



Dear Friends,

The tone of the debate over legislation to redefine marriage appears to be less and less civil. Emotion rather than reason seems to be driving the discussion. When this happens harsh voices and inaccurate claims can be made leading to misunderstanding and animosity. All too often both sides on an issue seek to persuade through appeal to emotion. Thus, they contribute to the lack of civility so obvious in the campaigns last year and present in current debates. Since we are called to exercise charity in all things, we can be an example. On the diocesan website and on the Maine Marriage Initiative website Bishop Malone offers a balanced and sensitive explanation of his position and responds to several emotional questions that have been raised. I urge you to attend to him and to encourage others to do the same. Please remember him and the young people of our cluster whom he will confirm and offer First Communion next Saturday.

Father Joe Ford; email: jjford67@maine.rr.com

MASS INTENTIONS and MASS SCHEDULE

April 25	4:00 PM	Herk Mildrum, by Betty & Family
April 26	8:30 AM	The Parishioners
	5:30 PM	John Clark, by Steve & Debbie Meahl
April 27	7:30 AM	Robert Noyes, by Edward L. Dilworth, Jr.
April 29	7:30 AM	Carolyn Piscopo, by Tina & Bob Mortimer
April 30	7:30 AM	Communion Service
Next Weekend Masses		
May 2	4:00 PM	Jacqueline Bousquet, by Lisa Bousquet
May 3	8:30 AM	Jonathan Derrah, by the Meahl Family
	5:30 PM	The Parishioners

Last Weekend's Offering: Thank you for your offerings of **\$3,553.00** for last weekend. Our weekly operating expense is **\$6,318.00**. Of the 29 counties in the geographically sprawling Diocese of Salt Lake City, only 16 have a resident pastor. These mission dioceses need funding for ministerial training, seminaries, and religious education in order to nurture the faith and administer basic pastoral care in the rural areas of the state. Please give generously in today's Catholic Home Missions Appeal.

Graduation Mass – Sunday, May 31, at 5:30 PM.

Child Abuse Prevention Month – is being marked in parishes across the United States in April. We are providing information on prevention steps, clarifying misconceptions, and explaining action the Church has taken to reach out to victims and protect children.

Did you Know...?

- According to a survey by the U.S. Dept. of Justice, 1 in 5 children (10-17 years old) receive unwanted sexual solicitations on line. Tell your child not to put private information on the Internet and monitor their on line habits.
- Child molesters look like everyone else so watch for warning signs. People who abuse are likely to: allow children to engage in activities parents would not allow; always seek to have unsupervised time with a child; progressively lure children away from family and friends. For more tips on recognizing behavior, visit www.virtus.org.
- Any Church representative who sexually abuses a minor will be permanently removed from ministry. Our diocese has an office that investigates complaints of abuse by minors by Church representatives. If you need assistance, please call Deacon John Brennan at (207) 321-7836.

Baptismal Certificate - A reminder to all 2nd grade parents that if your child was not baptized at Holy Martyrs a baptismal certificate from the church of your child's baptism is needed. Rehearsal for First Eucharist will be held Thursday, April 30 at 5:00 PM for those families attending the 9:00 AM Mass and 6:30 for the families attending the 11:30 AM Mass.

Youth Ministry Rafting Trip - On Sunday, May 3rd at 6:30 pm after Mass, there will be an informational meeting about the spring rafting trip for the teen youth ministry. Please attend this meeting if you are interested in attending this event. The trip is open to all teens in the parish, and promises to be an exciting trip for everyone. It is a great way to kick-off the summer. Contact Scott Ross at 829-6292 for more information.

Disciples In Mission includes a reflection day during the Easter season. All the participants in the small faith sharing groups, family groups, parish leaders, pastoral council and commission members and ALL interested parishioners are invited to come together. All will be asked to reflect on the outward dimension of evangelization. The reflection day will be held at **Sacred Heart Parish Hall on May 7th at 7:00 PM.** We ask you to bring a finger snack to share. Drinks will be provided.

