



WEEKLY LETTER FROM MONSIGNOR KEN

I want to thank everyone for all your prayers, good wishes and gifts for my birthday. You are always so generous, encouraging and supportive. Thank You! As you read this, I'm in Tennessee visiting my brother, Paul. As I have often said, I love summer. I don't like to think about it ending, but it's always necessary to look forward and plan ahead. In that spirit, I have two things on my mind for you to consider when we leave Summer behind and move into the Fall schedule. They involve our youth.

The first is Altar Servers. Where are they? As you have probably noticed, when you come to Mass, most of them do NOT have any altar servers. Why? In a parish this size, we should have enough to have several teams for each Mass. God bless those who continue to be so faithful. Over the years, we have had a number of recruitments and have received a good response. However, when it comes to actually showing up for training, we have had only a few, or sadly even none actually come. I am hoping and praying that as we enter the Fall and school re-opens that we will be able to recruit. If you have children or know fellow parishioners, spread the word. We need and want altar servers!

My second thought is related in a way. We want to encourage all our families and children to come to Mass each week. Some of you will remember the traditional "Children's Mass," when all the children in Catholic School or Religious Formation would be expected to attend a particular Mass. In that spirit, we will begin this Fall designating our Sunday 9:00am Mass in St. Mary of the Pines as our children's Mass. Of course, families are not required to attend that particular Mass. We will not be taking attendance and children will sit with their families. The intention is to fill the pews, especially with our children and families at the Holy Sacrifice of Mass. We want to see you!

"Jesus said, 'Let the children come to Me, and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.'" (Matthew 19:14)