



Dear Friends,
 With Palm Sunday we begin Holy Week, our annual celebration and commemoration of the passion, death and resurrection of the Lord. On Sunday we read the Marcan Priest narrative of the passion and on Friday the account is from the Gospel of John. In the former the anguish of Jesus is very clear; in the latter Jesus is presented as being in control of all. Taken together we can appreciate anew our belief that Jesus is truly man and truly God.

God's love for each of us is so great that Jesus embraced our humanity. As well as our joys, he knew our sorrows. We hear of betrayal and deceit, fear and anxiety, disdain and mockery. His spiritual and emotional suffering were as intense as that of his torture and execution. His suffering and death embraced the messiness of our lives. We are to realize that God is not aloof; Jesus is distinct only in his sinlessness. However, as we anticipate the joy of Easter, we know that death's chains did not hold him. He is risen, and in baptism we became participants in his divinity. We have the passion account of the Gospel of John to remind us of his divinity. In the words with Pilate we know that Jesus Christ is greater than the seemingly powerful Roman emperor.

My prayer is that this week everyone in our parishes may realize anew the transforming power of this truth and grace.

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

MASS INTENTIONS and MASS SCHEDULE

<u>April 4</u>	4:00 PM	Rose Wright, by Candace Jalbert & family
<u>April 5</u>	8:30 AM	Thomas LaPointe, by Ellen Honan
	5:30 PM	The Parishioners
<u>April 6</u>	7:30 AM	Julie Skillings, by Matthew & Bevin Gove
<u>April 8</u>	7:30 AM	Madeline Wendell, mother of Kathie Porensky
<u>April 9 Holy Thursday</u>	5:00 PM	Samuel P. LaCroix, by Ellen Honan
<u>April 10 Good Friday</u>	3:00 PM	Stations of the Cross
	7:00 PM	Liturgy of the Lord's Passion
Next Weekend Masses		
<u>April 11 Easter Vigil</u>	7:00 PM	John Clark, by Steve & Debbie Meahl
<u>April 12 Easter</u>	8:30 AM	Frank Clark, by Dot Clark & family
	5:30 PM	The Parishioners

Last Weekend's Offering: Thank you for your offerings of **\$5,749.00** for last weekend. Our weekly operating expense is **\$6,318.00**. On Good Friday, our parish will take up the annual **Good Friday Collection for the Holy Land**. Your financial contribution helps to support the struggling Christian community and to protect Christianity's holiest places. Please be generous, **Special Easter Collection** – On Easter the second collection is designated for the support of our ill and retired priests and for special diocesan needs. Your generosity is appreciated.

St. Gregory's Holy Week Schedule

Holy Thursday – 7:00 PM Mass
 Good Friday – 3:00 PM Stations of the Cross, 7:00 PM Liturgy of the Lord's Passion
 Easter Sunday – 10:30 AM Mass

Easter Flower Envelopes - If you would like to make a donation for 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.

Fast & Abstinence: Good Friday, April 10, is a day of fast and abstinence. The law of abstinence binds Catholics aged 14 and older. Catholics aged 18 and over, until the beginning of the 60th year (through age 59) are bound by the law of fasting (canon 1252).

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2009: We are 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's Parish hall. 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. Please email Judy Dominick at judy.dominick@portlanddiocese.org, sign the registration sheet in the narthex, or call your local church office by April 17, if your children will be participating in this endeavor. We need to have an approximate count to order supplies and organize the sessions.

Disciples In Mission includes a reflection day during the Easter season. All the participants in the small faith sharing groups, family groups, parish leaders, pastoral council and commission members and ALL interested parishioners are invited to come together. All will be asked to reflect on the outward dimension of evangelization. The reflection day will be held at Sacred Heart Parish Hall on May 7th at 7:00pm. We ask you to bring a finger snack to share. Drinks will be provided.

Operation Rice Bowl – The story of the anointing of Jesus is one of the few stories that appears in all four Gospels. As people begin to grumble about the cost and waste of the perfume, Jesus responds: "You always have the poor with you and any time you want to you can do something good for them." As we continue our Operation rice Bowl journey let us remember in prayer that we are one human family, regardless of our differences. Answering the call to love our neighbors will promote a culture of respect and lead to peace in our own community, and in communities around the world. May our fasting keep us mindful we are our brothers' and sisters' keepers. May our almsgiving assist those in need here in the United States. 75% of your gifts to Operation Rice Bowl support Catholic Relief Services' programs around the world. The remaining 25% of your contributions stays in dioceses in the U.S. to assist local hunger and poverty alleviation programs.

Birthday Box Update: Many thanks to all who have contributed to the birthday boxes! The Junior High Religious Education class assembled and wrapped 18 boxes to take with us to the Preble Street Resource/Wayside Soup Kitchen on Friday, April 3rd. For those who would still like to contribute, we will be assembling more birthday boxes for our May 1st visit to the Wayside Soup Kitchen. Items needed are: Cake mixes, cans of frosting and candles (for the birthday cake part!), small gift items/candy that can fit in a shoe box (for the gift part!). Gift suggestions are: make-up/lip gloss/books/journals appropriate for teen-age girls and baseball hats/packs of cards/small games/AXE products/books/journals appropriate for teen-age boys. Please feel free to be creative!! SHOE BOXES (for the box part!) Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your generosity!

