



Dear Friends,

Last week I wrote of the approval of the United States Bishops of the last phase of the revision and new translation of the Roman Missal. The web site for information on this is usccb.org/romanmissal/.

Last week I noted that the response for the greeting for the Lord to be with the congregation has a more literal translation. There are changes in the other major prayers of the assembly including, the Glory to God, the Creed, Holy, holy holy, and the memorial acclamations. Since we know these prayers from memory, we will have to use worship aids until the new translation has become part of our memory. In the long debate over the translations some were concerned not only about the sense of the prayers, but also for the possible confusion and inconvenience of changing decades long use. Without entering that debate I see a positive side. We know these prayers so well that it is all too easy for us to simply mouth words. The new translations will require our thoughtful reading of the prayers. Perhaps this will help us to enter more deeply into the meaning of the words and pray them more fully. *Father Joe Ford; email: jjford67@maine.rr.com*

Mass Intentions & Mass Schedule

<u>December 5</u>	4:00 PM	Jacqueline Bousquet, by Joseph Bousquet
<u>December 6</u>	8:30 AM	Joan Burns, by her husband
	5:30 PM	The Parishioners
<u>December 7 Holy Day Mass</u>	5:30 PM	Lev Agren
<u>December 8 Holy Day Mass</u>	7:30 AM	Doreen R. Reny, by Jim & Mary T. Honan
<u>December 9</u>	7:30 AM	Isabel Richter, by Mary & Jack Zinn
<u>December 10</u>	7:30 AM	Communion Service

Next Weekend Masses

<u>December 12</u>	4:00 PM	David Twomey, III, by Dick & Sue Flaherty
<u>December 13</u>	8:30 AM	Maxine & James Pouravelis, by Rita Yavinsky
	5:30 PM	The Parishioners

Holy Day Masses at St. Gregory's – Monday, December 7th at 7:00 PM and Tuesday December 8th at 9:00 AM.

Cluster Advent Penance Service with Confession/Reconciliation - Sunday, December 13th at 4:00 PM.

Christmas Masses at Holy Martyrs

December 24 4:00 PM & 6:00 PM
December 25 10:30 AM

Christmas Masses at St. Gregory's

December 24 4:00 PM and 10:00 PM
December 25 8:30 AM

Last Weekend's Offering: Thank you for your contributions of \$5,336.00 last weekend. To meet our budget for the fiscal year, the weekly collection should average \$6,000.00 per week. Next weekend's second collection is for the Retirement Fund for Religious. Please give generously.

Flu Protocols: The Sign of Peace should be offered without any physical contact (use a verbal greeting along with meaningful eye contact, a smile, or the bow of the head). The faithful should not hold hands during the Our Father.

Holy Communion - All ministers of Holy Communion must sanitize their hands prior to and after the distribution of Holy Communion. Communion in the hand is encouraged (not mandated); the faithful retain the option of receiving Holy Communion either on the tongue or in the hand. All ministers of Holy Communion are advised to distribute the consecrated hosts with care, being cautious not to touch the tongue or the hand of the communicant. The distribution of the Precious Blood for the faithful is suspended, with the exception of those who must receive from the cup due to medical reasons (i.e., Celiac disease). The faith of the Church teaches that Christ, whole and entire, is received even under only one species.

Lectors: Workbooks for proclaiming the Word are available for 2010 Cycle C. They are located on a shelf in the sacristy. Please take the copy that has a label with your name on it.

Music Ministry News: Please help us celebrate Jesus' birthday by joining one of our Christmas Choirs! The Family Choir will sing at the 4:00 PM Mass on Christmas Eve. Children, parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles are welcome to join the Family Choir. The Adult Choir will sing at the 6:00 PM Mass Christmas Eve. Rehearsals for both choirs will begin Tues. December 1. The Family Choir will meet in the church from 6:30 to 7:30 PM and the Adult Choir from 7:30 to 8:30 PM. Please contact Diane Beaton at 781-9869 or sbeaton@maine.rr.com for more information. *Diane Beaton will be moving from Maine after the holidays. Consequently, we are seeking an organist/director of music ministry. If you are interested or can recommend someone, please advise the office at 781-4573 or by e-mail.

The Bethlehem Village Experience - Dec. 11th at St. Gregory's Parish, Gray from 6:30pm - 8pm

Parishioners of all ages are invited to become part of the Christmas story -- you will actually feel, taste, hear, and smell what life was like during this miraculous time. An excited group of shepherds will lead groups of guests to the stable, where guests can interact with a very special -- but weary -- couple and their newborn. This isn't your typical "living Nativity" because guests will talk with Joseph and Mary, ask them what it was like to stay in a stable, and discover that God used regular people to fulfill his promise. What a remarkable reminder of God's amazing love for us! FMI - email judy.dominick@portlanddiocese.org.

Notice to all volunteers who work with children at Holy Martyrs Parish: As mandated by Diocesan Policy, everyone who works with children and youth on a regular basis, is required to attend a training session of "Protecting God's Children". The next session will be: **Saturday, December 12th from 9a.m. -12 noon at Holy Martyrs.** Please notify Judy Dominick at 781-2847 if you plan to attend.

