

OUR LADY OF HOPE and ST. BRIGID SCHOOL

A Jesuit Ministry

February 23 / 24, 2019

www.ladyofhopemaine.org



SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“Love your enemies and do good to them, and lend expecting nothing back; then your reward will be great and you will be children of the Most High.” Luke 6:35

<u>Pastoral Staff</u>		<u>Finance Council</u>	
Rev. Paul Sullivan, S.J.- Pastor		Bill Green, Charlie Noyes, Barbara Willey,	
Rev. John d'Anjou, S.J.- Parochial Vicar		Ann Campbell	
Rev. Vincent Curtin, S.J. Senior Priest			
Rev. Mr. John McAuliffe, Deacon		<u>Pastoral Council</u>	
		Bill Slavick, Mary Ellen White,	
<u>Parish Musicians</u>		David Reese, Sue & John Mullen, Elizabeth Tarasevich	
Lori Arsenault		Nancy Curran	Michael Luna , Andy Litcher
Tom Luna		Joan Dube	<u>pastoral.council@ladyofhopemaine.org</u>

<u>Office Staff</u>		<u>Sacrament of Baptism</u>	
Mary Cafazzo		Parish Business Administrator	Please call the Pastoral Office at 207-797-7026 to register for pre-baptism class.
Linda McCormack		Parish Administrative Assistant	
Jean Ingalls		Office Assistant	
Melodye Deberadinis		School Bookkeeper	<u>Sacrament of Marriage</u>
Andrew Litcher		IT and Maintenance	Couples should contact the Pastoral Office at least six
Christopher Landry		Maintenance	months in advance.

<u>Faith Formation</u>		<u>Sacrament of Reconciliation</u>	
<i>ourlady.religioused@gmail.com</i>		Saturday - St. Joseph Church 2:30 to 3:00 PM	
Sandra Litcher-Director of Religious Education		Saturday - St. Pius X Church 3:30 to 4:00 PM	
		Saturday - St. Peter Church 2:30 to 3:30 PM	
<u>R.C.I.A.</u>		Or By Appointment	
Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults Coordinator			
		<u>Weekend Masses</u>	
<u>Daily Masses</u>		Saturday - St. Joseph 4:00 PM St. Pius X - 4:30 PM	
Monday - Friday St. Pius X 9:00 AM		Sunday - St. Pius X 7:00 & 9:00 AM	
Saturday - St. Pius X 8:00 AM		Sunday - St. Joseph 8:00 & 10:00 AM 5:00 PM	
Additional Weekly Masses with our Jesuit Community:			
St. Brigid School - 8:00 AM - Monday (School Days)		Cheverus HS -7:15 AM Monday thru Friday (School Days)	

Pastoral Office, 673 Stevens Avenue, Portland, ME 04103-2540 207-797-7026 email:
Linda.McCormack@portlanddiocese.org Hours: Monday - Thursday 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM
The office is closed on Fridays except by appointment (including phone calls).
Phone messages left at any time are returned as soon as possible on the next regular work day.

Lenten Service Opportunities

Can you help your fellow parishioners experience the blessings of the Lenten Season?

Lenten Friday Supper - OLH parish is looking for families or ministry groups in the parish or collections of friends who could prepare a simple meal of (meatless) soup and bread to be served at the Parish Hall at St. Pius prior to the Lenten Friday evening Stations of the Cross. Costs for the meal will be covered. If you are interested, please contact the Parish Office or Fr. Paul asap

Scripture Faith-sharing groups - We would like to build on the small but successful effort we had last fall when some members of the parish gathered weekly for 6 weeks to share their thoughts, questions and responses to the Sunday Scripture readings. We are now seeking people who can "host" a gathering, either in your home or here in parish space. If you are interested or want to find out more, please contact the Parish Office – soon! We need to know what groups we will be able to have.

