FROM THE Priest

Dear Friends,

The villain of the infancy narrative in the Gospel of Matthew is certainly King Herod who deludes the magi and slaughters all the up two year old boys of Bethlehem whom the church venerates as the Holy Innocents. Certainly, Herod was a cruel king seeking to satisfy imperial Rome and control his people. He feared the possibility of losing his throne and being at the mercy of another, for he had shown no mercy to thousands of people. He had few redeeming qualities as a ruler. However, perhaps one of those was his sponsorship of massive building programs. During my month in Israel in 2006 I had the occasion to be guided through a good number of ancient sites and to hear of the archaeological discoveries. Some of these sites are testimonials to the work of Herod. The remains of these buildings enable scholars to learn much about the culture and society of the times. In turn this knowledge helps us to better understand the Bible and Jesus Christ. Herod was responsible for despicable deeds, but he sponsored buildings of great beauty which today help us to know the one whom he so feared. We need to leave him to the mercy of God. *Father Joe Ford; email: jjford67@maine.rr.com*

Mass Intentions & Mass Schedule

January 2	4:00 PM	John J. Salvo, by his family
January 3	8:30 AM	Catherine Reilly, by Mary T. & Jim Honan
	5:30 PM	The Parishioners
January 4	7:30 AM	Eleanor McCarthy, by Ron & Jenna Hart
January 6	7:30 AM	Nancy Gilmore, by John & Judith Goodrich
January 7	7:30 AM	Communion Service

Next Weekend Masses

January 9	4:00 PM	Dr. Raymond Lebel, by Anthony & Jane Mancini
January 10	8:30 AM	Rose Donovan, by Margaret & Dan Honan
	5:30 PM	The Parishioners

Last Weekend's Offering: Thank you for your contributions of $5,815.00 last weekend. The Christmas collection totaled $13,779.00.To meet our budget for the fiscal year, the weekly collection should average $6,000.00 per week.

Flu Protocols: The Sign of Peace should be offered without any physical contact (use a verbal greeting along with meaningful eye contact, a smile, or the bow of the head). The faithful should not hold hands during the Our Father. ***Holy Communion -*** All ministers of Holy Communion must sanitize their hands prior to and after the distribution of Holy Communion. Communion in the hand is encouraged (not mandated); the faithful retain the option of receiving Holy Communion either on the tongue or in the hand. All ministers of Holy Communion are advised to distribute the consecrated hosts with care, being cautious not to touch the tongue or the hand of the communicant. The distribution of the Precious Blood for the faithful is suspended, with the exception of those who must receive from the cup due to medical reasons (i.e., Celiac disease). The faith of the Church teaches that Christ, whole and entire, is received even under only one species.

WEEKDAY SERVICES AND STORMY WEATHER – When school is canceled in Gray and New Gloucester on Tuesday or Friday, there will be **NO** Mass at. St. Gregory's. When school is canceled in Falmouth on Thursday, there will be **NO** communion service at Holy Martyrs.

Banns of Marriage - III. Thomas Paul O'Connor & Josephine Guanzon Cayacap

MUSIC MINISTRY: Many thanks to all those who shared their gift of song in the Family Choir and Adult Choir on Christmas Eve, and to the Cantors who led our hymns over Christmas and during New Years Celebrations. Many hours were spent preparing for these Celebrations and we appreciate all the time you gave to make these Holidays special for all of us at Holy Martyrs.

Music Director/Organist - Diane Beaton will be moving from Maine after the holidays. Consequently, we are seeking an organist/director of music ministry. If you are interested or can recommend someone, please advise the office at 781-4573 or by e-mail.

Poinsettias Requested By:	*In Memory/Honor of:*
Frances Casey	*Keith Casey, Bette Ann Casey, John & Helen Sakmar*
	Margaret & Clem Madrak

Cluster Bulletin Update – The new cluster bulletin publication date will be Lent 2010.

