



Dear Friends,
LENT 2009

Priest Last Monday morning I woke, as did you, to gaze upon the newest blanket of snow with more swirling about. I pondered the consequences on my plans and schedule for the day and regretted the need to cancel another of our Monday afternoon religious education classes. Then, from the radio I heard of the decline in the Asian and European stock markets and thought of the continued peril of our priest's pension program. Amidst these seeming woes came a report from the Congo. A priest and a Catholic relief worker told of the privations and atrocities being suffered. The priest told of a Christmas massacre during which more than a hundred of his parishioners had been killed in their small church. Though my French is poor I could hear the priest's distress over and anxiety for his people. I was glad to wade through the snow!

The parish owes gratitude to Judy Dominick, Deacon Dennis and the second grade catechists for leading a mini retreat for our candidates for first communion and confirmation and their parents las Sunday. It was inspiring to witness these folks sharing faith. We have introduced this and a second retreat in April to help our young people and their families appreciate better the awesome gifts.

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

MASS INTENTIONS and MASS SCHEDULE

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
March 9	7:30 AM	Agnes Bonnell, by Natalie & John Bonnell
March 11	7:30 AM	Rosemarie Taliento, by the Agren Family
March 12	7:30 AM	Communion Service

Next Weekend Masses

March 14	4:00 PM	James, Mary & Henry York, by Gertrude Young
March 15	8:30 AM	Joan Burns, by Dorothy & Carol Fredriksen
	5:30 PM	The Parishioners

Last Weekend's Offering: Thank you for your offerings of **\$6,154.00** for last weekend. Our weekly operating expense is \$6,318.00. The Ash Wednesday Collection for the Church in Eastern Europe totaled \$1,675.00. The collection for the Black and Indian Missions totaled \$2,374.00.

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.

A reminder that Father Ford is usually at Holy Martyrs office all day on Monday and on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday afternoons. He is usually at St. Gregory's on Tuesday and Friday mornings. Deacon Dennis is usually at Holy Martyrs on Monday morning and on Thursdays and Fridays. He is at St. Gregory's on Monday afternoon and on Wednesday.

New Lenten Web Site - The Roman Catholic Diocese of Portland is pleased to make available a new resource to help Catholics more fully observe the season of Lent. The web site is centered on:

- What we believe
- What we celebrate
- How we live
- How we pray.

The website (www.usccb.org/lent) also includes sample chapters from the U.S. Catechism on prayer, the sacraments and the passion and resurrection of Christ. It also features a question-and-answer section on the RCIA and the Paschal Triduum, from Holy Thursday through the Easter vigil on the evening of Holy Saturday. The Lenten Web site was created by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Communications Department.

✠ **Stations of the Cross will be held each Friday of Lent at 4:30 PM.** 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 – Today in Mark's Gospel, we find Peter, James and John being disturbed hearing Jesus talk about carrying a cross and losing his life. In answer to their misgivings, Jesus took them to a mountain and was transfigured before them. They were filled with awe as they realized his glory was also theirs, a glory not only experienced in his future kingdom, but also here on earth.

As we continue our Operation Rice Bowl journey let us remember in **prayer** that as a community of faith, we have the obligation to reach out to those most in need. The Gospel specifically calls us to take action on behalf of the poor. May our almsgiving assist Catholic Relief Services as we learn about agriculture programs in the Philippines.

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 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.

Brown Bag Sunday – If you would like the opportunity to help the homeless men, women and children through Preble Street Resource Center please take a shopping list of much needed food items and reusable grocery bags as you leave the Church today and return your donation in the reusable bag. If you would like to donate a reusable bag...just take a shopping list and return your donated groceries in the reusable bag, we need about 20 more reusable bags. ANGELS are needed to sort the groceries on Sunday, March 15 after the 5:30 PM Mass and to deliver the groceries on Monday morning, March 16th at 8:00 AM. This is a great Lenten activity for the kids. They can help you shop, etc. Thanks ! Nancy Castonia 829-5803.

Falmouth Food Pantry Update – The first delivery to the Cumberland Food Pantry located at the Cumberland Congregational Church on Main Street was made on Tuesday, March 3. The people that administer the program were thrilled with the generosity of the Holy Martyrs Parishioners. Please continue to help our neighbors in real need by dropping non-perishables in the narthex each week.

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.

