

Greetings and blessings of the week,

I hope that it has been a good one for you. School spring vacation is over and students find themselves in the home stretch before summer vacation. The much anticipated Papal Visit to Washington, D.C. and New York seemed to go off without a "hitch." The trip made him more "real" to the Church in America through the coverage that was broadcast across the U.S. Six days, two Masses, the United Nations, thirteen speeches, and meetings is a full schedule for anyone, let alone someone who is eighty-one years of age (would that I had that energy at sixty)!

The month of April, 2008 will pass into history as Thursday, May 1, will be here this week. It is already forty days since Easter

– meaning that this Thursday is Ascension Thursday – a Holy day of Obligation. In order to offer more Mass time choices for everyone, we have checked with both the other Plymouth parishes as to their times for Mass. The holyday Masses in Plymouth are as follows: **St. Peter's:** Thursday at 9:00 AM and 7:00 PM – **St. Mary's:** Thursday at 7:30 AM and 7:30 PM – **Blessed Kateri:** Thursday at 9:00 AM and 7:30 PM – **St. Bonaventure:** 8:00 AM and 6:00 PM.

Thank you to Jane Leary all who participated in our second annual parish "baby shower" to help young women who are in need of help and support in their decision to choose life, often times in the face of difficulty. During the next couple of weeks, I will bring the gifts, and the \$415.00 that was contributed, to the Archdiocesan Pro-Life Office that is located at St. Patrick's Parish in Natick. It is from this office that items are distributed throughout the Archdiocese to those in need.

We are most grateful for the dedication, time, effort and creativity of those who have the talent of decorating and enhancing the beauty of our church for the various liturgical events that take place throughout the year. The floral settings, the seasonal accoutrements that help to set an environment that adds to the beauty of our parish celebrations do not just happen. It is the fruit of parishioners efforts to make a beautiful and prayerful setting for fellow parishioners. Many people "pitch in" when needed – and we are grateful for their gift of time in this effort. Two of the driving forces have come to us in the zeal of Edythe Provenzano and Jane Leary. They have given selflessly in this regard since at least the time that I have been a part of our parish. Due to family circumstances and obligations, both of them have to step down in the capacity of coordinating the efforts of decorating the church. They are still willing to help in various ways, except for being the "chief cooks and bottle washers." If there is a person, or more than one, who would like to work together to continue this ministry to our parish, please call the Parish Center and leave your name and telephone number. You don't have to have a degree in interior design and decorating – just a good sense of space and decorating, a desire to help, and use your God-given gifts to learn and grow along with us.

We hope to once again have a parish picnic sometime during the summer. This too, is an undertaking that requires coordination and cooperation in order for the parish picnic to become a reality. We have had a parish picnic each summer since 2005. This was due in no small part to Jane Leary and Aneice Lawrence who have put all the pieces together for the last three years. If anyone is willing to put the pieces together so that we can have a parish picnic this year, please call the Parish Center and leave your name and telephone number.

We request your prayers for the candidates in our Confirmation program. Today, the last of the three groups will be at Miramar



retreat center from 12 noon until 6:00 pm. We are grateful to Joyce Hokanson and all those who have helped her with this component of the joint Confirmation program for St. Peter's and Blessed Kateri – as well as the retreat team at Miramar who conducted the day's programs for our sophomores. Please pray for these young people that they may come to a deeper awareness of what a commitment to Jesus Christ means and the values. Speaking of prayers, please pray for a gentleman, a long time parishioner, who is very seriously ill - as well as for Carol Paone who is also ill, and for whom we have been asked to pray. This past week we had two funerals here at St. Peter's. Wednesday, April 23rd, a funeral Mass was prayed for twenty-one year old Abigail Conley. Saturday, April 26th, a funeral Mass was prayed for Ruth Kritzmacher. Please remember their families during this difficult time.

On a happier note, we extend belated birthday wishes to Pat Sims whose special day was April 19th. Paul Williams marked his 70th birthday on April 21st. Elaine Nadile's birthday was Friday, April 25th. Happy "jour de naissance" to Dianne Wylie, whose birthday was Saturday, April 28th.



April 25th was the feast day of St. Mark. He is best known as one of the four gospel writers (evangelists) "The gospel ascribed to him...is the oldest...and shortest..." of the gospels. Tradition holds that St. Mark was the first bishop of Alexandria (in Egypt). His symbol as one of the gospel writers is a winged lion. He is the patron saint of notaries, Egypt, and Venice. April 28th is the feast day of St. Louis de Montfort, from Brittany in France. He is best known for his work *True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin*. April 29 is the feast of St. Catherine of Siena. She is a doctor of the church, who was involved as a peacemaker in the church and renewer of religious life. She is patroness of Italy and together with Bridget of Sweden and Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein) is co-patroness of Europe.



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