



Dear Friends,
LENT 2009

Priest This weekend in Houlton, Bangor, Lewiston and Portland Bishop Malone will preside over the Rite of Election during which hundreds of adults and young people will be accepted to receive the Sacraments of Christian Initiation, i.e. Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist, during the Easter Vigil. Most will have prepared many months or in some cases years to become full members of the Roman Catholic Church. It is important that we remember them in prayer not only because they will be one with us, but also because they remind us of the vitality of our church despite the challenges we have faced and are facing. When I am able to attend this ceremony, I am moved by the participation of so many people from around the diocese and by the dedication of the hundreds of people who have assisted the candidates to arrive at the day. The Rite is carried out on the first Sunday of Lent as Lent began as the final stage of preparation of converts. From a few days Lent gradually became forty and its daily and Sunday liturgies were formed to assist the candidates on the path to baptism. Now, Lent has become a practice of the entire church. Our daily and Sunday liturgies are opportunities for us to better appreciate our adoption as the children of God, so we can fully experience the joy that is Easter. This year the Easter Vigil will be at Holy Martyrs Church.

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

MASS INTENTIONS and MASS SCHEDULE

February 28	4:00 PM	Patrick Conley, by Catherine & Jack O'Donnell
March 1	8:30 AM	Arthur Curran, by the Meahl Family
	5:30 PM	The Parishioners
March 2	7:30 AM	Joan Burns, by Natalie & John Bonnell
March 4	7:30 AM	Richard Aube, by Steve & Deb Meahl
March 5	7:30 AM	Communion Service
Next Weekend Masses		
March 7	4:00 PM	Arthur Young, by Gertrude Young
March 8	8:30 AM	Joan Burns, by Mary T. & Jim Honan
	5:30 PM	The Parishioners

Last Weekend's Offering: Thank you for your offerings of **\$4,395.00** for last weekend. Our weekly operating expense is \$6,318.00.

This Weekend's Second Collection - This weekend the Church is asking your support of the **NATIONAL COLLECTION for BLACK and INDIAN MISSIONS in the UNITED STATES**. The need for Evangelization programs is so important to our Church in this changing world. PLEASE BE GENEROUS.

Thank you for whatever you can give and God bless you.

Bishop's Mass in Honor of Persons with Disabilities and Their Families

Catholic Charities Maine Family Life Institute Parish Inclusion Ministry invites you to a "Special Mass in Honor of Persons with disabilities, and Their Families". Bishop Richard Malone will celebrate this Mass on **Sunday, March 29th, at 10:30 AM at Notre Dame Church, 112 Silver Street, Waterville**. We extend a special invitation to anyone with physical, emotional, or mental disabilities, their family members, and those who work with them, to attend. For more information, please contact, the Family Life Institute at 1-800-CARE-002, ext. 2672 or e-mail: familylifeinstitute@ccmaine.org.

Lent – The Disciples in Mission groups are now formed. We had an excellent response with 71 participants including 8 families. Those who signed up for a faith-sharing group, can pick up their assignment and participant booklet after Mass today in the Narthex.

✠ **Stations of the Cross will be held each Friday of Lent at 4:30 PM.** March 6th & March 20th will be the Way of the Cross for Children.

Penance Service – Sunday, March 29th at Sacred Heart Church in Yarmouth from 3:30-4:30 PM.

Operation Rice Bowl – In Mark's Gospel we read about Jesus being tempted by the devil for forty days. Lent provides us with time to reflect on the temptations we face and remember we rely on God for all things. Through our participation in Operation Rice Bowl, we put our faith into action; our prayers and alms help people in need around the world. As we continue our Operation Rice Bowl journey let us remember in **prayer** that the ability to work to earn a living is a right of all people. All workers have the right to a fair wage, to organize themselves, and to work in good conditions. May our fasting keep us mindful of the workers who provide food for their families. May our **almsgiving** assist Catholic Relief Services as we **learn** about micro finance projects in Egypt.

Friendship House is a residence in South Portland for formerly homeless men recovering from substance abuse. The first Wednesday of each month, members of our parish contribute prepared hot or cold dishes and grocery items such as fresh produce, paper products or toiletries, which are taken to the men at FH. If you would like to contribute something this Wednesday, please call Deborah Nicklas @ 781-4362.

Altar Server Training: There will be a training and orientation for new altar servers on Wednesday, March 4th at 4:30 p.m. If you are in grades 3-8 and are interested in becoming an altar server, please contact Meredith Charest at 781-8599 or mcharest1@maine.rr.com.

Confirmation sessions for older students: Any student in grades 3 through 12 who has not yet received Confirmation is invited to participate in classes starting in March. We will meet in the conference room on Sundays from 9:30am to 10:30am on March 1, March 8, March 15, March 22, and March 29. Confirmation will be held at the Cathedral in Portland on May 2nd. If you are an adult who has never been confirmed, I can also help you. For more information on the Confirmation sessions, please contact Judy Dominick at judy.dominick@portlanddiocese.net or call the rectory at 781-4573.