Spring Rummage Sale – Saturday, May 9th, from 8:30-11:00 AM. Volunteers are needed on Thursday and Friday morning to help set up and on Saturday to sell. Please call Mary T. Honan at 781-2705 if you can help. **Please do not drop items off until after April 30th.**

"STEWARDSHIP OF THE EARTH"

PLEASE SHARE A FEW HOURS OF TIME AND TALENT TO HELP CLEAN UP A LOCAL PART OF THE EARTH AND SHOW OUR LOVE AND RESPECT FOR "MOTHER EARTH" IN RECOGNITION OF EARTH DAY. IN KEEPING WITH STEWARDSHIP PRINCIPLES, WE WILL TITHE OUR TIME BY GIVING 10% OF ONE DAY, OR 2.4 HOURS.

PLEASE MEET US AT THE YARMOUTH SACRED HEART CHURCH PARKING LOT AT 9:45 AM ON SATURDAY MAY 2ND. WE WILL WORK FROM 10 AM TO 12:24 PM (2.4 HOURS). WATER AND TRASH BAGS WILL BE PROVIDED. BRING A PAIR OF GLOVES, AND YOUR TALENT FOR TRASH GATHERING AND ENERGY AND ENTHUSIASM FOR THE TASK. IN SHARING OF OUR TIME AND TALENT THAT DAY, AND EVERY DAY, WE WILL MAKE THE KINGDOM OF GOD HERE ON EARTH A LITTLE BIT BETTER.

Falmouth Walk for Habitat for Humanity Goes to the Dogs! - Saturday, May 9th

Complimentary Pancake Breakfast 7-9AM; Walk Registration: 7:30-10:30 at St. Mary Episcopal Church, Route 88, Falmouth.

Walk for Habitat and have a photo op with Keily and "Bear" - We will be honoring both Bear and FHS Senior Keily Flynn who rescued her yellow lab while volunteering for Habitat in Mississippi. Walk with your own four-legged friend! Planet Dog will be providing goodies for all "walkers with tails!" Participate in the PDOG raffle for a prize for your best buddy! Walk brochures are available in the vestibule or you can pre-register with (or sponsor!) Holy Martyr's general team www.firstgiving.com/HolyMartyrs or support a youth group team. Contact Jennifer Gregg at 781-2665 or jgregg@maine.rr.com or Moira Lachance 781-2346 to help with registration or the pancake breakfast on the day of the event.

Cumberland/Falmouth Food Pantries – We thank those who have donated food, toiletries and essentials over the past two weeks. The donations did drop dramatically – due to Easter and vacation. The **needs do not stop** however, and we ask for your help! If each family would look into your cupboard and bring **one** of something you may have two of it would have a great result in assisting the efforts to keep supplies at the pantries. The need is urgent – the needy are our neighbors! Thank you.

Jack Mullin

Holy Martyrs Weekly Calender

Sunday April 26	Mass at 8:30 AM & 5:30 PM NO Religious Education	Readings Begin at # 925 First Eucharist Retreat 1:00-3:00 PM <i>47: Acts 3:13-15,17-19; Ps 4:2,4,7-9; 1 Jn 2:1-5a; Lk 24:24:35-48</i>
Monday April 27	Mass at 7:30 AM Religious Education 4:15-5:15	<i>273: Acts 6:8-15; Ps 119; Jn 6:22-29</i>
Tuesday April 28	Mass at St. Gregory's at 8:00 AM	Contemplative Prayer Group 9:30-11:00 AM <i>274: Acts 7:51-8:1a; Ps 31; Jn 6:30-25</i>
Wednesday April 29	Mass at 7:30 AM	<i>275: Acts 8:1b-8; Ps 66; Jn 6:35-40, see 557: 1 Jn 1:5-2:2; Mt 11:25-30</i>
Thursday April 30	Communion Service at 7:30 AM	Falmouth Bridge Club 1:00-4:00 PM <i>276: Acts 8:26-40; Ps 66; Jn 6:44-51</i>
Friday May 1	Mass at St. Gregory's at 8:00 AM	<i>277: Acts 9:1-20; Ps 117; see 559; Gn 1:26-2:3 or Col 3:14-15,17,23-24; Ps 90; Mt 13:545-58</i>
Saturday May 2	Mass at 4:00 PM	<i>50: Acts 4:8-12; Ps 118; 1 Jn 3:1-2; Jn 10:11-18</i>
Sunday May 3	Mass at 8:30 AM & 5:30 PM Religious Education	Neighborhood Lot Association 11:00-12:30 Connected Catholics 5:00 PM <i>50: Acts 4:8-12; Ps 118; 1 Jn 3;1-2; Jn 10;11-18</i>

