

HOLY CROSS & ST. JOHN'S PARISHES, SOUTH PORTLAND, ME



Saturday **December 3**
HC 4:00PM Martin McLaughlin by Daughter & Family

SJ 5:30PM Clinton Hatt, Jr. by Family

Sunday **December 4**
HC 7:30AM Mary Norton by Family
SJ 9:00AM For the Intentions of the Parishioners
HC 10:30AM Polly Abraham by Family

Monday **December 5 (Rosary 11:30AM)**
SJ 12:00Noon Frances B. O'Toole by John & Edna Goan

Tuesday **December 6**
HC 7:30AM The McDonald Family by Margaret LaRose

Wednesday **December 7**
HC 5:30PM Vigil Mass for Holy Day For the Intentions of the Parishioners

Thursday **December 8 (Immaculate Conception)**
HC 9:00AM Benefactors of Holy Cross School
SJ 12:00 Noon Bill Crangle by David & Laura Stevens

Friday **December 9**
HC 7:30AM Thelma Syska by Sketen Family

Saturday **December 10**
HC 4:00PM Helen M. Sullivan by Husband James & Family
SJ 5:30PM Gerry Richards by Ann Bain

Sunday **December 11**
HC 7:30AM For the Intentions of the Parishioners
SJ 9:00AM Nancy L. Feeney by Family
HC 10:30AM Eugene Page by Family

HOLY CROSS

Weekly Goal	\$7,100.00
Total Collection for W/E 11-27-05	\$6,141.85
Thank you for your continued support and generosity.	
Corrected Total for 11/20/05	\$6,618.45

ST. JOHN'S

Weekly Goal	\$3800.00
Total Collection for W/E 11-27-05	\$3,337.00
Thank you for your continued support and generosity.	



Immaculate Conception

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
 HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION
 MASS SCHEDULE:**

**Wed- Nov. 7th Vigil Mass
 at H.C. 5:30PM**

There will not be communion services on Wednesday at either church.

Thursday, Nov. 8th --9:00AM/H.C. 12:00Noon S.J.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Monday
 10:40-11:00AM H.C. School/ H.C. Church
 12:00Noon Bridge - **SJ Center-Dble Rm**
 6:30PM Women's Council Party-Dble Rm
 7:00PM Quilters- **Activity Rm 1**

Tuesday
 12:00-1:30 Co-Ed Bible Grp- **Sm.Conf.Rm**
 12:00-2:30 Me. Voc. - **Church Kitchen**
 6:00PM Faith Formation- **Ctr.**
 7:00PM Marian Cenacle Prayer Group - **At HC Church**

Wednesday
 10-11:30AM Ladies Bible Group- **Library-Ctr.**
 6:30-8:00PM Co-Ed Bible Grp.- **Resource Rm**
 6:00-8:30 AFG Group- **Ctr.**
 6:30PM RCIA-Center
 7:00PM Rosary- **SJ Church**

Thursday
 9:00AM Quilters- **Center**
 9:00AM Food Cupboard- **Church Hall**
 12:30PM Book Club- **Library**
 6:30PM S.J. Choir-**S.J. Church**
 6:30PM H. C. Choir - **H.C. Church**

Friday
 5:00 PM- K of C Supper. **Church hall**

PLEASE NOTE:

Sunday December 4th we will have the
LITURGY OF THE HOURS
 4:00PM at St. John's Church.
 All are welcome to join us!

DEVOTIONAL LIGHTS

A devotional light is burning this week at
Holy Cross in loving memory of:

Henry Yankowsky
 Requested by Wife Joyce
 And

A devotional light is burning this week at
St. John's in loving memory of:

