”, but

we must ensure the safety of young and old who make use of our Parish Center. Some of you may have noticed that a recent problem has arisen regarding access by means of the front door entrance to the lower church. We are also working at getting this situation corrected as well.

We were happy to see David Wylie home last weekend. David, who enlisted in the Army last summer, passed his jump (parachute) test and completed the remainder of his rigorous, to say the least, training last week and is now a U.S. Army Ranger. “Bonne Anniversaire” to Yvette Brisbois who celebrates her birthday on the Ides of March (the 15th). Happy Birthday to Bill Wadsworth whose birthday is March 11th. He is preceded by Amanda Wylie, who celebrates her nineteenth birthday on March 10th.



Today, at the 9:00 AM Mass, three children of our parish who are older than the traditional age, received their First Holy Communion. Congratulations to Brian Donahue, Brandon Harlow, and Sean Callahan. May they continue to grow in an awareness of God's love for them through the gift of the Eucharist and the other Sacraments that sustain us on the journey of life and faith as they received the second of the three Sacraments of Initiation. We thank Elizabeth Adey and Sister Jacqueline for their efforts on behalf of these and other children of our parish. This past weekend, Deacon John Hulme welcomed the newest members of our parish into the faith community as they received the first of the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism. Congratulations to the families of Isabella Janice Bletzer, Austin James McLean, Lily Louise Meyer, Avery Elizabeth O'Neill, Grace Elizabeth Phillips, Presley Grace Sherrick, and Savannah Marie Wagner. Encouraged and supported by their family and friends may they grow in the knowledge and love of God and of God's love for them.



We are happy to hear that Gloria Bagni's surgery went well and that she is on the road to recovery. We ask you to please keep a parishioner, who is ill, in your prayers. Also please remember a woman in our parish whose cancer has returned, as well as a couple of other parishioners whose health condition warrants medical procedures.

Traditionally, the feast of St. Joseph is observed on March 19th. However, this year because the 19th falls during Holy Week, the observation of the feast of Saint Joseph has been moved to March 15th. St. Joseph is known as the Universal Patron of the Church and the Patron Saint for a happy (blessed, holy) death, not to mention the patron saint of workers.



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

P.S. Please join us for the Forty Hours Devotion beginning today as well as the other scheduled Lenten devotions as we approach Holy Week.