Thank You, Mom! - Fresh carnations will be available on Mother's Day Sunday, **May 10th** in recognition of the sacrifices of motherhood, and in honor of the wonderful mothers in our parish! In addition to thanking moms for their gift of life, your participation in this program also helps promote a Culture of Life right here in Maine. Suggested donation is \$1.00 each. Proceeds benefit Maine Right to Life Committee. Your generous support is greatly appreciated!

St. Joseph's Organ Benefit Concert - In recognition of St. Joseph's Parish Church Centennial The Windham Chamber Singers have graciously offered to perform a benefit concert to support the St. Joseph's Organ Restoration Fund. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend this special event at St Joseph's Parish Church 673 Stevens Ave in Portland, on **Wednesday May 6 at 7 PM**. Donation gratefully accepted at the door. All proceeds benefit the St. Joseph's Organ Restoration Fund.

Women Gathered Together in Faith

What: A spiritual program for women offering time to listen, question and reflect, pray and exchange insights with other women. Topic: "Looking at our Images of God"

Where: Marie Joseph Spiritual Center, 10 Evans Road, Biddeford Pool (Rt 9/208)

When: Wednesday, **May 6** from 10:30 to 2:30 P.M

Participants, please bring a Bible and a bag lunch. The suggested fee is \$10.00. FMI and to register: Call (207) 284-5671. (Directions: E-mail www.mariejosephspiritual.org)

Cheverus Auction – May 9th, at the Holiday Inn by the Bay. One of the features of the upcoming Auction, "A New York Minute" is the huge CASH RAFFLE. Tickets cost \$100.00 each, but only 300 will be sold. The odds are great with such a small number of tickets in the pool. Much better than POWERBALL! First, second, and third prizes are \$7,000, \$2000 and \$1000 respectively. Tickets are available from Margaret Rogosienski, Cheverus Auction Coordinator, 774-6238 ext. 47 or rogosienski@cheverus.org. Need not be present at the May 9th event to win.

MASSSES:

Saturday Mass: 4:00 PM
Sunday Masses: 8:30 AM & 5:30 PM
Daily Mass: Mon. & Wed. at 7:30 AM
Communion Service: Thurs. at 7:30 AM
Confession: Sat. 3:15-3:45 & by appointment

OFFICE HOURS:

8:30-3:00 PM, Monday – Friday

PARISH OF THE HOLY MARTYRS OF NORTH AMERICA

266 Foreside Road, Falmouth, Maine 04105
www.holymartyrs.org

PARISH DIRECTORY:

Parish Office: 781-4573
Religious Education: 781-2847
Fax: 781-3961
Email: rectory@holymartyrs.org

ADMINISTRATION:

Administrator: Rev. J. Joseph Ford
Catechetical Leaders: Deacon Dennis Popadak
Judy Dominick

PARISH STAFF:

Christian Initiation: Judy Dominick
Youth Ministry: Scott Ross
Music Ministry: Diane Beaton
Parish Secretary: Debra J. Coppinger

BULLETIN DEADLINE:

Notices for the bulletin must be at the rectory office by 12:30 PM on Tuesdays.

NEW PARISHIONERS: Welcome! We invite you to join in our parish community. Please register by contacting the rectory office

DEPARTING PARISHIONERS: Please inform the rectory office when you move from the parish.

HOMEBOUND & HOSPITALIZED: Please contact the rectory office to arrange for a visit.

BAPTISMS: By appointment – please contact the rectory.

MARRIAGES: Couples should contact the rectory at least six months in advance.