

FROM THE  Dear Friends,

Last week the media reported an altercation among monks at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem. The church is built over the place of the crucifixion and burial of Jesus. In its long history the various Orthodox and Roman Catholic custodians have wrangled over control of this church; a fragile compromise has been broken from time to time. On several visits during my time in Jerusalem in 2006 I could feel the tension as I walked through the several sections of the church. The visits were clear reminders of the fractures among Christians and the massive challenge of restoring unity. It was embarrassing to read of the recent skirmish. The deep seated feelings arise from the arguments and even battles over belief and practice as well as the ethnic and racial differences among the Orthodox churches. Those who dedicate themselves to the care of the church and are responsible for safe-guarding the traditions are naturally fearful of losing control. As I prayed at Calvary and at the place of the tomb, mine was the prayer of Jesus for unity among his followers. The sin of our divisions reminds us of our constant need to seek in charity the will of God not our own will.

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

Mass Intentions and Mass Schedule

November 15	4:00 PM	Russell Eric Riseman, by the Zambello family
November 16	8:30 AM	The Parishioners
	5:30 PM	Joanne Fitzpatrick, by Debbie Meahl
November 17	7:30 AM	Jane Henry, by Jean Scanlan
November 19	7:30 AM	Monique Marchessault, by the Charest Family
November 20	7:30 AM	Communion Service

Next Weekend Masses

November 22	4:00 AM	Enrico & Mary Montebello, by John & Dina Irace
November 23	8:30 AM	Frank Clark, by Dot & family
	5:30 PM	The Parishioners

Last Weekend's Offering: Thank you for your offerings of **\$5,320.50** last weekend. \$3,926.50 was in 157 envelopes and \$1,394.00 was loose. **Our weekly operating expense is \$6,318.00.**

This weekend's second collection is for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development.

Thanksgiving Baskets – Volunteers are needed for this important ministry. We are collecting non-perishable items through Monday, November 24th. Please drop off items in the Stewardship corner of the narthex. Please bring in items like; boxed stuffing, canned yams, carrots, green beans, corn, cranberry sauce, pearl onions, Italian salad dressing, nuts, candy, etc. We are also collecting cash donations to purchase perishable items. Please make checks payable to Holy Martyrs Church. FMI: Please contact George Spino at 878-8319 or e-mail gspino@maine.rr.com.

Feast of Christ the King, Sunday, November 23 – Mass – Cathedral 8:30 AM, Communion Breakfast – Italian Heritage Center, Portland 10:00 AM. Greater Portland Council of Catholic Men. FMI: Contact the Cathedral office at 773-7746.

Thanksgiving Mass Schedule: Wednesday, November 26 7:00 PM at Holy Martyrs – NO AM MASS
Thursday, November 27 9:00 AM at St. Gregory's

Friendship House Thank You - Many thanks from me and the men at Friendship House for the quantity of donations parishioners provided for our November meal for them. There were five main dishes, salads and vegetable dishes, fresh produce and an apple crisp, as well as a good selection of paper products and toiletries. The toiletries were particularly timely because the FH supply of them was getting very low. The men who carried the contributions in to the house urged me to thank you and express their appreciation. The date of our next meal for FH is Wednesday, December 3rd.

Deborah Nicklas @ 781-4362

Christmas Pageant: Children of all ages are invited to participate in this year's Christmas Pageant, which will be held after the 8:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, December 21st. Adult and High School volunteers are needed to help the children prepare. If you would like to participate in the pageant or can help with any of the preparations, please contact Meredith Charest at 781-8599 or mcharest1@maine.rr.com.

Advance notice to parents regarding "Child Lures": The next opportunity for your child to participate in the ongoing "Think First/Stay Safe" program is **December 14 & 15 during class times** here at Holy Martyrs. These sessions are part of the diocesan plan to continue to create and maintain safe environments for our children by informing them about common lures that are used by molesters to gain access to children. Parents are invited to attend these sessions with the children. If you prefer not to have your children participate, there is an opt out form for you to complete; please see Judy Dominick to obtain the form.

New parent's baptismal preparation program: The celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism is important not only for understanding its significance, but also to help parents appreciate and reflect on the responsibility to help them and their child continue to grow in the relationship with God begun at Baptism. At Holy Martyrs and St. Gregory, baptismal preparation for your first child includes:

- Initial meeting of the parents with the pastor or deacon.
- Attending a parent preparation session (dates provided)
- Scheduling the Baptism (dates provided)
- Follow-up program to stay connected during early childhood

Bethany and/or James Hanley (829-4568) will offer Pre-Baptism sessions on Sunday morning from 9:30-10:30 A.M. on the following dates: 2008 December 7; 2009 February 8; April 19; June 7; and August 2. Please plan to attend one of these sessions prior to celebrating the Baptism of your child.

Baptisms will be scheduled on Saturday or Sunday during the following weekends:

2008 - December 13/14; 2009 - January 17/18; February 14/15; March 14/15; April 18/19; May 16/17
June 20/21; July 18/19; August 15/16; September 19/20.

As parents live their Catholic faith in the home, the domestic church, the traditions and faith take root and grow. Children learn from the example of their parents. It is our hope that these policies and procedures for Baptism help provide and ensure continued growth in faith for you and your child.

