

OUR LADY OF HOPE and ST. BRIGID SCHOOL

A Jesuit Ministry

March 2 / 3, 2019

www.ladyofhopemaine.org



8TH

SUNDAY

IN ORDINARY TIME

SERMON ON THE PLAIN: JUDGING OTHERS

"Why do you notice the splinter in your brother's eye, but do not perceive the wooden beam in your own?" Luke 6:41

<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, 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 months in advance.
Christopher Landry		Maintenance	

<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.

The **Season of Lent** begins with four days that serve as an introduction to the four Lenten practices of Prayer, Fasting, Repentance and Almsgiving.

Ash Wednesday is a day of fasting and abstinence. We wear ashes on our foreheads to remember who we are and express our desire to turn away from sin and to believe the Good News. The Prophet **Joel** helps us begin our journey: "return to me with your whole heart." "Rend your hearts, not your garments," reminds us that this is an interior journey. The **Responsorial Psalm, Psalm 51**, has the antiphon: "Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned." Paul, in his **First Letter to the Corinthians** says, "be reconciled to God ... we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain ... Behold, now is a very acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation." In **Matthew's Gospel** Jesus gives us a guide for our Lenten practices, "Take care not to perform righteous deeds in order that people may see them."

On Thursday we read in **Deuteronomy** how Moses urges his people to turn away from sin. "Choose life, then, that you and your descendants may live, by loving the LORD, your God, heeding his voice, and holding fast to him."

Friday and Saturday: It is the long tradition of Lent to prepare us for our journey by having us reflect on **Isai-ah, Chapter 58**, as we begin. "This is the fasting that I wish" gives us the true picture of fasting: letting God's Spirit transform us. It is a call to conversion. Jesus confirms his desire to help us, "I have not come to call the righteous to repentance but sinners."

Friday Lenten Stations of the Cross There will be a simple supper of soup and bread available on Friday March 8th at 6:00 PM, prior to Stations of the Cross. The meal will be served at the Hall at 492 Ocean Ave. A schedule for the rest of Lent should be available by next week. A small free-will offering is being taken to cover the cost of these suppers.



Mass Intentions for the Week

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. Paul)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MONDAY: March 4, 2019

8:00 AM - St. Joseph (No School Mass)

9:00 AM - St. Pius X Evelyn Hawkes by Family

TUESDAY: March 5, 2019

9:00 AM - St. Pius X Deceased Members of Rosanne & Julie Dostie Family,
 Rosanne, Julie, Mack Dostie by Family

WEDNESDAY: March 6, 2019 **Ash Wednesday**

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

9:00 AM - St. Pius X Christopher Foley by Mary Elizabeth Foley

12:00 PM - St. Joseph Prayer Service and Ashes

5:30 PM - St. Pius X

7:00 PM - St. Joseph

THURSDAY: March 7, 2019

9:00 AM - St. Pius X Ivan & Alma Cyr by Bea

FRIDAY: March 8, 2019

9:00 AM - St. Pius X Josephine Baldante by The LaVopa Family

SATURDAY: March 9, 2019

8:00 AM - St. Pius X Philomena "Honey" Frenzilli by Patricia Kelly Music
1st Sunday of Lent

4:00 PM - St. Joseph For The People of the Parish (Fr. Jack)

4:30 PM - St. Pius X Jim Curran by Family (Fr. Paul)

SUNDAY: March 10, 2019 - **1st Sunday of Lent**

7:00 AM - St. Pius X For The People of the Parish (Fr. Bob P)

8:00 AM - St. Joseph Joseph McDonough by Eleanor & Joseph Delaney (Fr. Jack)

9:00 AM - St. Pius X Daniel & Elizabeth Commow by Zita & Frank Paul (Fr. Bob P)

10:00 AM - St. Joseph For all the Benefactors for our Parish (Fr. Paul)

5:00 PM - St. Joseph Berlin Castillo by Joy (Fr. Vince)

Scripture for the week of March 3, 2019

03	Sunday	1 Sm 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23/1 Cor 15:45-49/ Lk 6:27-38
04	Monday	Gn 4:1-15, 25/Mk 8:11-13
05	Tuesday	Gn 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10/Mk 8:14-21
06	Wednesday	Gn 8:6-13, 20-22/Mk 8:22-26
07	Thursday	Gn 9:1-13/Mk 8:27-33
08	Friday	1 Pt 5:1-4/Mt 16:13-19
09	Saturday	Heb 11:1-7/Mk 9:2-13
10	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 March 3, 2019**

