



Dear Friends,
 In my letter last week I noted that alms giving was one of the three Lenten practices. In his Lenten letter Pope Benedict concentrates on alms giving. He notes that it is a specific way to assist people in need and is at the same time an exercise in self-denial to free us from attachment to worldly goods. He mentions that in some cultures and societies of our world goods can become modern idols. The giving of alms helps us to overcome such temptations. Our special collections during Lent help us to be conscious of those in need and help us to live the communion which is the church. On Ash Wednesday we are asked to share our goods with the churches in Eastern Europe. Those churches continue to face the monumental task of re-establishing themselves and reaching out to the millions denied religious practice by decades of communism. On the first Sunday of Lent we share our money with people closer to home in the annual collection for the support of Native American and Black churches in our own country. This diocese receives a large grant from this collection to assist the churches of Saint Anne in Old Town, Indian Township and Pleasant Point. Pope Benedict points out that alms giving is not mere philanthropy; "rather it is a concrete expression of charity, a theological virtue that demands interior conversion to love of God and neighbor." All of our Lenten practices are intended to help us know more deeply the joy that is Easter. When "we share our goods with others, we discover the fullness of life that comes from love, and all is returned to us as a blessing in the form of peace, inner satisfaction and joy."

Father Joe Ford
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MASS INTENTIONS

- February 2** 4:00 PM James McBrady, by His Family
- February 3** 8:30 AM Peter Grady, by Brendan Murphy
- 5:30 PM The Parishioners
- February 4** 7:30 AM Jonathan Derrah, by The Meahl Family
- February 6 - Ash Wed.** 7:30 AM Intention of Faith & Works, by The Stewardship Committee
- 5:30 PM Liturgy of the Word and imposition of ashes
- February 7** 7:30 AM Faithful Departed
- Next Weekend Masses**
- February 9** 4:00 PM Loretta Dilworth, by Edward Jr. & Susan Dilworth
- February 10** 8:30 AM Edward Dilworth Sr., by Edward Jr. & Susan Dilworth
- 5:30 PM The Parishioners

Last Weekend's Offering: Your contributions for January 26 & 27, 2008 totaled **\$4,797.29**. **\$3,374.00** was in 148 envelopes and **\$1,423.29** was loose. The second collection for the Church in Latin America totaled **\$1,976.08**. Thank you for your gifts.

Ash Wednesday Collection - "Love is the only light." The theme for the 2008 Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe draws on the Holy Father's first encyclical. Pope Benedict XVI writes, "Love is the light-and in the end, the only light-that can always illuminate a world grown dim and give us the courage needed to keep living and working" (God Is Love {Deus Caritas Est}, no. 39).

Next Weekend's Second Collection - "Support United States Black, Indian, Eskimo and Aleute Missions"

The annual appeal is a vital part of the Church for the Year 2008. The funds are needed to continue to present Evangelization programs; even more, to continue to assist those parishes devastated by hurricanes to totally rebuild their programs. Many places, lost everything and how soon we forget the rebuilding that needs to be done **cannot be done overnight**. The evangelization programs torn apart by the devastation need to be woven back together. It will take years. Many new evangelization efforts are being made in these areas as well as the other Black, Indian, Eskimo and Aleute communities assisted by the Church's National Black and Indian Collection... **Working together leads to success. Will you try to help us be successful.**

"S-O-U-P-E-R Bowl of Caring: This weekend you are invited to participate in an alternative to the traditional Super Bowl, in our own "Souper Bowl of Caring". As we enjoy watching the Patriots and Giants on the field, let us also remember and be aware of those who are less fortunate and need our support. Through your generosity, 325 food items and a check for \$220.00 were donated to the St. Vincent dePaul Soup Kitchen last year. Please be generous, once again this year, to help stock and support our own local Falmouth Food Pantry with canned goods, boxed cereals, non-perishable food items and cash donations in the receptacle provided in the Narthex. Thank you for your generosity.

Religious Education

Lenten Stations of the Cross: During the Fridays of Lent, we will have Stations of the Cross and Benediction beginning at 4:30PM here at Holy Martyrs. To help pass on this important devotional, we will offer the Stations of the Cross using a children's version on Friday, February 8th and Friday, March 7th. Please make note of these two special dates, when we encourage the children to participate.

Grade 2 Attendance: Our second graders will soon begin studying the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist. We ask that their attendance in class be a first priority during these next few months so that each one will be properly informed and prepared to receive these two sacraments on May 10th. We also ask that their parents reinforce at home the information given in class since we only see these children for one hour a week. It would be greatly appreciated if we could have 100% attendance during these weeks of such important sacramental instruction! Thanks so much for your cooperation! *Please note that the Confirmation Registration and Information Form should be turned in to the Religious Education office no later than March 1, 2008.

