



Dear Friends,

On June 19 Pope Benedict declared the next year to be Year for Priests. This period is to be an opportunity for the church to reflect upon the role of the priest in the church and for priests to review their spiritual lives and ministry. The Pope stated: "The centrality of Christ brings with it the correct appreciation of the ministerial priesthood, without which there would be neither the Eucharist, nor even the mission nor the Church herself." In our diocese we anticipated the year by a gathering of priests in May during which we spoke of the influences on our vocations and the facets of the ministry which are most fulfilling for us. Much of this is captured on the DVD 'Fishers of Men: Priests of the Diocese of Portland. I continue to encourage you to get and watch this presentation. It helps us to recognize the good men who are serving us in a very challenging time. At the entrances of the churches you will find a brochure explaining the year and cards with a prayer for vocations to the priesthood. Please continue to join me in this prayer.

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

Mass Intentions and Mass Schedule

November 21	4:00 PM	David Twomey III
November 22	8:30 AM	Rachel Mooney, by Alice Chapin
	5:30 PM	The Parishioners
November 23	7:30 AM	Margaret Neuzerling, by Dick & Pat Traynor
November 25 Thanksgiving Mass	7:00 PM	John Bennett

Next Weekend Masses

November 28	4:00 PM	David Twomey III, by Barbara McManus
November 29	8:30 AM	The Parishioners
	5:30 PM	Clayton Thomas, by The Polewaczyk Family

Last Weekend's Offering: Thank you for your contributions of \$5,362.00 last weekend. To meet our budget for the fiscal year, the weekly collection should average \$6,000.00 per week. This weekend's second collection is for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD). Please give generously.

November – Month of Prayer for Departed – Envelopes for the Holy Souls are in the rear of the church. During the month of November these are placed on the altar as a sign of prayer for our deceased relatives, friends and parishioners.

New Cluster Bulletin – Beginning January 2010 we will be using Liturgical Publications for our new cluster bulletin. Please note that the **new deadline for all bulletin items will be 10 business days before bulletin date** (i.e. Monday, December 28th deadline for the bulletin January 9 & 10, 2010.) The first edition of the new bulletin will be January 9 & 10, 2010.

Flu Protocols: The Sign of Peace should be offered without any physical contact (use a verbal greeting along with meaningful eye contact, a smile, or the bow of the head). The faithful should not hold hands during the Our Father. **Holy Communion** - All ministers of Holy Communion must sanitize their hands prior to and after the distribution of Holy Communion. Communion in the hand is encouraged (not mandated); the faithful retain the option of receiving Holy Communion either on the tongue or in the hand. All ministers of Holy Communion are advised to distribute the consecrated hosts with care, being cautious not to touch the tongue or the hand of the communicant. The distribution of the Precious Blood for the faithful is suspended, with the exception of those who must receive from the cup due to medical reasons (i.e., Celiac disease). The faith of the Church teaches that Christ, whole and entire, is received even under only one species.

Music Ministry News: Please help us celebrate Jesus' birthday by joining one of our Christmas choirs! The Family Choir will sing at the 4:00 Mass on Christmas Eve. Children, parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles are welcome to join our Family Choir. The Adult Choir will sing at the other Christmas Eve Mass (time to be determined). Rehearsals for both choirs will begin Tues. December 1. The Family Choir will meet in church from 6:30 to 7:30 pm and the Adult Choir from 7:30 to 8:30 pm. Please contact Diane Beaton at 781-9869 or sbeaton@maine.rr.com for more information.

*Diane Beaton will be moving from Maine after the holidays. Consequently, we are seeking an organist/director of music ministry. If you are interested or can recommend someone, please advise the office at 781-4573 or by e-mail.

The Bethlehem Village Experience - Dec. 11th at St. Gregory's Parish, Gray from 6:30pm - 8pm

Parishioners of all ages are invited to become part of the Christmas story -- you will actually feel, taste, hear, and smell what life was like during this miraculous time. An excited group of shepherds will lead groups of guests to the stable, where guests can interact with a very special -- but weary -- couple and their newborn. This isn't your typical "living Nativity" because guests will talk with Joseph and Mary, ask them what it was like to stay in a stable, and discover that God used regular people to fulfill his promise. What a remarkable reminder of God's amazing love for us! FMI - email judy.dominick@portlanddiocese.org.

Notice to all volunteers who work with children, here at Holy Martyrs Parish: As mandated by Diocesan Policy, everyone who works with children and youth on a regular basis, is required to attend a training session of "Protecting God's Children". The following dates have been selected to offer a choice that best fits your schedule, if you haven't already attended: Wednesday, December 2nd from 6-9p.m. at St. Gregory parish hall in Gray and Saturday, December 12th from 9a.m. -12 noon at Holy Martyrs, Falmouth. Please notify the church where you will attend the session, so we can plan on space and materials. Call Judy Dominick at 781-2847 if you have any questions.

Early alert for "Think Smart/Stay Safe" during Liturgy of the Word and Religious Education sessions on December 13/14 & 20/21: We will be conducting our annual Diocesan approved "Think Smart/Stay Safe" program for this year, during the regular scheduled sessions on Sunday and Monday, December 13/14 & 20/21 for the children registered for Religious Education, here at Holy Martyrs. If you would like to attend with your child, please feel free to do so. Also, if you would prefer that your children not participate, you should sign an opt-out form that can be obtained from the office. Thank you for all your efforts to create and maintain safe environments for our children, and break the cycle of abuse.

