



BISHOP MALONE WANTS YOU TO KNOW

Priest A bill has been submitted in the Maine Legislature that, if passed, will make same-sex marriage legal in Maine. If you believe this will not affect YOU personally, you are mistaken. The language in this bill seeks to redefine traditional marriage and will affect society in many ways. For example, if passed, parents will lose the ability to control what their kids learn in public schools about marriage and sexual orientation.

A Public Hearing is set for Friday, April 24, 9:00 AM, at Cony High School, 60 Pierce Drive in Augusta. Please do all that you can to attend. The bill's progress can be followed at www.maine.gov click on Government, then State Legislature.

The Maine Marriage Initiative will distribute educational program kits the week of March 23, to all parishes in the Diocese. Our goal is to help people become better educated in our Catholic teachings on this issue and to clear up misconceptions presented by the opposition. Please visit the Maine Marriage Initiative Website: www.mainemarriageinitiative.com.

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

MASS INTENTIONS and MASS SCHEDULE

March 21	4:00 PM	Carol Hall, by Norman Hall
March 22	8:30 AM	Robert Dyk, by the family
	5:30 PM	The Parishioners
March 23	7:30 AM	Marybeth Carey, by the Charest Family
March 25	7:30 AM	Julie Skillings, by the Gove Family
March 26	7:30 AM	Communion Service
Next Weekend Masses		
March 28	4:00 PM	James Abram McNamar, by the grandparents
March 29	8:30 AM	Michael Hare, by the Bachman & Barbour Families
	5:30 PM	The Parishioners

Last Weekend's Offering: Thank you for your offerings of **\$5,309.00** for last weekend. Our weekly operating expense is \$6,318.00.

The State Department estimates that nearly 5 million people have been displaced, forced to leave their homes, because of the war in Iraq. **The Catholic Relief Services Collection** supports resettlement services for refugees, serves victims of human trafficking, and provides pastoral care and advocacy. When you donate to The Catholic Relief Services, you give hope. Please be generous in today's collection.

Bishop's Mass in Honor of Persons with Disabilities and Their Families - Bishop Richard Malone will celebrate this Mass on **Sunday, March 29th, at 10:30 AM at Notre Dame Church, 112 Silver Street, Waterville.** For more information, please contact, the Family Life Institute at 1-800-CARE-002, ext. 2672 or e-mail: familylifeinstitute@ccmaine.org.

✠ **Stations of the Cross will be held each Friday of Lent at 4:30 PM.**

Penance Service – Sunday, March 29th at Sacred Heart Church in Yarmouth at 3:30 PM.

Holy Week Schedule: Holy Thursday – 5:00 PM Mass, Supper of Loaves and Fishes to follow.

Good Friday – 3:00 PM Stations of the Cross, 7:00 PM Liturgy

Holy Saturday, Easter Vigil - 7:00 PM

Easter Sunday - 8:30 AM Mass & 5:30 PM Mass

Easter Flower Envelopes - If you would like to make a donation to our Easter flowers in memory of your loved ones, please fill out the Easter flowers envelope at the back of the church and return it with the passing of the offertory basket or to the office.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2009: We're preparing for a Cluster Vacation Bible School that will run the week of August 17-21 daily from 9a.m. to 12 noon at St. Gregory parish hall in Gray. We need your help. We're looking for several Junior High, & High School youth and adults as volunteers for various ministries for grades Pre-K-5. We invite you to please consider volunteering for one or more of the following ministries.

Distributing publicity materials	Activity Center	Music
Assist with banners, backdrops, sets, etc.	Skits	Photographer
Providing craft materials	Prayer	Refreshments
Preparing craft materials	Crafts	Clean-up
Praying for teachers and students	Catechist/teacher	Promotion
Registration/Office Asst.		

Please email Judy Dominick at judy.dominick@portlanddiocese.org, sign the registration sheet in the narthex, or call your local church office by April 1st, if your children will be participating in this endeavor. We need to have an approximate count to order supplies and organize the sessions.

Operation Rice Bowl – In today's Gospel, the conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus reminds us during Lent that as we seek to put our spiritual lives in order, we cannot accomplish this task on our own. God has done for us what we cannot do for ourselves. We are reminded that we have been made able to see the Kingdom of God; we have been given the gift of eternal life through the waters of baptism.

As we continue our Operation Rice Bowl journey let us remember in **prayer** that we are called to be good stewards of what has been entrusted to us. Through protecting the environment in which we live, we respect the goodness of nature, a gift God has given. May our **fasting** keep us mindful of those who have no clean water to grow crops or to nourish their families. May our almsgiving assist Catholic Relief Services as we **learn** about agriculture programs in Honduras.

Birthday Boxes - The Junior High Religious Education classes are putting together Birthday boxes to take with us to the Preble Street Kitchen on Friday, April 3rd. Birthday boxes will allow teens/children and even adults to celebrate their birthdays, an event often overlooked because of monetary circumstances. If you would like to contribute to our "boxes" please place any of the following items in the large "Birthday Box Bin" in the narthex. Thank you, as always, for your generosity of spirit!

Items needed: Shoe boxes, cake mix (any kind), cans of frosting (any kinds), "Happy birthday" banners, box of birthday candles, small gifts items such as books, Beanie babies, \$5 or \$10 gift cards to a local store or supermarket, wrapped candy, fun socks, hair accessories, etc. Be creative, but please keep items small so it all fits in a shoe box.

