



Dear Friends,

At the November meeting of the Council of Priests Father Robert Vaillancourt reported on his first months as the new diocesan director of vocations. We heard that our diocese is adopting a very promising program to affirm the ministry of priests. Where it has taken place, priests have been strengthened in the responsibility to seek out candidates for the priesthood. Part of the annual institute for clergy in May will be devoted to this endeavor. He also advised that he is presently in contact with several dozen potential candidates and is hopeful that as many as ten will be ready for the seminary in the Fall of 2009. This is good and encouraging news for us all. Please continue to pray for vocations to the priesthood. I offer a prayer composed by Bishop Malone.

“Gracious Father, You sent your Son Jesus Christ into the world with the Good News of salvation. To extend His saving ministry for all time, Jesus chose men to serve as priests. Father our need is great, and so we beg You, remember your promise to provide worthy shepherds for your people. We trust that even now You are calling men to priesthood in our Diocese. Open the ears of those you have chosen that they might hear your invitation. May Mary, Mother of the Church, inspire them to echo her own Yes to your call. Amen.”

Fr. Joe Ford; email: jiford67@maine.rr.com

Mass Intentions and Mass Schedule

<u>December 6</u>	4:00 PM	William G. Ziemer, by the Longinetti & Palmieri families
<u>December 7</u>	8:30 AM	The deceased family members of Carlita Brown, by Carlita Brown
	5:30 PM	The Parishioners
<u>December 8-Holy Day</u>	7:30 AM	The Parishioners
	5:30 PM	Lev Agren, by the Agren Family
<u>December 10</u>	7:30 AM	Carl McCann, by Mary T. & Jim Honan
<u>December 11</u>	7:30 AM	Communion Service

Next Weekend Masses

<u>December 13</u>	4:00 PM	Lawrence Haskell, by Ed & Marie Manganello
<u>December 14</u>	8:30 AM	Illness for Terry Dorrington, by Charlotte O'Connor
	5:30 PM	The Parishioners

Last Weekend's Offering: Thank you for your offerings of **\$5,539.00** last weekend. \$3,898.00 was in 149 envelopes and \$1,641.00 was loose. **Our weekly operating expense is \$6,318.00.** Next weekend's second collection is for the Retirement Fund for Religious. Please give generously.

Monday December 8th is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, a holy day of obligation. Masses will be at 7:30 AM and 5:30 PM at Holy Martyrs and at 9:00 AM & 7:00 PM at St. Gregory's.

Sacrament of Reconciliation/Confession

Cluster Penitential Service – Sunday, December 14th at **3:00 PM** at Holy Martyrs.
Area Penitential Service – Wednesday, December 17 at 7:00 PM at St. Peter's Church, Federal Street, Portland.

Bishop Richard Malone is pleased to announce a new ministry designed to reach Catholics and non-Catholics in their homes at the beginning of each day. Thanks to the initiative and support of generous donors, the bishop will share a word of hope and spiritual wisdom Monday through Friday at 5:59 AM on WGME Channel 13, Portland and WAGM TV Channel 8, Presque Isle. We hope you'll tune in for daily inspiration and let the stations know how much you appreciate this new programming.

Christmas Masses at Holy Martyrs

Christmas Eve 4:00 PM & 7:00 PM
 Christmas Day 8:30 AM

Vocations - "He will feed his flock like a shepherd." If God may be calling you to nourish His people as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life, call Fr. Bob Vaillancourt @ 207-773-6471 or email robert.vaillancourt@portlanddiocese.org or Sr. Rita Mae Bissonette @ 207-773-6471 or email ritamaebissonette@portlanddiocese.org.

Early alert for "Think Smart/Stay Safe" during Liturgy of the Word and Religious Education sessions on December 14 & 15: We will be conducting our second of the Diocesan approved "Think Smart/Stay Safe" program for this year, during the regular scheduled sessions on Sunday and Monday, December 14 & 15 for the children registered for Religious Education, here at Holy Martyrs. As with the first session, 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 may sign an opt-out form that you can obtain from the office. Thank you for all your efforts to create and maintain safe environments for our children, and break the cycle of abuse.

Christmas Pageant: The next rehearsal for the Christmas Pageant will be on Saturday, December 13th from 9-10 a.m. Children should wear their costumes.

Pub Night with guest Bishop Richard Malone! Tuesday, December 16, 7pm. Veritas, Portland's Catholic Young Adult Group, invites all young adults (18-39) in faith sharing and discussion at Bull Feeney's, 375 Fore St, Portland. Talk begins at 7pm. Come earlier for dinner and fellowship. FMI contact Lisa at veritasportland@yahoo.com or Craig Bossie at 831-0852. **Wednesday evenings 7pm,** ~ Hour of Power Praise the Lord with music, worship and Eucharistic Adoration! Veritas, Portland's Young Adult Ministry invites community members of all ages to this weekly event at St. Peter's Church, 72 Federal St in Portland. Please note that the first week of each month we are 'On The Road'. No Hour of Power on November 26. To offer your musical talents or for event information contact Becky at houropowerportland@gmail.com. This event is open to ALL AGES.

