

Fr. Ken's "Korner"

Greetings and blessings of the day,

I hope that the week was a good one for you as the last month of summer ends today to give way to September and the season of autumn is only a few weeks away. Tomorrow, we celebrate Labor Day, marking the transition from summer vacation back to the routine of school, religious education, and all things autumnal. The "big yellow bus" will once again be visible on the streets shuttling students to and from school – so be careful on the roads! Labor Day, a holiday we take for granted, had its first parade in New York City on September 5, 1882. Peter McGuire, a son of Irish immigrants, whose father had gone off to fight in the civil war, at age eleven had to work to help support his mother and six brothers and sisters. He became involved in organizing the labor movement to work for the well-being of laborers. That first parade workers carried signs "... that read "Labor creates all wealth." And "eight hours for work, eight hours for rest, eight hours for recreation" Following the parade, "workers and celebrants ate Irish stew, homemade bread and apple pie." Later in the evening, there was a fireworks display. This celebration caught on quickly from coast to coast as all states celebrated Labor Day. Congress, in 1894, voted it to be a federal holiday.

Happy belated birthday to Sadie Thompson who celebrated her seventh birthday on August 2, as well as her sister, Maggie, whose eleventh birthday was on Saturday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>. Jack Girard marked his "jour de naissance" on August 15<sup>th</sup>. Sheila Boucher's birthday was on Monday, August 25<sup>th</sup>. Karen LeBlanc celebrates her birthday on Thursday, September 4<sup>th</sup>. The 6<sup>th</sup> of September is Luke Whalen's eleventh birthday.

The weather for the parish picnic last Sunday could not have been any better – no humidity, no rain, not too hot and not too cold. We are grateful to all who had a part in allowing the day to be an enjoyable one for everyone concerned. Thank you to Aniece Lawrence for spearheading the day, the Knights of Columbus for setting up and breaking down, the bakers, the clean up committee anyone who pitched in and all those who came together to share the afternoon as a parish in a convivial atmosphere. We also thank the person who wished to remain anonymous and supplied the hamburgers, hot dogs, etc.

Speaking of celebrations, a reminder that Bishop John Dooher bishop of the South Region of the Archdiocese, is planning a Family Day to celebrate the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of Boston as a diocese. The celebration begins at 1 pm and the Family Mass will start at 2 pm. Bishop Dooher has invited all parishes in the South Region to join in this great celebration of faith and to enjoy the company of fellow Catholics, friends and family with food fun and games. We invite all our parishioners to take part in this special day on Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup>. "Calling all crafters! Calling all crafters!" If anyone has ability in banner making – we need your help!!! We will supply the funds necessary for this project. Each parish has been asked to create a banner identifying their parish. This banner will be carried in the procession which precedes the Mass. Please call

Terry at the parish center if you and your family would like to be part of this procession. We would like to be well represented at this event.

LORD SEND  
OUT YOUR SPIRIT  
AND RENEW THE FACE  
OF THE EARTH

As everyone is aware, we are in an election year. Under the Patronage of Mary, patroness of the United States of America, beginning of Monday, September 8, the feast of the birth of Mary, we will be having a novena of prayer for the upcoming Presidential election. Its purpose is not to endorse either candidate, but to pray for the gift of wisdom and discernment as we approach the ballot box. It is entitled the Novena for Faithful Citizenship and is based on the Novena for Justice and Peace and the source of its origin is the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in Washington, D.C. The Liturgy Committee proposed this Novena be prayed here at our parish during the time leading up to the election. September 10 marks the beginning of the Chrism course being offered here at the Parish Center. This course, offered by Celia Sirois, will be on the Johannine (St. John) scriptures in the Bible. The class will take place on Wednesday mornings beginning at 10 AM and lasting until noon. It is open to anyone interested in taking part in the program. This course is offered to all people in neighboring parishes, near or far.



This Friday is the first Friday of the month. Eucharistic Adoration takes place in the church, as it does every first Friday, from the end of the 9:00 Mass until noon. First Friday evening, the Brothers of Saint Joseph will be having their regular monthly meeting. Please keep in your prayers a person from our parish who underwent serious surgery for cancer this past Tuesday.

Wednesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> is the feast day of Pope St. Gregory the Great. He died on March 12, 604. He is one of the four great doctors of the Latin Church. He referred to himself by the title "servus servorum" (servant of the servants). He sent missionaries to England. Gregory, before becoming pope, was a member of the Order of St. Benedict (Benedictine). Part of his legacy included liturgical reform as well as chant, or plainsong (which is also referred to as Gregorian Chant, in his honor.) He is a patron saint of music.

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

GO OUT  
TO THE WHOLE  
WORLD;  
PROCLAIM  
THE GOOD NEWS  
TO ALL  
CREATION

