

## DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA

### Fr. Ken's Korner



Greetings and blessings of the week,

I hope that it has been a good one for you. Well, the two years of hype and campaigning are now behind us and Election Day has come and gone as we await the inauguration of a new president. Whether or not your particular choice was elected, it is now time to pull together as a nation and to work together. For us, as a people of faith, it begins by praying that the new administration will be guided by the Holy Spirit's gifts of wisdom, discernment, and right judgment as the many decisions and policies that will come about may be rooted in sound, just, and moral principles recognizing the most basic



principles of our certain and inalienable rights as stated in the Declaration of Independence: among which are life (first and foremost, because without it the other two are no more than a moot issue), liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Our

novena for wisdom and discernment in the elections (without endorsing or mentioning either of the two candidates) went well. We thank all those who were involved in the planning and implementation of this effort, as well as Fr. DeRoche for celebrating Mass at the Thursday evening Novenas (as well as the November 3, Monday. The eve of the elections the novena began at 7:00 PM and went until midnight with Mass, prayer, and other devotions, as well as time for personal prayer.)

The Sunday All Souls Day Mass at the 12:00 PM Mass went well. Some of the families of those who had died since All Souls Day 2007 were in attendance. They were involved in the lighting of the candle in memory of their deceased loved one as the eighty-two names were read at the Mass. Some of our parishioners remarked on what a good thing it was. We have done this every All Souls Day since I came to St. Peter's in 2005. This year, it happened to fall on a Sunday, resulting in many more people in attendance for this Memorial Mass. Please pray for the families of those deceased whose names were read at Mass.

Their losses are still fresh for many of them. May they come to know the healing power and presence of God in their lives through their faith and through those who love them. You may have noticed a stand in the front of the church (near the piano). There is a black folder in which there are pages on which to write the names of deceased loved ones who have died. The book will be there throughout the entire month of November. The names listed will be included in prayer at all the Masses of November.



Please keep in your prayers a parishioner who has undergone spinal surgery this past week. Speaking of surgery, we welcome back Arthur Dooley after his recent eye surgery. Arthur is one of our parishioners who is involved in the ministry of senior server for funeral Masses here at St. Peter's. These adult servers provide a valuable service through their ministry at funeral Masses to those who have lost loved ones. We are grateful to them for their service and outreach to those who suffer the loss of a loved one.

Several parishioners have recently celebrated birthdays. Happy

Birthday wishes are extended to Francesca Apsley as she celebrated her fourteenth birthday on October 31<sup>st</sup>. The next day, November 1<sup>st</sup>, All Saints Day,



Jim Wylie celebrated a birthday. All Souls Day, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, Rosemary Murphy celebrated her "jour de naissance". Happy birthday to Ed Santos who celebrates his birthday this week, as well as Patrick Gregory who turns forty-five

Last weekend was the first weekend of the month. As is customary here in our parish, baptisms take place on the first Sunday of the month. It was a small group this month, consisting of only three children. There usually are from six to twelve children every month. We welcome into our parish as its newest members Vanessa Marguerite Carey, Vivienne Grace LaGrassa, and Jack Joseph Huggan. May they come to know of God's love for them and may their parents and families be role models for them as to what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ by taking seriously the mandate to live by the teachings, values and words of Jesus.



As a nation, we still find ourselves at war. This Tuesday we remember those who fought and died in the "war to end all wars", as it was known: World War I which came to an end by the signing of the Armistice on November 11, 1918



(ninety years ago.). Unfortunately, as we know all too well, it was not the "war to end all wars." We do well as a nation to pause and reflect upon those who gave of their blood, sweat, and life in order to preserve our way of life and our freedoms. It is easy to forget, as the years dim the memory of their sacrifices in our world today, those who so courageously put their lives on the line. Once again, as we find our own doing so today, let us pray that one day peace will no longer be a dream; but, rather, a reality.

This week, our calendar of saints includes several people who are noteworthy. Monday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, we celebrate the feast of Pope St. Leo the Great, who died in 461 He contributed much in the form of teaching and liturgy. He is also historically significant on a scale beyond the Church. He saved the city of Rome from being sacked by the Huns and the Vandals as the barbarian hordes cut a swath across Europe. Tuesday, we celebrate the feast of a French saint: St. Martin of Tours. He died in 397. He was a soldier who converted to Christianity at the age of eighteen. He founded the first monastery in the West. He was the bishop of Tours, as well as being the first non-martyr to have an annual feast in the Western Church. He is a patron saint of soldiers, wine producers and France. The next day, November 12<sup>th</sup>, belongs to a Polish saint: Josaphat, bishop and martyr who died in 1623. Josaphat Kuncevyh was born in Poland. His desire for union between the



Ukrainian Church and Rome led to his murder at Vitebsk. He became the first formally canonized saint of the Eastern Rite in 1867. Thursday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, we celebrate a saint who belong to both Italy and the USA: St. Frances Xavier Cabrini. She died in Chicago on December 22, 1917. The youngest of thirteen children, she came from Lombardy in Italy. She founded the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart. She worked for twenty-eight years in the USA and South America, establishing some 67 schools, hospitals, and orphanages. She was the first U.S. citizen to be canonized a saint in 1946. She is the patroness of immigrants and migrants. The 15<sup>th</sup>, we celebrate the feast of St. Albert the Great who died in Cologne, Germany in 1280. A Dominican, he was the teacher of St. Thomas Aquinas. He is the patron saint of scientists. May the Lord's blessings smile kindly upon you and your loved ones in the coming week, your brother in faith, Fr. Ken?