

Christ the Divine Mercy Parish
February 9, 2025 Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Bookkeeper: Gert Campbell

Judy Ouellette: Administrative Assistant

Fr. Sefembiy Justin

Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 9:00 am – 12:00 noon & 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Wednesday office hours are 9:00 to 12 noon; office is closed to public on Wed. afternoon.

Office is closed on holidays

Faith Formation Office -731-4083 - St. Martin's Worship Site Hours:

Monday: 9:30-12:30 – Wednesday 1:30- 3:30 – Thursday 9:30-12:30

In Case of an emergency leave a message at this number 531-0280

(Please call the office to arrange the Sacraments of Baptism and Marriage.)

O.C.I.A. Program - Contact Sharon Darling – 207 447-8426

St. Martin of Tours

19 Colby Street

Millinocket, ME 04462

Saturday 4:00pm -Sunday 3:00pm in the Church

Weekdays – See Mass page

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturday from 2:30 -3:30pm or by appointment

Followed By The Rosary said in the Church

Before 4:00pm mass

Contact Information: appointment

Church Hall – (207-723-6395)

Thrift Store – (207-723-4513)

Opened Thursdays

Thu. - 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

Food Pantry

9:00 am to 11:00 am

Open every **OTHER** Wednesday

Check inside bulletin Pantry News for dates

St. Peters Church

58 Cedar Street

East Millinocket, ME 04430

Winter Mass Schedule

Sunday – 8:30AM

Weekdays – See Mass page

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Tues. Eve. 5 - 6:00pm after 4:30pm Mass or by Appt.

Mailing Contact Information:

Address: PO Box 400

East Millinocket, ME 04430

Parish Office – (207-746-3333)

Fax Line – (207-746-8188)

Office e-mail:

christthedinemercy@portlanddiocese.org

Faith Formation: tina.mcleod@portlanddiocese.org

Website:

www.christthedinemercyparish.org

VISION: A Parish journeying in prayerful humility,
living the Faith through the sacraments in relationship
with our community

MISSION: Connect, love & serve one
another in Christ Jesus.



ST. MARTIN OF TOURS CHURCH
19 COLBY STREET
MILLINOCKET, MAINE

**The Sanctuary Lamp this week is burning in loving
Memory of Richard Day, Sr.
By Dickie, Julie & Kyle**

Food Pantry Hours
The Pantry will be opened every other week
from 9:00am to 11:00am.
The next scheduled days the Pantry will be
opened: February 12th & February 26th

*The food pantry was opened 3 days in January and we
assisted 67 families. Thank you for your continued
support and God bless you.*

Keep watching our bulletin for updates. Thank you.

Thrift Store Hours
**Our business hours are Thursdays
from 10:00am 3:00pm.**

**Come and visit our store and see
what we have to offer.**

***Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
February 9, 2025***

That by seeing God's presence more clearly in every
human life, we may repent of the ways that we have failed
to honor protect, and welcome that life,
we pray to the Lord...

AARP Free Tax Preparation

AARP tax preparation has begun on
Thursdays, at 9:00AM at St. Peter's Parish
Center in East Millinocket and is held every
Thursday at 9:00AM until April 10th.

AARP Tax Prep in Millinocket

AARP Free Income Tax Preparation will be held
at the Millinocket Nazarene Church Fellowship
Hall on Tuesday's at 10:30 -2:00PM in February
only and on Wednesday's from 9:00AM to
2:00PM during February, March and April until
April 9th.

Religious Gift Store at St. Martin's Worship Site

THE RELIGIOUS GIFT STORE at St. Martin
of Tours Church is open before the 4 pm mass on
Saturday evenings. If you would like to meet at another
time, please call Sandra Willard at 723-5033. Thank
you - Sandy.

Donations to the Funeral Luncheon Ministry
*Thank you for your generous donation to the Funeral Luncheon
Ministry.* These donations make it possible to continue this
very important ministry. Thank you for your generosity and
support.

St. Martin of Tours Winter Eucharistic Adoration
Schedule: Eucharistic Adoration at St. Martin of Tours will
be held in the Chapel from 3:00 PM to 4:00PM on
Wednesdays. All are welcome.

