



**Priest** A bill has been submitted in the Maine Legislature that, if passed, will make same-sex marriage legal in Maine. If you believe this will not affect YOU personally, you are mistaken. The language in this bill seeks to redefine traditional marriage and will affect society in many ways. For example, if passed, parents will lose the ability to control what their kids learn in public schools about marriage and sexual orientation.

A Public Hearing is set for Friday, April 24, 9:00 AM, at Cony High School, 60 Pierce Drive in Augusta. Please do all that you can to attend. The bill's progress can be followed at [www.maine.gov](http://www.maine.gov) click on Government, then State Legislature.

The Maine Marriage Initiative will distribute educational program kits this week to all parishes in the Diocese. Our goal is to help people become better educated in our Catholic teachings on this issue and to clear up misconceptions presented by the opposition. Please visit the Maine Marriage Initiative Website: [www.mainemarriageinitiative.com](http://www.mainemarriageinitiative.com). *Father Joe Ford; email: [jfford67@maine.rr.com](mailto:jfford67@maine.rr.com)*

#### MASS INTENTIONS and MASS SCHEDULE

<b>March 28</b>	4:00 PM	James Abram McNamar, by the grandparents
<b>March 29</b>	8:30 AM	Michael Hare, by the Bachman & Barbour Families
	5:30 PM	The Parishioners
<b>March 30</b>	7:30 AM	Dorothy McKee, by Lorraine McKee
<b>April 1</b>	7:30 AM	John Taliento, by the Agren Family
<b>April 2</b>	7:30 AM	Communion Service

#### Next Weekend Masses

<b>April 4</b>	4:00 PM	Rose Wright, by Candace Jalbert & family
<b>April 5</b>	8:30 AM	Thomas LaPointe, by Ellen Honan
	5:30 PM	The Parishioners

**Last Weekend's Offering:** Thank you for your offerings of **\$5,171.00** for last weekend. Our weekly operating expense is **\$6,318.00**. The Catholic Relief Collection totaled **\$2,039.00**.

**Stations of the Cross will be held Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 4:30 PM.**

**April 2, Day of Prayer and Penance.** Bishop Malone invites us to join in prayer and fasting for the offenses committed against the vulnerable by clergy and other church personnel. Mass will be celebrated at the Cathedral at 12:15 PM.



**Holy Week Schedule:** Holy Thursday – 5:00 PM Mass, Supper of Loaves and Fishes to follow.  
Good Friday – 3:00 PM Stations of the Cross, 7:00 PM Liturgy of the Lord's Passion  
Holy Saturday, Easter Vigil - 7:00 PM  
Easter Sunday - 8:30 AM Mass & 5:30 PM Mass

#### 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.



**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2009:** We're 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 parish hall in Gray. 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. We invite you to please consider volunteering for one or more of the following ministries.

Distributing publicity materials	Activity Center	Music
Assist with banners, backdrops, sets, etc.	Skits	Photographer
Providing craft materials	Prayer	Refreshments
Preparing craft materials	Crafts	Clean-up
Praying for teachers and students	Catechist/teacher	Promotion
Registration/Office Asst.		

Please email Judy Dominick at [judy.dominick@portlanddiocese.org](mailto:judy.dominick@portlanddiocese.org), sign the registration sheet in the narthex, or call your local church office by April 1st, if your children will be participating in this endeavor. We need to have an approximate count to order supplies and organize the sessions.

**Birthday Boxes** - The Junior High Religious Education classes are putting together Birthday boxes to take with us to the Preble Street Kitchen on Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Birthday boxes will allow teens/children and even adults to celebrate their birthdays, an event often overlooked because of monetary circumstances. If you would like to contribute to our "boxes" please place any of the following items in the large "Birthday Box Bin" in the narthex. Thank you, as always, for your generosity of spirit!

**Items needed:** Shoe boxes, cake mix (any kind), cans of frosting (any kinds), "Happy birthday" banners, box of birthday candles, small gifts items such as books, Beanie babies, \$5 or \$10 gift cards to a local store or supermarket, wrapped candy, fun socks, hair accessories, etc. Be creative, but please keep items small so it all fits in a shoe box.

**Lenten Stations of the Cross:** During the Fridays of Lent, we have Stations of the Cross at 4:30 PM at Holy Martyrs. Deacon Dennis received "Thank You" notes from the children for leading the Stations for Children. One included the line, "I really feel God's love when we do them!" Please join us the remaining Fridays of Lent.


