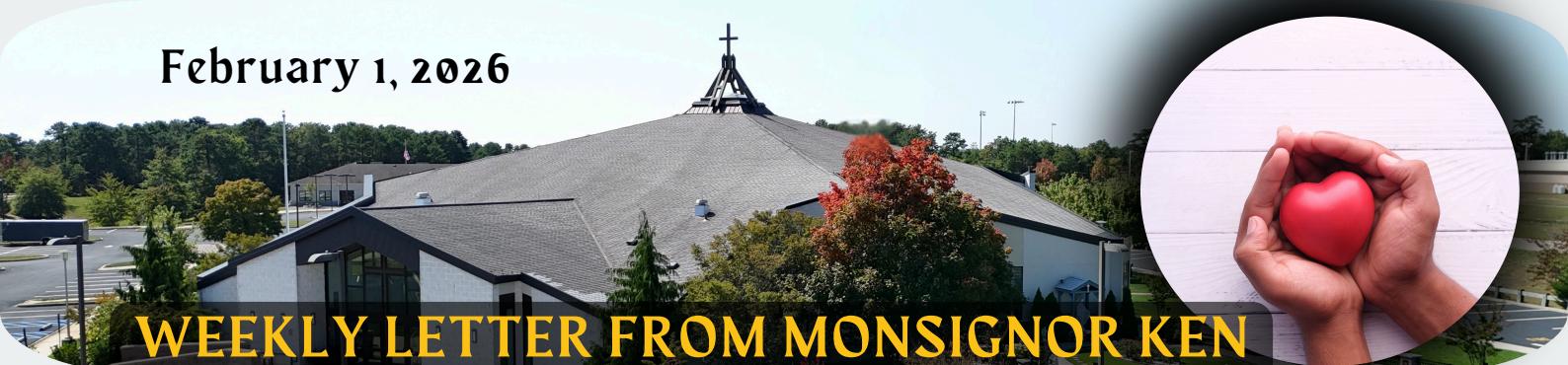


February 1, 2026



## WEEKLY LETTER FROM MONSIGNOR KEN

When applying for a job, there are the most basic questions you would want to know: What are the hours, vacation time, but above all, salary and benefits! Imagine inquiring about a position and expecting NO pay and NO benefits! Actually, that happens all the time and we have many who have done just that here in St. Mary's. They are our countless volunteers involved in one or more of our many ministries. Everyone knows the story of George Bailey in It's a Wonderful Life. He was given the gift to see what life would be like if he never existed. Well, imagine how different life would be without volunteers! How much work gets done, how many people are helped and how many lives are changed by volunteers! Right here in our parish we have countless, yes, countless who freely give of themselves, their time and talent in a great number of ministries, caring for the poor, the bereaved, the hungry, the naked, the spiritually ignorant, and all those seeking God.

However, as many ministries as we have, many of our parishioners do not know about them, who they are and what they do. And, they can all use more volunteers. To give just one example, we definitely could use more ALTAR SERVERS!

Next weekend is a great opportunity to learn more about all of these ministries at our annual Ministry Fair, **Saturday, February 14, 12-2:00pm in the Parish Center**. All of our ministries have been invited, and we hope they will all attend. The morning will be spent for them to get to be more acquainted with one another and learn about the great tool of FLOCKNOTE. The afternoon is the chance for you to the browse through the parish center, meet those involved in a ministry and what they do. You may even find that God is calling you to become involved. Even if not, this is a great opportunity to learn more about our parish and all that happens. There will be a light lunch and we will be done by 2:00pm, plenty of time to go out to dinner for Valentine's Day! Of course, Valentine's Day is about love, but love is more than romantic love. As baptized, and confirmed Catholics, we have a call to love. We seek nothing in return, but because we love God, we want to spread His love. Looking back over history, we can see the impact that the Church has had on the world because of this commitment to love. From it was born hospitals, universities, care for the poor, and even care for one's enemies.

The heart of our parish is, of course, the Mass, but from that altar flows our many ministries that seek to bring God's kingdom here on earth. So, stop by February 14. See all of our ministries. Who knows, you end up being one of those who don't ask about money or benefits or hours, but only, "How can I help?"

***"This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends." (John 15:12,13)***