

FROM THE Dear Friends,



The word advent means coming; it is the season of preparation for the coming of Christ in the feast of Christmas. Traditionally, three comings of Christ have been part of Christian thinking. The first coming was in the birth at Bethlehem. Secondly, Christ comes to us everyday in word, sacrament and prayer. Thirdly, as we pray in the memorial acclamation, Christ will come again as the judge of the living and the dead.

Christmas loses its meaning if all we do is commemorate the coming in history. However, we need to tell the story of Jesus generation after generation. We cannot tell the story without the events and the teaching of the New Testament. Few would state that the New Testament is a history in the modern sense, but it is made up of the recollections of Jesus by various people. Thus, from the very early days of Christian life Bethlehem was revered as the place of his birth. The Gospels of Matthew and Luke offer perspectives on the birth and the revelation of the Savior.

As our ancestors in faith experienced the need of the Savior. If we are honest with ourselves, we know the need as well. For there are things in each of our lives that we cannot fix. We are dependent on God who has broken into the world in the person of Jesus Christ to bring us light and life. Our Lord's coming in history is called the incarnation. Advent is an opportunity for us to allow Christ to come alive in us.

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

MASS INTENTIONS

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| December 1 | 4:00 PM | Sr. Mary Michael, by Duran Family |
| December 2 | 8:30 AM | Norine Eaton, by The Meahl Family |
| | 5:30 PM | The Parishioners |
| December 3 | 7:30 AM | James Quinn, by The Meahl Family |
| December 5 | 7:30 AM | Intention of Faith & Works, by The Stewardship Committee |
| December 6 | 7:30 AM | Communion Service |
| December 7 | 5:30 PM | The Parishioners |

Next Weekend Masses

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| December 8 | 4:00 PM | The Parishioners |
| December 9 | 8:30 AM | Marlene Cyr, Anne & Philip, by Carlita Brown |
| | 5:30 PM | Edgar A. Turner, by The Book Club |

Last Weekend's Offering: Your contributions for November 24 & 25, amounted to **\$4,964.27**. **\$3,516.00** was in 149 envelopes and **\$1,403.97** was loose. Thank you for your gifts.

The second collection next weekend benefits elderly women and men religious. More than 19,000 religious have less than 20 percent of the amount needed for projected costs of living and health care. To learn more, visit www.retiredreligious.org.

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|---------------------------|----------------------|---------|---------------|
| Holy Day Schedule: | Friday, December 7 | 5:30 PM | Holy Martyrs |
| | Saturday, December 8 | 9:00 AM | St. Gregory's |

Advent Penitential Service – Sunday, December 16, 3:00 PM at Holy Martyrs Church.

Holy Martyrs Christmas Mass Schedule

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| Christmas Eve | Monday, December 24 | 4:00 PM Children's Mass |
| | | 7:00 PM |
| Christmas Day | Tuesday, December 25 | 8:30 AM |

St. Gregory's Christmas Mass Schedule

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| Christmas Eve | Monday, December 24 | 4:30 PM |
| Christmas Day | Tuesday, December 25 | 10:30 AM |

RCIA Update: This weekend at the 4:00pm Mass we celebrate the Rite of Acceptance. This rite welcomes the unbaptized that seek membership in the Roman Catholic community. Our catechumens are Belinda Wotherspoon and Jenn Driscoll. Although they reside in Massachusetts, they have family and friends in Maine and have chosen Holy Martyrs as their home parish. Belinda is a single mother of a four-year-old boy, Aiden and works as a marketing and communications manager. Jenn works as a computer **software** consultant in the healthcare field and will be married in the spring of 2008. Their parish sponsors are Meredith Charest and Ann Johnson. We ask the parish community to pray for these women as they enter the next phase of their preparation. If you have any questions about this process, please call Judy Dominick at 781-2946.

Altar Server Training: There will be a training for anyone 3rd grade and older interested in becoming an altar server on Thursday, December 6th at 6:00 p.m. To attend, or for more information, please call Meredith Charest at 781-8599 or email mcharest1@maine.rr.com.

Veritas, Portland's Young Adult Ministry - Monday, December 10, 6pm-9pm ~ "The Love of God, Accepting it and Living it". Join us in the multipurpose room at Cathedral School, 307 Congress St, Portland, Maine. You are invited "to experience love and in this way to cause the light of God to enter into the world" (God is Love). Speaker Sr. Lorraine Aucoin, Sister of the Presentation of Mary, comes to you from Manchester, NH. This IS a young adult event intended for young adults in their 20's and 30's. For more information email veritasportland@yahoo.com or call Craig at 831-0852.

Altar Servers; Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion; Lectors; and Ushers: Sign-up sheets are available in the Narthex for the various ministries needed at the Christmas Vigil, Christmas Day, New Year's Masses. Please indicate which Mass you will be able to serve at. **Note:** Lector Workbooks are available in the sacristy.

Christmas Choir: Please contact Cecile if you are interested in singing at the 7 pm choir Mass on Christmas Eve.

Children's Christmas Mass on Christmas Eve: It's not too early for children instrumentalists to think about playing before the Christmas Eve 4 pm Mass. Cecile will put a sign up sheet out soon for that purpose. Please talk with her on the weekend if you need guidance.

Christmas Pageant: The pageant committee met on Sunday the 25th and decided on the following **rehearsal times: Sat. Dec. 15 after the 4:00 pm Mass and Sun. Dec. 23 after the 8:30 am Mass.** Both Rehearsals are mandatory. Deadline for sign-up is Dec. 9.

