



**FROM THE** Dear Friends,  
 This Thursday we observe the Feast of the Ascension. It is a holy day of the church; all Catholics should participate in Mass on this day. The first eleven verses of the Acts of the Apostles describe this event as taking place in Jerusalem. **Priest** Having been in the company of the apostles and others, Jesus promises the gift of his Spirit which will empower them to be his witnesses to the very ends of the earth. With that he disappears from their sight. Each week in the creed we state our belief in the ascension with these words: "he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father." In the passage from the Gospel of Matthew which is given us on the feast we find Jesus and the eleven gathered in Galilee where they receive the command to go to all nations with the assurance that he will be with us always. On page 97 of the United States Catholic Catechism for Adults we read: "Christ's ascension marks the definitive entrance of Jesus' humanity into God's heavenly domain....Jesus Christ the head of the church, precedes us into the Father's glorious kingdom so that we, the members of his Body, may live in the hope of one day being with him forever."

Father Joe Ford  
 email: [jjford67@maine.rr.com](mailto:jjford67@maine.rr.com)

#### Mass Intentions & Mass Schedule

<b>April 26</b>	4:00 PM	Tim McManus, by Mary T. & Jim Honan
<b>April 27</b>	8:30 AM	Loretta Dilworth Rogan, by Edward Jr. & Susan Dilworth
	5:30 PM	The Parishioners
<b>April 28</b>	7:30 AM	Donald MacVane, by his Family
<b>April 30 – Holy Day</b>	5:30 PM	Tim McManus, by Don & Missy Gove
<b>May 1 – Holy Day</b>	7:30 AM	The Parishioners

#### Next Weekend Masses

<b>May 3</b>	4:00 PM	Trudy Murray, by the Family
<b>May 4</b>	8:30 AM	The deceased family members of Carlita Brown, by Carlita Brown
	5:30 PM	The Parishioners

**Last Weekend's Offering:** Your contributions for April 19 & 20, 2008 amounted to **\$4,751.00**. **\$3,259.00** was in 121 envelopes and **\$1,492.00** was loose. Thank you for your gifts. Today's special collection is the **Catholic Home Missions Appeal**. It supports missions here in the United States.



**Ascension Thursday** – is a holy day on which we are obliged to participate at Mass.

<b>Holy Martyrs</b>	Wednesday, April 30 at 5:30 PM
	Thursday, May 1 at 7:30 AM
<b>St. Gregory's</b>	Wednesday, April 30 at 7:00 PM
	Thursday, May 1 at 9:00 AM

**Cheverus High School:** Fr. John Predmore will celebrate the 5:30 PM Mass on May 4<sup>th</sup> and offer us news of developments at the high school.

**Silver & Gold Mass** – Bishop Richard J. Malone and Catholic Charities Maine Family Life Institute are inviting couples celebrating their 25<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup>, 55<sup>th</sup>, 60<sup>th</sup>, 65<sup>th</sup> and 70<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversaries to celebrate a special Silver and Gold Mass on **Saturday, June 28**, at 4:30 PM at the Cathedral in Portland. Those couples planning to attend please RSVP by June 13<sup>th</sup> to 871-7464, ext. 2670 or 800-CARE-002, ext. 2670. A light reception will follow.

#### Religious Education

**Confirmation for Grade 2** – Saturday, May 10, 1:30 PM at the Cathedral. Rehearsal is on Tuesday, May 6, 6:00 PM at the Cathedral.  
**Confirmation for Grades 3-12** – Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at the 4:00 PM Mass.  
**Graduation Mass** – Sunday, June 1<sup>st</sup> at the 5:30 PM Mass.

**Altar Server Training:** There will be a training for all girls and boys in grade 3 and up who are interested in becoming altar servers on Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup> from 4:15 - 5:15 PM. Please call Meredith Charest 781-8599 or email: [mcharest1@maine.rr.com](mailto:mcharest1@maine.rr.com) if you plan to attend or for more information.

**Bishop's Appeal:** May brings our annual opportunity to demonstrate our solidarity with some the neediest people in Maine and with other parishes who together bring a variety of services. Last year 217 of our households gave \$145,858; in 2006 234 households contributed \$167,865. Some of us may not sense deeply the effects of the winter, the high costs of fuel and losses in savings. We hope those households will be able to make a substantial gift this year.



**Music Notes:** Many thanks to Lily Black, Danielle Bagley, Anna Foster, Abby Regan, and some of my piano home students for singing and playing piano at Falmouth by the Sea last Saturday. It was an uplifting experience for everyone involved.

