



Fr. Ken's "Korner"



Greetings and blessings of the week,  
I hope that it has been a good week for you.  
It is that time of year as the last week of August is upon us. That means one thing: the new school year will be arriving here in Plymouth next week as the fall schedule goes into effect.

We have noticed with the new front steps and the beautiful flowers that Derryl Lawrence planted and maintains, that people carrying cameras and walking along Court Street are stopping to take pictures of the church. It certainly beautifies and enhances the appearance of Court Street. Speaking of the church building, we have had further repairs done. I am sure that most of you probably never even noticed the work that needed to be done (and there is soooooo much more that needs attention!). It is about two and a half years since the roof and steeple were repaired and re-shingled. As you may, or may not be aware, last year one of the storms that hit Plymouth, incurred damage to the roof of the church. The site was between the steeple and the main peak of the church above the church entrance. This valley location



ended up having shingles torn off and blown away. Cazeault roofing has completed the necessary repairs to the roof before the onslaught of the winter wind and storms is upon us. This week, we will begin another project as pertains to the necessary repairs to the church. This is where the monies collected in the parish building fund collection, as well as the funds raised through the Paris Golf Tournament, are allocated for use. This week we will begin soda blasting the gray paint on the lower level of the building. The brick will be returned to their natural color. The paint poses a problem in that it does not allow the bricks to breathe and causes moisture build-up., resulting in the necessity of re-pointing the bricks to ensure the solidity of the structure. There is one serious concern as regards part of this project. It is on the side of the church that no one has likely noticed. It is the south side of the church. This area is in extreme need of being attended to. It may be more extensive than it appears. Time will tell. This work needs to be done. It is something of which we were aware at the time the steps were done. Now we need to address this much needed repair.

It was good to see both Phyllis Folger and Junaita Ward back in church after their recent stays in the hospital. More good news: Happy forty-ninth wedding anniversary to Bill and Nancy Jolly as they celebrate their wedding anniversary tomorrow, Monday, August 25<sup>th</sup>. We also extend best wishes to Edna and Bill Volpe (who now live in Billerica after many years here at St. Peter's). They will be celebrating their sixty-ninth wedding anniversary on Wednesday, August 27<sup>th</sup>. They, and Al and Rose Veiga, according to my limited knowledge, are the longest standing married couples in our parish as they both celebrated their sixty-ninth anniversaries this year. At the other end of the spectrum, congratulations to Jason Walter and Danielle Wray who were married here at St. Peter's on August twenty-second. May the Lord bless them as they begin the journey of a lifetime that takes a lifetime.



Please pray for the repose of the souls of Claire Powers for whom a funeral Mass was prayed on Thursday, the 21<sup>st</sup>, as well as for John Davis for whom funeral services were held the following day, Friday the 22<sup>nd</sup>. May they rest in the peace of the promise of eternal peace and may their loved ones find a source of strength in the faith, families and friends during this difficult time in their lives.

This afternoon is the parish picnic at the Holy Ghost field in North Plymouth. Everyone is welcome, so please join us even if you have not signed up in advance. I am sure that somehow there will be ample "eats" for everyone. Thank you to everyone who had a part in making this annual event a reality. This coming Wednesday, August 27<sup>th</sup> there will be a St. Peter's Women's League meeting at 6:00 pm in the Parish Center.



This week's calendar of saints includes four notables, including a mother and her son. Monday, the 25<sup>th</sup>, we celebrate the feast of a saint in whose honor one of the great American cities is named. It is the "Gateway to the West". It is named in honor of the only French king to be declared a saint. St. Louis IX (9<sup>th</sup>) This king of France and father of eleven children died in 1270. He was a Franciscan tertiary who cared especially for lepers. He had one of the absolute "gems" of Paris built as a reliquary for the crown of thorns. It is known as Sainte Chapelle. If you are ever in Paris, it is an absolute must to visit – and is only a stone's throw from Notre Dame Cathedral. He is the patron saint of masons and sculptors. Monday is also the feast of St. Joseph Calasanz from Aragon, Spain. He died in 1648. He founded a religious order that was dedicated to helping poor children. He is the patron saint of all Christian schools dedicated to assisting the poor. Wednesday,



we celebrate the feast of a saint who speaks to us of the virtue of perseverance in prayer for those whom we love. It is the feast day of St. Monica, the mother of Saint Augustine. She died in Ostia (Ostia Antica) in 387. In Rome, it was a major seaport through which everything and everyone, from individuals to the Roman armies, landed and set sail. Now due to silt and other factors, it is not on the coast, but somewhat inland. It is a fascinating place to visit. There, discovered during Mussolini's tenure, is an archaeological site well worth a visit. It was in a site that is believed to be an early Christian church, that Augustine said good-bye to his mother, Monica. If you ever go to Rome, it is only a short train ride to Ostia Antica, and very do-able as a day trip. Thirty years of prayer by Monica resulted in the conversion of her pagan husband to Christianity, as well as her eldest son, Augustine. Thursday, the 28<sup>th</sup>, we celebrate the feast day of her son, Augustine, who is considered to be among the brightest minds in the history of the Church. St. Augustine died in 430. He was baptized at the age of thirty-three by St. Ambrose. Augustine, as is also true of his mother, were born in Tagaste, in Roman North Africa. Augustine was elected as bishop of Hippo. He is best known for his works *Confessions* and *City of God* Over 500 of his homilies are extant. He is considered as a founder of monastic life in the West. His Rule is observed by some 150 religious communities today. He is one of the four great doctors of the church, and is called the "Doctor of grace." May the Lord's blessings smile kindly upon you and your loved ones in the coming week. Your brother in faith, Fr. Ken.

