

Weekly Offertory

July 20th

Regular

\$ 993.00

July 27th

Regular

\$1094.50

Peter's Pence

\$ 351.50

August 3rd

Regular

\$1380.00

Capital Campaign

\$ 533.50

August 10th

Regular

\$1864.00

Heat & Electric

\$ 603.00

August 17th

Regular

August 24th

Regular

August 31st

Regular

Catholic Appeal Second Commitment Weekend

Capital Campaign

Capital Campaign Goal:\$200,000

Raised: \$55,634.81

Dispersed: -\$34,938.23

(for church roof scheduled for after VBS)

Balance: \$20,696.58

Please mark your donation

"Capital Campaign"

Thank you for your support!

Amount needed weekly to run the Parish = \$1278.85

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JUBILEE 2025

PILGRIMS OF HOPE

ST. BENEDICT'S PARISH

St. Benedict's is a family-oriented community of faith, called through our baptism to give witness to trust, love, understanding, and patience.
We are a family that is nourished by the sacraments, and led by the Spirit. Welcome to our Family!

PASTOR: REV. FR. SEFEMBIY JUSTIN

EMERGENCY NUMBER 765-4414 E-MAIL: SEFEMBIY.JUSTIN@PORTLANDDIOCESE.ORG

Weekly Reflection

1/66KIA K6116CPI0U

Pastor's Corner - Feed My Sheep (Table of the Word)

Theme: A Call To Persevere In Hardships Of Our Christian Calling

Dear and Beloved People of God,

The readings for the 20th Sunday of Ordinary time Year C, invite us to reflect on Perseverance in hardships. In the first reading, the Lord came to the aid of the Prophet Jeremiah whose preaching brought upon him rejection and ill-treatment. For those who live by faith and stick to the Gospel values, misunderstanding and division must likewise be expected as Jesus states in today's Gospel text from St. Luke. We are told in today's Second reading from the letter to the Hebrews, that like Christ, we should never be despondent or abandon the struggle to proclaim and live by the truths of our faith. Some people give up so soon and even at a time when their efforts are just about yielding fruits of blessings for them, their loved ones and community.

Jeremiah embodies the call to be faithful even if it leads to suffering. His unwavering commitment to truth reminds us that prophetic voices often attract opposition. Trust in the Lord's deliverance at such moment is the reason for our hanging on and not giving up. We are therefore like Jeremiah, invited to cultivate trust and perseverance in our own lives of struggles . Our trials no matter how overwhelming, become opportunities for growth and deeper faith.

Jesus reminds us in the Gospel that He has come not to bring peace but division. This statement is metaphoric. Jesus stood radically for the truth, and as we know, whoever speaks the truth is not always accepted. This will cause division in the camp of those who hate and hide the truth and those who are unwilling to face the truth or be told the truth. The love and flame of His message can separate people. Jesus did not compromise the truth by telling people only what they would like to hear. So Jesus is saying that following him is not always a path of comfort and peace. It can lead us into conflict, even among those we love and live with. Being a Christian is not democratic where a majority carries the vote. It is an invitation to follow in the footsteps of Christ, our master and model in living our Christian calling to the full and core, even if it means separation from or confrontation with our closest family, friends, or neighbors. Jesus calls us to confront the divisions our faith might bring rather than giving up. This is quite challenging but a vital aspect of discipleship. I pray that we may have that peace that comes from doing His will and in turn share with those around us.

GOD IS GOOD, ALL THE TIME. ALL THE TIME, GOD IS GOOD.
AND THAT IS HIS NATURE..... WOW.

The Jubilee Prayer 2025

Father in Heaven, may the Faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom.
May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally. May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever.
Amen.

SUMMER MASS SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS 8:30 AM
FRIDAYS 9:00 AM

ADORATION & CONFESSION

④8:00AM FRIDAYS OR
BY APPOINTMENT

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

2ND SUNDAY OF THE MONTH
AFTER MASS UNTIL 3:00PM

COMMUNION FOR THE HOMEBOUND

CALL DEACON DAN (207) 731-8111

FAITH FORMATION

ANNA ROBINSON (207) 267-0586

PARISH OFFICE

1063 BENEDICTA ROAD
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(207) 365-4294
LISA AMMERMAN, ADMIN. ASST.
LISAAMMERMAN@PORTLANDDIOCESE.ORG

OFFICE HOURS

TUES. 8:30-11:30 THURS. 8:30-11:30
FRI. 9:30-11:30
AFTER MASS ON SUNDAYS
OR BY APPOINTMENT 746-7960
STBENEDICTSMAINE.ORG

AUGUST 17TH, 2025 - 20TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME ~ YEAR C

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time: August 17, 2025

"I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing!" (Luke 12:49)

Christ’s words about setting the earth on fire can inspire married couples to cultivate an enduring love for one another. The fire of love within marriage, when nurtured, grows into a flame that can bring light and warmth to the world. Our hearts should be ablaze with love for our spouse, reflecting God’s love through your marital union.

