



Dear Friends,

In this season of Christmas I offer my gratitude to all who have helped us and will help us to celebrate these holy days. Our music, decorations and our gathering have enabled us to appreciate that we are one in the body of Christ. Many thanks also to those who offered cards and gifts; they are much appreciated. May the new year bring abundant blessings.

The new year will bring opportunities and challenges for our parishes. With the other parishes of the diocese we will offer the Disciples in Mission process during Lent. Essentially, the process involves groups or families gathering to listen to and learn about the scriptures and to apply this word to our daily lives. I hope that many will make this endeavor part of their Lenten resolutions. Disciples in Mission is intended to help us grow in faith and to recognize our responsibility for spreading the faith. It is a critical part of the new evangelization effort of our diocese and directs us to the underlying purpose of the cluster process – the means to have a vital church despite the decrease in the number of priests. Hopefully, many will embrace this opportunity to deepen our communion with the Lord and one another.

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

MASS INTENTIONS

December 29	4:00 PM	Frank Barnicle, by His Wife Ann
December 30	8:30 AM	Frank Clark, by Dot Clark & Family
	5:30 PM	The Parishioners
December 31	4:00 PM	The Parishioners
January 1, 2008	8:30 AM	Sr. Mary Michael, by The Duran Family
January 2	7:30 AM	Intention of Faith & Works, by The Stewardship Committee
January 3	7:30 AM	Communion Service

Next Weekend Masses

January 5	4:00 PM	John Salvo, by His Family
January 6	8:30 AM	Kenneth Savasuk, by Ellen Honan
	5:30 PM	The Parishioners

Last Weekend's Offering: Your contributions for December 22 & 23, 2007 totaled **\$5,824.00**. **\$3,627.00** was in 138 envelopes and **\$2,197.00** was loose. The Christmas Collection totaled **\$10,747.00**. Thank you for your gifts.

White Mass – Sunday, February 3rd at 10:00 AM at the Basilica of Ss. Peter and Paul in Lewiston. Caregivers and members of the healing professions are cordially invited to the annual White Mass, celebrated by Bishop Richard Malone. Invitations are available in the parish office during regular business hours or call 781-4573.

Holy Day Mass Schedule for Holy Martyrs

December 31, 2007 4:00 PM
January 1, 2008 8:30 AM

Holy Day Mass Schedule for St. Gregory's

December 31, 2007 6:00 PM
January 1, 2008 10:30 AM

Winter Schedule - With the advent of snow and ice the schedule of weekday Masses at St. Gregory's may change due to weather conditions. If school is canceled in Gray and New Gloucester on a Tuesday or Friday, there will not be an 8:00 AM Mass at St. Gregory's, but Mass will be celebrated at 7:30 AM at Holy Martyrs. If school is canceled in Falmouth, Gray, or New Gloucester on a Thursday there will be NO Communion Service at Holy Martyrs.

Religious Education

Rel. Ed. Reminder: Classes will resume on January 6 & 7, 2008.

Junior High Gathering at Saint Maximilian Kolbe Parish in Scarborough, on Sunday, January 27th 2008 from 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM (Mass included). The cost is still \$15.00 per person which includes pizza for lunch. This is an opportunity for the youth to meet, network, share their faith, participate in high school youth ministries, experience Liturgy with their peers and have fun. FMI: call Kris Benson at 207-439-0442 or email: saintraphaelsfaith@comcast.net.

Catechists and those working with children on a regular basis: There will be two opportunities for you to participate in the "Protecting God's Children" session, either on **Thursday, January 17 from 6-9PM at Holy Martyrs in Falmouth**, or on Wednesday, January 30th at Sacred Heart in Yarmouth. The session is for those who have not yet attended the mandatory workshop, in an effort to continue to create and maintain safe environments for our children. Please call Judy Dominick at 781-2847 to indicate which session you will be attending.

Catherine McAuley High School, a college preparatory school for young women, is currently looking for families to host an exchange student from Korea starting at the end of January until the end of this school year. Families will be paid a monthly stipend and be able to take part in a wonderful ministry. For more information please contact Kathy Hansen at KHANSENWW@aol.com or Danielle Salvaggio at dosalvaggio@mcauleyhs.org. **Catherine McAuley High School will be holding its final Placement Exam for the class of 2012 on January 5, 2008.** 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 exam. This student will be awarded full tuition. Registration for the exam begins at 8:15am and the exam will end at 11:30am. For further details, call the admissions office today (797-3802 ext 2042). Walk-ins are welcome.