Fr. Paul's contact info: paul.sullivan@portlanddiocese.org or 207-358-7574

Dear Parishioners,

Change is a constant part of life. With this thought in mind I am pleased to announce an initiative that will allow our school to grow and better meet the needs of our students, families, staff, and parish. Two weeks ago the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) informed me that St. Brigid School's application to begin the process of becoming a fully accredited school was accepted. The accreditation process involves a comprehensive self-study resulting in the creation of a list of achievable recommendations that will become part of a strategic plan to guide decision making for the future. The accreditation process involves the entire parish and school community so you will be hearing more about this process in the coming weeks and months.

Sincerely, Bill Burke Principal

Mass Intentions for the Week

SATURDAY: February 23, 2019

8:00 AM - St. Pius X Michael Arthur by Pete & Jo DeSarno
7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00 PM - St. Joseph Mr. & Mrs. Patrick J. Delaney by Family (Fr. Jack)

4:30 PM - St. Pius X Donald Harkins, Sr. by Ken & Mary (Fr. Vince)

SUNDAY: February 24, 2019 - 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:00 AM - St. Pius X Barbara A. Foley by Jeanne A. Letourneau (Fr. Vince)

8:00 AM - St. Joseph William Zurey by Larry & Edna Flaherty (Fr. Jack)

9:00 AM - St. Pius X Zita Paul by Frank Paul (Fr. Vince)

10:00 AM - St. Joseph For The People of the Parish (Fr. Jack)

5:00 PM - St. Joseph John E. Haverty by the Family (Fr. Vince)

MONDAY: February 25, 2019

8:00 AM - St. Joseph (School Mass)

9:00 AM - St. Pius X Christopher Foley by Jan & Bob Ridge

TUESDAY: February 26, 2019

9:00 AM - St. Pius X Joseph Cremo by his wife Lillian

WEDNESDAY: February 27, 2019

9:00 AM - St. Pius X Living Intentions for Alan Balladur

THURSDAY: February 28, 2019

9:00 AM - St. Pius X Philomena "Honey" Frenzilli by Ken & Mary Pinkham

FRIDAY: March 1, 2019

9:00 AM - St. Pius X Michael & Kevin Ryan by Grandma & Grandpa Ryan

SATURDAY: March 2, 2019

8:00 AM - St. Pius X Gilbert Donatelli by Jim & Franci DiBiase
8th Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00 PM - St. Joseph Richard Carter by Pauline & Don Hontz (Fr.)

4:30 PM - St. Pius X For The People of the Parish (Fr.)

SUNDAY: March 3, 2019 - 8th Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:00 AM - St. Pius X Gilbert Donatelli by Bonetti Family (Fr.)

8:00 AM - St. Joseph Robert L. Donahue by Eleanor & Joseph Delaney (Fr.)

9:00 AM - St. Pius X Christopher Foley by The Meehan Family (Fr.)

10:00 AM - St. Joseph Angela Wilson by Our Lady of Hope Womens Sodality Fr.)

5:00 PM - St. Joseph Richard Carter, Sr. by Joe Olore (Fr.)

Scripture for the week of February 24, 2019

24 Sunday 1 Sm 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23/1 Cor 15:45-49/ Lk 6:27-38

25 Monday Gn 4:1-15, 25/Mk 8:11-13

26 Tuesday Gn 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10/Mk 8:14-21

27 Wednesday Gn 8:6-13, 20-22/Mk 8:22-26

28 Thursday Gn 9:1-13/Mk 8:27-33

01 Friday 1 Pt 5:1-4/Mt 16:13-19

02 Saturday Heb 11:1-7/Mk 9:2-13

03 Sunday 1 Sm 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23/1 Cor 15:45-49/ Lk 6:27-38

Observances for the **Week of February 24, 2019**

24 Sunday 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

25 Monday

26 Tuesday

27 Wednesday

28 Thursday

01 Friday First Friday

02 Saturday Blessed Virgin Mary, First Saturday

03 Sunday 8th Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Sanctuary Candle burns this week at



St. Joseph Church



St. Pius X Church

02/24/19 to 03/02/19



(screenshot of St. Pius X Church "Live Streaming")