Supper of Loaves and Fishes – Supper of Loaves and Fishes will be held in the church hall on Holy Thursday, April 9th following the 5:00 PM Mass. Please sign up in the narthex if you are planning on attending the dinner or call the church office at 781-4573. To date we have 60 people signed up for the supper.





Cumberland Food Pantry – Volunteers report that after last week's distribution the shelves were bare. "Thanks to the continued generosity of the Holy Martyrs parishioners they will be ready for the next distribution." Our people are truly caring and generous – not with food alone – diapers, toiletries and other essentials have been great! Thank you so much!
Jack Mullin

Spring Rummage Sale – Saturday, May 9th, 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 T. Honan at 781-2705 if you can help. **Please do not drop items off until after April 30th.**

Come to "Building a New Identity as a Single Person", sponsored by Catholic Charities Maine Family Life Institute and Connected Catholics of Maine. The workshop is **Saturday, April 18th from 9:00 AM to noon** at Holy Martyrs Church. There is no charge, but registration is necessary at 1-800-CARE-002, ext. 2670, or familylifeinstitute@ccmaine.org.

Project Rachel - For the grief that follows an abortion -- Rachel's Vineyard, sponsored by Project Rachel, is the Church's way of offering hope and of saying: "Welcome home." Find comfort and peace at the next Rachel's Vineyard Weekend, April 24-26. For an understanding ear and to register, call 871-7464, Ext. 2670; toll-free at 1-800-CARE-002; or e-mail: familylifeinstitute@ccmaine.org. All inquiries are strictly confidential.

Holy Martyrs Weekly Calender

Palm Sunday April 5 	Mass at 8:30 AM & 5:30 PM NO Religious Education Classes <i>37: Mk 11:1-10 or Jn 12:12-16 (procession); 38: Is 50:4-7; Ps 22; Phil 2:6-11; Mk 14:1-15:47 or 15:1-39</i> Readings Begin at #918
Monday April 6	Mass at 7:30 AM Religious Education Classes Joint Stewardship Meeting at Sacred Heart 6:00 PM <i>257: Is 42:1-7; Ps 27; Jn 12:1-11</i> DIM 8:30-10:00 AM & 7:00-8:30 PM
Tuesday April 7	Mass at St. Gregory's at 8:00 AM Connected Catholics Board 6:00 PM <i>258: Is 49: 1-6; Ps 71; Jn 13:21-33,36-38</i>
Wednesday April 8	Mass at 7:30 AM DIM 2:00-3:30 PM <i>259: Is 50:4-9a; Ps 68; Mt 26:14-25</i> Opus Dei Women 10:00-2:00 PM
Holy Thursday April 9	Mass at 5:00 PM Supper of Loaves & Fishes 6:00 PM <i>39: Ex 12:1-8,11-14; Ps 116; 1 Cor 11:23-26; Jn 13:1-15</i> DIM 7:00-8:30 PM
 Good Friday April 10	Mass at St. Gregory's at 8:00 AM Stations of the Cross 3:00 PM, Liturgy of the Lord's Passion 7:00 PM <i>40: Is 52:13-53:12; Ps 31; Heb 4:14-16:5:7-9; Jn 18:1-19:42</i> Office Closed
Holy Saturday April 11 	Easter Vigil 7:00 PM 10:00 AM Easter Flower Committee <i>41/42: (1) Gn 1:1-2:2 or 1:1,26-31a; Ps 104: 1-2a,5-6,10,12-14,24,35c or Ps 33;</i> <i>(2) Gn 22:1-18 or 22:1-2,9a,10-13,15-18; Ps 16</i> <i>(3) Ex 14:15-15:1; (Ps) Ex 15:1-6,17-18</i> <i>(4) Is 54:5-14; Ps 30</i> <i>(5) Is 55:1-11; (Ps) Is 12:2-3,4bcd,5-6</i> <i>(6) Bar 3:9-15,32-4:4; Ps 19</i> <i>(7) Ez 36:16-17a,18-28; Pss 42</i> <i>(8) Rom 6:3-11; Ps 118</i> <i>(9) Mk 16:1-7</i>
Easter Sunday April 12 	Mass at 8:30 AM & 5:30 PM NO Religious Education <i>42: Acts 10:34a,37-43; Ps 118; Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8; Jn 20:1-9 or 41: Mk 16:1-7or,, at an afternoon or evening Mass, 46: Lk 24:13-35</i>

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. Brochures available in the vestibule or visit www.Firstgiving.com.

MASSES:

<i>Saturday Mass:</i>	<i>4:00 PM</i>
<i>Sunday Masses:</i>	<i>8:30 AM & 5:30 PM</i>
<i>Daily Mass:</i>	<i>Mon. & Wed. at 7:30 AM</i>
<i>Communion Service:</i>	<i>Thurs. at 7:30 AM</i>
<i>Confession:</i>	<i>Sat. 3:15-3:45 & by appointment</i>

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.