03	Sunday	8th Sunday in Ordinary Time
04	Monday	St. Casimir
05	Tuesday	
06	Wednesday	Ash Wednesday (Fast & Abstinence)
07	Thursday	St. Perpetua & St. Felicity
08	Friday	St. John of God (Abstinence)
09	Saturday	St. Frances of Rome
10	Sunday	1st Sunday of Lent (Daylight Savings Time Begins)

The Sanctuary Candle burns this week at



St. Joseph Church
 Deceased Members of
 the Pizzo Family
St. Pius X Church
 Melda Downs



03/03/19 to 03/09/19



(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 8 - Stations of the Cross

March 9/10 - 1st Sunday of Lent

Daylight Saving Time Begins

St. Patrick's Day Supper ticket sale

March 15 - Stations of the Cross

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

March 22 - Stations of the Cross

March 23 - Lenten Retreat - Parish Hall 8:00 AM

April 3 - Lenten Retreat - Parish Hall 7:00 PM

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>

Finance and Administration

Weekly Offertory Report

Your Gifts of Stewardship

February 16 / 17, 2019

**Our Lady of Hope Parish 1st Collection was
\$ 8,492.51**

envelopes were used 243

Weshare: (1st Collection) \$ 567.12

Weshare Transactions 29

TOTAL Parish Offertory was \$ 9,059.63

**(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

January Parish Poor Box Collection

\$ 58.01

Wayside Soup Kitchen

Poor Box for **February** - St. Vincent dePaul Soup Kitchen

Date:	<u>beginning bal.</u>	<u>payment</u>	<u>principal</u>
01/28/2019	\$69,042.63	\$5000.00	\$5000.00
02/07/2019	\$64,042.63	\$1093.45	\$860.67
		<u>interest</u>	<u>ending bal.</u>
		\$000.00	\$64,042.63
		\$232.78	\$63,900.91

Paving Project

To date we have raised \$74,088.14 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!!!

Thanks

Thanks to a parishioner who recently made a special gift of \$2000. to be used toward the parking lot loan. This gift, and all gifts made to the parish, are most appreciated. We have made some good progress in paying down this debt. Your continued and renewed efforts will enable us to continue on this path and clear this debt altogether. Fr Paul SJ

coming 2nd Collections

- 03-02/03-2019 — Easter Flowers
- 03-06-2019 — Eastern Europe / Solidarity Fund
- 03-09/10-2019 — Black and Indian Missions
- 03-16/17-2019 — Snow Removal and Grounds Care

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	

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.

December Checkbook

Parish Financial Activity for December 2018

Offertory- (including Christmas collection)	\$70,723.00
General Expenses	<u>\$68,116.28</u>
Sub Total	\$2606.72
Plus quarterly assessment to the Diocese	<u>\$18,559.10</u>
Grand total	(\$15,952.38)



Daylight Savings
Time Begins
MARCH 10th



**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 Church

9:00 AM Mass - St. Pius X Church

12:00 PM Prayer Service and Ashes - St. Joseph Church

5:30 PM Mass - St. Pius X Church

7:00 PM Mass – St. Joseph Church



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, 492 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 Knights of Columbus 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 X 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:

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

Knights of Columbus Lobster Roll Dinner – Friday April 12th- 5:00 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

A Cardiology Exam for Disciples

Some of us see a cardiologist to check on the health of our hearts and circulatory system. During these weeks of Lent, let's take a look at the state of our hearts as friends and disciples of the Risen Christ. The reflections offered each week and, perhaps, noted during the Mass, are all taken from homily reflections offered by Pope Francis this year.

Week One - March 10 - Is your heart "hard" or "closed"?

Week Two - March 17 - A second diagnosis to "rule out" Is my heart obstinate?

Week Three - March 24 - A final condition to "rule out" Has my heart been seduced?

Week Four - March 31 Realizing that it is God who takes the first step toward us.

Steps toward a healthier heart

Week Five - April 7 - An exercise for a good heart

You don't usually leave a doctor's office without some exhortation to "exercise"

Week Six - April 14 - The real problem

Indifference is the opposite of love

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.



