

Fr. Ken's Korner



Greetings and blessings of the day,

I hope that the week was a good one for you. The unofficial end of summer has come and gone as Labor Day (and the great weather that it was) has come and gone. The big yellow bus is now a fixture on the roads as children are back in school for another academic year. This past Labor Day weekend a new event was added to the festivities that are a part of life in Plymouth during the summer. A triathlon took place that included swimming, bicycle race, and marathon (just the thought of it tires me out!).

I am sure that many of you probably noticed while coming to Mass last weekend, the gray paint that covered all the brick on the lower part of the church has been removed – as was the paint covering the fascia board. This allows us to



have a clearer picture of what needs to be done in order to continue the necessary ongoing work on the parish buildings. Obviously, the exterior needs to be sound to ensure the integrity of the

building. Some of the fascia board needs to be replaced, as well as some brick work that needs attention. Now that the bricks have had the paint removed, our next step in this process is to consult with a mason (the one who did the recent work on the front steps of the church) as to the extent and nature of what needs to be done to complete this phase of the work. Hopefully, this next phase will begin soon before there is a drastic drop in temperature.

As the school year goes, so goes the religious education program as well. Thank you to all who have volunteered to help in the many and varied capacities that are necessary for a program such as ours to operate. We are always on the lookout for anyone who would be willing to volunteer with the program. Also, please, if you have not already done so, make sure to register your children for religious education classes. It is very difficult for late



registrants to be slotted into a particular class due to the fact that class rosters are set up prior to the first day of religious education classes. Just a reminder to those students who are candidates for the Sacrament of Confirmation this fall: please make sure that all your service hours have been completed and that all necessary paperwork has been submitted to the religious education office. This will help to prevent any last minute glitches. Adult religious ed has a Scripture focus this year. Celia Sirois will begin a course next Wednesday from 10:00 AM until noon in the Parish Center. This will be a multi week program, meeting every Wednesday morning and will focus on the Johannine (St. John) Gospel and Letters of St. John in the New Testament. This is a perfect opportunity for people who want to learn more about the Scripture through study of the Bible. Please join us for this interesting and enlightening look at the Scripture.

We are still looking for some people who would be willing to work together to help make a parish banner that will be carried in procession at the South Region of the Archdiocese Bicentennial Celebration that will take place at Sacred Heart School in Kingston on Sunday, September 29th. *Please*, if you have any ability in this area, kindly give us a call so that we can be represented among the many parishes of the South Shore that will be present for this event.



Tomorrow, Monday, September 8th, is the feast commemorating the birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This fifth century feast marks the anniversary of the dedication of a basilica in Jerusalem built, according to tradition, on the location of the home of St. Anne, the mother of Mary. I recall visiting this church, along with Fr. Jerry Shea and others in 1990. Three of our parishioners are going on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land that is being led by Fr. Serena later this month. Hopefully, they will have the opportunity to see this site while they are in Jerusalem.

Tuesday, September 9th, we celebrate the feast day of St. Peter Claver, who died on September 8, 1654. He was a Catalonian (Spanish) Jesuit who served in the Colombian mission in Cartagena for thirty-eight years. He devoted himself and worked tirelessly caring for African, of whom he baptized some 300,000. He referred to himself as “the slave of the slaves forever.” He is patron saint of Colombia and of all missions to black people.

Thursday, September 11th, we commemorate those tragic events that took place seven years ago in New York, Pennsylvania and Washington, D.C. It is, according to the Ordo (the guidelines book for what Mass is celebrated each day) a Mass, known as a Blue Mass, that honors all firefighters and police officers, including those who have died during the past year. We will pray for them in a special way at the 9:00 AM Mass on September. Please join us in praying for those men and women who serve our community to ensure our public safety and well being.



Saturday, September 13th, is the feast of St. John Chrysostom, who died September 14, 307. An outstanding preacher (Chrysostom – Greek for “golden mouthed”), defended the poor, sought to reform the clergy. He was exiled twice due to royal opposition. He is one of the four great doctors of the Eastern Church, as well as being patron saint of preachers and of Istanbul (formerly known as Constantinople).

Our condolences and prayer go out to Gloria and Harry Longhi at the death of their son, Daniel, for whom a funeral Mass was prayed at St. Mary’s Church this past Wednesday. May he rest in the peace and mercy of God – and may his parents find strength in their faith, family, friends and memories. We have been asked to please keep in our prayers one of our parishioners, Lorna Healey, who recently underwent serious surgery at Brigham and Women’s Hospital. She is currently in rehab at the Cape rehab center following neck surgery. It is the same facility at which Bill Jolly recuperated after his illness.

Happy Birthday to Christopher Post, whose birthday is tomorrow, September 8th. Happy 14th wedding anniversary on September 10th to Jim and Karen LeBlanc. The next day, September 11th, is a milestone for several parishioners. Happy 60th wedding anniversary to Bill and Mary Towns. Sharing the day for a wedding anniversary, happy 20th anniversary to Jon and Jean Sidoti. Peter Reardon shares the day as he marks his 9th birthday.



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