



Dear Friends,

Firstly, I wish to express our gratitude to the many people who gave of time, talent and treasure for the Christmas activities of our churches. We thank those who organized and delivered the gifts from the giving trees and those who arranged and delivered food baskets. Our appreciation goes to those who decorated the churches and provided music and assistance with the liturgies. Your generosity in the Christmas collection is a great help to keeping our budgets positive. I am personally grateful for your Christmas greetings.

Traditionally, the Sunday between Christmas and New Years Day is the Feast of the Holy Family. It is an opportunity for us to reverence the relationship of Jesus, Mary and Joseph and to reflect on our own families. The Holy Family has been offered as a model for us, but even as a child when told to behave as Jesus would, I recalled that he had no siblings! However, we do know that the Holy Family experienced tremendous challenges yet remained faithful. Mary's pregnancy, Joseph's acceptance of her, the journey to Bethlehem, the flight from Herod, and the rejection of her son were crises that resemble some of the trials our families face. Often it is the bond of the family that sustains us in these crises. This Feast of the Holy Family is a call for us to cherish those bonds, to find means to strengthen them and to repair any ruptures that may exist. For some those ruptures may be severe and seemingly unrepairable. We pray for the grace and the wisdom to achieve forgiveness, reconciliation and peace.

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

MASS INTENTIONS and MASS SCHEDULE

December 27	4:00 PM	Isabelle Maguire, by Mary Ann McLean
December 28	8:30 AM	14th Anniversary for Jack Fecteau, Sr., by his wife & family
	5:30 PM	The Parishioners
December 29	7:30 AM	Gabriel de la Vega, by M. Pausa
December 31	4:00 PM	Patrick Conley, by John & Judith Goodrich
January 1	8:30 AM	The Parishioners

Next Weekend Masses

January 3	4:00 PM	John Salvo, by his family
January 4	8:30 AM	Julianna Waitrovich, by her daughter Rosemary Fecteau, Ph.D.
	5:30 PM	The Parishioners

Last Weekend's Offering: Your contributions for December 20 & 21, 2008 totaled **\$4,949.00**. **\$3,590.00** was in 125 envelopes and **\$1,359.00** was loose.

Vocations - "By faith Abraham obeyed." If you should be called to serve the Lord as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life, pray for a deep faith and obey Him in love. Call Fr. Bob Vaillancourt @ 207-773-6471/robert.vaillancourt@portlanddiocese.org or Sr. Rita Mae Bissonnette @207-773-6471/ritamaebissonnette@portlanddiocese.org

Funeral Ministry – We are still looking for people interested in helping with this important ministry. For more information, please call the church office at 781-4573.

Holy Day Mass Schedule for St. Gregory's

December 31, 2008 6:00 PM
January 1, 2009 10:30 AM

Religious Education: Classes will resume on January 11 & 12, 2009.



Christmas Flowers

Requested By:

The Agren Family

James & Maureen Gorman
James & Julie Skillings
Mrs. James McBrady, Jr.

The Gruber's
Keith & Frances Casey
Dominique & Scott Lambert
Mary & Tony Salvo
Kathy Lennon
Lee McCabe Whittier

The Vella Family
Maria Hanley
Irene & Terry Danowski
Clair Recker
Linda Nutter
Dorothy Fredriksen
Mr. & Mrs. James. E. Honan
Betty Mildrum

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Monte

Denise Milliken
The Pearce Family
Meredith Rousseau
Irene Jumper
Ed & Sue Dilworth
David & Eileen Laconi
The Esty Family
Steve & Carol Hayes
Peter & Darcy Sherr
Gerard & Elaine Cassidy
Mr. & Mrs. J. Clarence Madore
Anonymous

In Memory/Honor of:

Lev Agren, Rosemarie & John Taliento, Dominic & Mary Taliento, Yvonne Hagerty, Julie & Joseph Baggetta, Karin & Bert Agren, Evangeline & Arthur Harnois, Pierre Harnois, Michael Taliento

James McBrady, Sr., Rev. Edward J. Kilmartin, S.J., Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Kilmartin, Mr. & Mrs. William B. Mahoney
Jerome Danowski, Thomas Gruber Sr., Crissy Chambers
Bette Ann Casey, John & Helen Sakmar, Charles & Albra Feroletto