"I wonder about that"

Several questions have arrived lately. One asks a number of questions about how to know the Bible better, how does Scripture help us. These questions inspired my homily two weeks ago. I think one of the best ways to come to know the Scriptures is to spend some time with the Sunday readings. Most Bibles today have some helpful footnotes or other guides to help us understand better. There are also many other easy-to-use resources "out there" to help us. OLH parish is hoping to have small groups available during Lent where parishioners can read and reflect on and talk about the Sunday readings. I would encourage people to join one. Information will be available in the bulletin. As we read these Scriptures and think about them, we can bring our own life experiences and struggles. St. Ignatius encourages us to talk, in our own words, with Jesus about what is going on in our own lives. Maybe, if the Gospel is about a healing you can talk to Jesus about your need or hope for healing for you or someone close to you. When we are having times of trouble or worry, a good way to approach God is to remember the words of the angels to the shepherds and Jesus' birth, or Jesus' words to his friends after Easter when they were meeting in a locked room, afraid. "Do not be afraid." Or Jesus' words at his ascension "remember, I am with you til the end." Pray over those words, asking God to be present to you. Tell God what is worrying you. Then, listen....

A person also asked what is a parent to do if one of their children is gay. An important thing to remember here is that our sexual identity comes at birth. Scientists and doctors agree with this. It is the way a person is made, not a choice to be "something else." And God loves each and all of us, as we are. Wise and holy parishioners in my past have shown me that the most important thing to remember is that "your child is your child and you love him or her." That is more important than anything else. The church teaches us that people who are gay, lesbian or other sexual identity are to be loved and respected and welcomed into the community of faith. Whatever a person's sexual identity or attraction may be, the fundamental question is how to live in a healthy and honorable way - traditionally we call that "chastity" and all of us are called to lives of chastity. Admittedly the church struggles with this issue. Again, let us remember some fundamentals told us by Jesus: each one of us is loved, we are called by God not to judge one another. Jesus also tells us that our lives will be judged by God on the basis of how we loved one another, especially the really needy and those others are likely to reject. My questioner wrote "surely a parent is to love their child. We are to love one another and be in service to each other." Absolutely right. Fr. James Martin, S.J. in his book "Building a Bridge" offers a well thought out perspective on this issue. A review of the book noted "we owe it to each other to build this bridge with the mutual respect, compassion and sensitivity that Martin describes. And then we have to walk to its middle, not to encounter the "other," but to meet ourselves on this bridge which is the church."

Two short questions: 1. Why do we use white wine and not red at Mass? We are using a type of wine called "blush." It is not white, but lighter in color than red. That makes it much easier to clean the purificators used at Mass. There is no rule in church about the color of the wine. Only that it be wine made from grapes. 2 Why did the church change the wording of the Lord's Prayer? We haven't changed the wording. It is possible that in some translations the wording may differ a bit from the words used in English. Someone else asked about a related issue - more on that in another bulletin. Fr. Paul SJ

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

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.

40 Cans for Lent  The Knights of Columbus will be conducting its "40 Cans For Lent" Food Drive throughout the Lenten Season. Parishioners are asked to please bring a Non-perishable food item each time they attend Mass during Lent. All food collected will be donated to local food pantries. Items can be deposited in marked totes at the rear of the church. Thank you for your help.



 **Annual St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner**

The Knights of Columbus Council 101 will be selling tickets after all masses at both churches this weekend and March 9/10 for the Annual St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner with all the fixings. The dinner will be held in the Parish Hall 482 Ocean Ave. on **Saturday, March 16 at 6:00 PM.** Donation is \$15 for adults. **Dinner sells out fast!** Hurry and get your tickets! If you have any questions, please call Paul Leblond at 207-253-9856 or Bill Green at 207-773 8619.



PS: **Attention Peelers:** we will be peeling veggies on Friday, March 15 starting at 9:00 AM. Please Bring Your Own Peeler!



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



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).