Community Dinner – Thursday, March 5th from 5:00-6:30 PM at the Church of St. Mary, 43 Foreside Road. Please join us for a wonderful community dinner. We will feature a menu of spaghetti, sausages, salad and yummy desserts! Gluten-free spaghetti, sauce and desserts will be available for those who have need. Coffee, milk and lemonade will also be served. Donations will be gladly accepted at the door and **all** proceeds will **benefit Falmouth's neediest citizens through the Falmouth Food Pantry and the Falmouth Fuel Assistance Fund.**

Falmouth & Cumberland Food Pantry - Ongoing weekly collection - With the current economic crisis affecting so many families, we are undertaking a new endeavor to establish an ongoing collection of food items and monetary donations for the local Falmouth Community Food Pantry and Cumberland Food Pantry. There is a table in the Narthex for your contributions for this effort. Below is a list of requested items but **any** nonperishable items would be appreciated:

Cereal; Crackers ; Pancake syrup; pancake mixes; Macaroni and cheese box mixes; Canned pasta-spaghettios, ravioli, etc. Boxed meals- Hamburger helper, tuna helper, chicken helper, etc. Canned meats- ham, chicken, turkey, spam, Canned stews, chili, hash Canned fruit; Cookies ; Snacks for kids lunches, Coffee, tea; Fruit juices - bottles or boxes; Condiments - mayo, ketchup, mustard, etc. Paper towels; toilet paper; cleaning supplies; laundry detergent; Personal hygiene items - toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant, etc.

We will continue the bimonthly "Brown Bag" Sunday collections that have been such an important part of our outreach to the needy, coordinated by Nancy Castonia. Thank you for your support.

Good Cause Thrift Shop - is featuring a wonderful selection of **new** prom gowns. FMI 207-772-4903.

Holy Martyrs Weekly Calendar

First Sunday of Lent Sunday March 1	Mass at 8:30 AM & 5:30 PM Religious Education Classes	Readings Begin at #904 Confirmation Retreat 1:00-3:00 PM 23: Gn 9:8-15; Ps 25; 1 Pt 3:18-22; Mt 1:12-15
Monday March 2	Mass at 7:30 AM Religious Education Classes	224: Lv 19:1-2,11-18; Ps 19; Mt 25:31-46 DIM 8:30-10:00 AM & 7:00-8:30 PM
Tuesday March 3	Mass at St. Gregory's at 8:00 AM	Contemplative Prayer Group 9:30-11:00 AM 225: Is 55:10-11; Ps 34; Mt 6:7-15
Wednesday March 4	Mass at 7:30 AM Friendship House	226: Jon 3:1-10; Ps 51; Lk 11:29-32 DIM 2:00-3:30 PM Altar Server Training 4:30-5:30 PM
Thursday March 5	Mass at 7:30 AM	DIM 7:00-8:30 PM 227: Est C12,14-16,23-25; Ps 138; Mt
Friday March 6	Mass at St. Gregory's at 8:00 AM Stations of the Cross 4:30 PM Children's Version	228: Ez 18:21-28; Ps 130; Mt 5:20-26
Saturday March 7	Mass at 4:00 PM	229: Dt 26:16-19; Ps 119; Mt 5:43-48 Brown Bag
Second Sunday of Lent March 8	Mass at 8:30 AM & 5:30 PM Religious Education Classes Coffee & Donut Sunday	Readings Begin at #907 Brown Bag 26: Gn 22:1-2,9a,10-13,15-18; Ps 116; Rom 8:31b-34; Mk 9:2-10 Connected Catholics 2:00 PM

Corn Beef and Cabbage Dinner - Catherine McAuley parents will be hosting their annual Corn Beef & Cabbage dinner with all the fixings on **Saturday, March 7th** from 4:30-8:00 pm at St. Pius X Parish Hall in Portland. Cost is \$10.00 for adults, \$7.50 for children and seniors, kids under 5 are free. Bring the family and have lots of fun!!

Silent and Live Auction for St. Brigid School – Join your friends and neighbors and experience an evening enjoying a warm and comfortable Hawaiian atmosphere on **March 20th** at the Italian Heritage Center from 5:30PM – 12:00 AM. Dinner, Cash Bar, Dancing. Values Galore - 1st Prize 42" RCA LCD High Definition TV, 2nd Prize: IPOD ATouch 8 GB, 3rd Prize: \$150.00 L.L. Bean Gift Certificate. Cost per ticket is \$32.00 FMI: 797-7023.

Rejuvenate your Marriage. You deserve it! - Your wonderful spouse is worth 44 hours of your time and attention! A marriage encounter weekend will be the best 44 hours you've spent in a long time. Please join us for the **Worldwide Marriage Encounter** weekend held at the **Lewiston Ramada Inn** on **March 20-22, 2009**. The registration fee is \$50.00 and a freewill donation will be accepted at the end of the weekend. FMI or to register contact Dave & Ellie at 207-933-4237 or go to www.wmmeNewEngland.org.

16th Bishop Amedee Proulx Memorial Award Take the time to nominate that special person you know in your parish who does so much for others! The Bishop Proulx Award was established to give recognition to an individual in Maine whose contributions reflect the mission of Catholic Charities Maine and foster the social teachings of Jesus Christ. Each nominee receives a letter of congratulations. The winner will be honored at the award ceremony (scheduled for Friday, June 5, 2009) that has proven to be a joyful event honoring his/her work, the social teachings of the Catholic Church, and the memory of Bishop Amedee Proulx. Since the beginning of the award nominations have been received from over 90 parishes throughout Maine. If you need a nomination form, please call Catholic Charities Maine, 781-8550 or 1-800-781-8550. **The deadline is March 6, 2009.**

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: 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.