Opportunities for the Sacrament of Confession

Fr. Joel asked about times in Houlton and
Lincoln for parishioners who may be there and
would like to take advantage of this beautiful
Sacrament.

In Houlton, weekly confessions at St. Mary
of the Visitation is held on Sunday at 7:30AM until
7:45AM and Sunday at 10:00AM until 10:15AM.

In Lincoln, weekly confession at St. Mary's
are on Saturdays at 3:00PM or by appointment by calling
207-794-6333.

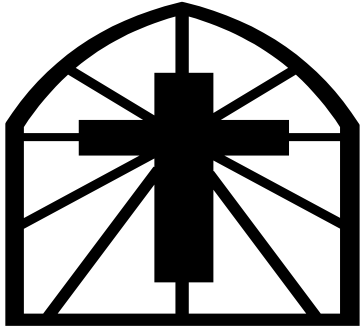
Please note: the Thursday Mass schedule
at St. Martin of Tours on Thursday morning at 8:30
will go to 5:30PM on Thursday evenings until further
notice. Confession will be available from 6:00PM to
7:00PM after the mass. Thank you for your
understanding in this matter.

Consoling Hearts Grief Ministry Update

Hello to our Christ the Divine Mercy Parish Family!
Our Commission is in the process of reworking our
Gatherings. We will not be Gathering the month of
February. We are planning a special Gathering for
March centered around St. Joseph. Stay tuned for
more information! Blessings!

***"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be
comforted." Matthew 5:4***

St. Peter's Catholic Church
58 Cedar Street
East Millinocket, Maine



February 9, 2025

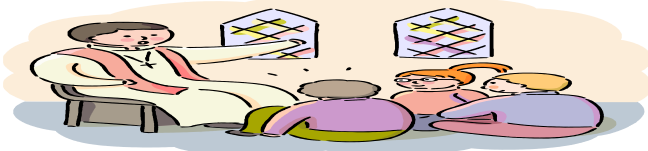
The Eucharistic Reservation Light is burning in
Loving Memory of Alfreda Daigle
By Francine & Bob Leathers

February 9, 2025

World Marriage Day and National Marriage
Week -February 7th to the 14th. "They left
everything and followed him."

As we celebrate **World Marriage Day**, we honor the beauty and commitment of married couples who follow Christ together. Just as the apostles left behind their former lives to follow Jesus, couples are called to embrace their vocation of marriage with faith and trust, journeying together toward holiness. Take this opportunity to renew your marriage vows in your heart.

For those preparing for marriage, that their love may be rooted in Christ and grow stronger as they prepare for a lifetime of commitment and unity, Let us pray to the Lord.



The Lazarus Ministries at St. Peter's and at St. Martin of Tours is looking for persons who are willing to assist families as they prepare for their loved ones' funeral. If interested contact either Francis at 731-4479, Linda 447-1465 and Esther Willette at 746-5210

Emergency Number: Please be aware that should an emergency arise during the weekend, please call 531-0280. This phone number is for emergencies only. Thank you.

Important Notice - Booking of Halls: If you would like to hold an event at either St. Peter's Parish Center or St. Martin of Tours Hall, please contact the office at 746-3333.

The Carmelites meet the 1st Friday of the month at St. Peter's Parish Center from 10 to 12 noon. If you are interested in joining our group, please contact the office at 746-3333.

Homebound Parishioners: If you are homebound or in the hospital and would like a visit from Father, please call the office at 746-3333. He will call you to set up a time for a visit. Thank you and God bless.

OCIA (formerly RCIA) If anyone is interested in learning about our Catholic Faith and would like more info, please call: Sharon Darling at 207 447-8426, Tom Darling at 207 723-8865 or Joshua Darling at 207 731-3532 or call the office at 746-3333 during regular hours.

