



Valentine's Day offers an opportunity to write a bit about the calendar of the saints of the church. While we honor the tradition of a Valentine who may have been a martyr to the Romans, February 14 is now celebrated as the feast of Saints Cyril and Methodius who are known as the apostles to the Slavs; in the ninth century they sought to unite the Eastern churches with Rome. In 1969 Valentine was removed from the liturgical calendar because there is practically no verifiable data on him. His name remains on the official list of saints including the Roman Martyrology. Also, there are many traditions about him and his relics are revered in several places though it is difficult to certify them. While historical criteria are lacking, Valentine is one of the best known of our saints due to the tradition documented in the twelfth century when Chaucer and others associated him with inspiring romantic love. In our society the day usually has little connection with the wonder and the holiness of the romance which inspires and underlies the marital commitment. However, this weekend let us give thanks for the mystery and wonder of the Sacrament of Matrimony and pray that its grace sustain spouses and families.

Father Joe Ford; email: jfford67@maine.rr.com

MASS INTENTIONS and MASS SCHEDULE

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| February 14 | 4:00 PM | Patrick Conley, by Robert Harrington |
| February 15 | 8:30 AM | Patrick Conley, by the Agren Family |
| | 5:30 PM | The Parishioners |
| February 16 | 7:30 AM | Patrick Conley, by Joseph & Linda DiPhilippo |
| February 18 | 7:30 AM | Arthur Curran, by Mary T. & Jim Honan |
| February 19 | 7:30 AM | Communion Service |

Next Weekend Masses

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| February 21 | 4:00 PM | James McBrady (9 th Anniversary), by the family |
| February 22 | 8:30 AM | Patrick Conley, by Jack & Peggy Hayden |
| | 5:30 PM | The Parishioners |

February 25 Ash Wednesday

Holy Martyrs

7:30 AM Mass

5:30 PM Distribution of Ashes

St. Gregory's

8:00 AM Distribution of Ashes

6:00 PM Mass

Last Weekend's Offering: Thank you for your offerings of **\$5,318.00** for last weekend. Our weekly operating expense is \$6,318.00. The Ash Wednesday collection is for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe.

Awake in Faith - Bishop Richard Malone has embarked on a new television ministry Monday through Friday between 5:55 and 6:00 AM on WGME-TV Channel 13, Portland. Please consider supporting this important ministry by sending your tax-deductible donation to: Awake in Faith, Diocese of Portland, 510 Ocean Avenue, Portland, Maine 04103-4936.

Finance Council to meet February 24 at 6:00 PM.

Lent – The Disciples in Mission groups are now formed. We had an excellent response with forty-four parishioners and three families. Those who signed up for a faith-sharing group, pre-teen or teen groups can pick up their assignment and participant booklet after Mass today in the Narthex.

Music Ministry News: On Feb. 22 at the 5:30 Mass the Sacred Heart Praise Band will be providing the music during this celebration. We look forward to our musical guests that day and thank them for their ministry!

Altar Server Training: There will be a training and orientation for new altar servers on Wednesday, March 4th at 4:30 p.m. If you are in grades 3-8 and are interested in becoming an altar server, please contact Meredith Charest at 781-8599 or mcharest1@maine.rr.com.

Donut Sunday Thank You – Thank you to the Saffian family for hosting last weekends Donut Sunday and to the Caldwell family for sponsoring it.

Friendship House Thank You - Very enthusiastic thanks to all who contributed to our February meal for the men at Friendship House. The several newcomers among the residents helping me carry the contributions in (4 large main dishes, a couple of side dishes, lots of fresh produce and paper products) were surprised and delighted at the abundance. One even said "This is like Christmas!". The delivery was especially timely as their supplies of food were getting low. So you saved them money and cheered them up as well. The date of our next meal for FH is Wednesday, March 4th.

Falmouth & Cumberland Food Pantry - Ongoing weekly collection of food items to help those in need!

With the current economic crisis affecting so many families, we are undertaking a new endeavor to establish an ongoing collection of food items and monetary donations for the local Falmouth Community Food Pantry and Cumberland Food Pantry. There is a container on the Stewardship table in the Narthex for your contributions for this effort. We are also looking for a few volunteers to organize the distribution as necessary. Call Deacon Dennis @ 781-2847 or email dennis@holymartyrs.org if you are interested.

Below is a list of requested items but any nonperishable items would be appreciated:

Cereal; Crackers ; Pancake syrup; pancake mixes

Macaroni and cheese box mixes; Canned pasta - spaghetti, ravioli, etc

Boxed meals- Hamburger helper, tuna helper, chicken helper, etc.