**St. Pius X Church Masses
and Adoration are streamed live to our website**

Upcoming Events

March 2/3 - St. Patrick's Day Supper ticket sale

March 6 - Ash Wednesday

March 9/10 - 1st Sunday of Lent

Daylight Saving Time Begins

St. Patrick's Day Supper ticket sale

March 16 - St. Patrick's Day Supper

Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner

March 16/17 - 2nd Sunday of Lent

Women's Sodality Annual Irish Bread Sale

March 20 - First Day of Spring

Fr. Levens – update on the update

Unfortunately Fr. Levens has received some disappointing news. A SCAN of his ankle revealed a previously undiscovered broken bone. It is "fixable" but will delay his return to Maine. Now that will likely be in April instead of mid-March. He is disappointed but generally in good spirits. He does appreciate your thoughts and prayers. His address: Fr. Robert Leven, S.J., Campion Center, 219 Concord Rd., Weston, MA 02493 (Same address for Fr. Bob Regan, SJ).

Human trafficking

If you did not have a chance to attend the Human Trafficking presentation on February 9 at St. Pius X Hall a YouTube video is available on the link below.

<https://youtu.be/luM8h95HOpu>

"I wonder about that"

Several people have sent in very good questions. This bulletin needed to be used for materials for Lent. Your answers will come in the next bulletin or two. Many thanks. Fr. Paul SJ

Finance and Administration

Weekly Offertory Report
Your Gifts of Stewardship
for the Weekend of February 9 / 10, 2019
Our Lady of Hope Parish 1st Collection was
\$ 9,146.41

envelopes were used 282

Weshare: (1st Collection) \$ **1,979.59**

Weshare Transactions 72

TOTAL Parish Offertory was \$ 11,126.00

(In order to meet our budget for this year, our First collection needs to average \$13,500.00 per week.

Thank you for your generosity—God Bless

December Parish Poor Box Collection
\$ 58.01
Wayside Soup Kitchen
 Poor Box for **February** - St. Vincent dePaul Soup Kitchen

Buildings and Grounds - The New Look

You may have noticed the tarp affixed to the bay window at the Parish Office/St. Joseph Rectory on the St. Joseph Street side. We had a significant leak in a recent rainstorm. The diagnosis is that the wall over the windows in that bay section needs to be rebuilt. It is splitting apart due to water and ice damage over the years. This repair needs to be done this spring. Estimated cost is \$14,000. We have been told there is other damage in the longer sections of the wall as well. All this will be included in the facilities assessment we are planning for you to see. That report will be available this spring.

Your Generosity Counts

We have received another Thank You from Project Feed for the food recently delivered to them from you. Thank you for these gifts of food, for the items put in the Catholic Charities bins and for your contributions to "The Poor Box" in each church. You are helping meet basic needs of some of our neighbors, exactly what Jesus asks his disciples to do. Every gift matters. Thanks also to the good folks who are arranging to take the food and clothing items to the places where they can be used.

Volunteer Corner

"Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted."

How can we practice this Beatitude in our parish? The Bereavement Ministry, for the past year and a half, has been offering a Spiritual Bouquet to families of the deceased whose funeral Mass is at St. Joseph's or St. Pius X. Though the Bereavement Ministry is small in numbers one of us attends the wake and /or the Mass. We would like to expand this ministry, and welcome new volunteers. For more information please e-mail Paulette at pstidd101@gmail.com or call the parish office.

<u>Date:</u>	<u>beginning bal.</u>	<u>payment</u>	<u>principal</u>
01/19/2019	\$69,886.47	\$1,093.45	\$843.84
01/28/2019	\$69,042.63	\$5000.00	\$5000.00
		<u>interest</u>	<u>ending bal.</u>
		\$249.61	\$69,042.63
		\$000.00	\$64,042.63

Paving Project

With our extra payments to date we have cut our monthly payments from the original 120 payments to **67** payments. To date we have raised **\$71,878.14** toward our total paving loan of \$108,000.00. If you plan to support the parish with a one-time donation or a regular continuing donation towards the paving fund please be sure to mark your envelope or check memo area with "parking lot".

Thank you for your generosity!!!