Consoling Hearts Grief Ministry Update

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"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted."
Matthew 5:4

Rosary, Adoration and Reconciliation

Tuesday at St. Peter's: Mass 4:30; 5:00PM to 6:00PM – Rosary, Holy Hour & Confession

Wednesday at St. Martin of Tours' Chapel: 3:00 to 4:00PM - Rosary, Holy Hour

Friday at St. Benedict's: 8-9:00AM Rosary & Adoration followed by Mass at 9:00AM

The Rosary will be said before all weekday masses and before all weekend Masses

Location	Time	Mass Schedule
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Monday	St. Peter's	8:30AM	Eddie Page by Barry & Patty Bryant
Tuesday	St. Peter's	4:30PM	Dot Thibodeau by the Belanger Family
Wednesday			Fr. Justin's Day off
Thursday	St. Martin's	5:30PM	Parishioners & Visitors
Friday	St. Benedict's	9:00AM	Parishioners & visitors
Saturday	St. Martin's	4:00 PM	Richard Day, Sr. (Happy Birthday) by Dickie, Julie & Kyle
Sunday	St. Peter's	8:30AM	Marsha Northway by Bruce & Julie
	St. Benedict's	10:30AM	Aaron & Chris Marston by Lana & Billy
	St. Martin's	3:00PM	Gail McLain by Sister-in-law, Linda

Weekly Scripture Readings

Sunday	Is 6:1-2a, 3-8/Ps 138:1-5, 7-8/1 Cor 15:1-11
Monday	Gn 1:1-19/Ps 104:1-2a,5-6, 10, 12-24, 35c/Mk 6:53-56
Tuesday	Gn 1:20—2:4a/Ps 8:4-9/Mk 7:1-13
Wednesday	Gn 2:4b-9, 15-17/Ps 104:1-2a, 27-28, 29b-30
Thursday	Gn 2:18-25/Ps 128:1-5/Mk 7:24-30
Friday	Gn 3:1-8/Ps 32:1-2, 5-7/Mk 7:31-37
Saturday	Gn 3:9-24/Ps 90:2-6, 12-13/Mk 8:1-10

Tithing

Envelopes
Loose
Total

Week of February 2, 2025

\$ 2,772.00
614.00
\$ 3,386.00
(Needed for weekly Exp. \$4,200.00)

Collection for 2/9/2025	#1 – Regular	#2 – Heat & Electric
Collection for 2/16/2025	#1 Regular	

Christ the Divine Mercy Parish – Capital Campaign

Capital Campaign Goal:	\$400,000.00
Amount raised to date:	247,576.53
Distributed to date:	195,644.20
Balance:	\$ 51,932.33

Don Raymond – Chair Nancy Stanley – Co-chair Sandra Willard - Secretary
Rita Chasse Mike Landry Carol LeVasseur Francis Megno George Ouellette
Edwina Stanley Paryse Thibodeau

Finance Council Members for Christ the Divine Mercy Parish
Kitty St. John – Chair Mike Crowley Eldon Doody
Sharlett Currier Steve Fraser John Doe Sharon Darling Mike Rioux

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Community Health and Counseling Services - *Home Health, Hospice and Mental Health Services*

How would you like to make a difference in the lives of others? How would you like to give a cup of cold water in Jesus' name? Matthew 10:42 says "and whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of water in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward."

If you have ever had a loved one on Hospice, you know that it is a stressful time for the family. CHCS hospice is looking for anyone who has an hour a week or 3 hours a month (or any amount of time really, you name your hours) to become a hospice volunteer. We need people willing to perhaps run errands for the family, or bring them groceries, or prepare /buy them a meal, or sit with someone on hospice so the family can take a nap. Sometimes you might walk a dog, or play cards, or look at photos with the client. If you prefer to be "behind the scenes" we could use people in the Lincoln office to file papers etc.

No experience is needed and you get to name what you are willing to do! If you are able to spare a few hours to help a family in need, please see Judy about an application. Any other questions, ***please call Chaplain Cher at 207-356-5469. Please leave a voicemail if you do not reach her.***

Save the Date: Men's & Women's Conferences

Men's Conference

Date/Time: March 15, 2025, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Location: St. John's Community Center, 43 Pleasant St., Brunswick

Speaker: Bishop James T. Ruggieri

Webpage: <https://portlanddiocese.org/Mens-conference-2025>

Women's Conference

Date/Time: May 17, 2025, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Location: St. John's Community Center, 43 Pleasant St., Brunswick

