

Fr. Ken's Korner



Greetings and blessings of the week.

I hope that it was a good one for you. August is already here as we head down the home stretch of summer vacation! Soon many of our young people, some for the first time, will be leaving home to return to colleges and universities scattered across the nation.

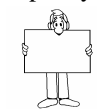
It has been a relatively quiet week here at St. Peter's. I saw Fr. McCarthy on a couple of occasions this past week. He is settling in as the officially appointed pastor at St. Thecla's. He dropped by the rectory to pick up some of his possessions that are still here at St. Peter's. He, along with Fr. Bailey and myself, concelebrated a Mass of Christian Burial for Lois "Mike" Burns on Tuesday, July 29th. Kindly pray for the repose of her soul, as well as for her family in their time of loss. She has been a fixture here at St.

Peter's for many years. She was active in ministry to the sick by, not only acting in the capacity of bringing communion to the sick, but also, in the training of ministers and co-ordinating this effort of ministry and service. It was obvious, to even the most casual of observers at her funeral Mass, that she was well loved by family and friends. She was a woman of hope and faith, a person who understood the pain of loss and enabled those lessons of life to help her to reach out and minister to those with whom she came in contact. May she live in the fullness of the promise given by Jesus Christ to all those who root their lives in Him as Savior and Lord. Also, another person with a Plymouth connection died on July 17th. Some of you who may be long time Plymouth residents, and who may have North Plymouth roots or connections, may remember a priest who was stationed in Plymouth, before I was born. Fr. Russell Guarcello died at age ninety-two, the fifth oldest priest in the Archdiocese of Boston. In his lifetime there were six popes and sixteen United States presidents. Ordained on October 28, 1943, Fr. Guarcello's first assignment in 1943 was St. Mary's in Plymouth. He served at St. Mary's until 1946 before moving on to other subsequent assignments.

Thank you to Joann and Brad's Buttner's grandson, Jake Ryan. He is a young boy who takes seriously the mandate of Jesus to care for those in need. Once again, this summer, he saved money so that it could be used to help others. He donated it to us to be used to that end. He serves as a reminder to us of what Jesus meant when he said that we must become like children in order to enter the Kingdom of heaven: trusting, open, caring, sharing, and taking to heart the words and example of Jesus as we are called to live in imitation of Christ. May God bless Jake for his spirit and heart.



Just a reminder that the parish picnic will be at the Holy Ghost field in North Plymouth on Sunday, August 24th. **Please sign the list at the entrances to the church so that we can have an idea of how much food we need.** We need to have at least 100 people for this event. The last couple of years, we have had over 200 at each picnic. **Please, if you plan to attend, do not wait until the last week to sign up. It is only three weeks away!** If you care to help in any capacity, please also indicate this on the sign-up sheet as well.



The **South Region** celebration of the Bicentennial of the Archdiocese will be September 28th at Sacred Heart School in Kingston. We are in need of someone to be the contact person for our parish for this

event in order that we can receive information about the day that will bring together all the parishes in the South Region.

Happy Birthday to Joelin McKenna who celebrated her tenth birthday on July 26th. Happy Birthday as well to Juanita Ward, who recently marked the anniversary of her day of birth. Courtney Garcia marks her eighteenth birthday on Monday, August 4th. (She served her last Mass on July 27 as a regularly scheduled altar server as she prepares to leave for her freshman year of college in three weeks.) Ashley Brisbois observes her "jour de naissance" on August 7th as she has her fifteenth birthday. That same day, August 7th, happy wedding anniversary to Dave and Marilyn Brown.



This week on August 6th, it is the sixty-third anniversary of the dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima at 8:16 am – followed three days later by a similar bomb on the city of Nagasaki. As we observe this day, which perhaps for many is a forgotten event lost in the pages of history, let us pray for peace and that we may use the gifts and talents with which we have been blessed by God, for the building up and the well being of all humanity, since we are all children of God. Let us pray that the prayer of St. Francis may become an attitudinal foundation for the people of the world.



As we observe the church calendar of feast days, there are several important dates that we celebrate this week. Monday, August 4th, is the feast of the French saint, St. Jean-Baptiste Marie Vianney. He is better known as the Cure (pronounced "curay") of Ars. Ars (also known as Ars-sur-Forman) is near Villefrance-sur-Saone. He died in 1859. His life was marked by a tremendous devotion to the Eucharist, fasting, penance and prayer. The patron saint of priests and parish clergy, he was well known, among other things, for his compassionate spiritual counseling. He spent no less than eleven hours a day in the confessional in the winter and sixteen in the summer (and there were always people in line!). It is August 7th is the feast of St. Sixtus II. He was arrested, along with four deacons, while celebrating Mass in the cemetery catacombs of St. Callistus. The emperor, Valerian, had them decapitated that same day, August 6, 258. Friday, the 8th, is the feast of St. Dominic. Founder of the Order of Preachers (Dominicans), Dominic de Guzman was born in Caleruega, Spain. He died August 6, 1221. Saturday, August 9th, is the feast day of the martyr, Sister Benedicta of the Cross. She is also known as Edith Stein. She was born in Breslau, Germany in 1891 to Jewish parents. She was received into the Catholic Church in 1922. she entered the Carmelite convent in Cologne in 1923. At the end of 1939, she moved to the convent at Echt because of the Nazi persecution of Jews, but in 1942, during the German occupation of Holland, she was arrested, transported to Poland, and killed at the concentration camp of Auschwitz. Along with St. Catherine of Siena and St. Bridget of Sweden, she was declared co-patroness of Europe by Pope John Paul II.



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