Young Adults' Advent Retreat: Keeping Our Eyes Fixed on Jesus - December 11-13, 2009 ~ with Fr. William Brown, OMV & Fr. David Nicgorski, OMV. In preparation for Christmas, this Advent retreat for young adults in their 20's and 30's will provide an opportunity to discover how the disordered attachments in our lives keep us from ordering our life to Christ and experience the freedom He desires for us. Cost: \$145.00. FMI and to register, call Marie Joseph Spiritual Center – 207-284-5671.

Friendship House Thank You - Many thanks to all those who helped with our Friendship House meal for early November. I had lots of food to take to the men - five large main dishes, vegetable side dishes and a salad, and lots of fresh produce including a large bag of apples. Some new residents at FH were particularly impressed with the amount of food donated and wanted to be very sure I thanked you all. Your generous efforts are truly appreciated. The date of our next meal for FH is Wednesday, December 2.

Brown Bag Thank You – Many thanks from Preble Street Resource Center for the 48 bags of groceries that were recently collected and the \$130 in donations. Thanks to Andres, Jack, Chris and Tom who delivered the groceries this time. "When a hungry person asks you for bread and you have some, you will give it. But as you give the bread even though your interaction may only be very brief, what really matters is this moment of Being, or which the bread is only a symbol. In that moment, there is no receiver." E. Tolle

Cumberland/Falmouth Food Pantires – At this Thanksgiving time we thank you all for your very generous support throughout the entire year in keeping the Holy Martyrs commitment to assist in filling the needs of our less fortunate neighbors. A special thanks to those who make the weekly deliveries; Meredith Charest, Corey Goodrich, John Beck & Bill Mullin.

Jack Mullin




Holy Martyrs Christmas Fair - Sunday, December 6th 9:30 AM- 1:30 PM

Please join us in supporting this fun parish event. Here's how you can help:

- **Silent Auction** - donate an item or themed basket. Sport tickets, gift certificates and art are all popular.
- **Crafts** - handmade item such as accessories, jewelry and home decor are all popular.
- **Gift Items** - this is the perfect time to recycle those gifts you never used! New or nearly new items such as costume jewelry, home goods, bric a brac, etc. can be dropped off during the week before the fair.
- **Bake Table** - whip up your favorite cookies, cakes and breads for holiday celebrations and gift giving! Last year chutneys, sauces and pickled items were very popular too. We will also feature our cookie walk.
- **Books** - used books, DVDs and CDs can be dropped off in the parish hall. Please, no text books or VCR tapes.

For more information on the fair or to volunteer to help, please contact Sharon Lesknic at sharonL23@maine.rr.com or 797-7072 or Kathy Coster at kbcmaine@aol.com or 781-3723.

Holy Martyrs Weekly Calendar

Sunday November 22	Mass at 8:30 AM & 5:30 PM <i>161: Dn 7:13-14; Ps 93; Rv 1:5-8; Jn 18:33b-3</i> Readings Begin at #1048 Religious Education Classes Continue
Monday November 23	Mass at 7:30 AM <i>503: Dn 1:1-6,8-20; (Ps) Dn 3:52-56; Lk 221:1-4</i> NO RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES
Tuesday November 24	Mass at St. Gregory's at 8:00 AM <i>504: Dn 2:31-45; (Ps) Dn 3:57-61; Lk 21:5011 see 713-718</i>
Wednesday November 25	Thanksgiving Mass at 7:00 PM <i>505: Dn 5:1-6,13-14,16-17,23-28; (Ps) Dn 3:62-67; Lk 21:12-19</i>
Thanksgiving Day Thursday November 26	Thanksgiving Mass at St. Gregory's at 9:00 AM <i>943:-947 Sugg: Sir 50:22-24 (943.2); Ps 138:1-5 (945.3) 1 Cor 1:3-9 (944.1); Lk 17:11-19 (947.6)</i>  Office Closed
Friday November 27	Office Closed <i>507: Dn 7:2-14 (Ps) Dn 3:75-81; Lk 21:29-33</i>
Saturday November 28	Mass at 4:00 PM <i>508: Dn 7:15-27 (Ps) Dn 3:82-87; Lk 21:34-36</i>
First Sunday in Advent November 29	NO RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES Readings Begin at #879 Mass at 8:30 AM & 5:30 PM <i>3: Jer 33:14-16; Ps 25; 1 Thes 3:12-4:2; Lk 21:25-28,34-36</i>

Holiday Candlelight Service of Remembrance - Please join us for a special service for those who have suffered the loss of a loved one this past year on Sunday, December 6th at 2:00 PM at St. Maximilian Kolbe Church, 150 Black Point Road, Scarborough. There will be light refreshments at the conclusion of the service. Sponsored by Conroy-Tully Crawford Funeral Homes & Cremation Services. Guest speakers at this year's service will be the V. Rev. Msgr. Michael J. Henchal, Pastor of St. Maximilian Kolbe Church and the Rev. Philip Shearman, retired Pastor of the First Congregational Church in Gorham. Music will be provided by Judith James, Musical Director at St. Maximilian Kolbe and St. Maximilian Kolbe's choir. FMII please call 773-6511 or e-mail at info@ctcrawford.com.

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

Communion Service:

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: office@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.