



Dear Friends,

From time to time I write of the suffering of the church today. While in this nation we all feel the ongoing repercussions of the actions of abusive priests and the manner in which church authorities formerly dealt with the abuse, in some lands Catholics suffer much. In the Feb. 2, 2008 edition of AMERICA there was an article entitled, A Modern Day Exodus, by Maryann Cusimano Love. She reported on the situation of Christians in Iraq. You may know that the Chaldean Rite is one of the oldest rites in the Catholic Church and that Christians have been in Iraq from the very beginning. She referenced a report by Cardinal McCarrick, [www.usccb.org/mrs](http://www.usccb.org/mrs). He writes: "Imagine you are a Christian family living in the Dora neighborhood outside of Baghdad. In the middle of the night there is pounding on the door. You are visited by armed gangs of Islamic extremists who threaten you and your family. You are told you have three options: give up your faith and convert to Islam, die or leave your homes, businesses, possessions and communities behind and flee. There is no doubt that you will be killed if you do not comply. Many have already been killed by similar death squads, and the Iraqi government seems unable or unwilling to protect you. Who among us would choose not to renounce our faith under such death threats? Yet, these Christians do not renounce the faith. They do not convert. They choose to flee, to lose everything they own and risk their lives rather than lose their faith. These are the true modern day martyrs." As we seek the reform of Lent, may our faith become as strong as theirs.

Father Joe Ford; email: [jjford67@maine.rr.com](mailto:jjford67@maine.rr.com)

### MASS INTENTIONS

|                    |         |                                                                |
|--------------------|---------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>February 16</b> | 4:00 PM | Mary E. Youngs, by Dorothy Hill & Family                       |
| <b>February 17</b> | 8:30 AM | The Deceased Family Members of Carlita Brown, by Carlita Brown |
|                    | 5:30 PM | The Parishioners                                               |
| <b>February 18</b> | 7:30 AM | Janice O'Donnell, by Mary T. & Jim Honan                       |
| <b>February 20</b> | 7:30 AM | Richard Putnam                                                 |
| <b>February 21</b> | 7:30 AM | Communion Service                                              |

### Next Weekend Masses

|                    |         |                                              |
|--------------------|---------|----------------------------------------------|
| <b>February 23</b> | 4:00 PM | Bridgette Kelley, by Leo & Cheryl Bifulco    |
| <b>February 24</b> | 8:30 AM | Robert Noyes, by Edward Jr. & Susan Dilworth |
|                    | 5:30 PM | The Parishioners                             |

**Last Weekend's Offering:** Your contributions for February 9 & 10, 2008 totaled **\$4,993.00**. **\$3,906.00** was in 140 envelopes and **\$1,087.00** was loose. The second collection for Black and Indian Missions totaled **\$1,808.00**. Thank you for your gifts.

**Vocations** – Peter, John and James had a mountaintop-experience with Jesus by witnessing His transfiguration. We too can have a mountaintop experience when we open our minds and hearts to following God's Will for our life. If God is calling you, call Msgr. Caron or Fr. Andrew Dubois at (207) 689-2033 or email us at [vocations@portlanddiocese.net](mailto:vocations@portlanddiocese.net).

### Holy Martyrs Holy Week Schedule

|               |                                       |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|
| Holy Thursday | 5:00 PM Mass                          |
|               | 6:00 PM Supper of Loaves & Fishes     |
| Good Friday   | 3:00 PM Stations of the Cross         |
|               | 7:00 PM Liturgy of the Lord's Passion |
| Easter Sunday | 8:30 AM Mass                          |
|               | 10:30 AM Mass                         |
|               | 5:30 PM Mass                          |

### St. Gregory Holy Week Schedule

|               |                                       |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|
| Holy Thursday | 7:00 PM Mass                          |
| Good Friday   | 3:00 PM Stations of the Cross         |
|               | 7:00 PM Liturgy of the Lord's Passion |
| Holy Saturday | 7:00 PM Easter Vigil                  |
| Easter Sunday | 10:30 AM Mass                         |

### Religious Education

**Lenten Stations of the Cross:** During the Fridays of Lent, we will have Stations of the Cross and Benediction beginning at 4:30 PM at Holy Martyrs. To help pass on this important devotion, the next Stations of the Cross using a children's version will be on **Friday, March 7th**. Please encourage your children to participate.

