

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



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

Monday December 12
SJ 12:00Noon Christine Booth by
 John, Elaine & Maureen Curran

Tuesday December 13
HC 7:30AM Timothy Page by Dorothy Thorpe

Wednesday December 14
HC 7:30AM Communion Service
SJ 12:00Noon Communion Service

Thursday December 15
SJ 12:00 Noon Frances Verrocchi by Family

Friday December 16
HC 7:30AM Lawrence, James & Charles Niles by
 The Niles Family

Saturday December 17
HC 4:00PM Mark Gillis by Family
SJ 5:30PM For the Intentions of the Parishioners

Sunday December 18
HC 7:30AM Sally M. Hasson by Family
SJ 9:00AM Mildred Talbot by June Mosley &
 Philip
HC 10:30AM The Patrick Foley Family by
 The Jones Family

HOLY CROSS

Weekly Goal	\$7,100.00
Total Collection for W/E 12-04-05	\$6,277.85
Bldg. Fund	\$2,587.35
Thank you for your continued support and generosity.	

ST. JOHN'S

Weekly Goal	\$3800.00
Total Collection for W/E 12-04-05	\$4,330.00
Thank you for your continued support and generosity.	

St. John the Evangelist Parish ushers will pass the basket twice. Please place the envelopes for the Offertory & Collection for Retired Religious in the 1st. collection. The second passing of the basket will be for the fuel/energy collection.

During the Christmas season please consider a donation to replenish the Holy Cross and St. John's Charity account which benefits the needy of our parishes and community.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Monday December 12
 10:40AM Advent Wreath-H.C.Scl-H.C.Church
 12:00Noon Bridge - **SJ Center-Dble Rm.**

December 13
 12:00-1:30 Co-Ed Bible Grp- **Sm.Conf.Rm**
 12:00-1:30 Me. Voc. - **Church Kitchen**
 6:00PM Faith Formation- **Ctr.**
 6:00PM H.C. Finance Mtg.- **S.J. Church Hall**
 6:30 PM First Reconciliation-**H.C. Church**
 7:00PM Marian Cenacle Prayer Group -
At HC Church

Wednesday December 14
 10-11:30AM Ladies Bible Group- **Library-Ctr.**
 6:30-8:00PM Co-Ed Bible Grp.- **Resource Rm**
 6:00-8:30PM AFG Group- **Ctr.**
 6:30PM RCIA-**Center**
 7:00PM Rosary- **SJ Church**

Thursday December 15
 9:00AM Quilters- **Center**
 9:00AM Food Cupboard- **Church Hall**
 4:15-5:30 Me. Voc- **S.J. Church Kitchen**
 6:30PM S.J. Choir-**S.J. Church**
 6:30PM H. C. Choir - **H.C. Church**
Saturday December 17
 1-3:00PM Church Hall in use-



DEVOTIONAL LIGHTS

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

John J. O'Malley
 Requested by Family
 And

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

The Furbush & Fitzpatrick Families
 Requested by Ralph & Peggy Furbush

PLEASE NOTE:

Sunday December 11th we will have the **LITURGY OF THE HOURS** 4:00PM at Holy Cross Church All are welcome to join us!

THIRD 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 & Helen Bernier.**



CAPIM GROSSO CORNER

Just a reminder that the Bottle shed is set up in the parking lot, available for your recyclable cans & bottles. All proceeds from the bottle shed will be used to support the Capim Grosso Mission Trip in June. The bottle shed at St John's is still available.

We hope that you have received our Capim Grosso Water Project letter, and that you will consider making a donation for this during the coming year, perhaps following the Holiday season. We will accept donations for the water project beginning now through May.

Thank you for all of your support as we move forward with our plans for a mission trip to Brazil in June 2006.

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.

Stop In... AND HAVE A CUP OF COFFEE



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 Knights of Columbus. Next week it will be the Faith Formation Commission. 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.

ARAMATA BIANCA

The children of Aramata Bianca will be having a "Holy Hour" for their advent project, Friday December 16th at 3:30PM. All are welcome to join us.

Any questions please call Maureen Wittmer at 883-5594.

FAITH FORMATION

Thank you!



A great big thank you to all of the children of St. John/Holy Cross who attended breakfast with Santa. It was a joyful event bringing our children together to sing, hear Christmas stories, make crafts and take pictures with Santa. Thanks to all of our adult helpers who made this activity possible. What a wonderful time had by all – See you next year???



The monthly book club of St. John/Holy Cross will read the book "Sarah" by Marek Halter. The book will be available at the Nonesuch Book Store at Mill Creek, South Portland. Next gathering will be on Thursday, January 5, 2006 at 12:30PM @St. John's Ctr. (Library). Please come prepared for an insightful discussion. Please bring a lunch and we will provide coffee and dessert. If you are interested in joining the monthly book club, please pick up the book and join us. For any questions please call the Faith Formation Office @773-8710.

There will be **First Reconciliation Service on Tuesday evening, December 13, 2005 at Holy Cross** for our St. John/Holy Cross 2nd graders. A reception will follow in the Holy Cross cafeteria. Please pray for all our children preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.