Early alert for "Think Smart/Stay Safe" during Liturgy of the Word and Religious Education sessions on December 13/14 & 20/21: We will be conducting our annual Diocesan approved "Think Smart/Stay Safe" program for this year, during the regular scheduled sessions on Sunday and Monday, December 13/14 & 20/21 for the children registered for Religious Education at Holy Martyrs. If you would like to attend with your child, please feel free to do so. Also, if you would prefer that your children not participate, you should sign an opt-out form that can be obtained from the office. Thank you for all your efforts to create and maintain safe environments for our children, and break the cycle of abuse.



Thanksgiving Basket Thank You – Thank you to George Spino and all who donated and all who helped deliver and sort the items. We were successful in placing deliveries at all 9 locations originally planned (each location getting 2-4 boxes). 39 adults, 13 children, and even some babies have been fed by this effort. I have received feedback from several delivery drivers that the recipients extend their thanks and blessing to our parish. The Shaw's gift cards for those that had reported babies were also extremely well received.

Christmas Dinner Baskets – Please bring in items like, canned yams, corn, green beans, carrots, peas, nuts and candies, etc. Please leave items in the Stewardship corner of the narthex. FMI: contact George Spino at gpcspino@gmail.com or 749-9549 if you can help.

Cumberland/Falmouth Food Pantries – We were well represented with excellent donations to both food pantries for Thanksgiving. Your continuing support toward Holy Martyrs commitment for weekly support to these two fine pantries is most certainly appreciated by all – most especially our neighbors so in need. Both pantries have been experiencing large percentage increases over last year. Thank you for caring. *Jack Mullin*

Caring Tree - In the Narthex, you will find the teen youth ministry's caring tree. It is beautifully decorated with white lights, and ornaments which we invite you to take. The ornaments are tags that represent presents for those who depend on the generosity of others at Christmas time. Please take a tag, purchase the present(s) and then return them unwrapped, and in gift bags **by December 13th**. Please attach the tag to the gift bag so that they can be properly sorted and delivered. For more information, please contact Deb Meahl - 781-8251 or Carol Keroack – 878-8468.

Holy Martyrs Weekly Calendar

<p>Sunday December 6 <small>Second Sunday in Advent</small></p> 	<p>Mass at 8:30 AM & 5:30 PM NO Religious Education Classes</p> <p>Christmas Fair 9:30-1:30 Readings Begin at #882 6: Bar 5:1-9; Ps 126:1-6; Phil 1:4-6,8-11; Lk 3:1-6 Connected Catholics 5:00 PM</p>
<p>Monday December 7</p>	<p>Holy Day Mass at 5:30 PM NO Religious Education Classes</p> <p>Holy Day Mass at St. Gregory's at 7:00 PM 181: Is 35:1-10; Lk 5:17-26</p>
<p>Holy Day Tuesday December 8</p>	<p>Holy Day Mass at 7:30 AM 6:30-8:30 PM Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>Holy Day Mass at St. Gregory's at 9:00 AM Contemplative Prayer Group 9:30-11:00 AM 689: Gn 3:9-15,20; Ps 98; Eph 1:3-6,11-12; Lk 1:26-38</p>
<p>Wednesday November 9</p>	<p>Mass at 7:30 AM</p> <p>Opus Dei Women 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 183: Is 40:25-31; Mt 11:28-30</p>
<p>December 10 Thursday</p>	<p>Communion Service at 7:30 AM</p> <p>184: Is 41:13-20; Mt 11:11-15</p>
<p>Friday December 11</p>	<p>Mass at St. Gregory's at 8:00 AM "A Starry Night..." 6:30-8:30 PM at St. Gregory's</p> <p>185: Is 48:17-19; Mt 11:16-19</p>
<p>Saturday December 12</p>	<p>Mass at 4:00 PM 690A: Sugg: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv11:19a; 12:1-6a,10ab; Lk 1:26-38 or 1:39-47</p> <p>Protecting God's Children 9:00 AM – Noon</p>
<p>Donut Sunday December 13 <small>Third Sunday in Advent</small></p> 	<p>Mass at 8:30 AM & 5:30 PM Religious Education Classes Continue</p> <p>"Think Smart, Stay Safe" 9:35-9:55 AM</p> <p>4:00 PM Cluster Advent Penance Service with Confession/Reconciliation Readings Begin at #885 9:Zep 3:14-18a; (Ps) Is 12:2-6; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18</p>

A Service of Lessons & Carols with Bishop Malone Friday, December 18th, 7:00 PM at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. The weeks leading up to Christmas can be so busy and can make our spiritual preparation for this great Solemnity difficult. A service of Advent Lessons and Carols is a wonderful way to take some time away from the Christmas rush to reflect on God's promise of salvation in scripture and music. Bishop Malone and the Cathedral Choirs will be presenting a service of Lessons and Carols based upon the Great "O" Antiphons of Advent.

Cluster Bulletin Update – The new cluster bulletin publication will be Lent 2010.

Vocations – Are you seeking "knowledge and full insight to help you determine" your vocation in Christ as a priest, deacon or in consecrated life? Call Fr. Bob Vaillancourt @ 207-773-6471 / robert.vaillancourt@portlanddiocese.org or Sr. Rita Mae Bissonnette @ 207-773-6471 / ritamae.bissonnette@portlanddiocese.org.

Christmas Trees & Wreaths - The men at Friendship House are selling Christmas trees and wreaths daily from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. FH is located at 390 Lincoln Street, South Portland; call 767-7403 for directions.

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

Communion Service:

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: office@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.