- We extend our condolences to any parishioner or visitor who is presently bereaved. Know of our fraternal and sisterly moral and spiritual support for the peaceful repose of your loved one and for the required strength of those mourning their deceased ones to bear their loss. May our strong faith in the resurrection of all believers console and strengthen you.
- Congratulations to all our parishioners and visitors celebrating their birth, marriage, vocation or any anniversary this week. We share in your anniversary joy and our prayers accompany you.
- We wish anyone travelling this week by air, land or sea travelling mercies and God’s protective guidance to and from our destination. Be still and know that God is in control.



Portland Diocese of Maine ~ Catholic Appeal Week 12

This appeal supports nearly 19 ministries, throughout the diocese of Portland, which covers the whole state of Maine including: hospital chaplaincy, clergy relief, faith formation, school campus ministries, prison ministries, catholic charities and the tribunal. This does not only benefit the wider church in Maine, but also benefits our own parish and parishioners. It is a concern for all.


To those who have already generously donated to this year’s appeal and to those who are continually redeeming their monthly or quarterly pledges, accept a big Thank you from the parish community. If you have not yet made your gift or pledge, kindly do so using the envelopes on the pews or at the doors. Fill in your required information on the envelope and either drop it in the alms basket during offertory time or you can mail it in to Chancery. You could equally use your phone to scan the QR code on the bulletin boards, church walls, doors or go to appeal.portlanddiocese.org for easy giving. You will be able to make an ongoing, recurring gift or a one-time gift. Just a little bit of effort and we shall get to our parish goal and even exceed for the good of our beloved Diocese of Portland Maine.

May God Bless You Abundantly ~Fr. Sefembiy Justin, Pastor

As of this week, St. Benedict’s Parish has raised \$12,475 which brings us to 117% of our goal of \$10,656.36 for the Annual Catholic Appeal.

In Memory of:

Joseph J. McAvoy
(09/10/1933—08/30/2021)




Wesley “Jim” Cunningham
(10/26/31 ~ 01/11/08)
Richard M Cunningham
(03/14/62 ~ 11/06/21)


Lovingly Remembered

Anders Staats Nielsen
07/07/2019

Basil & Margaret McAvoy
(8/5/1921 ~ 7/31/1969; 9/29/1923 ~ 12/30/2014)
Linda McAvoy Bouchard
(2/22/1945 ~ 1/6/1982)
Mary McAvoy Lowe
(10/15/1957 ~ 2/9/2005)
Anna McAvoy
(6/28/1964 ~ 7/30/2011)



Fred Lewis
(11/25/1897 ~ 7/05/1995)
Ethel Lewis
(5/12/1897 ~ 10/07/1981)
W. H. Lewis
(4/19/1923 ~ 03/28/2001)
Helen Lewis
(7/23/1926 ~ 10/19/2005)
Susan L Brooks
(8/01/1954 ~ 1/20/2009)



Lovingly Remembered


James C. (Buster) Guiggey
(4/8/1927 ~ 12/4/2010)

In Loving Memory Of


Lloyd E. Bryant (1928 ~ 1987)
Esther Grass Bryant (1931 ~ 1988)

In Loving Memory Of

Joseph P. Rush, Jr.
(11/02/1928 - 04/12/2013)
Jane M. Rush
(02/03/1930 - 09/02/2013)




Jacqueline M. Rush-Johnson
(05/04/1972 - 03/26/1996)
Francis H. Qualey
(5/22/1914 ~ 2/28/2000)
Margaret R. Qualey
(11/6/1919 ~ 5/01/2018)
Peter Qualey
(12/17/1948 ~ 09/07/2020)



In Loving Memor of:


Benedict Edward Cowan
May 2nd, 2025 -May 2nd, 2025)



Adam Rush
August 13th, 1989 - January 29th, 2016


In Loving Memory

Chris Marston
(9/18/1978 ~ 8/24/2018)
Aaron Marston
(04/04/1975~ 10/19/2022)



In Loving Memory Of:

Frank Duffy
(7/18/37 ~ 03/08/96)
Bobby Duffy
(3/21/72 ~ 10/08/93)




Arthur Qualey
(3/5/1916 ~ 10/24/2008)
Rita Qualey
(1/13/1924 ~ 9/4/ 2011)

Lovingly Remembered

Joan Filanowski
(5/26/1935 ~ 6/14/2000)

John J. Cummings
(8/23/1907 ~ 4/18/1993)
Lucile E. Cummings
(8/19/1908 ~ 3/15/2003)
Cecelia R. Cummings
(11/18/1933 ~ 2/18/2013)
Earl L. Cummings
(7/04/1929 ~ 3/10/2018)