Upcoming 2nd Collections

- 02-23/24-2019 — Fuel and Energy Fund
- 03-02/03-2019 — Easter Flowers
- 03-06-2019 — Eastern Europe / Solidarity Fund
- 03-09/10-2019 — Black and Indian Missions

If you have any questions regarding your envelopes, please **contact Linda at 207-797-7026**

Thank you for your continued support and generous donations.

Bulletin Items for the bulletin are due **10 days** prior to publication. Please submit information to andrew.litcher@portlanddiocese.org. Thank You

Our Lady of Hope Sebastian Rasle, SJ Prayer Circle March 2019 Prayer Intentions

We now start the third year of urging parishioners and friends to pray for our parish and other world needs and for one another through these prayer intentions and the idea of a Parish Prayer Circle. I hope that these intentions and the commitment to pray have been a source of grace and blessing to you and to our parish, school, and world.

1. For the spiritual health, vitality, and financial support of Our Lady of Hope Parish and St. Brigid School.
2. Pope Francis' prayer intention for March: Evangelization – Christian Communities That Christian communities, especially those who are persecuted, feel that they are close to Christ and have their rights respected.
3. That we may appreciate more deeply the gifts of our family members and our fellow parishioners, that we may show that appreciation in visible ways and that each of us may grow in our willingness to use our gifts for the benefit of others: our parish and school, our families, our community.

Liturgy of the Word Sundays 10:00 AM Mass St. Joseph Church

March 3 rd		March 17 th
April 7 th		May 5 th
May 19 th		





Our Lady of Hope Parish – A Jesuit Ministry
Lenten Calendar 2019



Lenten Fast & Abstinence

Ash Wednesday & Good Friday – Both March 6th, 2019, and April 19th, 2019, are days of fast and abstinence (from meat) in the universal Church.

Every Friday of Lent – All Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence (from meat) in the Church in the United States.

The Law of Abstinence (from Meat) – Binds Catholics aged 14 and older.

The Law of Fasting – Binds Catholics aged 18 and over, until the beginning of their 60th year (through age 59).

Easter Duty - In the dioceses of the United States, the obligation to receive holy Communion at least once a year may be satisfied from the First Sunday of Lent (March 9th/10th) to Most Holy Trinity Sunday (June 15th/16th). For a just cause, the Easter duty may be fulfilled at some other time of the year.

Ash Wednesday Schedule Wednesday March 6th

8:00 AM St. Brigid School Mass at St. Joseph

9:00 AM Mass- St. Pius X **Noon-** Prayer Service and Ashes St. Joseph

5:30 PM Mass – St. Pius X **7:00 PM** Mass – St. Joseph



Stations of the Cross – every Lenten Friday during Lent at 7:00 PM – St. Pius X Church. A simple meal of soup and bread will be available at 6:00 PM at the Parish Hall, Ocean Ave. on some/all Fridays. See the bulletin for up dates on this. All are welcome. A free-will offering is invited to cover the cost of the meals. Note: on Friday April 12th the K of C will be holding the annual Lobster Roll Supper at 5:00 PM.

Living Stations of the Cross – Friday April 12th following the 9:00 AM Mass at St. Pius Church. Stations presented by the students at St. Brigid School.

Lenten Scripture Study/Faith-sharing – Small groups will be available. See bulletin for details.

Two Parish Traditions:

Knights of Columbus Lobster Roll Dinner – Friday April 12th - 5:00 PM Parish Hall, 492 Ocean Ave.

St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef Dinner – Saturday March 16th - 6:00 PM Parish Hall, 492 Ocean Ave.

Lenten Retreat Opportunities - Saturday March 23rd **"The Mercy of God Brings Us Joy."**

Prayer and group discussion led by Fr. Vince, exploring the loving forgiveness of God as illustrated in Jesus' parable of the prodigal son. 9:00 AM – Noon in the Parish Hall, 492 Ocean Ave. Wednesday April 3rd 7:00 PM Evening Prayer and conversation about **"Choosing to follow Christ."** Parish Hall classroom 492 Ocean Ave. Fr. Paul, facilitator

Reconciliation/"The Light is on for you" –

In addition to our regular Saturday times for Reconciliation (or by appointment), we are celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Mon-Tues-Wed-Thursday April 8th-11th at St. Pius X Church 6:30-7:30 PM and following the 9:00 AM Mass there (9:30-10:00 AM) on Monday - Thursday. Regular Confession times: Saturday 2:00 – 2:30 PM St. Joseph Church
3:30 – 4:00 PM St. Pius X Church

The Novena of Grace March 4th - 12th.