Theme: When Women Pray **Speaker:** TBD

Sponsors Needed for OCIA Candidates: The OCIA Team is looking for four (4) people who are willing to sponsor one of our candidates for initiation into the Catholic Church. A sponsor prays for, guides, and encourages a candidate throughout the OCIA process. To fulfill this important role, a sponsor must be a fully initiated Catholic in good standing, who also practices the faith and lives the teachings of the Church. If you feel called to this ministry, please contact Sharon, Tom or Joshua Darling, phone 447-8426 or email shardarl@hotmail.com

National Marriage Week

The observances of National Marriage Week (February 7-14) and World Marriage Day (Sunday, February 9) are opportunities to focus on building a culture of life and love that begins with supporting and promoting marriage and the family. The theme of the week for 2025 is "Marriage: Source of Hope, Spring of Renewal. Pursue a Lasting Love!" To learn more, visit <https://portlanddiocese.org/national-marriage-week>



A Very Special Thank you!

Dear Parishioners of St. Benedict, St. Martin, and St. Peter,

Words, as always, are insufficient to express the reality of one's mind, heart, and soul. But express, I must do. Thank you for December and January for a great liturgical celebration of faith, hope, and love.

First, the body: cretons, soups, breads, pasta, sweets, home lunches and suppers and restaurant gatherings. This is the good life of happy home gatherings.

Second, mind, heart and soul: the sacraments of anointing, penance, and the eucharist. God is with us. The news does not get any better than this.

Please continue to celebrate that news with your new Pastor Fr. Sefembiy Justin again and again. God is with us, the very best.

Peace, love, joy.

Rev. Joel Cyr



World Day of the Sick

February 11 is commemorated as the World Day of the Sick. The day was established by Pope Saint John Paul II in 1992 to offer prayers for those who are suffering from illnesses. In establishing the day, Pope John Paul II said that he desired it to be "a special time of prayer and sharing, of offering one's suffering for the good of the Church, and of reminding everyone to see in his sick brother or sister the face of Christ who, by suffering, dying, and rising, achieved the salvation of mankind."

Pope Saint John Paul II chose February 11 as the date because it coincides with the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, a title given to the Blessed Mother after her appearances to St. Bernadette Soubirous in Lourdes, France, in 1858. Each year, millions travel to Lourdes, seeking healing.

The World Day of the Sick is also an opportunity to recognize the ministry of health-care workers, hospital chaplains, and all who care for the sick, serving as a reminder that they are carrying on the healing ministry of Christ. To learn more and see parish events, visit <https://portlanddiocese.org/world-day-sick>

News from Fr. Justin

Hello Dear Parishioners:

Good News for our Parish Employees, Current volunteers and perspective volunteers of our Parishes.

A wonderful grant opportunity has been offered by The Lay Continuing Education and Formation Endowment Foundation of Maine in the Diocese of Portland. This is opened to current employees and volunteers of Christ the Divine Mercy and St. Benedict Parishes.

This grant is offered to further their education and training related to professional services in the church such as Pastoral Life Coordinators, Business Coordinators, Music Ministers, Catechetical Leaders, Teachers and Youth Ministers, etc. It is opened equally to those who feel called to be volunteers in these ministries but need empowering.

Applications for these grants are currently going on. The last day for your submission is the 30th of March 2025. The Grants range from \$250.00 to \$3,500.00 for individuals annually. The grant application forms are available on the Diocesan website. The grant application and required attachments are submitted electronically to the office of Ministerial Services by those holding a diocesan e-mail address but the Parish office can always assist to submit for those who do not have a diocesan e-mail address.

Please do not let this opportunity pass you by. Contact the Parish office or Fr. Sefembiy Justin for more information and any clarifications with regards to individual requirements.

“Make hay while the sun shines.”

Fr. Justin

In the motion picture industry, a movie or a particular scene from a movie occasionally impacts our memories. For me, one of these scenes is from the movie *Dead Poets Society* (1989), starring the late Robin Williams. In the movie, Robin Williams portrays the unconventional literature teacher at the fictional Welton Academy, an all-boys prestigious boarding school in Vermont.

