



Dear Friends,
 In the Office of Readings for the Feast of the Holy Family a portion of a talk given at Nazareth by Pope Paul VI is part of the prayer. As I read it last Sunday my thoughts turned to my visit at Nazareth in 2006; I offer a couple of reflections. The Basilica of the Annunciation is the primary pilgrimage site in Nazareth. Today, a modern church is built over the spot where the angel appeared to Mary. A prominent place is given to a stone on which are etched the Latin words: *Verbum caro hic factum est* (Here, the Word became flesh). As I stood gazing on it, a priest from England whispered to me: "It all began here." There were only a few pilgrims in the great church; it was a privilege to have some quiet moments to reflect on the annunciation and the conception of Jesus. We were guided under the Basilica and showed how it had been built over part of the ancient town. We saw that the habitations of Nazareth were but caves dug into the side of the hill. The individual caves were divided into sections for the people and another section for their animals. The conditions were primitive. Jesus was not only born in a stable or cave; he also lived in one. I could appreciate the saying: "What good can come out of Nazareth?" By contrast Peter had a substantial home in Capernaum. Truly, God wished us to know amazing grace and love in the poverty of Jesus.

Father Joe Ford
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MASS INTENTIONS and MASS SCHEDULE

<u>January 3</u>	4:00 PM	John Salvo, by his family
<u>January 4</u>	8:30 AM	Julianna Waitrovich, by her daughter Rosemary Fecteau, PhD.
	5:30 PM	The Parishioners
<u>January 5</u>	7:30 AM	Patrick Conley, by Mary Ann McLean
<u>January 7</u>	7:30 AM	Ursula Tetreau, by Marie & Randy Wimert
<u>January 8</u>	NO Communion Service	

Next Weekend Masses

<u>January 10</u>	4:00 PM	Patrick Conley, by Craig & Carolyn Ewald
<u>January 11</u>	8:30 AM	John J. McHugh, by Florence McHugh & family
	5:30 PM	The Parishioners

Last Weekend's Offering: Your contributions for December 27 & 28, 2008 totaled **\$5,739.00**. **\$3,385.00** was in 114 envelopes and **\$2,354.00** was loose. The Christmas collection totaled **\$11,659.00**. **\$7,423.00** was in 144 envelopes and **\$4,236.00** was loose. Thank you for your gifts.

Service of Lessons and Carols – Music ministers from the area churches along with the clergy will celebrate Christmas on Sunday, January 4th at 3:00 PM at St. Mary's Episcopal Church on Foreside Road in Falmouth. All are invited to share in the prayer and song.

Vocations - "They offered Him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh." Is God calling you to give Him the gold of your freedom, the incense of your prayer, and the myrrh of your love through a vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life? Call Fr. Bob Vaillancourt @ 207-773-6471/robert.vaillancourt@portlanddiocese.org or Sr. Rita Mae Bissonnette @207-773-6471/ritamaebissonnette@portlanddiocese.org

Religious Education: Classes will resume on January 11 & 12, 2009.

Perspectives on Paul: An eight-week course on St. Paul will be held at Cheverus High School on Tuesday mornings from 7:00 – 7:45 a.m. beginning January 27, 2009. Jesuit Father John Predmore will lead the course using Paul: His Story by Jerome Murphy-O'Connor as the primary text. Please purchase the book (new: \$22.00, used: \$14.00) prior to the beginning of the course. Send an email to Fr. Predmore at Predmore@cheverus.org or leave a message at 207-774-6238 if you would like to attend the class.

Catherine McAuley High School, Maine's only college-preparatory school for young women, will be hosting **coffee and donuts for all parishioners on January 18 after the 8:30 AM Mass.** McAuley, which boasts a 100% college placement rate, will have representatives available to answer any questions you may have about the School and its admissions process. FMI go to: www.mcauleyhs.org.

Friendship House is a residence on 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.



Poinsettias
Requested By:
 Dolores Rimkunas

Christmas Flowers

In Memory/Honor of:
 Jack Rimkunas, Robert & Marie Halin,
 John & Mary Rimkunas

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.

Catherine McCauley High School – Catherine McAuley High School will be holding its final High School **Placement Test** for the class of 2013 on January 10, 2009. Students who take this exam will be eligible for the Academic Excellence Scholarship. This scholarship is for the 8th grade student who has shown academic excellence by being the top ranking student and has ranked in the 97 percentile or higher nationally on the HSPT. Registration for the exam begins at 8:20 AM and the exam will end at 11:30 Am. For further details, call the admissions office today at 797-3802. Walk-ins are welcome.

Cheverus High School Winter Open House HAS BEEN CANCELED.

Funeral Ministry – We are still looking for people interested in helping with this important ministry. For more information, please call the church office at 781-4573.

Hands Around the Capital – Saturday, January 17, 2009. 36th Anniversary of Roe v. Wade The Maine Right to Life Committee will hold its annual Hands Around the Capital Rally and March on Saturday, January 17, 2009. Bishop Malone will celebrate Mass at 10:00 AM at St. Mary's Church on Western Avenue in Augusta. The Rally begins at 11:00 AM at St. Mary's gym in Augusta. We begin our March to the Capitol at 12:15 PM. FMI: Please contact Maine Right to Life Committee, P.O. Box 257, Auburn, ME 04212, 207-782-0101 or email: mrlc@MaineRightToLife.Com, website: www.MaineRightToLife.com.

Holy Martyrs Weekly Calender

Epiphany of the Lord Sunday January 4	<p>Mass at 8:30 AM & 5:30 PM <i>20: Is 60L1-6; Ps 72; Eph 3:2-3a,5-6; Mt 2:1-12</i> Readings Begin at # 898 Connected Catholics 2:00 PM <u>NO Rel. Ed. Classes</u></p>
Monday January 5	<p>Mass at 7:30 AM <u>NO Rel. Ed. Classes</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>212: 1 Jn 3:22-4:6; Ps 2;7-8, 10-11; 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</i></p>
Tuesday January 6	<p>Mass at St. Gregory's at 8:00 AM Contemplative Prayer Group 9:30-11:00 AM <i>213: 1 Jn 4:7-10; Ps 72:2-4ab,7-8; Mk 6:34-44</i></p>
Wednesday January 7	<p>Mass at 7:30 AM <i>214: 1 Jn 4;11-18; Ps 72:2,10-13; Mk 6:45-52</i></p>
Thursday January 8	<p><u>NO</u> Communion Service <i>215: 1 Jn 4;19-5:4; Ps 72; Lk 4:14-22a</i></p>
Friday January 9	<p>Mass at St. Gregory's at 8:00 AM <i>216: 1 Jn 5:5-13; Ps 147; Lk 5:12-16</i></p>
Saturday January 10	<p>Mass at 4:00 PM <i>217: 1 Jn 5:14-21; Ps 149; Jn 3:22-30</i> Brown Bag</p>
Baptism of the Lord Donut Sunday January 11	<p>Mass at 8:30 AM & 5:30 PM Readings Begin at #899 <i>21: Is 42:1-4,6-7; Ps 29; Acts 10:34-38; Mk 1:7-11 or, in Year B: Is 55:1-11 (Ps) Is 12:203,4bcd,5-6 1 Jn 5:1-9; Mk 1:7-11</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Rel. Ed. Classes Resume</u> Brown Bag</p>

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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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.