

FROM THE Priest Dear Friends,
 As you read this, Pope Benedict will be in the final hours of his visit to our nation. At this writing a week earlier, there is much speculation on what he will say in his several speeches and sermons. In our busy culture perhaps his words are less important than this presence among us for a few days. In my view the fact that Washington and New York will grind to a halt during the visit is a testimony to the vibrancy of our Catholic faith. We have suffered much in recent times, and nearly every family experiences the decline in the practice of our faith. Still, the Pope commands the attention of millions in our nation.

For us the Pope is more than a world figure. As the Bishop of Rome he is the successor of Peter whom Jesus called to gather and sustain the beginnings of the church. Peter was a person like us, rash and fickle at times, but after encountering the Risen Lord, bold and daring in proclaiming the faith. So, the Pope has come to the United States. He will have likely challenged the United Nations to be vigilant for peace and to care for the millions and millions in our world who have so very little. Pope Benedict's Masses in Washington and New York will reflect the highest form of Catholic worship. All will know again of our understanding of the Eucharist which we celebrate at Holy Martyrs and Saint Gregory's. May we be one with Pope Benedict as we pray for him this weekend. May we be encouraged to live our faith with the boldness of Saint Peter.

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

Mass Intentions & Schedule

April 19	4:00 PM	Tim McManus, by Barbara & Jack Mullin
April 20	8:30 AM	The Parishioners
	5:30 PM	Janice O'Donnell, by the Family
April 21	7:30 AM	Robert Noyes, by Edward Jr. & Susan Dilworth
April 23	7:30 AM	Tim McManus, by Kay Moffett
April 24	7:30 AM	Communion Service

Next Weekend Masses

April 26	4:00 PM	Tim McManus, by Mary T. & Jim Honan
April 27	8:30 AM	Loretta Dilworth Rogan, by Edward Jr. & Susan Dilworth
	5:30 PM	The Parishioners

Last Weekend's Offering: Your contributions for April 12 & 13, 2008 amounted to **\$4,977.00. \$4,091.00** was in 185 envelopes and **\$866.00** was loose. Thank you for your gifts.

Next Weekend's Second Collection – Next Sunday, our parish will be taking up a collection for the Catholic Home Missions Appeal. This Appeal supports missions here in the United States. The Catholic Home Missions Appeal offers Catholics across our country a wonderful opportunity to help fellow Catholics practice their faith in such rugged areas as Alaska, Appalachia, the Deep South, the Rocky Mountain states, the Southwest, Puerto Rico, and island dioceses in the Pacific and Caribbean. Over 95 cents of every dollar donated to the Appeal goes directly to the mission to keep church doors open, to support pastors in their priestly ministry, and to provide basic pastoral services like religious education for children. Please give generously to assist fellow Catholics here in America. It's one practical way our parish community can be good stewards of God's gifts and make a difference.

BISHOP'S APPEAL - We are a few weeks from the annual appeal to sustain the many good works around our diocese. It is not too early to consider the amount of our gifts.

Cluster Council Meeting – April 24, 6:30 PM at Holy Martyrs.

Religious Education

Confirmation for Grade 2 – Saturday, May 10, 1:30 PM at the Cathedral. Rehearsal is on Tuesday, May 6, 6:00 PM at the Cathedral.

Older Candidates for Confirmation – I will be having instruction classes for students in grade 3 and above who are receiving Confirmation this spring. We will continue on April 19, and April 26 from 2:55 PM to 3:55 PM at Holy Martyrs in the conference room. If you would like to join us, please let me know. If you are an adult who has never been confirmed, I can also help you with that. FMI: Judy Dominick 781-2946 (h) or email: Dominick5@aol.com

Confirmation for Grades 3-12 – Saturday, May 17th at the 4:00 PM Mass.

Graduation Mass – Sunday, June 1st at the 5:30 PM Mass.

"Think Smart/Stay Safe": On **Sunday, April 27** and **Monday, April 28** we will be conducting the Diocesan approved "Think Smart/Stay Safe" program for the children registered for Religious Education, here at Holy Martyrs. Since April is "Child Abuse Prevention Month", we thought it appropriate to offer this as part of our ongoing empowering of our children. If you would like to attend with your child, please feel free to do so. Also, if you would prefer that your children not participate, you may sign an opt-out form that you can obtain from the office. Thank you for all your efforts to create and maintain safe environments for our children, and break the cycle of abuse.

Music Notes: With Easter coming so early this year, there are still 8 weeks of choir rehearsals remaining and 8 opportunities to raise your voice in God's praise. Join us on Thursday evenings at 6:30 pm for music and fellowship. Bring your son or daughter, bring a friend, or bring just yourself! For more information call Cecile at 797-4361.