Caring Tree Thank You: On behalf of the Holy Martyrs Youth Group, we would like to thank the parish community for your generous support of the Caring Tree this Christmas season. With your help and donations, we were able to deliver over 350 packages to those in need in our community. *Deb Meahl & Carol Keroack*

Congregational Church in Cumberland Thank You – "On behalf of the Congregational Church in Cumberland I would like to thank you for your continued contributions to our Food Pantry. There are many places today that are placed on our hearts to support. As the numbers increase of the the families that humbly call us to get basic supplies to survive, I want to confirm to you the blessing you are to many in need. Thank you very much for caring." *Sincerely, Susan Novak, Business Manager*

Preble Street Thank You - "Among the blessings for which we were grateful this thanksgiving season was the generosity of our neighbors. Thank you, especially, to you for joining those who reached out to share with your donation of 4 bags of clothes and 1 bag of toiletries. This November, thanks to you, hundreds of families and individuals alike struggling with poverty, unemployment, homelessness and other misfortunes were able to access meals, clothing and other necessities that so many of us take for granted. Men, women, and youth drenched from cold, rainy days were able to shower and change into warm, dry clothing. Families suffering unexpected income loss received turkeys and other festive foods to celebrate the holiday season when they had thought they would have to do without. We are truly grateful that you have chosen to share what you have with our clients. Only with you kind support are we able to meet urgent needs and remind those facing dark times that they belong to a community that cares. We could not have done it without you!"
Sincerely, Kristin Rieff, Volunteer Manager

Hands Around the Capitol – Saturday, January 16, 2010, 10:00 AM – 12:20 PM, FMI: Please contact: Maine Right To Life Committee, P.O. Box 257, Auburn, ME 04212; 207-782-0101, e-mail: mrlc@MaineRightToLife.com; website: www.MaineRightToLife.com

CCME: General Meeting: **Sunday, January 3,** 2010; Holy Martyrs Parish Hall - Route 88, Falmouth, 5:00 pm Social Hour – Pot Luck Supper; 5:30 pm Business Meeting, 6:00 pm Program -Betsy Chapman – Portland Police Department – Topic: A Civilian Perspective of Police Work.
DINING OUT - Saturday, January 9: 11:45 am –Dimillo's Floating Restaurant - Long Wharf; Portland – FMI call Eileen (829-6951).

Holy Martyrs Weekly Calendar

Sunday January 3	**Mass at 8:30 AM & 5:30 PM 20** **NO Religious Education Classes**	***Readings Begin at #898*** ***Is 60:1-6; Ps 72; Eph 3:2-3a,5-6; Mt 2:1-12*** **CCME 5:00 PM**
Monday January 4	**Mass at 7:30 AM** **NO Religious Education Classes**	**212: 1 Jn 3:22-4:6; Ps 2:7-8,10-12a; Mt 4:12-17,23-25 or as in sacramentary: Sir 26:1-4,13-16 (Lectionary, vol. II, no. 737.14) or 1 Cor 13:4-13 (740.3); Lk 10: 38-42 (736.3) or 737-742**
Tuesday January 5	**Mass at St. Gregory's at 8:00 AM**	***213: 1 Jn 4:7-10; Ps 72; Mk 6:34-44 or as in Sacramentary: 1 Cor 9:16-19,22-23 (Lectionary, vol. II, no 722.4) Jn 10:11-16 (724.10)***
Wednesday January 6	**Mass at 7:30 AM**	***214: 1 Jn 4:11-18; Ps 72; Mk 6:45-52***
Thursday January 7	**Communion Service at 7:30 AM**	***215: 1 Jn 4:19-5:4; Ps 72; Lk 4:14-22a***
Friday January 8	**Mass at St. Gregory's at 8:00 AM**	***216: 1 Jn 5:5-13; Ps 147; Lk 5:12-16***
Saturday January 9	**Mass at 4:00 PM**	**Brown Bag** ***217: 1 Jn 5:14-21; Ps 149; Jn 3:22-30***
Donut Sunday January 10	**Mass at 8:30 AM & 5:30 PM** **Religious Education Classes Resume**	***Readings Begin at #899*** **Brown Bag** ***Is 40: 1-5,9-11; Ps 104; Ti 2:11-14,3:4-7; Lk 3:15-16,21-22***

Vocations – "Opening their treasure chests, they offered Him gifts." Are you beginning to see your life as a gift to be given to the Lord as a priest, deacon, religious sister or brother? Call Call Fr. Bob Vaillancourt @ 207-773-6471 / robert.vaillancourt@portlanddiocese.org or Sr. Rita Mae Bissonnette @ 207-773-6471 / ritamae.bissonnette@portlanddiocese.org.

Retrouvaille...a Lifeline – Rediscover a loving marriage with a Retrouvaille (pronounced re-tro-vy) weekend. If your marriage is tearing the two of you apart, if there is little or no meaningful communication, if you are considering separation or divorce, we believe Retrouvaille can help you. The next New England Retrouvaille marriage renewal weekends will be held January 15-17, 2010 and April 16-18, 2010. To register for the weekend or for more information, visit www.HelpOurMarriage.com or call 1-800-470-2230.

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

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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:	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.