Disciples in Mission – The Disciples in Mission groups for Lent are now formed. We have had an excellent response. Small groups will begin this week. Please note that sign-up will close on February 10th. If you have not yet registered and would like to, please contact Judy Dominick, our Disciples in Mission Coordinator ASAP, at 781-2946. Many parishioners are catching the spirit of **Disciples in Mission** as they meet for the first time this week in their groups. Please keep them in your prayers.

Disciples in Mission Small Groups Meetings


Location ▼	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Holy Martyrs Falmouth		9:30 AM 7:00 PM		7:00 PM	
St. Gregory Gray	11:30 AM 6:30 PM		7:00 PM		11:00 AM
Sacred Heart Yarmouth	Feb. 3, 2:00 PM 6:30 PM/rectory	8:45 AM 7:00 PM/rectory	8:45 AM 7:00 PM/rectory		7:00 AM/hall 7 PM 3 groups all private homes
St. Jude Freeport			4:00 PM private home	7:00 PM/Church 7:00 PM private home	
Oceanview Falmouth				2:00 PM	

Hymn Notes: We are fast approaching the holy season of Lent, and if there are any hymns appropriate for that season that you yearn to sing, please let me know right away, as I am now planning the music. You can always use the hymn book as a reference, since it also contains the readings. We are in Year A of the Liturgical Cycle. musikmom@maine.rr.com

Choir Notes: The Holy Martyrs Choir currently sings at the 4 PM Saturday Mass. We currently have 6 women and 6 girls, plus a part-time accompanist. If you are interested in joining us as a parent/child team, please talk to me in church or simply show up on Thursday evening at 6:30 PM. We would welcome the gift of your presence!!

Friendship House is a residence in South Portland for formerly homeless men recovering from substance abuse. The first Wednesday of each month, members of our parish contribute prepared hot or cold dishes and grocery items such as fresh produce, paper products or toiletries, which I then take to the men at FH. If you would like to contribute something this Wednesday, please call Deborah Nicklas @ 781-4362

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 25th. For more information consult the website www.portlanddiocese.net or call 773-6471 ext. 7802.

 **Lenten Abstinence and Fast** - On Ash Wednesday and the Fridays of Lent we are asked to refrain from eating meat in memory of the Lord's passion and death. On Ash Wednesday and 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.

Stations of the Cross - will be prayed at 4:30 PM on the Fridays of Lent.

Holy Martyrs Weekly Calendar

Sunday February 3	Mass at 8:30 AM & 5:30 PM Readings Begin at # 957; Communion Hymn # 821 Rel. Ed. Classes 70: Zep 2:3;3:12-13; Ps 146; 1 Cor 1:26-31; Mt 5:1-12 S-O-U-P-E-R Bowl of Caring
Monday February 4	Mass at 7:30 AM Rel. Ed. Classes 323: 2 Sm 15:13-14,30;16:5-13; Ps 3; Mk 5:1-20 Disciples in Mission (DIM) begins
Tuesday February 5	Mass at St. Gregory's at 8:00 AM 324: 2 Sm 18:9-10,14b,24-25a,30-19:3; Ps 86; Mk 5:21-43; see 527 1 Cor 1:26-31; Lk 9:23-26 Contemplative Prayer Group 9:30-11:00 AM
Ash Wednesday February 6	Mass at 7:30 AM with blessing of Ashes 5:30 PM Liturgy of the Word and imposition of Ashes 219: Jl 2:12-18; Ps 51; 2 Cor 5:20-6:2; Mk 6:1-6,16-18 Friendship House
Thursday February 7	Mass at 7:30 AM ♫Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM 220: Dt 30: 15-20; Ps 1:1-4,6; Lk 9:22-25
Friday February 8	Mass at St. Gregory's at 8:00 AM Children's Version - Stations of the Cross 4:30 PM 221: Is 58:1-9a; Ps 51; Mt 9:14-15
Saturday February 9	Mass at 4:00 PM RCIA 3-5 Rite of Sending 222: Is 58:9b-14; Ps 86; Lk 5:27-32
First Sunday of Lent February 10	Mass at 8:30 AM & 5:30 PM Donut Sunday Rel. Ed. Classes Connected Catholics Gen. Meeting 5:00 PM 22: Gn 2:7-9,3:1-7; Ps 51; Rom 5:12-19 or 5:12,17-19; Mt 4:1-11

Blessed are they who are what they are and do what they do for the sake of the kingdom! The Gospel this weekend assures good stewards that their suffering and their service on behalf of the Kingdom will be rewarded! (From *Stewardship By The Book*, by Sharon Hueckel. Used with permission.)

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
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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.