The Novena of Grace has been a tradition in Jesuit-connected parishes and schools for many years and source of great blessing. We will observe the Novena at all regularly scheduled parish Masses. Novena prayers will be made available for those who wish to pray the Novena at home.

Holy Week April 14th - 21th

Palm Sunday April 14th -

regular weekend schedule of Saturday/Sunday Masses



Holy Thursday April 18th -

6:00 PM Parish Hall, 492 Ocean Ave. – Gathering and simple supper
7:00 PM – Mass of the Lord's Supper – St. Pius X Church



Good Friday, April 19th -

St. Joseph Church will be open for quiet prayer from Noon with Stations of the Cross at 3 PM. The Liturgy of the Lord's Passion is at 7:00 PM at St. Pius X Church



Holy Saturday, April 20th -

The Great Easter Vigil - 8:00 PM at St. Joseph Church



Easter Sunday, April 21th -

Masses: 7:00 AM St. Pius X 8:00 AM St. Joseph 9:00 AM St. Pius X
10:00 AM St. Joseph **No 5:00 PM Mass on Easter Day**

*******Watch the bulletin and parish website for any updates/ additions to this calendar*******

Online Resources for Lent

<http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-year/lent/index.cfm>

- resources from the US Catholic Conference of Bishops

www.bread.org/lent from Bread for the World

Various Jesuit-connected resources

www.onlineministries.creighton.edu/collaborativeministry/lent - a wealth of resources from the site run by campus ministry at Creighton University, Omaha, Nebraska

www.ignatianspirituality.com good source of prayer material/reflections etc.

www.sacredspace.ie daily reflections, run by the Jesuits of Ireland

www.Jesuits.org/news from the US Jesuit Provinces

www.scu.edu/jst/resources - from the Jesuit School of Theology in Berkeley, California

www.bc.edu/church21/lent1.html from Boston College

www.holycross.edu/faith-and-service.... From The College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA

Email Safety in the Diocese of Portland

Phishing email scams are happening on a regular basis in the Diocese of Portland. On occasion, emails claiming to come from the bishop, priests, or other staff members are received but are not actually from them. Their email has not been hacked, however, scammers have created email accounts with fraudulent information, so that it **appears** to be coming from a known recipient. Typically, these are coming from @gmail.com addresses. These phishing emails are attempts by scammers to trick you into giving out personal information such as your bank account numbers, passwords, credit card numbers, or to purchase gift cards.

Never follow links, open attachments, or reply to suspicious or unsolicited messages.

To learn the signs that can help you identify phishing scams, view instructions on what to do, and read recommendations from the Federal Trade Commission, visit www.portlanddiocese.org/sites/default/files/files/EmailSafetyPortland.pdf.

Winter Weather Cancellations

Weekday Mass Cancellations - when the Portland schools are cancelled or have a delayed opening beyond 9:00 AM, weekday Mass will be cancelled. This is to ensure everyone's safety on the roads and also to allow our grounds people time to plow parking lots and clear walks and steps around the churches. The Parish Offices will follow this same policy. St. Brigid's School will make its own school cancellation/delay notices. Weekend Masses are almost never cancelled, but each person should use good judgement about whether it is safe to travel.




COOKING LENT

For those of us who are able to prepare our own meals, Lent can be a wonderful time to bring together our meal preparation and our spirituality. Food is so rich in symbolism. Because it involves preparation, each step of doing it can be open to meaning. And if we are

cooking for our family, sharing the meal can become part of our Lenten prayer and ritual.

