


FROM THE **Dear Friends,**

 Last week I wrote of the coming of Christ in history and noted that Christmas is not only an observance of his birth, but is also an opportunity for us to realize his saving presence in our lives. This realization is important if we are to be aware of his coming in majesty. When we proclaim the mystery of faith at Mass, we state that Christ will come again. In the Creed we refer to Christ's coming in glory. We Catholics have decided that we don't know the time of that coming, nor do we get worked up over events that seem to some to be signs of the end of the world. However, we Catholics do profess that Christ will come in majesty.

When Christ came in history, he was a helpless baby surrounded only by Mary, Joseph, some shepherds and the magi and proclaimed as the prince of peace. When he comes in majesty, it will be as judge of all, and all creation will bow in homage. Advent is a season for us to anticipate this coming in majesty. We examine our lives and ask whether our behavior will help us to find heaven, will this act assist my salvation or hurt it, and how will my deeds stand before the one who is light of the world? This weekend we meet John the Baptist who called people to conversion. Our anticipation of the feast of Christmas is an opportunity for our own reform and conversion.

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

MASS INTENTIONS

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
December 10	7:30 AM	Fr. Romeo St. Pierre
December 12	7:30 AM	Marie (Doll) Sullivan, by Mary T. & Jim Honan
December 13	7:30 AM	Communion Service

Next Weekend Masses

December 15	4:00 PM	David Morency, by Joyce Tobia
December 16	8:30 AM	Doll deGolian Sullivan, by Ellen Honan
	5:30 PM	The Parishioners

Last Weekend's Offering: Your contributions for December 1 & 2, 2007 was **\$9,000.00**. **\$7,158.75** was in 187 envelopes and **\$1,841.25** was loose. Thank you for your gifts.

2nd Collection - More than 19,000 religious (mostly sisters and nuns) have less than 20 percent of the amount needed for the projected costs of living and health care as they age. **Please be generous** in today's appeal for the Retirement Fund for Religious. Learn more about this appeal at: www.retiredreligious.org.

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

Holy Martyrs Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve	Monday, December 24	4:00 PM Children's Mass 7:00 PM Choir & Instruments 8:30 AM Organ Music
Christmas Day	Tuesday, December 25	

St. Gregory's Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve	Monday, December 24	4:30 PM & 10:00 PM
Christmas Day	Tuesday, December 25	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.*

Religious Education

2nd grade candidates will have the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Saturday, December 15th beginning at 10AM. Parents and family members are invited to join the children for a brief liturgy. There will be four priests to hear individual confessions. Thanks to the parents, catechists, and aides who prepared them for this first of three Sacraments that will be celebrated this school year.

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.

MUSIC REMINDERS: 1. Registration for the Christmas Pageant is now closed. 2. Children Instrumentalists should sign up in the narthex by next weekend and also need to play their selections for me by Dec. 23rd. Please talk to me about an appointment.

MUSIC NOTES: Many thanks to Grant desRosiers for running the organ computer last Saturday at the 4 pm Mass and to his sister Moira for announcing the hymns and singing the Lamb of God. There help is much appreciated.



MUSIC & PRAYER: Cecile and Pat Quinlan will present an hour of Advent music and prayerful reflection on Tuesday, Dec. 18, 10:30 am at Holy Martyrs. Call Cecile if you have any questions: 797-4361.

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 - "A herald's voice in the desert: 'Prepare the way of the Lord! Make straight his paths.'" Priests, deacons, brothers and sisters help our world of today to truly "prepare the way of the Lord." If God is calling you, call Msgr. Caron or Fr. Andrew Dubois at (207)-689-2033 or email us at vocations@portlanddiocese.net.

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.

St. Vincent de Paul Society...Cathedral Conference – The society acknowledges your recent donation to the works of charity of this Conference. Your continued support enables us to continue the works and programs of our society in the name of St. Vincent de Paul, our soup kitchen, which serves the poor, the needy, underprivileged, the underemployed, unemployed and the unwanted.

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.

Holy Martyrs Weekly Calender

	Mass at 8:30 AM & 5:30 PM Church Café/Donut Sunday Readings Begin at # 881; Communion Hymn #661 Rel. Ed. Classes Connected Catholics 5 PM 4 Is: 11:1-10; Ps 72; Rom 15:4-9
Monday December 10	Mass at 7:30 AM Rel. Ed. Classes 181: Is 35:1-10; Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday December 11	Mass at St. Gregory's at 8:00 AM Parish Council 6:00 PM Contemplative Prayer 9:30-11:00 AM 182: Is 40:1-11; Mt 18:12-14
Wednesday December 12	Mass at 7:30 AM 690A: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a;12:1-6a;10ab; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47 or 707-712 Opus Dei Women 10:00-1:00, Men 6:00 PM Connected Catholics Board 6 PM
Thursday December 13	Communion Service at 7:30 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM 184: Is 41:13-20; Mt 11:11-15
Friday December 14	Mass at St. Gregory's at 8:00 AM 185: Is 48:17-19; Mt 11:16-19
Saturday December 15	Mass at 4:00 PM Christmas Pageant Rehearsal 5:00 PM First Reconciliation 10:00 AM Giving Tree Deadline 186: Sir 48:1-4,9-11; Mt 17:9a,10-13
	Mass at 8:30 AM & 5:30 PM Advent Penitential Service 3:00 PM Rel. Ed. Classes 7: Is 35:1-6a,10; Ps 146; Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11

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.

Weekly Bulletin – To access our weekly bulletin on the web, please visit our web site at www.holymartyrs.org and click on weekly bulletin at the top of the page, then click on the appropriate week.

MASSES:

<i>Saturday Mass:</i>	4:00 PM
<i>Sunday Masses:</i>	8:30 AM & 5:30 PM
<i>Daily Mass:</i>	Mon. & Wed. at 7:30 AM
<i>Communion Service:</i>	Thurs. at 7:30 AM
<i>Confession:</i>	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.

