

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Fr. Ken's "Korner"



Greetings and blessings of the day,

I hope that the week has been a good one for you. The season of winter is about to begin – and the days are going to start to get longer. It does not seem possible that

Christmas is already upon us this week! It will be here mid-week. Just a reminder, especially if you intend to be here for the 4:00 PM Christmas Eve Vigil Mass, to be here very early. Seats will be going fast for the vigil Mass. There will be a 4:00 PM Mass upstairs as well as downstairs. There is also a Mass in the upper church at 7:00 PM. **There is no midnight Mass at St. Peter's.** The Christmas morning Mass schedule will be an abbreviated

Sunday morning Mass schedule. Masses will be as usual at 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM and 10:30 AM. **There will be no noon Mass on Christmas Day.** There will be only one collection on Christmas Day. Here in the

Archdiocese of Boston, both Christmas and Easter collections are designated to help care for healthcare, the ill, and retired priests of the Archdiocese, such as Fr. Serena and Fr. Cormier who help us on an alternating basis here at St. Peter's. We are very blessed and fortunate to be able to have their assistance since there are many places in the Archdiocese where it is very difficult in some areas of the archdiocese to try and locate priests to help out in parishes in certain regions. Were it not for some of these "retired" priests, the number and frequency of some services would possibly have to be curtailed.

Tomorrow, Monday, is the day set aside for the St. Vincent de Paul Christmas dinner and Giving Tree to be held. There has been an overwhelming demand this year, so much so that we had to cut off the list of people who kept calling this year. It is very indicative of the state of the economy and the difficulties that some people are undergoing, perhaps for the first time, this year. This event is staffed by member of the St. Vincent de Paul Society and volunteers so that it can run smoothly. It will take place from 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM. Only people whose names appear on the list will be able to take part in this event. We are grateful and appreciate the gifts and donations that so many of you have so generously contributed to help make some child's Christmas an enjoyable event, as well as to the many of you who have contributed to fill up the larder of the parish food pantry so that this food can be disbursed to help feed those who are in need of help.

This past Wednesday, following the 9:00 AM Mass, Morning Prayer and an Advent Cookie swap was held in the Parish Center. Our thanks to Jane Leary who once again organized this event.

As you noticed if you entered the church through the main entrance this morning, the crèche is set up in front of the Church. If the children want to know why the statue of the infant Jesus is not in the crib yet, it is because it is still not Christmas. We are in the season of Advent until the Christmas Eve vigil Mass. Thanks to Don Perrault (who designed and built the manger last year) and Bob Houston for putting up the manger last week. Monday, the 16th, Arthur Dooley, Don Perrault and myself put the figures in the crèche and



Don hooked up the lights and timer. It will remain up until the real end of the Christmas season: the Baptism of Christ.

The past weekend was quite a musical time on Friday as our parish trip to the Boston Pops was very enjoyable. The bus was full and all fifty-five tickets for the concert were used. Unfortunately, for some, there were not sufficient tickets available for those on the waiting list. Saturday night, the "Phil" holiday pops played to a full house at Memorial Hall.

So too, on Sunday, there was a good house for a repeat performance. For many of our "locals", one of the highlights of the concert was the performance of the Federal Furnace Treble Choir who were featured in musical numbers during the concert. This was their second year as a part of this musical tradition here at Memorial Hall. Among the members of the choir were several of our parishioners who are students at Federal Furnace. Congratulations on a job well done! Sunday afternoon was also a busy one for the member of St. Peter's Women's League as they held their Christmas party at the Radisson. A goodly number of them were in attendance as were invited guests Deacon John Hulme and his wife, Pam. Also present were Fr. Wilfred DeRoche, Fr. Ed Serena and Fr. Roger Cormier. Fr. McCarthy (who got a standing ovation when he entered the room) also attended the event. He looks well and seems to have settled in at St. Thecla's.

This time of year is one that seems to have an influx in the amount of funerals that take place. This past week was no exception. Please pray for the repose of the soul of John F. Twomey for whom a funeral Mass was prayed on Monday, December 15th. The following day, Tuesday, the 16th, a Mass of Christian Burial was prayed for Henry J. Zucchi. Friday December 19th, two funerals were held as a funeral Mass was held for Peter Kane, as well as funeral services for Sally B. Moran. May their souls rest in peace, and may their families find solace and consolation in their faith, families, friends, and memoirs in their time of loss. It is never easy to lose someone we love through death; and, at this time of year it can be doubly difficult as there will be one less table setting for Christmas dinner.

We have been asked to pray for a woman who is undergoing some serious medical issues pertaining to her eyes. Likewise, there are several other men and women in our parish who have requested prayers as they too are in the process of medical tests. This can be a particularly stressful time in the life of a person. We ask you to please pray for Paul Forry, the accountant who has done St. Peter's books for year. He has had a heart attack and underwent a double bypass heart surgery. For those of you who may be fighting cancer, a priest friend of mine who has inoperable lung cancer,

sent me a booklet (45 pages) that he wrote when he found out that there is new growth in my lungs as of this year. You may find this a good read. It is called "Walking in the Dark Valley (Ps.23): When cancer is a constant companion".. It is by Rev. Msgr. Thomas J. McDonnell, a priest of the Archdiocese whom I have known since 1972. It is published by the Simon of Cyrene Society, Inc. P.O. Box 54, South Boston, MA 02127.

On a happier note, happy birthday to Jordan Wylie, whose 19th birthday is December 23rd. May the Lord's blessings smile kindly upon you and yours in the coming week. Your brother in faith, Fr. Ken.