Holy Martyrs Rectory Home is For Sale. It's a 3 bdrm, 2.5 bath Colonial w/ 1 car garage. List price \$399,000. If you know of any parishioner, family member or friend who is searching for a fine Falmouth Foreside home, please have them call Willie Audet @ Greater Portland Realty 797-7777 x21. There is also an Open House scheduled for Sunday December 2nd from Noon -2:30 PM.

Newsletter - Deadline for the Advent Newsletter is this Monday December 3. Please submit your articles to rectory@holymartyrs.org ASAP. Thank you.

Friendship House is a residence in South Portland for formerly homeless men recovering from substance abuse. The first Wednesday of each month, members of our parish contribute hot or cold dishes (frozen is OK) and grocery items such as fresh produce, paper products or toiletries, which I take to the men at FH. If you would like to contribute something this Wednesday, please call Deborah Nicklas @ 781-4362.

Connected Catholics of Maine, an organization for single Catholic men and women is having their Christmas meeting on Sunday December 9, 2007 at Holy Martyrs Parish Hall. 5:PM - Social hour and Pot Luck supper; 5:45 PM - brief business meeting; 6:00 - Christmas Party - please bring a \$5.00 gift for a Yankee Swap. Everyone is welcome.

Cheverus Haiti Solidarity Club Christmas Tree and Wreath Sale Cheverus High School, 267 Ocean Avenue, Portland. December 8 and 9 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE HOLY MARTYRS CHRISTMAS FAIR Sat. Dec. 8th from 9 – 1

GOOD FOOD* *GOOD SHOPPING* *GOOD FELLOWSHIP AND FUN

- Delicious Fish Chowder and Lobster Roll Luncheon - hot dogs and pizza too!
- Delectable items at the Bake Table and our first ever Cookie Walk
- Silent Auction - a beautiful selection of gift baskets and items, including reserved seating and parking at Christmas Masses!
- Unique Handmade Crafts including accessories, holiday decorations, jewelry and Beautifully decorated Wreaths and Greens
- Treasures for giving and adorning your home at the Gift Table
- Kids Shopping Area, where children can buy for family and friends & Crafts for Kids to Make and Give
- A selection of Books, DVDs and Music, sponsored by the Middle School Religious Education Programs

Come Have a Great Time with our Parish Family!!

Holy Martyrs Weekly Calender

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| Sunday December 2 | Mass at 8:30 AM & 5:30 PM <i>1: Is 2:1-5; Ps 122:1-9; Rom 13:11-14; Mt 24:37-44</i> | Readings Begin at #878; Communion Hymn: #809 Rel. Ed. Classes |
| Monday December 3 | Mass at 7:30 AM Newsletter Deadline | Rel. Ed. Classes <i>175: Is 4:2-6; Mt 8:5-11</i> |
| Tuesday December 4 | Mass at St. Gregory's at 8:00 AM | Contemplative Prayer 9:30-11:00 AM <i>176: Is 11:1-10; Lk 10:21-24</i> |
| Wednesday December 5 | Mass at 7:30 AM | <i>177: Is 25:6-10a; Mt 15:29-37</i> |
| Thursday December 6 | Communion Service at 7:30 AM <i>178: Is 26:1-6; Mt 7:21,24-27</i> | Adult Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Altar Server Training 6:00 PM |
| Friday December 7 | Holy Day Vigil Mass at 5:30 PM Mass at St. Gregory's at 8:00 AM | <i>179: Is 29:17-24; Mt 9:27-31</i> |
| Saturday December 8 | Holy Day Mass at St. Gregory's at 9:00 AM Mass at 4:00 PM | CHRISTMAS FAIR 9:00-1:00 PM <i>689: Gn 3:9-15,20; Ps 98; Eph 1:3-6,11-12; Lk 1:26-38</i> RCIA 4:30-5:30 PM |
| Sunday December 9 | Mass at 8:30 AM & 5:30 PM Church Café/Donut Sunday | <i>4:Is 11:1-10; Ps 72; Rom 15:4-9; Mt 3:1012</i> Rel. Ed. Classes Connected Catholics 5 PM |

Thanksgiving Baskets Campaign - Holy Martyrs parishioners once again have shown their extreme generosity to the local needy. This year we collected over \$800 dollars along with \$150 with of Shaw's turkey points! Thanks to you, we were able to feed 14 families in the Falmouth/Cumberland area. A special thanks goes to George Spino, Vanessa Audet and Jen Bonnell for assisting in the shopping trip to Shaw's, along with the Ewald, Jalbert, Buccina, Seymour and Murray families with the deliver duties. A blessed and heartfelt Thank you. *Willie & Pam Audet* "Remember, God won't ask what you did to help yourself, God will ask you what you did to help others"

Caring Tree - The teen youth ministry has completed the caring tree for this year and we invite you to pick an "ornament" off the tree. The ornaments are tags that specify a gift for a local family member in need. Simply take one of the tags, purchase the gift (or gifts) and then return them wrapped or in a gift bag. Please place the tag on the gift so we can properly sort them in a couple weeks and make sure the gifts get to the right people. We will be sorting all the gifts on the evening of December 16th, so please have your gifts in by then. We are also in need of slightly used clothing that would be appropriate for a job interview or court appearance. If you would care to donate used clothing, bring those items in separate bags and place under the tree. For more information, contact Scott Ross at 829-6292 or Deb Meahl at 781-8251.

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 & Chris Rogers
 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.