Thursday, December 15th is St. John's night at the Wayside Soup Kitchen. The dessert will be the usual

cupcakes, **but maybe with a little Christmas decoration?**

Thanks to all our faithful bakers and volunteers. May you all have a wonderful Holiday!

Cluster 22 Planning Committee Update
Cluster 22 includes the parishes of: St. Bartholomew, Holy Cross, St. John the Evangelist, and St Maximilian Kolbe

Representatives from Cluster 22 continue to meet monthly. Minutes from these meetings are on the Cluster website at www.hcsj.org/cluster22.htm, or you may request copies by mail*.

We appreciate your prayers as we collaborate on the journey toward fulfilling our mission of evangelization, and the preservation of the vibrant Christian communities of our parishes.

If you have questions, please contact a cluster representative or

- Scott Ewing, Cluster 22 chairperson, at sewing1@maine.rr.com or 799-3520-continued next page.....

Cluster 22 Planning Committee Update

Continued---

- Dick Sawyer, Cluster 22 vice chairperson, at rsawyer3 @ maine.rr.com or 510-1074

Cluster 22 representatives are Donna Brassard, Beth Carmody, Peter Ciancette, Chris Crawford, Scott Ewing, Bob Falconer, Deacon Steve Harnois, Laurie Kelly, Pam Koonz Canarie, Sheila McDonough, Sybil Reimensnider, Dick Sawyer, Michelle Sirois, Kathy Sparda, Michael Tranfaglia, Jim Welch, and Kathy Williamson

**to request copies by mail contact Scott Ewing at 799-352*

FOOD CUPBOARD

The Cupboard is celebrating Christmas every week in December. We have games, toys, books, and loads of stuffed animals, hand knit hats, gloves, scarves, and lots of items for adults. So many people have made this possible by donating items throughout the year. Millcreek Hannaford donates all the toys, games etc., they do not sell and just within the past 2 weeks we have received the following donations: jewelry and personal items from Ellen Scontras, set of dishes from Tom and Ruth King, a roaster from Janet Malia, cabbage patch dolls from Debbie Gilman, hand knit hats, mittens from Holy Cross School and hand knit scarves from Gloria Ahern. We also received ham and sausages from Vicky Doughty, potatoes and vegetables from Linda Eastman, canned and packaged goods from the First Lutheran Church in Portland. We are blessed and thank everyone who helps make this a special time of year for our visitors and volunteers.

We have a new volunteer, Phil Richards. He is a great asset with his time and truck. He will spend the winter with us and he is very welcomed.

We want to thank the Kim and Mark Mayone for having donations made to the Food Cupboard at their son Evan's baptism celebration. We appreciate the \$70 and will keep baby Evan in our prayers.

We thank the following for their recent monetary donation: Sam & Norma Fratoni, A. Helena Jones, Glenna & Richard Goulet, Betty Honan, Kathy Potrepka, Carrie Keniston, Lois Galgay, Ann Merrill, Ruth Abramson, Bob Hewlett (in memory of Charlene, Dick, Merry Christmas, Happy New Year), Vicky Doughty, Betty Kennedy, Francis Busick, Cathy & Rocco and family, Doris Cook, and the very generous Dugas Family Foundation.

GOD BLESS

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS NEEDED

St. John's is in need of Eucharistic Ministers for The Christmas Masses. The schedule is on the bulletin board in the Narthex. If you can assist us, please sign up. Thank you.

Readings for the Week of December 11, 2005

Sunday:	Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/ 1 Thes 5:16-24/ Jn 1:6-8, 19-28
Monday:	Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/ Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
Tuesday:	Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/ Mt 21:28-32
Wednesday:	Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25/ Lk 7:18b-23
Thursday:	Is 54:1-10/ Lk 7:24-30
Friday:	Is 56:1-3a, 6-8/ Jn 5:33-36
Saturday:	Gn 49:2, 8-10/ Mt 1:1-17
Next Sunday:	2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/ Rom 16:25-27/ Lk 1:26-38

Questions & Reflections

First Reading [Isaiah 61: 1-2, 10-11](#)

1. The Lord sent Isaiah to bring glad tidings to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, give liberty to captives and release to prisoners. Do you participate in the sorrows of the world in any way? Are these glad tidings for you?
2. "As the earth brings forth its plants...as a garden makes its growth spring up....." How does God work from within you to heal you? Was the Holy Spirit planted in the depths of your heart at Baptism?

Second Reading

[1 Thessalonians 5: 18-24](#)

1. How can you actively ensure that the Spirit has opportunities to work in you? How would "test everything and pray without ceasing" be as advice for you?
2. What is the relationship between the Holy Spirit working in the depths of your spirit and God's peace that is applied to your body, soul and spirit?

Gospel [John 1: 6-8, 19-28](#)

1. In the first reading Isaiah was sent with a message from God. In the Gospel God sends John to testify to the light. Does God send you? How could you testify to the light in some way?
2. What are the "crooked roads and deserts" that bother you most? What would happen if you were the "voice" trying to straighten things out? Who would help you do this?

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

Please note the Christmas envelopes attached in this weeks bulletin. If you would like to remember a deceased family member or friend. Please put the name on the back and drop the envelope in the offertory basket. Thank you..