Donut Sunday Thank You - Thank you to the Nash Family for hosting our Outreach Sunday and to the Murray family for sponsoring it.

Habitat for Humanity Update: The Portland Habitat for Humanity Walk to be held on Sunday, May 4th is fast approaching. This year, Falmouth and Cumberland will join forces with Portland to help raise money for Habitat for Humanity. Registration forms and pledge sheets are available in the Narthex. The "contact" person for Holy Martyrs Church is Moira Lachance @ 781-2346. Everyone has a key role to play. Please plan to join in this annual event to help raise funds for local Habitat Homes.

Rummage Sale – Saturday, April 26th, from 8:30-11:00 AM. Volunteers are needed on Thursday and Friday morning to help set up and on Saturday to sell. Please call Mary Honan after April 22 at 781-2705 if you can help. **Please do NOT drop items off until after April 20th in the designated area.**

Thank You, Mom! - Fresh carnations will be available on Mother's Day in recognition of the sacrifices of motherhood, and in honor of the wonderful mothers in our parish! In addition to thanking moms for their gift of life, your participation in this program also helps promote a Culture of Life right here in Maine. Suggestion donation is \$1.00 each. Proceeds benefit Maine Right to Life Committee. Your generous support is greatly appreciated.

Silver & Gold Mass – Bishop Richard J. Malone and Catholic Charities Maine Family Life Institute are inviting couples celebrating their 25th, 40th, 50th, 55th, 60th, 65th and 70th wedding anniversaries to celebrate a special Silver and Gold Mass on **Saturday, June 28**, at 4:30 PM at the Cathedral in Portland. Those couples planning to attend please RSVP by June 13th to 871-7464, ext. 2670 or 800-CARE-002, ext. 2670. A light reception will follow.

Fr. Scahill's Memorial Pilgrimages – Enjoy a Holy & Beautiful Pilgrimage to the National Shrine of Divine Mercy on May 13 (\$50.00) and Canadian trips to St. Anne's and Our Lady of the Cape in June (\$185.00 pp/do). FMI: call Brian Maxwell at 781-2112.

Holy Martyrs Weekly Calendar

Sunday April 20	Mass at 8:30 AM & 5:30 PM Readings Begin at #930; Communion Hymn #819 NO Rel. Education Classes
Monday April 21	Mass at 7:30 AM Office Closed NO Rel. Education Classes 285: Acts 14:5-18; Ps 115; Jn 14:21-26
Tuesday April 22	Mass at St. Gregory's @ 8:00 AM Contemplative Prayer Group 9:30 AM 286: Acts 14:19-28; Ps 145; Jn 14:27-31a
Wednesday April 23	Mass at 7:30 AM 287: Acts 15:1-6; Ps 122; Jn 15:1-8
Thursday April 24	Communion Service at 7:30 AM Cluster Council 6:30 PM ♫ Adult Choir 6:30 PM 288: Acts 15:7-21; Ps 96; Jn 15:9-11
Friday April 25	Mass at St. Gregory's at 8:00 AM 555: 1 pt 5:5b-14; Ps 89; Mk 16:15-20
Saturday April 26	Mass at 4:00 PM Rummage Sale 8:30-11:00 AM 290: Acts 16;1-10; Ps 100; Jn 15;18-21
Sunday April 27	Mass at 8:30 AM & 5:30 PM Rel. Ed. Classes Resume 55: Acts 8:5-8,14-17; Ps 66;1 Pt 3:15-18; Jn 14:15-21

Cluster Mission: Mark your calendars now for the week of **October 5**. Father Paul Borowski will be offering a mission; he is familiar to some at Holy Martyrs for bringing volunteers in the summer for Habitat for Humanity.

McAuley Residence 20th Anniversary: Join supporters of McAuley Residence, a Sister of Mercy transitional housing program for women and children at 91 State St. Portland, to celebrate 20 years of service with a Tea and Open House, Thursday, May 1st from 3:30-6:30P.M. RSVP 879-3486

Child Abuse Prevention Month – is being marked in parishes across the United States in April. Each week the bulletin will include information on how to prevent abuse, and action the Church has taken to reach out to victims, protect children and remove offenders.

Did You Know...

- The Church has created a safe environment program that includes sexual abuse prevention training for adults and children?
- Background checks are conducted on all Church volunteers who work with children and all Church employees?
- Children very rarely lie about being sexually abused? Take all claims seriously.
- You should be welcome to monitor all programs involving your children for their safety.
- Your child should be taught that “stop” means stop. You can help by complying when a child does not want to be tickled or hugged anymore. This will empower them to use the word and expect and demand that any *bad* touch by others will end if should happen.

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: 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.