**McAuley Residence 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:** Join supporters of McAuley Residence, a Sister of Mercy transitional housing program for women and children at 91 State St. Portland, to celebrate 20 years of service with a Tea and Open House, Thursday, May 1<sup>st</sup> from 3:30-6:30PM. RSVP 879-3486

**Habitat for Humanity Update:** The Portland Habitat for Humanity Walk to be held next Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup>. This year, Falmouth and Cumberland will join forces with Portland to help raise money for Habitat for Humanity. Registration forms and pledge sheets are available in the Narthex. The "contact" person for Holy Martyrs Church is Moira Lachance @ 781-2346. Everyone has a key role to play. Please plan to join in this annual event to help raise funds for local Habitat Homes.

**Thank You, Mom!** - Fresh carnations will be available after Mass on Mother's Day weekend 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. Jude Annual Yard Sale Space Available** - for a \$10.00 donation to the parish, individuals are provided space in the parking lot (in the hall if inclement weather) to sell their gently used items and keep the profit. There is also an area for outright donations to the parish that is staffed with volunteers. The sale is on Sat. May 17 from 9-11AM at the church property located at the corner of Main & School Streets, Freeport. FMI: Please email Gabrielle Tilton at: [gntilton@yahoo.com](mailto:gntilton@yahoo.com). **This is a good opportunity to meet new cluster friends.**

**Marie Joseph Spiritual Center** – St. Ignatian Spiritual Exercises will be offered May 1-4 at the Marie Joseph Center, Biddeford. A reflective silent retreat enriching one's personal relationship with Christ. Daily Mass, Confession, Exposition of the blessed sacrament, directed meditations, and spiritual direction. To reserve a spot please call, Katie Held at 846-7869.

**Cheverus Girls Basketball Camp Offers Free Clinic** - As part of its Girls Basketball Day Camp program, Cheverus High School will offer a free girls basketball clinic on May 17 and 24, 2008, from 9-10:30 a.m. for girls in grades 3-8. Cheverus Girls' Varsity Basketball Coach Rich Ashley will present the clinic. For more information or to sign up for the free clinic, please call (207) 774-6238 or [www.cheverus.org](http://www.cheverus.org). The Cheverus Girls' Basketball Day Camp also is accepting reservations for its summer week-long program, June 23-27, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for girls age 9-16.

## Holy Martyrs Weekly Calendar

Sunday April 27	Mass at 8:30 AM & 5:30 Readings Begin at # 933; Communion Hymn # 751 Rel. Ed. Classes Resume 55: Acts 8:5-8,14-17; Ps 66;1 Pt 3:15-18; Jn 14:15-21
Monday April 28	Mass at 7:30 AM Rel. Ed. Classes Resume 291; Acts 16:11-15; Ps 149; Jn 15:26-16:4a
Tuesday April 29	Mass at St. Gregory's @ 8:00 AM Contemplative Prayer 9:30-11:00 AM 292: Acts 16:22-34; Ps 138; Jn 16:5-11; see 557: 1 Jn 1:5-2:2; Mt 11:25-30
Wednesday April 30	Holy Day Mass at 5:30 PM St. Gregory's at 7:00 PM 293: Acts 17:15,22-18:1; Ps 148; Jn 16:12-15
Ascension Thursday May 1	Holy Day Mass at 7:30 AM St. Gregory's at 9:00 AM ♫ Adult Choir 6:30 PM 58: Acts 1:1-11; Ps 47; Eph 1:17-23; Mt 28:16-20
Friday May 2	Mass at St. Gregory's at 8:00 AM 295: Acts 18:9-18; Ps 47; Jn 16:20-23
Saturday May 3	Mass at 4:00 PM 561: 1 Cor 15:1-8; Ps 19; Jn 14:6-14
Sunday May 4	Mass at 8:30 AM & 5:30 PM 59: Acts 1:12-14; Ps 27; 1 Pt 4:13-16; Jn 17:1-11a Connected Catholics 5:00 PM

**Child Abuse Prevention Month** – is being marked in parishes across the United States in April. Each week the bulletin will include information on how to prevent abuse, and action the Church has taken to reach out to victims, protect children and remove offenders.

**Did You Know...**

- The Church has created a safe environment program that includes sexual abuse prevention training for adults and children?
- Background checks are conducted on all Church volunteers who work with children and all Church employees?
- Children very rarely lie about being sexually abused? Take all claims seriously.
- You should be welcome to monitor all programs involving your children for their safety.
- Your child should be taught that “stop” means stop. You can help by complying when a child does not want to be tickled or hugged anymore. This will empower them to use the word and expect and demand that any *bad* touch by others will end it if should happen.

**Help Wanted** – Pax Christi Maine, affiliate of Pax Christi USA, the Catholic Peace Movement (also an ecumenical organization) is seeking a volunteer website administrator to setup and manage its website (paxchristimaine.org) and listserv. Candidates need not be Catholic but must possess previous website administration experience. Email inquires and links to your sample sites to: search@paxchristimaine.org.

## MASSES:

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: Cecile DeRoche-Cain  
 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.