



Dear Friends,

On this feast of Epiphany we give thanks for the revelation of God to all people. Still, many have yet to hear of Christ, and many are unable to accept him. As we know, religious wars have marred human history and in our day there are serious divisions. I offer an incident of hope.

While in Chicago for the reunion of my seminary classmates, I had the front seat in the taxi taking us to dinner. The driver and I conversed throughout the ride. He was a native of Morocco, had been in this country for seventeen years, and is an American citizen. He spoke of his wife and three children and noted how important his church was to them. When I then noted that he must be a Christian, he replied in the negative saying that people might not understand him if he spoke of a mosque. He told me that while Muslims experience some discrimination, it is less noticeable in the large cities. He had heard of the issues in Lewiston a couple of years ago. He works twelve to fourteen hours a day seeking to provide a good education for his children. While he is not happy in his work, he is willing to sacrifice so that his children may obtain the degree that he longs for. He was honored to be driving priests. I am honored to have met this good man and to be able to share the story that we all might reject the stereotypes of our Arab sisters and brothers.

Father Joe Ford
email: jjford67@maine.rr.com

MASS INTENTIONS

| | | |
|-------------------|---------|---------------------------------|
| <u>January 5</u> | 4:00 PM | John Salvo, by His Family |
| <u>January 6</u> | 8:30 AM | Kenneth Savasuk, by Ellen Honan |
| | 5:30 PM | The Parishioners |
| <u>January 7</u> | 7:30 AM | Edward Quinlan, by The Family |
| <u>January 9</u> | 7:30 AM | Eileen Coit, by Pat Quinlan |
| <u>January 10</u> | 7:30 AM | Communion Service |

Next Weekend Masses

| | | |
|-------------------|---------|--|
| <u>January 12</u> | 4:00 PM | Daniel Cardillo, by His Family |
| <u>January 13</u> | 8:30 AM | The deceased family members of Carlita Brown |
| | 5:30 PM | The Parishioners |

Last Weekend's Offering: Your contributions for December 29 & 30, 2007 totaled **\$6,011.00. \$4,799.00** was in 152 envelopes and **\$1,212.00** was loose. The Holy Day collection totaled **\$2,796.00**. Thank you for your gifts.

The second collection next weekend is for Fuel & Plowing.

White Mass – Sunday, February 3rd at 10:00 AM at the Basilica of Ss. Peter and Paul in Lewiston. Caregivers and members of the healing professions are cordially invited to the annual White Mass, celebrated by Bishop Richard Malone. Invitations are available in the parish office during regular business hours or call 781-4573.

Winter Schedule - With the advent of snow and ice the schedule of weekday Masses at St. Gregory's may change due to weather conditions. If school is canceled in Gray and New Gloucester on a Tuesday or Friday, there will not be an 8:00 AM Mass at St. Gregory's, but Mass will be celebrated at 7:30 AM at Holy Martyrs. If school is canceled in Falmouth, Gray, or New Gloucester on a Thursday there will be NO Communion Service at Holy Martyrs.

Religious Education

Attention Youth Ministry and all in Grades 9-12 – Scott Ross has a new format and new topics. Please join us on Sunday evenings after Mass. FMI: Contact Scott Ross at 829-6292 or email: sross@maine.rr.com.

The Teen Youth Ministry would like to thank all the people of Holy Martyrs

who helped with the Caring Tree Project this year. Through your generosity we provided over 70 families with close to 250 gifts to help them celebrate Christmas. All of the gifts were very much appreciated and we helped a lot of people have a great Christmas. These families were all in the greater Portland area, including the town of Falmouth. It was great to help out so many people - thank you again.

Junior High Gathering at Saint Maximilian Kolbe Parish in Scarborough, on Sunday, January 27th 2008 from 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM (Mass included). The cost is still \$15.00 per person which includes pizza for lunch. This is an opportunity for the youth to meet, network, share their faith, participate in high school youth ministries, experience Liturgy with their peers and have fun. FMI: call Kris Benson at 207-439-0442 or email: saintraphaelsfaith@comcast.net.

Save the Date! - Catechists Workshop – A workshop for all teachers grades Pre-K – Grade 12 will be held on Saturday, March 8th from 8:30-10:30 AM.

Catechists and those working with children on a regular basis: There will be two opportunities for you to participate in the "Protecting God's Children" session, either on **Thursday, January 17 from 6-9PM at Holy Martyrs in Falmouth**, or on Wednesday, January 30th at Sacred Heart in Yarmouth. The session is for those who have not yet attended the mandatory workshop, in an effort to continue to create and maintain safe environments for our children. Please call Judy Dominick at 781-2847 to indicate which session you will be attending.