Veritas, Portland's Young Adult ministry is pleased to spread the word about upcoming events. All area young adults 18-39 welcome!

Youth Ministry - Monday, March 30, 7pm Fr. Bob Vaillancourt joins Veritas, Portland's Young Adult Ministry, to speak about the Shroud of Turin and the Passion of our Lord. All young adults 18-39 are invited to make this Lenten event. Meet at the Chancery, 510 Ocean Ave, Portland, Me 04104. For more information contact Lisa at veritasportland@yahoo.com or Craig at 831-0852.

Hour of Power - Praise the Lord with music, worship and Eucharistic Adoration! Veritas, Portland's Young Adult Ministry, invites community members of all ages to this weekly event at St. Peter's Church, 72 Federal St in Portland. The first Wednesday of each month we are "On The Road". For more information, email Lisa at hourofpowerportland@gmail.com or call Chris at 653-1429.

Reusable Bag Sunday Thank You – Many thanks from Preble Street Resource Center for the 56 bags of groceries that were recently collected. Thank you Chris, Matt and Andy for sorting the groceries and thanks to Jack, Dottie, Jim and Andre, who helped me to deliver the groceries. "Look with peace upon your brothers, and God will come rushing into your heart with gratitude for your gift to Him." from A course in Miracles. Thank you for looking with peace on homeless people among us. Your donation is greatly appreciated. We will collect groceries again on Mother's Day.
Thanks ! Nancy Castonia 829-5803.

Holy Martyrs Weekly Calendar

Fourth Sunday of Lent March 22	Mass at 8:30 AM & 5:30 PM Religious Education Classes <i>32: 2 Chr 36:14-16,19-23; Ps 137; Eph 2:4-10; Jn 3:14-21</i>	Readings Begin at #913
Monday March 23	Mass at 7:30 AM Religious Education Classes	<i>244: Is 65L17-21; Ps 30; Jn 4:43-54</i> DIM 8:30-10:00 AM & 7:00-8:30 PM
Tuesday March 24	Mass at St. Gregory's at 8:00 AM	Contemplative Prayer Group 9:30-11:00 AM Connected Catholics Board 6:00 PM <i>245: Ez 47:1-9,12; Ps 46; Jn 5:1-16</i>
Wednesday March 25	Mass at 7:30 AM	<i>545: Is 7:10-14m8:10; Ps 40; Heb 10:4-10; Lk 1:26-38</i> DIM 2:00-3:30 PM Opus Dei Men 5-7 PM
Thursday March 26	Mass at 7:30 AM	DIM 7:00-8:30 PM <i>247: Ex 32:7-14; Ps 106; Jn 5:31-47</i>
Friday March 27	Mass at St. Gregory's at 8:00 AM Stations of the Cross 4:30 PM	<i>248: Wis 2:1a,12-22; Ps 34; Jn 7:1-2,10,25-30</i>
Saturday March 28	Mass at 4:00 PM	<i>249: Jer 11:18-20; Ps 7:2-3,9b-12; Jn 7:40-53</i>
Fifth Sunday of Lent March 29	Mass at 8:30 AM & 5:30 PM Religious Education Classes Penance Service, 3:30 Sacred Heart, Yarmouth	Readings Begin at #916 <i>35: Jer 31:31-34; Ps 51:3-4,12-15; Heb 5:7-9; Jn 12:20-33</i>

Falmouth Food Pantry Update – Through Barbara and Charlie Lathrop Dr. Chris Green at the “Art of Dentistry” contributed tooth brushes, tooth pastes and other dental needs which were enthusiastically received at the pantries. This is an excellent example how word of mouth can help those in need.

Connected Catholics - The March 1st meeting has been rescheduled for **March 29th**. The meeting will take place @ Mercy Hospital @ Fore River. Eileen Skinner, the CEO of Mercy Hospital will give a tour of the new facility and we will be having a catered luncheon. There is no charge for the luncheon. Time: 2PM
 FMI: Please contact Mary Jane @ 318-6032

Haiti: A Very Special Evening - on **Monday, March 23**, there will be an opportunity to hear about the February visit to Meyer. It will take place at Sacred Heart Hall at 7:00 p.m. Photographs (power point) will be shown and an overview of the trip will be offered. Walter Libby, Jeannine Roy and Mimi Rice will share their very special experience.

Catherine McAuley Benefit Class of 09 - Had enough of these cold snowy days? Come warm up with the laughter of **Bob Marley on March 26**, to benefit Catherine McAuley High School's Project Graduation. Tickets are \$15 each, available at D. Cole Jewelers, the McAuley High School Office or by calling Laura Duran at 781-7177.

The 2009 Annual Spring Habitat Walk will take place this year on **Saturday May 9**. Please consider joining with members of our neighboring parishes to walk in support of the Habitat mission. If your own home is warm, safe and secure then you already know the value in providing the same for another family. This annual walk helps to raise the funds needed to make this a reality in our community. A pancake breakfast followed by a 4 mile stroll, bike or run will help to make this year's event a success in every way. Bring your high school team or your grandchildren but most importantly bring your willingness to make a difference in someone's life. Brochures available in the vestibule or visit www.Firstgiving.com.

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: 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.