

Fr. Ken's Korner



Greetings and blessings of the week,

I hope that the week was a good one for you. It is fall in New England. The Sox are in the playoffs and the foliage season is reaching its peak in the North Country and soon will be more strikingly seen here as well. As this very visible sign of a change in the life and cycle of nature is set before us, it is a good time to stop and reflect upon the seasons of our lives and the changes that are a part of that journey of life in which we all participate. As the leaves separate from, and fall, they leave the branches unadorned and visible to everyone. This affords us an opportune occasion to stop and ponder what "leaves" do we need to shed in order to discard those elements which prevent us from clearly seeing who we are as children of God, -- as well as how firmly rooted we are as "branches" that derive their strength and direction from God's ways in our lives.

Speaking of branches, we are all familiar with the image Jesus used in which he described Himself and us as the vine and the branches. This past week, six new "branches" were grafted to the "vine" that is Jesus as the newest members of our faith community received the first of the Sacraments of Initiation: the Sacrament of Baptism. We welcome Mackenzie Marie Crawford, Camden Jack Latham, Daniel Keating McLaughlin, John Richard Milne, Gregg Alan Spooner III, and Madeline Cecilia Woomer as the newest among us who have "become new creations in Christ." May they, throughout the years of their lives, grow as children of God. May they find in their families and friends, examples and reminders of their call to be living witnesses to the teachings and way of life that we all profess to believe as followers of Jesus Christ.



The weather for the Blessing of the Animals, in honor of St. Francis of Assisi on October 4th, could not have been better as some of our parishioners, as well as non-parishioners, gathered for prayers and blessings of their pets at what has become an annual event. This year there were cats and dogs. The dogs varied in size from long-haired Chihuahua that was carried in a basket to an English mastiff that would have, size-wise, fit in well with some adult lions.



Last week we completed the project involving the cleaning and pointing of the brick with the final phase of the three part project. Having had the paint removed and the bricks pointed, they were sealed in order to help prevent them from becoming overly porous to moisture. We will now be looking at what next needs to be done in the never-ending work on the parish facilities. This past week, we had to have the furnace in the church serviced in order to get it up and running for the upcoming heating season. We had a few chilly mornings this past week while waiting for the contracted company to complete the work of preparing, what is an often repaired and old heating system, for yet another winter season.



This month, as happens every October throughout the entire Archdiocese of Boston, is an important month in terms of planning for the future of not only the Archdiocese of Boston;

but also, for the individual parishes that comprise the Archdiocese of Boston. The month of October is designated every year as the time to make a Mass count numbers for every parish in the archdiocese. Every parish is required to count and record the number of people who attend every weekend Masses, counting everyone from the youngest to the oldest in attendance, as well as everyone in between. These weekly totals for the entire month cannot be mixed with another week, since each weekend total stands on its own. These weekly totals for the month must be sent to the Planning Office of the Archdiocese of Boston. This is done in order to look at the numbers attending each parish in terms of what may be the future, in terms of parishes and viability, etc.

This Saturday, October 18th, those who candidates in our parish Confirmation program will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation. Bishop John Dooher, who is the Regional Bishop for the South Region of the Archdiocese will be the celebrant for the evening Mass. There is also an "oldies" concert at Memorial Hall the same evening. I have notified those who operate the Hall that our parish parking lot will be off limits that night.



So, immediately following the 4:00 PM Mass, the parking lot will be chained off to keep it reserved for Confirmation. So, if you plan to keep your car in the lot after Mass and go to supper, or elsewhere, please be advised that the lot will be closed off and plan accordingly. Sunday night, October 19th, there will be a meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council. The meeting will take place at 7:00 PM in the Parish Center.

The following Friday and Saturday nights, October 24th and 25th are also going to be busy here. October 24th, there will be a Healing Mass. Mr. Frank Kelly will be here at St. Peter's for this evening Mass. The following night, Saturday, October 25th, will be the annual St. Peter's Women's League chicken dinner at the parish center.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Beatrice Schlecte for whom a Mass of Christian Burial was prayed on Friday October 10th. Also, please pray for Susan Bourne who also was buried on Friday the 10th of October. May they rest in peace and may their loved ones find strength in their faith, family, friends, and memories.



This week we celebrate the feast of St. Ignatius of Antioch (not to be confused with St. Ignatius of Loyola) on Friday, September 17th. He was from Syria and was martyred circa 107 AD in Rome's amphitheater during the time of the emperor, Trajan. He was the first to use the term "Catholic Church" as a collective designation for Christians. October 18th is the feast of St. Luke. He was a physician from Antioch in Syria. He worked with St. Paul in his ministry to the early Church. He is the author of both the Acts of the Apostles, as well as the gospel according to Luke. One of the four evangelists, he is represented by the symbol of the winged ox (cf. Ezekiel 1). St. Luke is the patron of the medical profession, painters, artists, sculptors, and butchers.



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