

FROM THE  Dear Friends,

This week I offer a few more comments on the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem. This large building containing several architectural styles is constructed over Calvary and the burial place of Jesus. Over the centuries this sacred space has been the focus of many controversies and to this very day is a factor in the efforts to bring peace among Palestinians and Israelis. Last week some asked for clarification over the monks who were squabbling. Six churches have custodial responsibilities for various parts of the church. With Roman Catholics the Greek Orthodox, Armenian Apostolic and the Coptic, Ethiopian, and Syrian Orthodox Churches have chapels in the church and responsibilities for the several important sites in the church. In the 11th century Christianity was divided when the Eastern Churches separated from Rome. Today, the Archbishop of Constantinople, now Istanbul, is considered the major figure in the Greek Orthodox Church. In addition to the four Orthodox churches noted above, there are several others including the Russian Orthodox Church. These churches share essential beliefs, but have variations in the rituals as well as language. They share basic beliefs with Roman Catholics, but do not accept the authority of the Pope. At the church of the Holy Sepulcher from time to time these differences provoke tension, thus the recent incident.

Fr. Joe Ford; email: jfford67@maine.rr.com

Mass Intentions and Mass Schedule

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
November 24	7:30 AM	Monique Marchassault, by Barbara Keefe
November 26	7:00 PM	Faithful Departed
November 27	NO COMMUNION SERVICE	

Next Weekend Masses

November 29	4:00 PM	William G. Ziemer, by the Longinetti family
November 30	8:30 AM	Health for Terry Dorrington, by Charlotte O'Connor
	5:30 PM	The Parishioners

Last Weekend's Offering: Thank you for your offerings of **\$5,403.50** last weekend. \$4,242.50 was in 149 envelopes and \$1,161.00 was loose. **Our weekly operating expense is \$6,318.00.** The second collection is for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development totaled **\$2,473.30.**

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. **Help is needed to deliver the baskets on Tuesday.**

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

New Lector Workbooks are in the sacristy.

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** 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.

Pub Night with guest Bishop Richard Malone! Tuesday, December 16, 7pm. Veritas, Portland's Catholic Young Adult Group, invites all young adults (18-39) in faith sharing and discussion at Bull Feeney's, 375 Fore St, Portland. Talk begins at 7pm. Come earlier for dinner and fellowship. FMI contact Lisa at veritasportland@yahoo.com or Craig Bossie at 831-0852.

Wednesday evenings 7pm, ~ 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. Please note that the first week of each month we are 'On The Road'. No Hour of Power on November 26. To offer your musical talents or for event information contact Becky at houropowerportland@gmail.com. This event is open to ALL AGES.

McAuley Academic Excellence Scholarship - Catherine McAuley High School will be holding their second High School Placement Test (HSPT) on December 6. A full tuition scholarship will be granted to the 8th grade student who has shown academic excellence by being the top ranking tester. For more information, or to register, call the Admissions Office @ 797-3802 or visit their website at www.mcauleyhs.org.

Music Ministry: There's still time left to join the Christmas Choirs! The Family Choir (children, parents, grandparents etc. included) will sing at the 4:00 pm Christmas Eve Mass. Rehearsals for the Family Choir are Tues. 6:30--7:30pm. The Adult/Young Adult Choir will sing at the 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Mass. Rehearsals for the Adult/Young Adult Choir are Tues. 7:30--8:30pm. For more info contact Diane Beaton at 781-9869 or sbeaton@maine.rr.com.

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.

Holy Martyrs Weekly Calendar

Sunday November 23	Mass at 8:30 AM Mass at 5:30 PM	Religious Education Classes, Readings Begin at #1049 160: Ez 34:11-12,15-217; Ps 23; 1 Cor 15:20-26,28; Mt 25;31-46
Monday November 24	Mass at 7:30	503: Rv 14:1-3,4b-5; Ps 24; Lk 21:1-4 see 713-718 NO Religious Education Classes
Tuesday November 25	Mass at St. Gregory's at 8:00 AM	504: Rv 14:14-19; Ps 96; Lk 21:5-11 NO Contemplative Prayer Group
Wednesday November 26	Thanksgiving Mass 7:00 PM	505: Rv 15:1-4; Ps 98; Lk 21:12-19
Thursday November 27	Thanksgiving Mass at St. Gregory's 9:00 AM	Office Closed 506: Rv 18:1-2,21-23;19:1-3,9a; Ps 100:1b-5; Lk 21;20-28
Friday November 28		Office Closed 507: Rv 20:1-4,11-21:2; Ps 84; Lk 21:29-33
Saturday November 29	Mass at 4:00 PM	508: Rv 22:1-7; Ps 95; Lk 21:34-36
 First Sunday in Advent Sunday November 30	Mass at 8:30 AM Mass at 5:30 PM	NO Religious Education Classes 2: Is 63:16-17,19;64:2-7; Ps 80; 1 Cor 1:3-9; Mk 13:33-37

New parent's baptismal preparation program: The celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism is important not only for understanding it's 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.

Would you like to receive parish emails? We are creating an email distribution list that will be used to periodically send out messages on upcoming events such as the Holiday Fair, Brown Bag Sunday, Soup Kitchen, etc. If you would like to receive parish emails, and have not already received an email from us this week, please sign up today in the Narthex. Or, submit your email address to Deb in the parish office. Please be sure to include your full name and address. She can be reached at 781-4573 or via email at office@holymartyrs.org.

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.