

FROM THE  Dear Friends,

Recent events have reminded many of us of our vulnerability. The loss of power due to the ice storm made us aware of our dependency on electricity. As the hours without power went on we not only experienced inconvenience, but also real losses were taking place. The current economic recession makes us aware of how our way of living can be altered by powers beyond our control. Our vulnerability may help us to understand Christmas more fully.

On Christmas we celebrate the fact that God chose to be vulnerable. The Word, through whom all came to be, chose to become one of us. The Son of God was born taking on the vulnerability of the infant, a ministry of earth shattering proportion, and death on the cross. A theologian has called him the man for others. He chose to expose himself to weakness and evil that we might realize the embrace of love. Our culture views vulnerability as a liability. Risk protection is the concern of every organization and home, as it should be. However, the storm and the recession cannot be avoided; we are vulnerable. This experience of vulnerability is an opportunity for us to remember who and what we are. In this awareness we can recognize our blessings and become more closely united with the Savior who in becoming vulnerable enables us to face our vulnerabilities.

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

Mass Intentions and Mass Schedule

December 20	4:00 PM	Arthur Maher, by Brendan & MJ Murphy
December 21	8:30 AM	Frank Clark, by Dot Clark & family
	5:30 PM	The Parishioners
December 22	7:30 AM	James Brown, by Steve & Deborah Meahl
December 24	4:00 PM	Patrick Conley, by the O'Donnell family
	7:00 PM	Carl Bowen, by Lois & Bob Steele
December 25	8:30 AM	The Parishioners
Next Weekend Masses		
December 27	4:00 PM	Isabelle Maguire, by Mary Ann McLean
December 28	8:30 AM	14 th Anniversary of Jack Fecteau, Sr., by his wife and family
	5:30 PM	The Parishioners

Last Weekend's Offering: Thank you for your offerings of **\$5,165.00** last weekend. \$3,882.00 was in 130 envelopes and \$1,283.00 was loose. **Our weekly operating expense is \$6,318.00.** The second collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious totaled \$2,837.00.

Christmas Flowers: Envelopes for contributions to meet the expense of decorating the church at Christmas are in the rear of the church. This is an opportunity to remember loved ones.

Bishop Richard Malone is pleased to announce a new ministry designed to reach Catholics and non-Catholics in their homes at the beginning of each day. Thanks to the initiative and support of generous donors, the bishop will share a word of hope and spiritual wisdom Monday through Friday between **5:57 AM and 5:59 AM** on WGME Channel 13, Portland and WAGM TV Channel 8, Presque Isle. We hope you'll tune in for daily inspiration and let the stations know how much you appreciate this new programming.

Lectors, Ministers and Servers for Christmas Masses

Lectors and servers are needed for the three Masses. Seven ministers of communion are needed for the 4:00 PM Mass on December 24 and three ministers are needed for the 7:00 PM Mass and the 8:30 AM Mass on December 25. Sign up sheets are in the narthex. There are still many spaces that need to be filled.

St. Gregory's Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve 4:30 & 10:00 PM
Christmas Day 10:30 AM

The Middle School CCD class is collecting coats for St. Elizabeth's Pantry. There is a particular need for men's coats. Please place coats in the blue bin in the Narthex.

CHRIST OUR HOPE RETREAT Come join other young adults (18-35) on this overnight retreat. We will meet others, discuss, soul search and find out why the Holy Father wrote this letter! January 10-11, 2009.

Speakers to include:

- Ruth Oakley, Assistant Director of Pastoral Services, Diocese of Portland
- Michael Lavigne, Director of Young Adult Ministry, Diocese of Portland
- Sr. Elaine Lachance, SCIM

The weekend will include Mass on Sunday. To register, please make a \$20 check payable to: DOMINICAN SISTERS OF THE ROMAN CONGREGATION. Hand or mail this check along with your name, address, phone number and email address to Sr. Elaine Lachance, SCIM, 11 Aspen Ave, Portland, Me 04106. For more information contact Lisa at veritasportland@yahoo.com.