**Operation Rice Bowl** – In today's Gospel, Jesus reminds us that judgment, repentance, and dying to sin are necessary before we can truly know the joy of God's mercy, forgiveness, and new life in Christ. Jesus puts it this way: "If you love your life, you must let it go...if you want to serve me, you must follow me and do what I do..." As we continue our Operation Rice Bowl journey let us remember in prayer that human beings are not only sacred, but also social. How we participate in our family and community, from our daily actions to our policy decisions, affects each and every person. May our fasting keep us mindful of the families and communities that are hungry. May our **almsgiving** assist Catholic Relief Services as we **learn** about education programming in Ghana.

**Cumberland/Falmouth Food Pantries Thank You** -On Monday, March 23 another weekly delivery was made to the Cumberland Food Pantry. The shelves were empty as they had a distribution on Sunday and served thirty-eight families. This is a very well organized volunteer run pantry at the Cumberland Congregational Church on Main Street. They are so appreciative and thankful for the weekly donations from Holy Martyrs parishioners. "Gifts from the Lord for those in real need" is how they expressed it!  
*Jack Mullin*

**Friendship House** - 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 (may be frozen) and grocery items such as fresh produce, paper products or toiletries, which I then take to the men at FH. If you would like to contribute something this Wednesday, please call Deborah Nicklas @781-4362.

**Spring Rummage Sale** – Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 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 30<sup>th</sup>.**

## Holy Martyrs Weekly Calender

Fifth Sunday of Lent March 29	Mass at 8:30 AM & 5:30 PM Religious Education Classes Penance Service, 3:30 Sacred Heart, Yarmouth	Readings Begin at #916 35: Jer 31:31-34; Ps 51; Heb 5:7-9; Jn 12:20-33
Monday March 30	Mass at 7:30 AM Religious Education Classes	251: Dn 13:1-9,15-17,19-30,33-62 or 13:41c-62; Ps 23; Jn 8:1-11 DIM 8:30-10:00 AM & 7:00-8:30 PM
Tuesday March 31	Mass at St. Gregory's at 8:00 AM	Contemplative Prayer Group 9:30-11:00 AM 252: Nm 21:4-9; Ps 102; Jn 8:21-30
Wednesday April 1	Mass at 7:30 AM	DIM 2:00-3:30 PM 253: Dn 3:14-20,91-92,95; (Ps) Dn 3:52-56; Jn 8:31-42
Thursday April 2	Communion Service at 7:30 AM	DIM 7:00-8:30 PM 254: Gn 17:3-9; Ps 105; Jn 8:51-59
Friday April 3	Mass at St. Gregory's at 8:00 AM †Stations of the Cross 4:30 PM	255: Jer 20:10-13; Ps 18; Jn 10:31-42
Saturday April 4	Mass at 4:00 PM	256: Ez 37:21-28; (Ps) Jer 31:10-13; Jn 11:45-56
 Palm Sunday April 5	Mass at 8:30 AM & 5:30 PM Religious Education Classes	Readings Begin at #918 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

**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 Martyr's Church. There is no charge, but registration is necessary at 1-800-CARE-002, ext. 2670, 871-7464, ext. 2670, or [familylifeinstitute@ccmaine.org](mailto:familylifeinstitute@ccmaine.org).

**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](http://www.Firstgiving.com).

**The US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)** is inviting public comment on a proposal to rescind an important December 2008 federal regulation that protects the conscience rights of health care providers. Help protect the rights of our Catholic health care professionals and institutions. Please visit [www.usccb.org/conscienceprotection](http://www.usccb.org/conscienceprotection) to access links to make a comment and to find out more information. **Comments must be posted by April 9, 2009.**

**Schooner fare Benefit Concert for St Patrick's Parish** - Saturday April 25th, 7:30pm. St. Patrick's Church, Portland. Tickets available at the rectory 772-6325 or after weekend Masses at St. Pat's, \$15 in advance, \$18 at the door, \$10 (12 and under).

**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

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## PARISH OF THE HOLY MARTYRS OF NORTH AMERICA

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266 Foreside Road, Falmouth, Maine 04105  
[www.holymartyrs.org](http://www.holymartyrs.org)

**PARISH DIRECTORY:**

Parish Office: 781-4573  
 Religious Education: 781-2847  
 Fax: 781-3961  
 Email: [rectory@holymartyrs.org](mailto: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.