Disciples in Mission – Our parish is participating in **Disciples in Mission:** An Evangelization Experience. This provides us with opportunities to grow in holiness, to become more welcoming, and to witness to Christ more consciously in our families, neighborhoods, and workplaces. Two Sign-Up Sundays will take place, starting next weekend. Please consider joining a faith-sharing group, a teen group, and/or participating with your family. You will learn more about Scripture and how group members apply it to their lives. Please pick up a Parish Brochure in the Narthex and be ready to sign up next weekend.

MUSIC NOTES: Many thanks to all the musicians who participated in our Christmas celebrations, and especially to the children and adults who worked on this year's Pageant. It was a meaningful representation of the Christmas Gospel!



ECUMENICAL SERVICE: Foreside Community Church, is this year's host of the annual Ecumenical Service for our community. Holy Martyrs Choir will sing "Behold That Star", an Epiphany musical selection. **Please** join us at **3 pm this Sunday, Jan. 6**, for worship and fellowship. Foreside Community Church is located at 340 Foreside Road, Falmouth.



HOLY MARTYRS CHOIR REHEARSALS continue each Thursday at 6:30 pm in the music room. Please join us as we lift our hearts and voices in God's praise.

Bishop's Weekly Messages – Bishop Malone is now offering a reflection on the Scriptures for each week's Liturgy on the Diocesan Web Site: www.portlanddiocese.net. Each two-to-three minute video is scheduled to appear on the Web site on Thursday before the relevant Sunday. It will remain available through the following Wednesday.

Holy Martyrs Weekly Calender

| | |
|---|--|
| Sunday January 6  | Mass at 8:30 AM & 5:30 PM Readings Begin at #898; Communion Hymn #365 Rel. Ed. Classes Resume Connected Catholics 5:00 PM <i>20: Is 60:1-6; Ps 72; Eph 3:2-3a,5-6; Mt 2:1-12</i> Ecumenical Service, Falmouth Community Church at 3:00 PM |
| Monday January 7 | Mass at 7:30 AM Rel. Ed. Classes Resume <i>212: 1 Jn 3:22-4:6; Ps 2:7; Mt 4:12-17, 23-25</i> |
| Tuesday January 8 | Mass at St. Gregory's at 8:00 AM <i>213: 1Jn 4:7-10; Ps 72; Mk 6:34-44</i> Parish Council 6:00 PM |
| Wednesday January 9 | Mass at 7:30 AM <i>214: 1 Jn 4:11-18; Ps 72; Mk 6:45-52</i> |
| Thursday January 10 | Communion Service at 7:30 AM <i>215: 1 Jn 4:9-5:4; Ps 72; Lk 4:14-22a</i> |
| Friday January 11 | Mass at St. Gregory's at 8:00 AM <i>216: 1 Jn 5:5-13; Ps 147; Lk 5:12-16</i> |
| Saturday January 12 | Mass at 4:00 PM RCIA <i>217: 1 Jn 5:14-21; Ps 149; Jn 3:22-30</i> Disciples in Mission Sign-Up Brown Bag |
| Donut Sunday  COFFEE HOUSE January 13 | Mass at 8:30 AM & 5:30 PM Rel. Ed. Classes Disciples in Mission Sign-Up Brown Bag <i>21: Is 42:1-4,6-7; Ps 29; Acts 10:34-38; Mt 3:13-17</i> |

Hands Around the Capitol 2008 – January 12, 2008. 10:00AM MASS celebrated by Bishop Richard Malone, Th.D., at St. Mary's Church, 41 Western Avenue, Augusta, ME or 10:00AM PRAYER SERVICE led by Pastor Lester Dow at Elim Christian Fellowship, 70 State St., Augusta, ME. 11:00AM GATHER in St. Mary's Gym, 11:15AM RALLY with Prominent Pro-Life Leaders and Speakers. 12:15PM - MARCH begins - we leave for the Capitol; 12:30PM ASSEMBLE around the Capitol – HAND-TO-HAND. The Capitol Bell will ring 35 times representing the number of years since Roe v. Wade was enacted. STAND UP FOR LIFE! START THE NEW YEAR OFF RIGHT!
 Note: Snow Date is January 19, 2008.

Vocations – “God chose us before the world began to be holy.” Are you listening to God's call in your life? If God is calling you, call Msgr. Marc Caron or Fr. Andrew Dubois at (207) 689-2033 or e-mail us at vocations@portlanddiocese.net.

Spaghetti Dinner - The parents of the McAuley Lacrosse team will be hosting a spaghetti dinner with all the fixings on Saturday, January 19th from 4:30 to 8PM at St Pius Parish Hall, Portland. Cost: \$7.00 Adults, \$5.00 children/senior citizens, \$3 children 5 and under, and a family of 5 or more \$25.00. Bring the family and have lots of fun!

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: 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.

