



Dear Friends,

Next Thursday, October 1, we observe the feast of Saint Therese of Lisieux. She died 112 years ago at a young age, but her influence continues because of her book, "The Story of a Soul", based on her spirituality of 'a little way.' Her point was that it is as noble and upstanding to love God through small as through heroic deeds. She described her relationship with God in a revolutionary manner for her time. The tenor of the church's teaching was that God was a distant figure who required obedience and reverence. Therese described God as a brother, an intimate, a friend. She wrote of God in terms of a personal relationship and with confidence. As with other great saints she also knew the dark night of the soul being like a wall shutting out the wonder of her friend. In our perhaps more complex world than that of the late nineteenth century her life and words still have relevance, for her writings continue to assist people to develop a personal relationship with God. We all need to realize that God is not distant; we Catholics believe that in Word and Sacrament God becomes one with us. We need to make the time to develop the friendship. We can do so by recognizing the presence of God in the wonder of the little things in life.

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

MASS INTENTIONS and MASS SCHEDULE

<u>September 26</u>	4:00 PM	Father Angelo Levasseur, by Lisa Bousquet
<u>September 27</u>	8:30 AM	The Parishioners
	5:30 PM	Dr. Carl Stanley, by the Meahl family
<u>September 28</u>	7:30 AM	Bradford Hart, by Ronald & Jenna Hart
<u>September 30</u>	7:30 AM	George Mannette, by Gail & Dick Corbin
<u>October 1</u>	7:30 AM	Communion Service

Next Weekend Masses

<u>October 3</u>	4:00 PM	Mary Louise Kean, by the family
<u>October 4</u>	8:30 AM	Jack Welch, by Glen & Betty Hansen
	5:30 PM	The Parishioners

Last Weekend's Offering: Thank you for your contributions of **\$4,836.00** last weekend.

To meet our budget for the new fiscal year the weekly collection should average **\$6,000.00** per week. The second collection for the Catholic University of America totaled \$1,537.00.

Holy Martyrs Prayer Group – Contemplative Prayer group continues each Tuesday from 9:30-11:00 AM in the Quiet Room. **All are welcome.**

Lectors – Are needed for the 5:30 PM Mass on Sundays. Please call the office if you can help.

Rosary Rally – October 10th in front of Portland City Hall on Congress Street at noon. Please gather by 11:45 AM. The purpose is to ask Our Blessed Mother Mary to intercede for our country. Last year there were over 3,500 such rallies in the country. FMI: call J. Muesse at 772-4071.

Maine Marathon/Relay/Maine Half Marathon – Sunday, October 4th! The race will impact access to all the churches along the route during the morning. We are fortunate at Holy Martyrs to be able to come to church from Johnson Road. If you need to use Route 88, parishioner passes have been placed at the back of the church.



Strengthening the Heartbeat of the Church

THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PORTLAND

Holy Martyrs Campaign – The *Strengthening the Heartbeat of the Church* campaign is taking place at Holy Martyrs. This historic effort has been helping our diocese and our parishes to prepare for the future and address immediate needs. 25% of the amount we raise in the parish will be used to address our own needs. Through this campaign, we hope to make repairs to the church. Additionally, our gifts will help the entire church in Maine, create endowments, and provide operational funds to support:

- Life-Long Faith Formation & Broad Cluster Support
- Priests Vocation, Formation & Health
- Catholic Schools Tuition Assistance
- Catholic Charities of Maine
- Catholic Foundation & Diocesan Development

Almost \$1,000,000 has been raised at Holy Martyrs. This means that \$250,000 is already set to come back to our parish. Our parish goal is to receive \$1,280,000 in pledges by mid October. Please join us as we strive to reach our target and fund vital initiatives for the Church in Maine and our own parish. By now, most households have received materials about the campaign. One of our volunteers hopefully will be contacting you to answer any questions you may have. Additional brochures are available at the entrance of the church. We look forward to sharing continued updates about the campaign and our progress here at Holy Martyrs over the coming weeks. In the meantime we ask you to prayerfully consider joining the 40 families that have already supported the campaign so that, together we may ensure the mission of the Catholic Church across Maine and in the greater Falmouth/Cumberland area.

Religious Education News

Parents Meeting for all 2nd Grade Children - Parents should plan on attending **one** of the following meetings: **Monday, September 28 at 7:00 PM or Tuesday, September 29th at 7:00 PM.**

Teen Youth Ministry – On **October 4th at 6:30 PM** after the 5:30 PM Mass we will have an open discussion about the Teen Youth Ministry. This is open for all teenagers in high school and their parents. The purpose of the 1 hour meeting is to discuss agenda ideas for this year's teen program. This year, as in years past, we will support assembling Thanksgiving Day Baskets, The Giving Tree and the Christmas Fair. However, we would like to discuss new ideas for serving our community, fellowship and spiritual development, and we need your help. We would like to develop the ministry into what is most meaningful to all involved. We have some new leadership involved and believe we will have a great year. There will be food and drink, so please attend and bring your suggestions on how to improve this very important part of our parish. FMI: Contact Scott Ross at ssross@maine.rr.com or Judy Dominick at Judy.dominick@portlanddiocese.org