\*Please note that the Confirmation Registration and Information Form should be turned in to the Religious Education office no later than **March 1, 2008**.

**Music Notes:** Help is needed on Sunday, Feb. 24, to run the computers on the organ and piano for the 8:30 am and 5:30 pm Masses. The music has all been recorded, and you would only need to press the play and stop buttons at the appropriate times. Please talk to Cecile this weekend if you are able to help.

**Lenten Day of Reflection** – Take some time to draw closer to the Lord on Saturday March 1st. Holy Martyrs will be hosting a day of prayer with adoration, devotions, benediction and confession. The day will begin at 9am and end with Mass at 4pm. Bring your own lunch. Join us for a few hours or stay for the day. Call Denise at 878-0345 for a detailed list of events.

**Lenten Abstinence and Fast** – On the Fridays of Lent we are asked to refrain from eating meat in memory of the Lord's passion and death. On Good Friday those between the ages of 18 and 60 are to fast not eating between meals and insuring that the total amount of food in two lesser meals does not exceed the main meal. **Music for Lent by François Couperin** – February 28, 2008, 7:30 PM at St. Pius X Church, 492 Ocean Avenue, Portland. Free Admission. Performed by Ensemble Trefoil. Their appearance here is underwritten by a generous grant from an anonymous foundation and is presented at no cost to the parish.

**Lenten Retreat** – March 7-9, Marie Joseph Spiritual Center, 10 Evans Road, Biddeford. A retreat for anyone who yearns for true happiness and deeper meaning in their lives. Come and learn to better pray and deepen your personal relationship with the Lord using the Word of God. Begins Friday 7-9PM to Sunday after lunch. Cost \$145. includes room and meals. Presenter of Retreat: Sister Aline Plante, p.m. Group rates available. This retreat will include talks, prayer experiences and rituals, time for quiet reflection, personal prayer and sharing. To register, please call the Retreat Secretary at: 207-284-5671.



**Thank You from Preble Street Resource Center** - "Dear Friends: "Our world here in Maine is filled with hungry people and with people who are just this side of hungry, who each day don't know where their next meal is going to come from and who are one minor problem away from real hunger. Every day in Maine, people make choices between medicine and food, between paying the electricity bill and food, between feeding themselves adequately or feeding their children adequately" (Hunger in Maine: It's growing, and a shame. Kennebec Journal, 7/24/07).

The holiday season makes very clear how simple are some of the needs of our homeless neighbors: a warm scarf, a holiday meal, or clean clothes. The stark contrast between a full Thanksgiving table with family and friends and a night on a mat in an emergency shelter demonstrates the great need for support of our most vulnerable community members. In addition to providing for day to day needs through distributing food, clothing and toiletries, our annual Harvest Food Pantry dispersed food to over 200 families for Thanksgiving. Thank you so much for your generous November 2007 donation of 50 bas of groceries. The generosity of donors like you ensures that the low-income and homeless individuals and families who depend on our services have something to be thankful for, too.  
*Sincerely, John Conroy, Food & Volunteer Programs Coordinator*

**Thank You for the Thanksgiving Basket** – I wish to thank you for the Thanksgiving Basket and the oil, that was a big help. *Thank You, Linda*

**Friendship House Thank You** - Many thanks to those parishioners who contributed to the meal for Friendship House in early February. I had several hot main dishes, a vegetable casserole, fresh produce and paper products for the men, who were very appreciative and grateful. The men new to Friendship House were quite surprised to be receiving so much from strangers. The date of our next meal for FH is Wednesday, March 5. Please remember that dishes may be donated frozen, and that toiletries are an option for anyone who can't or doesn't want to prepare something.  
*Deborah Nicklas @ 781-4362*