Bishop's Weekly Messages – Bishop Malone is now offering a reflection on the Scriptures for each week's Liturgy on the Diocesan Web Site: www.portlanddiocese.net. Each two-to-three minute video is scheduled to appear on the Web site on Thursday before the relevant Sunday. It will remain available through the following Wednesday.

Vocations – We wish you a Blessed New Year! Through Baptism, we are God's holy family today. Pray for the grace to live faithfully your vocation as a single, married, ordained or consecrated person. If God is calling you, call Msgr. Marc Caron or Fr. Andrew Dubois at (207) 689-2033 or e-mail us at vocations@portlanddiocese.net.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter in Maine – In today's second reading it tells us "Over all these virtues put on love". Nothing says "I love you" as much as the gift of your time. Plan now to spend time with your spouse, away from the distractions and tensions of everyday life, to concentrate on each other. Attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend will fan the fires of passion better than a vacation and better than a romantic dinner. Sign up now! For a list of 2008 dates got to www.womenewengland.org or to find out how you can obtain a gift certificate, contact Dave & Ellie Mulcahy at 933-4237 or DavEllie@fairpoint.net.

Christmas Flowers



Requested By:

Dolores Rimkunas
The Franco Family
The Lucas Family

In Memory/Honor of:

Jack Rimkunas, Maire & Robert Hahn, Mary & John Rimkunas
Luke Franco

Holy Martyrs Weekly Calender

Sunday December 30	Mass at 8:30 AM & 5:30 PM Readings Begin at #894; Communion Hymn # 354 17: Sir 3:2-7,12-14; Ps 128:1-5; Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17; Mt 2:13-15,19-23 NO Rel. Ed. Classes
Monday December 31	Holy Day Vigil Mass at 4:00 PM NO Rel. Ed. Classes 204: 1 Jn 2:18-21; Jn 1:1-18
Solemnity of Mary Tuesday January 1, 2008	Holy Day Mass at 8:30 AM Office Closed 18: Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3,5-6,8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21 No Contemplative Prayer Group 
Wednesday January 2	Mass at 7:30 AM Friendship House 205: 1 Jn 2:22-28; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 1:19-28 see 510: Eph 4:1-7; Mt 23:8-12
Thursday January 3	Communion Service at 7:30 AM 206: 1 Jn 2:29-3:6; Ps 98; Jn 1:29-23
Friday January 4	Mass at St. Gregory's at 8:00 AM 207: 1 Jn 3:7-10; Ps 98; Jn 1:35-42; see 737-742, esp. Sir 26:1-4,13-16 or 1 Cor13:4-13; Ps 128; Lk 10:38-42
Saturday January 5	Mass at 4:00 PM RCIA 208: 1 Jn 3:11-21; Ps 100; Jn 1:43-51
Sunday January 6	Mass at 8:30 AM & 5:30 PM Rel. Ed. Classes Resume Connected Catholics 5:00 PM 20: Is 60:1-6; Ps 72; Eph 3:2-3a,5-6; Mt 2:1-12 

Hands Around the Capitol 2008 – January 12, 2008. 10:00AM MASS celebrated by Bishop Richard Malone, Th.D., at St. Mary's Church, 41 Western Avenue, Augusta, ME or 10:00AM PRAYER SERVICE led by Pastor Lester Dow at Elim Christian Fellowship, 70 State St., Augusta, ME. 11:00AM GATHER in St. Mary's Gym, 11:15AM RALLY with Prominent Pro-Life Leaders and Speakers. 12:15PM - MARCH begins - we leave for the Capitol; 12:30PM ASSEMBLE around the Capitol – HAND-TO-HAND. The Capitol Bell will ring 35 times representing the number of years since Roe v. Wade was enacted. STAND UP FOR LIFE! START THE NEW YEAR OFF RIGHT! Note: Snow Date is January 19, 2008.

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.