The Fridays of Lent

Each of the Fridays of Lent are days we abstain from meat together. This is intended to be a religious experience and so we need to explore it and prepare for it. Of course, many of us can't afford to eat meat every day, so avoiding meat is itself not a sacrifice. We may live in a region where livestock disease has caused a severe shortage or absence of meat. Some of us are vegetarians, and don't have meat in our diet at all. Others of us might really enjoy seafood or a fish fry on Fridays. For all of us, not eating meat on Friday, for whatever reason, allows us to have some taste of a religious experience, that places us together with our sisters and brothers around the world. How meaningful and powerful the experience is, depends upon how reflective we are about it, and the kind of choices we make, to ensure that there is some sacrifice and some experience of solidarity in our Lenten Fridays.

Meat-less in Penance and Solidarity

Our desire is that Friday be a day of Penance and that we have in it some experience of solidarity with the truly hungry of the earth. First of all, we want to remember that we are keeping these Fridays special because this is that day our Lord gave himself for us - selflessly and completely. This is the day that commemorates the Friday that approaches, which we call "Good." This commemoration is not intended to be sad or artificially gloomy. These Fridays are to be days that touch us deeply, because we remember that we are incredibly loved and we have been redeemed from the victory sin and death might have had over our lives. These are days to look upon a crucifix and feel the gratitude in our hearts, but also to feel the freedom - freedom from our sin and death, and freed to love and give of ourselves more generously. All of our experience tells us that we can't or won't be self-sacrificing without this experience of gratitude and without spiritual freedom. The Fridays of Lent are a spiritual exercise to offer us both of these graces.

Secondly, we desire to make our Lenten journey one that places us not only with Jesus, but with the poor of the world. What does gratitude do, if not help us to be mindful of and assist us in having affection for our sisters and brothers who have so much less than we do? One way we can intentionally place ourselves with the poor of the earth is to prepare our meals on these Fridays in ways that lets us share a communion with them. Then, our penance and solidarity come together - and that can be a very wonderful religious experience.

Cooking as Prayer

If prayer is "raising our minds and hearts to God," and being in a relationship with God, then anything can be prayer. And preparing a meal can certainly be a wonderful prayer. And, if our cooking is for our family or others with whom we live, then it can be a great act of love. It starts, as always, with desire. While I'm putting on my apron, or getting out my equipment, I can begin by naming my desire for this time. "Dear Lord, as you nourish us with your love, let me prepare this nourishment with you at my side. Give me the joy of being creative and loving, self-sacrificing and generous. As part of my baptism and my priesthood, let me offer this meal as a religious experience for me and for my family. As I prepare, help me to contemplate the women of the *campos* and *barrios* and villages around the world who are preparing meals today for their families - with great love, and with what they have. Thank you for your love. I now prepare to share it. Amen." Of course, we could add many words that are special to our circumstances.

"Let this meal nourish Pedro with your love. He is so full of tension and worry. I love him and deeply desire to offer him this meal as something different, and a sign of my care and our faith." "Oh, Lord, Meg needs you so much these days. She seems so distracted and not herself. Through our prayer and the sharing of this meal, give her the security of your love. And through our faith in your dying and rising for us, help her place the difficulties she is experiencing at school into her relationship with you."

Just imagine how different our "getting dinner together" can be, if we fill those early busy moments of preparation with prayer, naming our desires so explicitly.

For some interesting meatless recipes see <http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Lent/cooking.html>

Candles The Sanctuary candle at St. Pius X and St. Joseph which burn for a whole week, may be sponsored in memory of loved ones or in honor of those living. The requested donation is \$20. To arrange for this, either contact the Parish Office or place your gift and a note in an envelope and put it in the collection basket. We also have vigil candles at St. Joseph Church which can be lit.