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



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

Parish Ministries			Parish Ministries		
Altar Servers	Serve at Mass according to a schedule. Training offered by the Parish .	Jean.Ingalls @portlanddiocese.org (207)358-7571	Youth Ministry	Middle and High School students offering help to those in need through prayerful support and service.	
Eucharistic Adoration	Tuesday at 7:00 PM St. Joseph Church Friday at 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM St. Pius X Church Shifts are allotted to cover the presence of the Eucharist.	Contact Parish Office	Bereavement Ministry	Assists families at the time of the loss of a loved one.	Contact Parish Office
Eucharistic Ministers /Lectors	Serve at Mass according to a schedule posted on website. Training and support are provided to those who serve as liturgical ministers.	Jean.Ingalls @portlanddiocese.org (207)358-7571	Our Lady of Hope Sebastian Rasle, S.J. Prayer Circle	Parishioners who commit to praying for Our Lady of Hope Parish, St. Brigid School and for two other intentions which will change monthly.	Contact Parish Office
Homebound Ministry	For those who have need of the Eucharist at home or in another facility. May also include transportation to and from Parish for Mass and special events or occasions. Anyone interested in supporting this ministry may contact the Parish office for details.	Nelson Megna (207) 878-9339	Music Ministry	Coordinates and plays music at parish liturgies to assist parishioners. Seeking singers and instrumentalist.	Lori Arsenault / Contact Parish Office
Ushers & Greeters	The ministry of ushering & greeting is to greet people with a smile, assist them in finding a seat, and answer any questions they might have.	Contact Parish Office	Women’s Fellowship	Meets at Parish Hall at 492 Ocean Ave	Karen Joyce
Marriage Mentors	Lead discussions and offer support to those who are preparing for Holy Matrimony.	Linda.McCormack @portlanddiocese.org (207)358-7572	Women’s Sodality	Meets first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM Meets at Parish Hall at 492 Ocean Ave.	Jean Ingalls
Prayer Shawl	Meets the first Tuesday at 1:30 PM Parish Hall at 492 Ocean Ave Offering shawls to those in need of comfort. Knit prayer shawls at home or at monthly meetings. Knitting experience not required. All skill levels welcome.	Joan Beal / Joan.Beal@gmail.com	Matthew 25 Project	Provides financial assistance to Portland residents needing oil, food, and clothing. Parishioners conduct interviews using Parish-provided cell phone (can be done from home).	Rose Lannon rose@maine.edu (207) 756-2306
Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)	Faith Formation mentor program for those seeking to enter the church or for those seeking to receive Confirmation.	Contact Parish Office	Wayside Soup Kitchen	Meets at 4:00 PM 2nd Thursday of Month Deering Center Community Church 4 Brentwood St.,	Susan Mullen/ (207) 878-2802
Scripture Study	Offered seasonally.	Deacon John McAuliffe	Events Committee	Meets monthly to plan for events coordinating the Parish Calendar	Contact Parish Office
			Bingo	Meets Wednesday at 12:00 PM Parish Hall at 492 Ocean Ave (October—May)	
			Exer-Chi	Meets Tuesday and Thursday at 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM Parish Hall at 492 Ocean Ave	
			St. Vincent de Paul Soup Kitchen	Monday thru Friday 307 Congress Street 11:00am to 12:30pm	Jesse Senore / (207) 939-3740 (207) 772-1113

Daily Prayer This Week

We may feel like we never have enough; enough money, time, love, status or anything else that seems to be the focus of our lives. We live lives that are packed with activities, meetings and obligations - keeping our hearts distracted away from our relationship with God, from our families and from others in our lives who need our love.

In these few days before Lent begins, we can begin to prepare our hearts by asking ourselves how we want Lent to be different this year. What do we want to ask the Lord to give us - and more importantly, we can ask *what the Lord wants for us* this Lent. What gift of generosity, love or attention can we share with others in the weeks ahead? How can we focus on the Lenten season and ask that our hearts be opened to what is real - not to the externals which distract us so much? How will I *be* with my family and friends this Lent? What will I do that sets this season apart from my normal routines? How can I name, anticipate and feel the gifts the Lord showers on me with such love in the weeks ahead? And every morning, we can begin by sitting at the side of our beds with our hands open on our laps, asking God to help us receive these gifts with open hearts. We can carry that focus with us throughout the day, remembering in the quiet moments what we are asking for. Always, we end our day simply thanking God for the love and gifts of the day.

For these first four days of Lent, it will be a great help to set aside some time, even if it means getting up earlier each morning, to read about what Lent can mean and to let that soak into our hearts. The key is not to be somber or severe in any way, but to know that this is a time of great grace so that we can be attentive to it. The first thing to remember is that these 40 days are a **gift** to us. We are not trying to save ourselves by our Lenten practices. God has already saved us. We are only trying to let God get our attention and to give grace a chance to work in us. These days are critically important for choosing to establish some Lenten patterns. Depending upon our age or health, we will want to do some fasting and abstinence, in regard to food. But, each of us can choose what else we can fast and abstain from during Lent. What practices of mine get in the way of my being open to hearing God’s Word and responding freely? That’s what needs transforming. Giving up needing to be right, fasting from my impatience, totally abstaining from escapist fantasies will open our hearts to God’s grace. None of that takes extra time. It just takes desire. Adding new acts of kindness, gratitude and love each day for family and friends will open our hearts to the greater acts of charity and generosity for the poor.

Finally, Lent is the perfect time to choose to grow in gratitude. Every night, before going to bed, let us be faithful to giving thanks to the Lord who has given us so many blessings and offers us new graces each and every day.