Adelbert Landry
 Requested by Wife Dorothy



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



PRAY FOR... People in our families, our friends and members of our parish who are ill, facing surgery, hospitalized, or experiencing difficult times have asked for our prayers. During the course of the week, please take a few moments to offer a prayer of healing and strength for: **Lydia Barron, Harold & Betty Janson, Gail Smith, Steve Lesneski, Laura Stevens, Louise Dixon, Elaine Cribby, Michael LaForgia, Gertrude Fraser, Anne Hewlett, Ed & Ann Letourneau, Theresa Chicoine, Eleanor Ward, Pete Peterson, Rose Clark, Ryan Burton, Ethel Ball, Eugenia Britt, Eleanor Krupski, Francis Branley, Janet Yankowsky, Anne Blake, Margaret Page, Emily Kane, Diana Slowinski, baby Evan Mayone, Rick Lopez, Carolyn Keegan, Laurent (of Lifesong Ministry), Joan Clark, Gordon Welch, Karen Hastings, Brady Wasina, Buddy Cohen, Wayne Carter, Bob Wilson, Robert Belanger & Randy Parker.**

THE FOOD CUPBOARD

It has been quite the November. In three weeks **205 families** received food, and Thanksgiving dinners. This is the highest number of families we have helped in 9 years. We also saw an outpouring of donations from the community.

The South Portland Lions Club gave us 150 gift certificates to give to SP families to purchase \$25 worth of groceries at Legion Square Market, SP Curves waived the sign up fee for membership for 3 days if clients brought a turkey for the Cupboard, they gave us 16 turkeys! Doris Tennison and her fellow workers in the SPHS cafeteria provided a turkey dinner. First United Methodist provided 3 turkey dinners. Norway Savings, Mill Creek branch, provided a turkey dinner for a family. Holy Cross/St. John bible group donated pie shells and filling. Dean Scontras, home for the holiday, gave us a day of his time and we really put him to work! Thanks Dean!

Thank you all!

We are also very grateful for the recent monetary donations from the following; Ophelia Lepore, John & Irene Malley, Drs Eric & Carol Robison, James & Madolyn Wallace, Peter & Rosemary Clark, Ruth Taylor, Matthew & Diane Mulligan, Alfred McDonough, Lou & Martha Maguire, Leola Curran, St. John's Monday Bowling Group, Helen Keating, Virginia Kelly, Jean Gaudreau, Jack & Sharon Roberts, Peter Urbanski, Elm St. United Methodist Church Missionary Circle, Dr. Mark Dickinson, and the Folan family (in memory of Kathleen P. Folan.)

The Cupboard needs: Peanut butter, Grape, Apple & Strawberry Jelly/Jam

Thank you!

VOCATIONS

John the Baptist is sent by God to prepare the way for His Son. In our present time God sends priests and religious especially to prepare the people to receive His Son. If you think God is calling you to a Church vocation, call Fr. Frank Murray at 782-8096, ext 108.



CAPIM GROSSO CORNER

Bottle Shed News:

Thanks to Pleasant Hill Auto and Maietta Towing Service, there is now a second bottle shed, located at Holy Cross, for the convenience of all parish members. Please consider using this for your returnables.

The bottle shed at St John's is still available. All proceeds from returnables will be used to support the Capim Grosso Mission trip. Thank you for all of your support as we move forward with our plans for a trip in June 2006. For further information on the Capim Grosso project please feel free to contact Matt Michaud or any team member through the parish office. Our team includes Sue & Rob Hasson, Auralee & Ana Bussone, Matt & Sarah Michaud, Joe Canarie, and Fr. Mike Gendreau.

K OF C SUPPER

Mark you calendars for Friday, December 9th 5:00PM for another delicious meal at St. John's, prepared by our Knights of Columbus.

Proceeds to help defray St. John's expenses.

Next K of C business meeting will be Tuesday, Dec. 13th.



BUDGET ENVELOPES FOR 2006

Beginning in January 2006, parishioners of both parishes will receive their offertory envelopes by mail. There will no longer be a full year boxed set for you to pick up in the narthex of the church. Envelopes will be mailed on a quarterly basis to all parishioners who are currently using their envelopes. Any parishioners who requested envelopes when they recently completed the Parish census form will be receiving them. Look for your new offertory envelope packet to arrive in the mail towards the end of December, just in time for the beginning of the calendar year. If you have any questions, please contact Dorothy Stack, Business Manager.