Rosary Devotion

Monday through Thursday following 9:00 AM Mass
St. Pius X Church



Adorations

Tuesday Evenings 7:00 to 8:00 PM St. Joseph Church
Fridays 9:30 AM to 12 Noon St. Pius X Church

Knights of Columbus Council 101 – meets the **1st Wednesday** of the month at 7:00 PM in the Msgr. P.J. Flanagan Parish Center at St. Pius X. Grand Knight - **William Green**

Knights of Columbus Council 11257 – meets the **2nd Tuesday of the month** at 7:00 PM in the Parish Business Office at St. Joseph's in the Basement Meeting Room. Grand Knight - **Justin Russell**

Knights of Columbus 4th Degree Assembly – meets the **2nd Monday** of the month 7:00 PM in the Msgr. P.J. Flanagan Parish Center at St. Pius X. Faithful Navigator - **John Land**

Welcome to the Knights of Columbus



The Knights of Columbus will be selling vouchers for Portland **Sea Dogs tickets** for the 2019 season. A book of 4 vouchers for general admission seats costs \$20, half the regular game day price. The vouchers can be used for any regular season home game except the July 3rd fireworks game. If you would like to purchase tickets please contact Steve Capriola at 233-3565 or any member of the Knights of Columbus at Our Lady of Hope Parish.



St. Patrick's Day Charity Raffle

The Knights of Columbus Council 101 is once again selling \$100 raffle tickets to benefit local charities. First prize is \$5,000, second prize is \$1,500 and third prize is \$1,000. **Only 200 tickets are sold.** In the past 14 years we have given away \$86,250. 100 percent is given to charity. Some of the recipients are Mercy Hospital, Salvation Army, St. Brigid's School, Boys and Girls Club of Portland, Preble Street Resources, Maine Vitae, St. Vincent de Paul, Camp Sunshine, Maine Right to Life, Special Olympics and Presence Radio. If you can, please help us support these local charities.



If you need tickets, please call Paul Leblond at 253-9856.

Fr. Sebastian Rasle (Rale), S.J. Eternal Father, grant that Sebastian Rale, martyr of the faith among the Abenakis of Maine, will be raised to the altar of the blessed. Through his intercession, we pray that your divine favor will be manifest among us so that we may return praise to your eternal glory. We ask this through Our Lord Jesus Christ Your Son Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, world without end. Amen.

Are you looking to work for a few hours a month and help people in need? Catholic Charities Maine is looking for an On-Call Receptionist at their Central Office located at the Cathedral in Portland. The hours are flexible including morning, afternoon and all day shifts based upon the need for any given day. Available dates are made known months in advance for easy planning and are always during business days and business hours. For more information and to apply please go to www.ccmaine.org/employment.

Hospice Volunteer Training

Do you want to find fulfillment in life by doing something truly worthwhile? Are you compassionate, caring, reliable and flexible?



Consider becoming a Hospice of Southern Maine Volunteer! Volunteers needed for our upcoming class. April 12, 13, 19, 20 & 26

Companionship and emotional support
Caregiver relief and running errands
Grief support
Veteran support



For additional information or to register, please call:
Lynn 207.289.3689

Roman Catholic Diocese of Portland is proud to present the 8th annual **Maine Catholic Women's Conference** Saturday, April 6, 2019

Featuring Keynote Speaker/Singer;

Kitty Cleveland

God will provide!

Kitty Cleveland emphasizes the message of Divine Mercy and how it has played a significant role in her life. She shares her raw and real story of God's providence through her father's unjust incarceration and the start of her career as a singer/songwriter



Holy Mass • Vendors • Music • Adoration

Portland Marriott Sable Oaks, South Portland, Maine

Registration begins February 1 and closes April 1

Cost: \$65.00 (includes coffee break and lunch)

Early Bird Discount: \$59 by March 18



*Our Lady of Hope Women's Sodality
Annual Irish Bread Sale*



Saturday, March 16th and Sunday, March 17th

Pick up at St. Pius X Church on Saturday at the 4:30 PM Mass,

OR

Joseph's Church on Sunday at the 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, or 5:00 PM Masses (if breads last).

Beyond Chocolate: Going Deeper in Lent

onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Lent/BeyondChocolate.html

From the time we were children, our first question for Lent was often, “What are you giving up for Lent?” Giving something up for these 40 days is a custom that, when we were younger, helped us enter into the season with a sense of purpose and a greater awareness.

