

MEETINGS THIS WEEK

- ❖ St. Joseph Finance Committee: Monday, December 7th, 7:00 p.m., friary meeting room.
- ❖ St. Brigid School Board: Tuesday, December 8th, 6:45 p.m., school.
- ❖ St. Joseph Knights of Columbus: Tuesday, December 8th, 7:00 p.m., friary meeting room.
- ❖ St. Joseph Bible Study: Thursday, December 10th, 7:00 p.m., friary meeting room.

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Tuesday, December 8th is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, a holy day of obligation. Masses for the holy day will be celebrated, Monday, December 7th at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, December 8th at 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 Noon. This is also the feast day of the Cathedral of the Diocese of Portland, and of the Church in the United States, and of the Franciscan Order.

**CANS AND BOTTLES**

Bring your empty cans and bottles to St. Joseph's. Their Redemption will financially benefit our parish. Through the thoughtfulness of parishioners Trish and Tim Boutot, owners of Boots Bounty Discount Beverage and Redemption Center in South Portland, a mobile collection vehicle will be in the church parking lot near the rear entrance to the church at specific hours each weekend: after the Saturday 4:00 p.m. Mass; after the Sunday 8:00 a.m. Mass; prior to the Sunday 10:00 a.m. Mass and before the Sunday 5:00 p.m. Mass. Drop your redeemable cans and bottles in the container and watch St. Joseph's income grow! The collection will continue throughout the month of December.

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SEASON WEBSITE

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has created a Website (www.usccb.org/advent/) with suggestions for daily prayer, reading, reflection and action throughout the Advent and Christmas seasons. Printable calendars in English and Spanish are available with a suggested family activity for each day of Advent and Christmas. Other resources on the site include a list of recommend holiday-themed movies, prayers and blessings, and suggestions for remembering the needs of immigrants and the poor throughout the season.

RETIRED RELIGIOUS

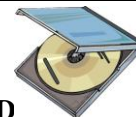
The annual special collection for the retired religious of the Church in the United States will be taken as a second collection at Masses next weekend.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The offertory collections for the last two weekends totaled \$18,400 compared to \$15,425 over the same two weekends last year. For the month of November offertory collections totaled \$42,460. This amount is \$1,755 higher than last year (*first time this fiscal year!*) and is right on target for our November budget. Outstanding!

Even with this good news, though, our offertory collections since July 1st are below where we need to be. Thus far for the fiscal year, our collections are \$5,000 less than one year ago over the same period and \$14,000 less than the amount budgeted. Please continue to be as generous as your means allow.

The second collection for the campaign for Human Development taken on the weekend of November 21st – 22nd, totaled \$1,630. The Thanksgiving morning collection to benefit the St. Joseph Fund for the Needy totaled \$640.

**CHRISTMAS CONCERT CD**

St. Joseph choir's 2007 Christmas CD will be available after all Masses this weekend and the next two weekends. Your donation of \$15 will be placed in the fund to maintain St. Joseph's organ.

DONATIONS NEEDED

Catholic Charities Maine Refugee and Immigration Services are in need of a large variety of donations to meet the resettlement needs for this year's projected new arrivals. The following items are needed: chairs, tables, dressers, hangers, alarm clocks, sofas, twin and full beds, desks, linens. Contact Tarlan at 523-2729 to arrange pick-up.

THE NON-VIOLENT JESUS

"The Non-Violent Jesus: His Non-Violent Way in a Violent World", a retreat conducted by Fr. Emmanuel Charles McCarthy, will be held December 18th and 20th, at the Marie Joseph Spiritual Center, Biddeford Pool, ME. FMI, call 284-5671.

MASS INTENTIONS



Among the intentions remembered at the Masses during the upcoming week are:

Monday, December 7

8:00 a.m. Dorothy DiBiase
7:00 p.m. Fred Auger

Tuesday, December 8

8:00 a.m. Deceased Members of the Tirabassi Family
12:00 Noon Alfred & Lee Carnicella

Wednesday, December 9

8:00 a.m. Holy Souls in Purgatory

Thursday, December 10

8:00 a.m. Living & Deceased Capuchins
& Their Benefactors

Friday, December 11

8:00 a.m. Holy Souls in Purgatory

Saturday, December 12

8:00 a.m. Charles Dillihunt
4:00 p.m. Angelo Polito

Sunday, December 13

8:00 a.m. Edward Malone
10:00 a.m. Sam & Mary Colucci
5:00 p.m. Our Parish Family

CONNECTED CATHOLICS OF MAINE

Connected Catholics of Maine will hold its general meeting on Sunday, December 6th, beginning at 5:00 p.m. at Holy Martyrs Church, Falmouth. The group's Book Club will meet on Monday, December 7th from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. Call Eileen at 829-6051. The group will also gather for its December Brunch on Saturday, December 12th, at 10:30 a.m., at RiRa's, 77 Commercial Street, Portland followed by a tour of Victorian Mansion. Call Grace Madden at 787-6459.

WOMEN'S SODALITY CHRISTMAS LIGHTS



Christmas Lights enrollment tickets are available in the church pews. Each light signifies the remembrance of a departed loved one or the honor of a special individual. A donation of \$2.00 per light is requested. Tickets may be returned in the collection basket or to the friary office. Please mark your envelope as "Christmas Lights".

THANK YOU

We received the following from Donald Quaid, President of Wayside Soup Kitchen Board of Directors, "Thank you so much for your very generous gift of \$349.05 from your October Poor Box Collection to support Wayside Soup Kitchen and Food Rescue. Your donation will help us keep food on the table at the soup kitchen, night after night. In addition, it will help provision area food pantries and kitchens with food which might otherwise be wasted. You and others like you make our work possible."

THE NEEDY IN OUR MIDST

The collection taken up at our parish Thanksgiving Day Mass totaled \$642.00, a wonderfully generous response. These funds have been ear-marked for our St. Joseph's Fund for the Needy, the fund available to the friars here at St. Joseph's to distribute to those who seek assistance from us. Requests for assistance come for many needs: food, fuel, rent assistance, clothing, medicine – most times from persons outside of our parish community.

We have a growing awareness, however, that these same real needs lie within our parish community. We are aware that these needs may be compounded by a recent or impending loss or cut-back of employment. We are also aware that, oftentimes, parishioners who are experiencing need are hesitant, for whatever reason, to seek assistance.

The friars here at St. Joseph's have discussed this among ourselves and with our parish council.

We wish to propose the following: parishioners who wish to assist the needy of our parish family are encouraged to purchase a gift card (in whatever dollar amount) from Shaws, Hannafords, CMP, CVS, Rite Aid, Walgreens, or other providers of vital services) and anonymously drop the gift card into the weekend collection basket. Please make sure to note the gift card's value.

Parishioners who are in need should contact one of the friars here at St. Joseph's to make their need know. All contacts will be kept strictly confidential.

The friars will, to the best of their abilities, match those in need with gift cards received.

While this is an appropriate response during this Thanksgiving/Advent/Christmas time, we hope that this outreach to the needy in our midst might continue well into the future for as long as necessary.

6TH ANNUAL FRENCH MEAT PIE DINNER

Tourtiere at St. Pius X Church Hall Saturday, December 12th, 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. includes shepherd's pie, salad, sweet potato casserole, homemade pies and rolls \$8.00 adults, \$4.00 children.