The Middle School CCD class is collecting coats for St. Elizabeth's Pantry. There is a particular need for men's coats. Please place coats in the blue bin in the Narthex.

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 no later than **Sunday, December 14.** Please attach the tag to the gift bag so that they can be properly sorted and delivered. We are also in need of slightly used clothing that would be appropriate for a job interview. If you would like to donate clothing for this purpose, please bring those items in separate bags and place them under the tree. For more information, please contact Deb Meahl at 781-8251.




Help Decorate the Church for Christmas Monday, December 22 starting at 1:00 pm. The flower committee would love to have more help in this fun and festive Christmas event. If you are interested in helping, please email Barbara Seelen at baseelen@maine.rr.com or call the church office at 781-4573.

The USM Chamber Singers will present a holiday concert, "Joyous Sounds For A Festive Season," at Sacred Heart Church, 326 Main St. Yarmouth, on **Friday December 12 at 7:00 PM.** Featured will be Benjamin Britain's Ceremony of Carols, with harps, and works by Arvo Part, John Rutter, and others. The musicians of the USM Chamber Singers represent the most outstanding singers of the University of Southern Maine, and are under the direction of Dr. Robert Russell. Tickets are available at the door, \$5 for students/seniors, \$10 adults.

Catherine McAuley High School would like to invite you to a Christmas concert next Thursday, December 11th at 7:00 p.m.

Holy Martyrs Weekly Calendar

 Second Sunday in Advent Sunday December 7	Mass at 8:30 AM Mass at 5:30 PM	Readings Begin at #882 Christmas Fair 9:30 AM -1:00 PM Baptism Class 9:30-10:30 Connected Catholics 2:00 PM 5: Is 40:1-5,9-11; Ps 85; 2 Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8 NO Religious Education Classes
Holy Day Monday December 8	Feast of the Immaculate Conception - Mass at 7:30 AM & 5:30 PM NO Religious Education Classes 689: Gn 3:9-15,20; Ps 98; Eph 1:3-6,11-12; Lk 1:26-38	
Tuesday December 9	Mass at St. Gregory's at 8:00 AM	Contemplative Prayer Group 9:30-11:00 AM Connected Catholics 6:00 PM 182: Is 40:1-11; Ps 96; Mt 18;12-14
Wednesday December 10	Mass at 7:30 AM	Stewardship Meeting at St. Gregory's 6:30-7:30 PM 183: Is 40:25-31; Ps 103; Mt 11:28-30
Thursday December 11	Communion Service at 8:00 AM	184: Is 41:13-20; Ps 145; Mt 11:11-15
Friday December 12	Mass at St. Gregory's at 8:00 AM 690A: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a,10ab; (Ps) Jdt 13; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47 or 707-712	
Saturday December 13	Mass at 4:00 PM 186: Sir 48:1-4,9-11; Ps 80; Mt 17:9a,10-13 see 692:2 Cor 10:17-11:2; Mt 25:1-13	
Donut/Coffee Sunday December 14	Mass at 8:30 AM Mass at 5:30 PM	Religious Education Classes/Think First/Stay Safe Cluster Penitential Service 3:00 PM 8: Is 61:1-2a,10-11; (Ps) Lk 1:46-50,53-54; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8,19-28

Would you like to receive parish emails? We are creating an email distribution list that will be used to periodically send out messages on upcoming events such as Brown Bag Sunday, Soup Kitchen, etc. If you would like to receive parish emails, and have not already received an email from us this week, please sign up today in the Narthex. Or, submit your email address to Deb in the parish office. Please be sure to include your full name and address. She can be reached at 781-4573 or via email at office@holymartyrs.org.

New parent's baptismal preparation program: The celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism is important not only for understanding it's significance, but also to help parents appreciate and reflect on the responsibility to help them and their child continue to grow in the relationship with God begun at Baptism. At Holy Martyrs and St. Gregory, baptismal preparation for your first child includes: Initial meeting of the parents with the pastor or deacon; attending a parent preparation session; scheduling the Baptism; and a follow-up program to stay connected during early childhood. Bethany and/or James Hanley (829-4568) will offer Pre-Baptism sessions on Sunday morning from 9:30-10:30 A.M. on the following dates: 2009 February 8; April 19; June 7; and August 2. Baptisms will be scheduled on the third weekend of the month.

What have you done for your marriage today? Visit www.foryourmarriage.org - brought to you by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops - for helpful tips from married couples and others on living a happy and holy married life. Catholic Charities Maine Family Life Institute encourages you to check out their daily marriage tips.

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: Monday – Friday 8:30-3:00

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.