As adults, we might want to consider looking at Lent in a deeper way. We are probably much more settled into our behaviors and patterns of life and sometimes giving up something is where we begin -- and end -- our reflections on Lent. It can be tempting to say “I am giving up chocolate” or beer or even all sweets and all alcohol. But without more reflection, it can become simply a way I show God how how strong I am. It is more about me than any conversation with God.

Lent isn't simply about us “giving up” something. The real grace is when we recognize that Lent is a season in which God wants to *give us* something. God wants to help us transform our lives and make us more free as people -- not just freer with God, but in the way we live our lives and love our families.

It is much easier for us to simply choose something to give up -- then we can dismiss Lent! “I am giving up TV for Lent.” “I am giving up movies... Snacks... Soda pop.” We give it up and exercise our willpower for 40 days to prove to ourselves and to God that we can do it. And at the end of Lent we can return to what we gave up.

But this year we might reflect and ask the deeper question: What is God inviting me to change this Lent? How do I know what God might be stirring in me? I begin by listening to the movements in my heart. Where am I feeling uncomfortable with the choices I am making? With the things I have done? With the habitual ways I respond? The Lord will be speaking to me in those small nagging moments of discomfort in my heart.

It might be that we know deep down that we drink too much and that giving up alcohol would make us less irritable each night. Then giving up alcohol would be the right thing. Asking what we would like to change about ourselves this Lent requires a little reflection. What pattern of behavior in my life needs changing? What do I need *more of* in my life? Patience? Unselfishness? More loving behavior toward my spouse or children?

But each of us can think of something that gets in the way of our being loving and self-sacrificing. Too often the ordinary conflicts, divisions and difficulties in our family life result from simple selfishness on my part. I choose to fight. I choose to defend my opinion. I choose to use things I know about my partner, my children, my parents against them. I choose to hurt them.

The results of that behavior are never good and always divisive. We can imagine a Lenten practice in which each of us would tell members of our family -- those whom we have most offended in these ways -- that we are sorry and ask them to help us to work with us to bring more unity and peace to our family life.

We can ask: What would it cost me to change this behavior? What would it mean if I didn't walk around my family acting crabby all the time? What if I decided to be much more loving and patient with my spouse this Lent? What if I did decide to “give up” something really destructive in my life, like alcohol, pornography or on-line friendships? As I reflect, I might realize that changing a particular way I live is coming to me as a call from God and I don't have to do it alone. God is moving my heart to reflect on these changes and God will remain faithful and help me to stay open to the grace being offered to me for change.

I need help. It may be something that I don't *want* to change or acknowledge. I don't think I *can* change it. But that's where talking to God can make the difference. I am not doing this alone; I am doing it with God.

When I look at challenges with my spouse, I might discover that one of the barriers to communication in my marriage is that I interrupt and disagree. In some place in my head I know that is an annoying habit, but I am not free enough to simply listen without objecting. Maybe I am unable to receive what my spouse says without coming to the conclusion that my spouse is wrong. What if sharing a different point of view was not about winning an argument but to advancing communication between us?

In asking God for help, we might ponder one of the many healing gospels, like [Mark 2: 1-12](#). In this story, a group of friends carried a mat with a paralyzed man to Jesus, who was teaching inside a house. So many people crowded around the outside of the house that the friends were unable to get the mat inside. So they went up to the roof and moved aside the tiles and lowered their friend on the mat to Jesus below. The words to this gospel say that the friends on the roof had “broken through” the tiles to lower their friend into the house for healing. Their breakthrough led directly to the healing.

Where do we need a breakthrough? What is the barrier that keeps us from asking for healing? In our own lives, we need to break through our denials, defensiveness and our unwillingness to look at ourselves. Discovering what the barrier is in my life is critical. If we don't know what the barrier is, these weeks of Lent are a great time to reflect upon it. When we identify the barrier, we have made the breakthrough. That's when Jesus can heal us of it.

Why is this a good Lenten penance? Because it gets my attention where I live every day. It allows God's grace into my soul and into the place where my real life exists. That's where Jesus stands with me every day, waiting for me to be lowered from the roof so he can touch me and heal me.