Music Opportunity: Sacred Heart Parish would like to invite parishioners from Holy Martyrs and St. Gregory's to participate in the musical "Celebrate Life," to take place the weekend of **Nov. 13-15 at Sacred Heart**. If you are a vocalist, reader or might like to work on staging, props, costuming, please consider joining the Sacred Heart Adult Choir for what promises to be a wonderful opportunity to not only have a lot of fun, but to build community as well. Celebrate Life is an hour-long musical about the life of Christ. If you are interested, please see Diane Beaton after Mass or call Ted Walsh at 688-2259 or Ron Siviski at 846-6020.

Brown Bag Sunday – Many thanks from Preble Street Resource Center for the many bags of groceries that were recently collected and \$85.00 in donations. Thank you to all who helped with this effort and special thanks to those who helped me to deliver the groceries. **"To choose what is difficult all one's days as if it were easy, that is faith."** W.H. Auden Thanks to those of you who choose to notice that there are people who need the very basic things that we all take for granted and strive to do something about it. *Nancy Castonia 829-5803*

Cumberland/Falmouth Food Pantries – Now that fall is here and school is in full swing we are in real need of food with nutrition and protein – especially for breakfast. Juice, cereal, canned fruits, health bars are examples of good starts for the day. Peanut butter, crackers, jams & jellies are good for after school. Thank you for your continued support for your very needy neighbors.

Jack Mullin

Holy Martyrs Weekly Calender

Sunday September 27	Mass at 8:30 AM & 5:30 PM Readings Begin at #1024 <i>137: Nm 11:25-20; Ps 19; Jas 5:1-6; Mk 9:38-43,45,47-48</i> † Religious Education Classes continue 9:30-10:30 AM
Monday September 28	Mass at 7:30 AM <i>455: Zec 8:108; Ps 102; Lk 9:46-50</i> † Religious Education Classes continue 4:15-5:15 PM Grade 2 Parent's Meeting 7:00 PM
Tuesday September 29	Mass at St. Gregory's at 8:00 Contemplative Prayer Group 9:30-11:00 AM Campaign Meeting 6:00 PM – Hall Grade 2 Parent's Meeting 7:00 PM <i>647: Dn 7:9-10,13-14 or Rv 12:7-12ab, Ps 138:1-5; Jn 1:47-51</i>
Wednesday September 30	Mass at 7:30 AM <i>457: Neh 2:1-8; Ps 137; Lk 9:57-62</i> <i>see 648: 2 Tm 3:14-17; Mt 13:47-52 3:14-17; Mt 13:47-52</i>
Thursday October 1	Communion Service at 7:30 AM <i>458: Neh 9:1-4a,5-6,7b-12; Ps 19; Lk 10:1-12 see 649: Is 66:10-14c; Mt 18:1-4</i>
Friday October 2	Mass at St. Gregory's at 8:00 AM <i>459: Bar 1:15-22; Ps 79; 650: Mt 18:1-5,10 see Ex 23:20-23</i>
Saturday October 3	Mass at 4:00 PM <i>460: Bar 4:5-12,27-29; Ps 69; Lk 10:17-24</i>
Sunday October 4	Mass at 8:30 AM & 5:30 PM Connected Catholics 5:00 PM Maine Marathon/Relay/Maine Half Marathon Religious Education Classes continue <i>140: Gn 2:18-24; Ps 128; Heb 2:9-11; Mk 10:2-16 or 10:2-12</i>

40 Days of Marriage – Commencing September 24th, we began participating in the 40 Days of Marriage prayer and fasting campaign. Over this forty day period which ends November 2nd, please offer up your prayers and make a small personal sacrifice in defense of the institution of marriage.

Women Gathered Together in Faith - A new season begins on **October 7th**, for the Women's program held on the first Wednesday of the month at Marie Joseph Spiritual Center, Biddeford Pool. The morning session begins at 10:00 A.M. with a presentation of a holy woman in Scripture or in the Church. After lunch a personal time for prayer is followed by an exchange among the participants. The session closes with prayer at 2:30 P.M. Bring: Bible and bag lunch. Suggested fee: \$10.00. For FMI / to Register call: (207) 284-5671. (For directions: www.mariejosephspiritual.org)

GOD'S COMING TO US IN A NEW WAY: The annual Catholic Charismatic Conference will be held on October 17, 2009 at St. Joseph Church, Brewer, ME, beginning at 9:00 AM and concluding at 4:00 PM. Holy Mass celebrated by Fr. Richard Rice who will also conduct a healing service during the afternoon session. Guest speaker will be Sr. Ann Shields, noted National and International speaker and author. Cost is \$25.00 for adults and \$7.00 for children under 18 (lunch included). FMI: Contact Mary Livingstone milberty@kynd.net, at 965-7867 or Reggie Smith at 737-2700.

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
Sat. 3:15-3:45 & by appointment
 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: office@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.