## Holy Martyrs Weekly Calendar

|                                      |                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                      |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Second Sunday of Lent<br>February 17 | Mass at 7:30 AM<br><br>Readings Begin at # 906, Communion Hymn #383<br>25: Gn 12:1-4a; Ps 33; 2Tm 1:8b-10; Mt 17:1-9 | No Rel. Ed. Classes                                                                                  |
| Monday<br>February 18                | Mass at 7:30 AM<br>Disciples in Mission (DIM) 9:00 AM & 7:00 PM<br>Office Closed                                     | NO Rel. Ed. Classes<br>230: Dn 9:4b-10; Ps 79; Lk 6:36-38                                            |
| Tuesday<br>February 19               | Mass at St. Gregory's at 8:00 AM<br>Finance Council 6:00 PM                                                          | Contemplative Prayer Group 9:30-11:00 AM<br>231: Is 1;10,16-20; Ps 50; Mt 23:1-12                    |
| Wednesday<br>February 20             | Mass at 7:30 AM<br>DIM 2:00 PM & 7:00 PM                                                                             | 232: Jer 18:18-20; Ps 31; Mt 20:17-28<br>Opus Dei 10:00-1:00 Women, Men 6:00 PM                      |
| Thursday<br>February 21              | Communion Service at 7:30 AM                                                                                         | ♪Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM<br>233: Jer 17:5-10' Ps 1:1-4,6; Lk 16:19-31                                |
| Friday<br>February 22                | Mass at St. Gregory's at 8:00 AM                                                                                     | Stations of the Cross 4:30 PM<br>535: 1 Pt 5:1-4; Ps 23; Mt 16:13-19                                 |
| Saturday<br>February 23              | Mass at 4:00 PM                                                                                                      | RCIA 3-5<br>235: Mi 7:14-15,18-20; Ps 103; Lk 15:1-3,11-32                                           |
| Third Sunday of Lent<br>February 24  | Mass at 8:30 AM & 5:30 PM                                                                                            | Rel. Ed. Classes Resume<br>28: Ex 17:3-7; ps 95; Rom 5:1-2,5-8; Jn 4:5-42 or 4:5-15,19b-26,39a,40-42 |
| Monday<br>February 25                | Mass at 7:30 AM<br>Cluster Finance Council                                                                           | Rel. Ed. Classes Resume<br>237: 2 Kgs 51-15b; Pss 42; Lk 4:24-30                                     |

**International Eucharistic Congress** – A diocesan pilgrimage to Quebec City will take place from June 19 to June 22. All are invited to join Bishop Malone. Deadline for reservations is February 25<sup>th</sup>. For more information consult the website [www.portlanddiocese.net](http://www.portlanddiocese.net) or call 773-6471 ext. 7802.

**Family Life Institute Programs** - FMI or to register for these programs, please contact Catholic Charities Maine Family Life Institute at 1-800-CARE-002, ext. 2670 or email [familylifeinstitute@ccmaine.org](mailto:familylifeinstitute@ccmaine.org).

**\*Divorce Support Groups** – Eight Week Divorce and Beyond support groups are starting soon and run from 6:30 to 8:30 PM. Fee is \$20.00.

Portland begins Wednesday, March 19th at St. Pius X Church Hall, 392 Ocean Avenue.

Lewiston begins Monday, March 24th at Holy Family Parish Center, Sabattus Street.

**\*Project Rachel** – Rachel's Vineyard Retreat – An invitation to men, women, couples, and relatives who grieve the loss of a child from abortion. The next retreat: April 18-20, in Southern Maine. Come and experience the peace and love of God.

**\*Natural Family Planning** – Natural Family Planning (NFP) is a safe, moral, effective, affordable and healthy way to plan a family. NFP Introductory sessions are March 5, April 2, May 7, June 4, July 2 and August 6. Sessions begin at 7:00 PM. Registration is required.

**Portland Diocese Web Site** - Please take the time to visit the Diocese of Portland Web Site:

[www.portlanddiocese.net](http://www.portlanddiocese.net) to see the extensive information on it, including all Mass times, parish locations, news, school and catechetical information, faith resources, and events calendar.

MASSSES:

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

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PARISH OF  
THE HOLY MARTYRS  
OF NORTH AMERICA

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266 Foreside Road, Falmouth, Maine 04105  
[www.holymartyrs.org](http://www.holymartyrs.org)

PARISH DIRECTORY:

Parish Office: 781-4573  
 Religious Education: 781-2847  
 Fax: 781-3961  
 Email: [rectory@holymartyrs.org](mailto: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.