400 CLUB WINNERS FOR NOVEMBER

1 st Prize	\$200.	#162	Diane McFadden
2 nd "	\$100.	#372	HCS in Mem. of Catherine Tracy
3 rd "	\$100.	# 23	Cecilia McQuinn
4 th "	\$100	#121	Bobbi Henderson
5 th "	\$ 75.	#149	Francis Cameron
6 th "	\$ 25	#197	Ed & Joanne Elkanich
7 th "	\$ 25.	#209	Caroline McKenna
8 th "	\$ 25.	#213	David Conroy
9 th "	\$ 25	# 40	Jean Gaudreau
10 th "	\$ 25.	# 98	Jane Harmon

\$100.00 profit for Holy Cross School

Don't forget it's time to renew your membership!!

DEADLINES & EVENTS FOR DECEMBER 4TH

(1) Special Mass in honor of Persons with Disabilities Sunday, December 4, 10:00 a.m., at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Portland.

(2) Holiday Candlelight Service

Please join us for a special service for those who have suffered the loss of a loved one this year on **Sunday, Dec 4 at 2PM at St Patrick's Church**, 1342 Congress St, Portland.

(3) Liturgy of the Hours 4:00PM at St. John's Church.

(4) THE GIVING TREE THIS SUNDAY, December 4th, is the deadline to return gifts. If you have taken a tag and will not be able to return the gift wrapped with tag attached by 12/4, please let Mary Margaret Reid (799-9584) so we can make alternate arrangements.

ST. JOHN'S WOMEN'S COUNCIL NEWS

St. John's Women's Council will be having their Christmas Party and Meeting, Monday December 5th, at 6:30PM. All women of the parish are invited. Anne Andrews, Linda Hurley and Jeannie Jackson will be taken care of the refreshments. Ladies, be sure to bring your monetary donation for the Food Cupboard.



LIGHT UP THE GROVE

The Women's Council is going into another year of lighting up the grove. This project has been very successful in the past and with your help it will be just as successful this year. Please send in the names of your loved ones or friends living or deceased. The names will be on ribbons in the Narthex.



Join us for Coffee, Juice, Donuts & Bagels after the 9:00AM Mass at **St. John's** in the Church Hall. Your host at St. John's will be the Women's Council. Next week it will be the Knights of Columbus.

Join the parishioners at **Holy Cross** for *Hot Chocolate, Donuts, Bagels and Other Special Treats* in the school cafeteria this Sunday immediately following the 10:30AM Mass.

Readings for the Week of December 4, 2005

Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11/ 2 Pt 3:8-14/ Mk 1:1-8
 Monday: Is 35:1-10/ Lk 5:17-26
 Tuesday: Is 40:1-11/ Mt 18:12-14
 Wednesday: Is 40:25-31/ Mt 11:28-30
 Thursday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/ Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/ Lk 1:26-38
 Friday: Is 48:17-19/ Mt 11:16-19
 Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/ Mt 17:9a, 10-13
 Next Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/ 1 Thes 5:16-24/ Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

QUESTIONS & REFLECTIONS

First Reading [Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11](#)

1. Left to human management world history is a wasteland or at best a rough road. What image in this reading turns it into a safe and pleasant path home?
2. Do you think God has always been walking on the roads of world history? Does God walk with you when you are in "rugged country"? How does the shepherd image smooth out the ruggedness in your life?

Second Reading

[2 Peter, Chapter 3, Verses 8-14](#)

1. Explain the statement: God's time is not our time. "With the Lord one day is like a thousand years and a thousand years like one day."
2. What is your relationship with Earth? When did you reverence or when were you thankful for Earth? How can you hasten the coming of the new heaven and the new Earth?

Gospel [Mark 1: 1-8](#)

1. How do you share John the Baptist's mission to proclaim Christ's coming in the world? Do you do this with words or by the way you live? Is John's message of repentance and judgment different from Jesus' message?
2. Are there "noises" that block out John the Baptist's cry, "Prepare the way of the Lord" so that you cannot hear it? What are they? What can you do during Advent to turn down the "noises"?

By Anne Osdieck of the *Center for Liturgy at Saint Louis University*

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ST. BARTHOLOMEW CHRISTMAS FAIR

Saturday December 3rd 1-6:30PM
 Sunday December 4th 10-1:00PM

