



Dear Friends,

We are now two years away from the inauguration of a new parish encompassing the four churches in Falmouth, Freeport, Gray and Yarmouth. Recently, I informed Bishop Malone that the change in Mass schedules for Falmouth and Gray had occasioned a decline in Priest participation and in income. On the more positive side there has been a degree of mutual planning; most notable will be the celebration of the Easter Vigil and First Communion and Confirmation. On February 25 the Cluster Finance Council met and intends to meet monthly to address the issues underlying combined budgets, assets, liabilities, property development and management, personnel policies, etc. As a whole the cluster is operating within the budget. The pending sale of the former rectory at Holy Martyrs will absolve the long term debt, cover the cost of repairs made to the new rectory, and provide a surplus. The cost of repairs made in this fiscal in Gray and Yarmouth have been covered. The cluster planning process calls for us to consider the engagement of a parish coordinator and a business manager; the implementation of these positions will be a great challenge in view of current giving patterns. As noted above, the finance council will be preparing a plan to form the new parish. Next week I expect to report on the meeting of the Cluster Pastoral Council.

Father Joe Ford

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MASS INTENTIONS

March 1	4:00 PM	Hazel Marie Talbot, by Alice Atkins
March 2	8:30 AM	The Deceased Family Members of Carlita Brown, by Carlita Brown
	5:30 PM	The Parishioners
March 3	7:30 AM	Hazel Marie Talbot, by Richard Yankowsky
March 5	7:30 AM	Recovery of Tim McManus, by The Rosary Group
March 6	7:30 AM	Faithful Departed

Next Weekend Masses

March 8	4:00 PM	Marguirete Howard, by Bob & Olga Esty
March 9	8:30 AM	John Joseph Flood, by His Family
	5:30 PM	The Parishioners

Last Weekend's Offering: Your contributions for February 23 & 24, 2008 totaled **\$5,473.00**. **\$3,940.00** was in 153 envelopes and **\$1,1674.00** was loose.

Thank you for your gifts. Today our parish will take up **The Catholic Relief Services Collection**. Through your generous support, the Catholic Church in the United States is able to respond to the many needs of our brothers and sisters around the world who experience disease, famine, war, poverty, persecution, and injustice. Your gifts bring hope to suffering humanity.

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

Penance Services: Sunday, March 2, 3:00 PM at Sacred Heart Church, Yarmouth
Monday, March 17, 7:00 PM at Cathedral Church, Portland

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 this 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.**

Catechist Workshop Next Sat. March 8th from 8:30-10:30 AM - Please let Deacon Dennis or Judy know if you will be attending. RSVP at 781-2847.

Catholic Scouting Religious Awards: All Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts or Boy Scouts can earn Catholic Scouting Religious Emblems. This year the award ceremony dates are April 6 at St. Mary's church in Presque Isle and April 27 at the Cathedral in Portland. Applications must be in the office no later than April 1 for processing. Award booklets can be purchased through the Diocesan Catholic Scouting Office, P.O. Box 21, Auburn, ME 04212-0021. FMI: call 782-8096 ext. 108 or e-mail: catholicscouting@portlanddiocese.net.

Music Notes: This Saturday at the 4 pm Mass, we welcome a seasoned Liturgical musician, Aimée Turner, who lives in South Portland with her husband and son. Aimée began her career participating in Catholic music ministry at the age of 14. She was a member of the Liturgical Choir at Notre Dame and more recently she was a member of the choir at our Diocesan Cathedral. She frequently sings at funerals and weddings. We are pleased to have Aimée solo with our choir in a selection called "O Lord, You Know My Heart."

Brown Bag Sunday – If you would like the opportunity to help feed the homeless through the breakfast program and Wayside Soup Kitchen at Preble Street Resource Center please take a shopping bag with a list of the most needed food items and leave your donated groceries in the Narthex anytime this week or next weekend. Angels are needed to sort the groceries on Sunday, March 9 after the 5:30 PM Mass and to deliver the groceries on Monday morning, March 10 at 8:00 AM. We could have used more help in January. Call me if you can help with this delivery. FMI: Call Nancy Castonia 829-5803 (H) or 772-5488 (W).

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

LENT Operation Rice Bowl – Jean Denis and François are neighbors in Coteaux, Haiti. For years they barely supported their families through subsistence farming. In 2002, they joined an agricultural cooperative organized by Catholic Relief Services and began to see change. They received and planted better seed, diversified their crops, found better techniques for raising livestock, learned to combat erosion, and generated surplus crops to take to market. Now their families no longer face hunger or malnutrition. As Jesus transformed the life of the blind man, so CRS transforms the lives of rural farmers. By giving through Operation Rice Bowl and purchasing Fair Trade products, you support the dignity of workers by ensuring just wages and economic self-sufficiency.


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.

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.



Easter Flowers – Envelopes are in the rear of the church for those who wish to make a donation for the decoration of the church on Easter.

Holy Martyrs Weekly Calender

Fourth Sunday of Lent March 2	Mass at 8:30 AM & 5:30 PM Penance Service 3:00 PM at Sacred Heart, Yarmouth	Readings Begin at # 912; Communion Hymn # 661 Religious Ed. Classes 31:1 Sm 16:1b,6-7,10-13a; Ps 23; Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1,6-9,13-17,34-38 Brown Bag
Monday March 3	Mass at 7:30 AM	Rel. Ed. Classes 244: Is 65:17-21; Ps 30; Jn 4:43-54
Tuesday March 4	Mass at St. Gregory's at 8:00 AM	Contemplative Prayer Group 9:30-11:00 AM 245: Ez 47:1-9; Ps 46; Jn 5:1-16
Wednesday March 5	Mass at 7:30 AM DIM 2:00 PM & 7:00 PM	246: Is 49:8-15; Ps 145; Jn 5:17-30 Friendship House
Thursday March 6	Mass at 7:30 AM	♪Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM 247: Ex 32:7-14; Ps 106; Jn 5:31-47
Friday March 7	Mass at St. Gregory's at 8:00 AM	Children's Stations of the Cross 4:30 PM 248: Wis 2:1a,12-22; Ps 34; Jn 7:1-2,10,25-30
Saturday March 8	Mass at 4:00 PM	RCIA 3-5 PM Catechist Workshop 8:30 -10:30 AM 249: Jer 11:18-20; Ps 7:2-3,9b-12; Jn 7:40-53
Fifth Sunday of Lent March 9 	Mass at 8:30 AM & 5:30 PM Donut Sunday	Religious Ed. Classes 34: Ez 37:12-14; Ps 130; Rom 8:8-11; Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7,20-27,33b-45

The Parents of the McAuley Lacrosse Team will be hosting a Corn Beef/Cabbage Dinner – Saturday, March 8th from 4:30-8:30 PM at St. Pius X Parish Hall in Portland. Cost is \$10.00 for adults, \$7.50 for children and seniors, kids under 5 are free. Bring the family and have lots of fun!

St. Brigid Auction -The newest parochial school in Maine, St. Brigid School, Portland, will hold its first annual fund raising auction on **Saturday, March 15** at the Italian Heritage Center, Portland. Please join us for a night of great deals, good friends and a very special cause. For more information, call 797-7073.

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.

***Divorce Support Groups** – Eight Week Divorce and Beyond support groups are starting soon and run from 6:30 to 8:30 PM. The fee is \$20.00. Portland begins Wednesday, March 19th at St. Pius X Church Hall, 492 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.

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

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.