Canned meats- ham, chicken, turkey, spam

Canned stews, chili, hash

Canned fruit; Cookies ; Snacks for kids lunches

Coffee, tea ; Fruit juices - bottles or boxes

Condiments - mayo, ketchup, mustard, etc.

Paper towels; toilet paper; cleaning supplies; laundry detergent

Personal hygiene items - toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant, etc.

We will continue the bimonthly "Brown Bag" Sunday collections that have been such an important part of our outreach to the needy, coordinated by Nancy Castonia. Thank you for your support.

What's your marriage worth? A romantic dinner for two? (\$75.00: 4 hours of enjoying each other); A dream vacation? (\$4,500: two weeks of living a fantasy); or a **Worldwide Marriage Encounter** weekend (Priceless: A lifetime of love and joy every day) Register now for the Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend, to be held on **March 20-22 in Lewiston**, and look forward to a weekend of discovery and a lifetime of ever deepening love. The registration fee is \$50.00 and a freewill donation will be accepted at the end of the weekend. For more information or to register contact Dave & Ellie at 207-933-4237 or go to www.wmmeNewEngland.org.

Maine Marriage Initiative – We are pleased to announce the launching of a new web site devoted exclusively to the issue of same-sex marriage. Go to: www.mainemarriageinitiative.org today to learn more about same-sex marriage legislation to be introduced in Maine this year, learn the facts and hear about the myths, click to contact your representative in Augusta, and see what the various faith groups have to say about this issue, including our own Bishop Malone. FMI: Contact Marc Muttly, Office of Public Affairs, Roman Catholic Diocese of Portland, 772-6471 (office) or 831-3148 (cell).

Holy Martyrs Weekly Calender

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| Sunday February 15 | Mass at 8:30 AM & 5:30 PM Religious Education Classes <i>77: Lv 13:1-2,44-46; Ps 32; 1 Cor 10:31-11:1; Mk 1:40-45</i> Readings Begin at #964 |
| Monday February 16 | Mass at 7:30 AM NO Religious Education Classes <i>335: Gn 4:1-15,25; Ps 50; Mk 8:11-13</i> Office Closed |
| Tuesday February 17 | Mass at St. Gregory's at 8:00 AM Contemplative Prayer Group 9:30-11:00 AM Connected Catholics Board 6:00 PM <i>336: Gn 6:5-8,7:1-5,10; Ps 29; Mk 8:14-21</i> |
| Wednesday February 18 | Mass at 7:30 AM <i>337: Gn 8:6-13,20-22; Ps 116; Mk 8:22-26</i> |
| Thursday February 19 | Communion Service 7:30 AM <i>338: Gn 9:1-13; Ps 102; Mk 8:27-33</i> |
| Friday February 20 | Mass at St. Gregory's at 8:00 AM <i>339: Gn 11:1-9; Ps 33; Mk 8:34-9:1</i> |
| Saturday February 21 | Mass at 4:00 PM <i>340: Heb 11:1-7; Ps 145; Mk 9:2-13</i> |
| Sunday February 22 | Mass at 8:30 AM & 5:30 PM NO Religious Education Classes <i>80: Is 43:18-19,21-22,24b-25; Ps 41; 2 Cor 1:18-22; Mk 2:1-12</i> |
| Monday February 23 | Mass at 7:30 AM Religious Education Classes Resume <i>341: Sir 1:1-10; Ps 93; Mk 9:14-29 see 536: Rv 2:8-11; Jn 15:18-21</i> |

Tax Information – If you would like a copy of your 2008 weekly offering to Holy Martyrs Parish for income tax purposes, please print your name, mailing address, phone number, envelope number on the tax sign-up sheet in the narthex. A copy of the amount of your contribution will be mailed to you in a timely fashion.

Vocations - “Do everything for the glory of God.” Your vocation is the call to give God glory in your very being. Is He choosing you to be a priest or consecrated religious? Call fr. Bob Vaillancourt @ 207-773-6471/ robert.vaillancourt@portlanddiocese.org or Sr. Rita Mae Bissonette @ 207-773-6471 ritamaebissonnette@portlanddiocese.org.

Connected Catholics – Next meeting will be on Sunday, March 1st at Mercy Hospital – Fore River at 2:00 PM. Eileen Skinner, the CEO of Mercy Hospital will be giving a tour after the Business Meeting. Luncheon to follow. FMI: Contact Mary Jane at 318-6032.

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: 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.