Christmas Dinner Baskets: Please bring items like, carrots, canned yams, corn, green beans, peas, nuts and candies **by Sunday night**. Drop items in the basket provided in the Stewardship corner of the Narthex. Please call George Spino @ 878-8319 or email gspino@maine.rr.com

Help Decorate the Church for Christmas Monday, December 22 starting at 1:00 pm. The flower committee would love to have more help in this fun and festive Christmas event. If you are interested in helping, please email Barbara Seelen at baseelen@maine.rr.com or call the church office at 781-4573.



Donut Sunday Thank You – Thank you to Steve & Marilyn Marsanskis for hosting and sponsoring our Donut Sunday last weekend.



Vocations - "Be it done unto me according to your word." Docile obedience to the Lord's will is the fruit of humble prayer. If God is inviting you to be a priest, deacon or consecrated religious, call Fr. Bob Vaillancourt @ 207-773-6471/robert.vaillancourt@portlanddiocese.org or Sr. Rita Mae Bissonnette @ 207-773-6471/ritamaebissonnette@portlanddiocese.org.

Catherine McCauley High School – Catherine McAuley High School will be holding its final High School Placement Test for the class of 2013 on January 10, 2009. Students who take this exam will be eligible for the Academic Excellence Scholarship. This scholarship is for the 8th grade student who has shown academic excellence by being the top ranking student and has ranked in the 97 percentile or higher nationally on the HSPT. This student will be awarded full tuition. Registration for the exam begins at 8:20 AM and the exam will end at 11:30 Am. For further details, call the admissions office today at 797-3802. Walk-ins are welcome.

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. 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.

Funeral Ministry – We are still looking for people interested in helping with this important ministry. For more information, please call the church office at 781-4573.

Holy Martyrs Weekly Calendar

	Mass at 8:30 AM Mass at 5:30 PM	Readings Begin at #888 Religious Education Classes
	Christmas Pageant 9:30 AM <i>11: 2 Sm 7;1-5,8b-12,14a,16; Ps 89; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38</i>	
Sunday December 21		
Monday December 22	Mass at 7:30 AM	Decorate the Church 1:00 PM Religious Education Classes <i>198: 1 Sm 1:24-28; (Ps) 1 Sm 2:1; Lk 1:46-56</i>
Tuesday December 23	Mass at St. Gregory's at 8:00 AM	<i>199: Mal 3:1-4,23-24; Ps 25; Lk 1:57-66</i>
Christmas Eve Wednesday December 24	Mass at 4:00 PM Mass at 7:00 PM	<i>14: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14</i>
Christmas Thursday December 25	Mass at 8:30 AM	<i>14: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14</i>
Friday December 26		<i>696: Acts 6:8-10,7:54-59; Ps 31; Mt 10:17-22</i>
Saturday December 27	Mass at 4:00 PM	<i>697: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97; Jn 20:2-8</i>
Sunday December 28	Mass at 8:30 AM Mass at 5:30 PM	Readings Begin at #894 <i>15:1-6;21:1-3; Ps 105; Heb 11:8,11-12,17-19; Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22,39-40</i>

Hands Around the Capital – Saturday, January 17, 2009. 36th Anniversary of Roe v. Wade

The Maine Right to Life Committee will hold its annual Hands Around the Capital Rally and March on Saturday, January 17, 2009. Bishop Malone will celebrate Mass at 10:00 AM at St. Mary's Church on Western Avenue in Augusta. The Rally begins at 11:00 AM at St. Mary's gym in Augusta. We begin our March to the Capitol at 12:15 PM. FMI: Please contact Maine Right to Life Committee, P.O. Box 257, Auburn, ME 04212, 207-782-0101 or email: mrlc@MaineRightToLife.Com, website: www.MaineRightToLife.com.

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.