The scene that I find impactful is at the beginning of the movie. It is the first day of class, and Mr. Keating enters the classroom filled with high school boys and abruptly leaves, inviting the boys to follow him. He leads them to a foyer with display cases of trophies, awards, and pictures of students from the school's illustrious past. This foyer is adorned with three banners reflecting the school's emblem and colors, and each banner bears a word: discipline, honor, and excellence. One of the boys is asked to open his hymnal to the poem, "To the Virgins to Make Much of Time," a 17th-century poem written by Robert Herrick. The opening verse of the poem is:

**Gather ye rosebuds while ye may,
Old Time is still a-flying:
And this same flower that smiles today
To-morrow will be dying.**

Mr. Keating instructs the youth to read the stanza and tells the boys that the Latin phrase capturing the meaning of the opening stanza is *carpe diem*, a phrase that means "seize the day." Mr. Keating then applies the meaning of *carpe diem* to their experience at Welton. He tells them to seize each day, to live it well. He tells the boys, "Make your lives extraordinary." Upon encouraging the boys to make the most of their time and opportunity at Welton, to emphasize his point, he calls their attention to the old pictures on the walls of the foyer of former students of Welton who would then have been deceased due to the passing of time. Mr. Keating tells the boys rather abruptly that they, too, will one day die like these students, so again, he encourages them to seize the day and make the most of their lives. It is a dramatic scene. As the boys study pictures of students from Welton's past, Keating says in a slow, hushed, haunting voice, "*Carpe diem. Carpe diem.*" The phrase, seize the day, seems to have its origin in the Roman poet Horace's work, *Odes*, which dates to about 23 BC, Horace writes, "*Carpe diem, quam minimum credula postero.*" Translated, it means, "Seize the day, putting as little trust as possible in the future." It is interesting that Horace's philosophy of living etched in Latin still finds its way into creative literary and dramatic works.

A good *carpe diem* scriptural reference is the story of Zacchaeus, the tax collector, found in Luke 19:1-10. St. Luke tells readers that, on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus passed through Jericho, which is about 15 miles away from Jerusalem. Zacchaeus, a wealthy Roman tax collector, was in the crowd and desired to see Jesus, so he climbed a sycamore tree, something most adults would consider too embarrassing to do. However, Zacchaeus wants to see Jesus and considers moving to a higher altitude. Jesus, seeing Zacchaeus in the tree, calls him down, invites himself to Zacchaeus' house, and shares a meal with Zacchaeus and a crowd filled with other tax collectors and so-called "sinners." St. Luke presents this as a pivotal moment in the life of Zacchaeus, who publicly states that he will make amends for defrauding anyone during his career as a tax collector. Basically, it is a moment of real *conversion* for Zacchaeus. At the end of the biblical account, Jesus says, "Today, salvation has come to this house because this man too is a descendant of Abraham. For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save what was lost." (19:9-10)

In keeping with our brief exposé about *carpe diem*, we would be correct in saying that Zacchaeus seized the day when Jesus passed through Jericho. Desiring to "see" Jesus in the Scriptures is analogous to desiring faith. Zacchaeus desired to change, grow, mature, and choose a more honest life from that point. "Seeing" Jesus is symbolic of Zacchaeus now having faith in Jesus. Faith in Jesus leads to conversion. Faith in Jesus means setting our hearts and minds on holiness and Heaven. We grow in holiness by being fully alive in Jesus. In the fullness of our humanity, we embrace virtue and a high moral, Christ-like character. For Zacchaeus, his new discipleship meant a life of honesty and integrity. No more defrauding or taking advantage of people. Zacchaeus seized the day, and Jesus seized Zacchaeus by calling him down and sharing a meal with him. Sharing a meal in Jesus' day was more than "fast food." It was an opportunity for fellowship and cultivating relationships. Zacchaeus has found new meaning in life by sharing a relationship with Jesus.

I would urge us all to seize the day as disciples of Jesus. Every day is an opportunity. The Lord invites us to union with him. Seize the day! I leave you with the beautiful *carpe diem* words of Psalm 95 (vv. 7c-8a):

*Oh, that today you would hear his voice:
Do not harden your hearts....
-Bishop James T. Ruggieri*