Music Ministry: Join us in song this Holiday season! Two choirs are forming. 4:00pm Christmas Eve Mass: Family Choir for children and parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles etc. 7:00pm Christmas Eve: Adult/Young Adult Choir. First rehearsals in church Tuesday, Nov. 18, 6:30-7:30 for the Family Choir and 7:30-8:30 Adult/Young Adult Choir. Call Diane Beaton at 781-9869 or sbeaton@maine.rr.com for more information.

Christmas Fair Sign Ups in the Narthex! Come join the fun on Sunday, December 7 from 9:30 AM-1:00 PM
We need your help to make the fair a success:

Silent Auction - donate an item or create a themed basket for the auction. Sports tickets, gift certificates and art are all popular. FMI contact Sharon Leskanic at sharonL23@maine.rr.com or 797-7072.

Crafts - handmade items such as ornaments, accessories and decorations are a wonderful addition to the fair. For ideas or to help, please contact Nancy Miller at nfmiller78@gmail.com or 797-2220.

Gift Items - new and gently used home decor and bric a brac items are very popular with parishioners and can be dropped off in the parish hall the week before the fair. FMI contact Cheryl Hurley at churley@maine.rr.com.

Bake Table - whip up your favorite cookies, breads or cakes for holiday celebrations and gift giving! This year we are also seeking chutneys, jellies, jams and pickled items for the bake table. We will also again feature the cookie walk. FMI contact Amy Saffian at saffian7@verizon.net

Books - donate used books, CDs and DVDs for the book table. Drop off in the parish hall the week before the fair.

Volunteer to set up or work at the fair. Set up on Saturday, December 6; fair day volunteering on Sunday, December 7.

We are also seeking parishioners who can help make holiday evergreen centerpieces and swags for the fair. Please contact Kathy Coster at kbcmaine@aol.com (781-3723) to help out, join the fair planning committee or with questions.

Brown Bag Sunday Thank You - Many thanks from Preble Street Resource Center for the 75 bags of groceries that were recently collected. Thanks to Jack, Jim, Andre, Dottie and Phyllis who helped me to deliver the groceries. This is what my grandson Harry said about our homeless food drive: "We are so lucky we need to give some of our luckiness to them" Harry – age 6. Thanks for sharing your "luckiness" with people who really need it. We will collect groceries again in January and deliver on Martin Luther King Day...1/19/2009 Nancy Castonia 829-5803.

Donut Sunday Thank You – Thank you to the Carpenter family for hosting last Sunday's Donut Sunday and to the the Wright family for sponsoring it.

Learn more about what you can do to help reduce teen crashes and fatalities: When: Sunday 11/16 from 4 to 5:30 pm; Where: Church of Saint Mary the Virgin, 43 Foreside Road, Falmouth. Featuring Rayette Hudon from AAA Northern New England and Trooper Bolton from the Maine State Police. Join us for a must attend for anyone who has a middle school teen, a teen about to begin drivers education classes or a newly licensed teen driver. Help your new driver stay safe while becoming a great driver. Sponsored by the Church of Saint Mary the Virgin 781-3366.

Holy Martyrs Weekly Calendar

Sunday November 16	Mass at 8:30 AM Mass at 5:30 PM 157: Prv 31:10-13,19-20,30-31; Ps 128; 1 Thes 5:1-6; Mt 25:14-30 or 25:14-15,19-21	Readings Begin at #1044 Religious Education Classes
Monday November 17	Mass at 7:30 497: Rv 1:1-4;2:1-5; Lk 18:35-43; see 1 Jn 3:14-18; Lk 6:27-38	Religious Education Classes 4:15-5:15 PM
Tuesday November 18	Mass at St. Gregory's at 8:00 AM 498: Rv 3:1-6,14-22; Lk 19:1-109 see 679: Acts 28:11-16,30-31; Mt 14:22-33	Contemplative Prayer Group 9:30-11:00 AM Parish Council 6:00 PM Finance Council 6:00 PM Connected Catholics Board 6:00 PM
Wednesday November 19	Mass at 7:30 AM 499: Rv 4:1-11; ps 150; Lk 19:11-28	Opus Dei Men 5-7 PM
Thursday November 20	Communion Service at 7:30 AM FBTS – 10:00 AM; Sedgewood 10:45; Oceanview 2:30 500: Rv 5:1-10; Ps 149; Lk 19:41-44	
Friday November 21	Mass at St. Gregory's at 8:00 AM 501: Rv 10:8-11; Ps 119; Lk 19:45-48; see 680: Zec 2;14-17; Mt 12:46-50	
Saturday November 22	Mass at 4:00 PM 502: Rv 11;4-12; Ps 144; Lk 20:27-40 see 681: Hos 2;16b,17b,21-22; Mt 25:1-13	
Sunday November 23	Mass at 8:30 AM Mass at 5:30 PM 160: Ez 34:11-12,15-217; Ps 23; 1 Cor 15:20-26,28; Mt 25;31-46	Religious Education
Monday November 24	Mass at 7:30 AM 503: Rv 14:1-3,4b-5; Ps 24; Ik 21:1-4 see 713-718	NO Religious Education Classes

The office will be closed: Thursday, November 27 and Friday, November 28.

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: Monday – Friday 8:30-3:00

**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.