John Salvo
Joseph Craney
Frank & Mary Lee McCabe, Walter & Nancy Whittier, Polly Barvoets
Warren Low Whittier
Pamela Conroy
Henri A. Benoit Family, Daniel F. Hanley Family
Jerome Danowski
Catherine & Richard White, Ed & Viola Recker
Gwen Axell, Donald Nutter and all loved ones
Fredriksen-LaRose Family
Honan/Morris Families
Herk Mildrum, Mildrum & Klewicki Families, Helen Pac, William Diskin

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Monahan, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Monte, Grace & Gladys Nelson, Mr. & Mrs. Louis Ritter, Mr. & Mrs. Frank Spano, Mr. Leonard Monte, Our Men & Women in the Armed Forces
Millie & Gene Demers
Joseph & Urania Little
Kathryn Emery, Elton Baker, Jim Montalbano
Don Jumper, Mark's Family, Kevin J. Jumper, Oscar Marks
Dilworth & Noyes Families
Marian Laconi, Larry Laconi, Hubert Masterson
Family & Friends of the Esty's
Michael Hayes
Jill Inness, Georgette LaVoie
Veronica Cassidy, Kevin Cassidy
Mr. & Mrs. J. Oram Caron

Holy Martyrs Weekly Calender

Sunday December 28	Mass at 8:30 AM & 5:30 PM	Readings Begin at #894 NO Rel. Ed. Classes
Monday December 29	Mass at 7:30 AM	NO Rel. Ed. Classes 202: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96; Lk 2:22-35
Tuesday December 30		No Contemplative Prayer Group 203: 1 Jn 2:12-17; Ps 96; Lk 2:36-40
Wednesday December 31	Mass at 4:00 PM	204: 1 Jn 2:18-21; Ps 96; Jn 1:1-18
Holy Day Thursday January 1	Mass at 8:30 AM	Office Closed 18: Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21
Friday January 2		205: 1 Jn 2:22-28; Ps 98; Jn 1:19-28 see 510: Eph 4:1-7; Mt 23:8-12
Saturday January 3	Mass at 4:00 PM	206: 1 Jn 2:29-3:6; Ps 98; Jn 1:29-34
Sunday January 4	Mass at 8:30 AM & 5:30 PM	20: Is 60L1-6; Ps 72; Eph 3:2-3a,5-6; Mt 2:1-12 Connected Catholics 2:00 PM NO Rel. Ed. Classes

Music Ministry: Many, many thanks to all those who participated in the music ministry this Holiday Season. Thanks to the Family choir members, the Adult choir members, cantors and all those who played instruments at our celebrations. Holy Martyrs has been blessed with many talented people who gave a lot of their time to help celebrate Jesus' birthday. Merry Christmas!"

Catherine McCauley High School – Catherine McAuley High School will be holding its final High School Placement Test for the class of 2013 on January 10, 2009. Students who take this exam will be eligible for the Academic Excellence Scholarship. This scholarship is for the 8th grade student who has shown academic excellence by being the top ranking student and has ranked in the 97 percentile or higher nationally on the HSPT. Registration for the exam begins at 8:20 AM and the exam will end at 11:30 Am. For further details, call the admissions office today at 797-3802. Walk-ins are welcome.

Cheverus High School Winter Open House – Saturday, January 10, 2009 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM. (snow date, Sunday, January 11th, 2009) Events for prospective parents and students. There will be a student panel to answer questions about extracurriculars. FMI: Contact Mr. Jack Dawson, Director of Admissions, 2107-774-6238, ext. 36. e-mail: Dawson@cheverus.org.

Hands Around the Capital – Saturday, January 17, 2009. 36th Anniversary of Roe v. Wade The Maine Right to Life Committee will hold its annual Hands Around the Capital Rally and March on Saturday, January 17, 2009. Bishop Malone will celebrate Mass at 10:00 AM at St. Mary's Church on Western Avenue in Augusta. The Rally begins at 11:00 AM at St. Mary's gym in Augusta. We begin our March to the Capitol at 12:15 PM. FMI: Please contact Maine Right to Life Committee, P.O. Box 257, Auburn, ME 04212, 207-782-0101 or email: mrlc@MaineRightToLife.Com, website: www.MaineRightToLife.com.

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.