

MEETINGS THIS WEEK

- St. Brigid Finance Committee: Monday, April 26th, 6:30 p.m., school.
- St. Joseph Parish Council: Tuesday, April 27th, 6:30 p.m., friary meeting room.

CONFIRMATION/FIRST EUCHARIST

Bishop Malone will administer the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist to the children of our cluster (St. Brigid School, St. Patrick, St. Pius X and St. Joseph Parishes) here at St. Joseph's Church next Saturday, May 1st. There will be two Masses: 9:30 and 11:30 a.m.

Because of these special Masses, there will NOT be a Mass at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 1st.

2010 BISHOP'S APPEAL

The 2010 Bishop's Appeal will commence the weekend of May 8th and 9th. Commitment weekend, when parishioners will have the opportunity to complete a pledge/donation card, is scheduled for the weekend of May 15th and 16th. The purpose of the Annual Bishop's Appeal is to fund the day-to-day operations of the Diocese of Portland. It should not be confused with the \$40 Million Capital Campaign, whose purpose was to endow major areas of Church life in Maine. St. Joseph Parish's goal for the 2010 Bishop's Appeal is \$50,000.

MOTHER'S DAY NOVENA



Mother's Day is Sunday, May 9th. All are invited to participate in St. Joseph's Mother's Day Novena of Masses, a series of nine Masses that will be celebrated in our church from May 9th to the 17th. Envelopes are available in the budget envelope packets and at the exits of the church.

BLESSING OF EXPECTANT COUPLES

There will be a special blessing of expectant couples on Sunday, May 9th, at the 10:00 a.m. Mass. Couples are asked to inform the parish office in advance by calling 797-7026, ext. 201.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER



A national day of prayer for our nation will be held at St. Maximilian Kolbe Church, Scarborough, on Thursday, May 6th, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.



For our third and final year, Disciples In Mission will be holding an Evening of Reflection on **Monday, May 3rd, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.**, followed by a social half-hour. We will meet in the friary meeting room. **ALL ARE INVITED!** Please fill in a registration slip found at any of the church entrances or exits and drop it in the Evening of Reflection box located on the tables. **Thank you!**



Today, Good Shepherd Sunday, is a special day for everyone in our parish. We celebrate **World Day of Prayer for Vocations**. We ask that we may be filled with joy and the Holy Spirit as we carry on the mission of Jesus, our Good Shepherd. Let us pray for one another that we may be strengthened in our Christian vocations as married and single people, priests, deacons, and religious. May our youth listen to God's call and be encouraged to respond generously.

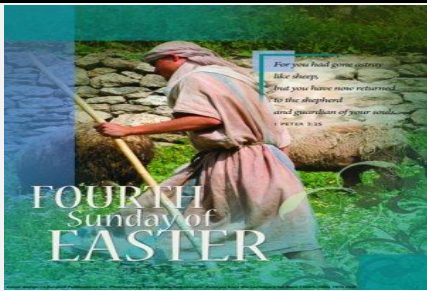
2010 WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES



St. Joseph Parish's annual celebration of wedding anniversaries will take place on Sunday, May 16th. Parishioners who are observing a 25th, 40th, 50th, or 60th wedding anniversary at any time during 2010 will be invited to renew their marriage vows during the 8:00 a.m. Mass. Following the Mass, a festive breakfast will be served by the Knights of Columbus in the Fr. Hayes Center. Each couple may invite 10 guests to the breakfast. If you are a registered parishioner and your special anniversary occurs this year, please call the parish office (797-7026, ext. 201) before the May 9th deadline.

CHILD ABUSE AWARENESS

April is Child Abuse Awareness Month. The Catholic Church has done more than almost any other organization in the U.S. to stop sexual abuse. Consider: an independent review board reads all complaints and investigations of sexual abuse and makes recommendations to the bishop about how to address the claim; all complaints of sexual abuse are reported to civil authorities; all dioceses have a publicized Code of Ethics which spells out acceptable behavior by Church representatives and explains mandates to keeping children safe. The Code calls for violations to be investigated and appropriate penalties to be applied.



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

Monday, April 26

8:00 a.m. Sgt. Larry Roukey

Tuesday, April 27

8:00 a.m. Souls in Purgatory

Wednesday, April 28

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

Thursday, April 29

8:00 a.m. Evangeline Deroche

Friday, April 30

8:00 a.m. Josephine Foster

Saturday, May 1

4:00 p.m. Lillian & Charles Green

Sunday, May 2

8:00 a.m. Edward Zurey

10:00 a.m. Robert Marley, Sr.

5:00 p.m. Our Parish Family

PASTA & MEATBALL DINNER



The Knights of Columbus Council 2983 will sponsor a pasta and meatball dinner, complete with salad, coffee, tea, punch and dessert, Saturday, May 8th, from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m., in the St. Pius X Parish Hall, 492 Ocean Avenue, Portland. The cost is \$8 for adults, \$4 for children. Proceeds will benefit the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life Program. FMI, call Eleanor or Lou Harrigan at 839-3078.



McAULEY 5K RUN FOR HOPE



The 4th Annual 5K USATF Certified "Run for Hope" will take place on May 15th, at 10:00 a.m., at McAuley High School. A 2.5 mile walk will begin at 10:15 a.m. Pre-registration (\$15) closes May 13th. Registration on the day of the race is \$20. Proceeds benefit the Jim & Maxine Pouravelis Scholarship Fund. FMI or to register, call (797-3809) or log on to www.McAuleyhs.org.

CLUSTER 28 TRANSITION COMMITTEE

Mass Intentions: In the bulletin two weeks ago I presented the following comments regarding the scheduling of Mass intentions: *Regarding the scheduling of your intentions, we especially ask your patience, compromise and generosity with each other in order that all who desire Masses said for their loved ones may have their wishes honored. To aid us in managing the scheduling of your intentions in a fair and reasonable manner, we establish the following guidelines for intentions.* 1.) **Six Month Advance:** For the present, we will only schedule Mass intentions for up to six months from the date on which you request them. 2.) **Multiple Intentions:** If you desire to have multiple (more than two) Masses said for a particular intention, only the first two of these will be celebrated at one of the Cluster Churches during a six month period. The others will be celebrated, according to long-standing Church and diocesan practice, by retired priests of the diocese and missionary priests at other churches/chapels.

I wanted to comment briefly on the second guideline. For centuries, the Church, both in parishes and religious orders, has had the practice of sending Mass intentions to missionaries and retired priests in order to meet the demands of Catholics desiring to have Masses said for their loved ones and other intentions. Since Canon Law will not allow a Mass to be said for more than a single donation (one donor can ask for multiple intentions for a particular Mass), it has often been the case that a particular parish or religious house cannot meet the demands of the faithful in this regard. Hence the practice of passing these intentions on to other priests who have the time and wherewithal to say these extra Masses. These opportunities are welcomed by retired priests, especially the infirm, who rejoice that they can continue to serve the faithful of the Church in their Masses. Missionaries are pleased to serve the church in this way as it provides an additional source of revenue for the often stretched finances of those working in challenging environments.

In the past we have had the luxury of enough Masses in our parishes to meet the demand. With fewer Masses in our Cluster after August 2nd, we wish to ensure that all Cluster members can fairly access these more limited Masses for their needs, and thus we fall back on this time-honored tradition. Please continue to keep us and this process in your prayers.

Fr. Jim Lafontaine



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