

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Fr. Ken's Korner



Greetings and blessings of the week,

I hope that it has been a good one. It seems as though, all of a sudden, that Christmas has snuck up on us and is just around the corner. Today, the Church makes note of this as we celebrate the Third

Sunday of Advent. The vestments, instead of being violet, this week are rose or pink, as they provide a visible sign of the approaching holyday of Christmas that will soon be upon us.



The St. Peter's Women's League had their



first excursion to Kennebunkport to celebrate the pre-Christmas season with a little sightseeing, shopping, a meal and the parade of hats. Everyone enjoyed the day as a bus full of people left from

the Church parking lot at 10:00 AM on a Plymouth and Brockton bus and returned later that evening after a two hour bus ride. (The bulletin has to go to press on Wednesday morning, the 10th.) Friday the 12th, another sold out bus trip of seasonal revelers, in what is becoming an annual parish outing, headed into Symphony Hall in Boston for "Holiday at Pops" with the Boston Pops Orchestra. As with the Women's League trip, the trip to the Pops was also via a Plymouth and Brockton motor coach. It is the only way to go to Symphony Hall by avoiding all the hassles of driving, parking, etc. Friday, the 5th of December marked the lighting of the Christmas trees (I can say *Christmas* in our bulletin and not "Holiday Tree") and the various activities of the night as people walked up and down Main Street. Once again this year, our Parish Center was one of the venues for some of the evening's activities. This weekend the Plymouth Philharmonic has its "Holiday" (ouch! I prefer to say holyday concert) concert on Saturday and Sunday. It is wonderful to celebrate all these activities that energize the human spirit during this time of the year. Yet, at the same time, it is important not to lose sight of the reason for all this celebration and not get lost in the trappings that surround it.

Continuing the theme of this time of the year, we will once again be having our "Breakfast with St. Nicholas". We have found after having done it both before and after



Christmas that after Christmas seems to be a better time to have this event. This year it will take place on Sunday, January 4th. It is the feast of the Epiphany, known by some people as "Little Christmas". The breakfast is within the time of the real Christmas season. The real Christmas season begins as the "Xmas" season of commercialism ends. The first day of the Christmas season is December 25th and continues until the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, which, this year falls on January 11th. That is why the crèche in front of the Church stays up long after other reminders of Christmas are taken down around town. That is also why the figure of the Christ child is not put in the crèche until the Christmas Vigil Mass, as a reminder that we are still in the anticipatory season of Advent.

This weekend's second collection is being taken up to benefit the retirement fund for retired religious. If you can read this "Korner", and attended parochial school as a child, the reason that you are in fact *able* to read this in the first place is because a member of a religious order taught you to read, thereby opening up a whole new world to us that changed our lives for the better. Imagine what your life would be like if you had not learned to read and write, as well as the other educational skills that you learned in order to prepare you for life!

This past Sunday, December 7th, we welcomed our newest members into our faith family as Deacon John Hulme baptized five children. We hope and pray that this initiation into our faith will be followed by further growth in the ways of faith that is supported by the example of their families. We are happy to count among our newest parishioners at St. Peter's Sarah Elizabeth Nardone, Sarah Evelyn Densmore, Joseph Patrick Cunningham, Nicholas Joseph Morano, and Kaylen Marie Mahoney.



As we approach the Christmas holyday please keep in your prayers two families who will have one less family member at their Christmas table. Please pray for the repose of the soul of Irene Sorenson for whom a Mass of Christian Burial was prayed on Saturday, December 6th. Also, please remember in your prayers Suzanne Fox for whom funeral services were held on Wednesday, December 10th, as well as for Theresa Basari for whom funeral services were held on



Saturday, December 13th. May they rest in peace and may their families find strength and support in their faith, families, friends and memories.

We extend congratulations to Ron and Jane Leary as they celebrated their eighteenth wedding anniversary on Monday, December 8th. Likewise, congratulations to Alex Post who was an altar server for years here at St. Peter's. I believe that she was named to the ACL All Star cross country team.

Please be sure to check the Christmas Mass schedule. There will be **no 12:00 noon Mass on Christmas Day!** Masses will be at 4:00 PM and 7:00 PM on Christmas Eve. Christmas Day Masses will be at 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM and 10:30 AM. If you want a seat, especially at the 4:00 on Christmas Eve, make sure that you get here around 3:00 PM, due to the fact, as you know, that this Mass is especially crowded.



Calling all ladies to Winter Bible Reflections. This is a series of talks sponsored by an Archdiocesan program called "Wings" (Women in God's Spirit). It will take place at Our Lady of the Assumption Hall in Green Harbor (Marshfield) beginning January 13th and running through February 10th. If you need more information please contact Mary Callahan @ 781-834-6313 – or Email at: MaryCallahan@ymail.com. Assumption Rectory telephone number is 781-834-6252 – Email: assumchrch@verizon.net.



May the Lord's blessings smile kindly upon you and your loved ones in the coming week.