Lovingly Remembered

Leo Joseph Crowe
(9/5/1935 ~ 1/8/2019)


In Loving Memory Of

Leo Crowe
(3/19/1893 ~ 12/17/1975)
Molly Crowe
(2/13/1900 ~ 11/18/1967)
Mary Crowe McDonough
(2/27/1937 ~ 9/28/2002)




In Memory of:

Robert Taylor
(12/13/1948 - 10/19/2023)
Charlene Taylor
(01/07/1943 ~ 02/20/2020)



In Loving Memory Of


Richard Rush
(01/02/1931—1/24/2024)
Celine Rush
(07/08/1936 ~ 11/04/2021)
Christopher Rush
(4/17/55 ~ 1/8/22)



In Loving Memory Of:

Robert Allen (10/13/46 ~ 10/18/21)
Andrew Allen (06/14/65 ~ 12/05/20)


Albert J. Qualey
(08/20/1923 ~ 06/11/2012)
Rowena Qualey
(9/22/1927 ~ 8/01/2017)




In Loving Memory

Martin Qualey
(2/16/1984 ~ 7/24/2017)


Edward Rush
(5/25/1920 ~ 10/17/2013)
Mary Rush
(12/04/1921 ~ 6/05/2005)



John W. Allen
(1912 ~ 1/02/2004)
Margaret L. Allen
(4/03/1924 ~ 11/19/2005)




Otis M. Hunt
(6/15/1936 ~ 5/30/1999)
Mary Ellen Hunt
(1/30/36 ~ 4/17/17)



“Oh Jesus, bless those living and dead, who have led me to the Holy Altar.”

A Remembrance of the Ordination to the

Priesthood of
Rev. James Clifford Brown
(6/6/1936 ~ 4/6/1941)
Brother Benedict Brown, O.F.M.
(3/23/1891 ~ 7/18/1969)
Sons of St. Benedict’s Parish



Faith Formation News

We are looking for a picture frame for a portrait of Pope Leo XIV that measures 11"x17". If you have one you wish to donate, please contact the office. Thank you for your help.

Lend us your voices! St. Benedict's own Youth Choir is looking for members! The Choir sings at the last Mass of every month, and rehearses weekly according to singers' schedules. We believe God loves all voices and we do not judge. Join us!

WEC Food Pantry

LOCATED AT THE SHERMAN MAINE TOWN OFFICE, ON SCHOOL STREET IN SHERMAN, THE FOOD PANTRY IS OPEN ON THE 2ND TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH

8AM -12PM

CALL (207) 365-7631 OR (207) 491-7025



"MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK"

WILL YOU LEND YOURS TO COUNT THE OFFERING? TO JOIN THE ROTATION OF OFFERTORY COUNTERS PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE, OR STOP IN AFTER MASS! THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP



Date	Lector	Extra-ordinary Minister of the Eucharist	Alter Server	Offertory Counters*	Greeters
August 17th	Chris	Brenda	Rob	Rose, Cindy & Andrew	Deb D. & Rose
August 24th	Brenda	Chris	Anna Q	Ken, John & Rob	Deb D & Rose
August 31st	Dustin	Rob	David	Harold, Pat & Rose	Deb D & Rose
Sept 7th	Scarlet	Dustin	Rob	Cindy, Deb & Betty	Mona & Lana
Sept 14th	Lana	Lynn	Anna Q	Andrew, Ken, Harold	Mona & Lana
Sept 21st	Earl	Pat	David	Deb, Betty, John	Mona & Lana

August - Mike

Sacristans:
October: Pat

September - Chris

THANK YOU FOR CLEANING OUR CHURCH!

TO JOIN OUR VOLUNTEERS, PLEASE VISIT THE SIGN-UP SHEET BY THE ENTRANCE.

(WE ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR AUGUST)



Would you like to join any of our ministries? Please contact the office. We look forward to hearing from you!

A SINGLE SUNBEAM IS ENOUGH TO DRIVE AWAY MANY SHADOWS -ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

*3 Counters are required. Volunteers welcome!

TRANSFORMED IN LOVE

Catholic Marriage Preparation Program

When: September 20 and 27, 2025

Where: St. Joseph Church

531 N. Main Street, Brewer, ME 04412

Cost: \$100 per couple (includes workbooks and meals)

Register on-line TODAY!

Deadline: Sept 5, 2025

Contact: Jennifer Hikel

Phone: (207) 217-1449

Email: hikelfamily@gmail.com

Website: www.stpaulbangor.me/marriage-prep-program

Among the topics covered in *Transformed in Love*:

- Knowing Your True Self
- Strengthening Communication Skills for Marriage
- Managing Expectations
- Financial Planning and Strategies
- Keeping Christ at the Center of our Marriage

Blast with the Bishop!

A Family Day of Fun & Faith with Bishop Ruggieri

In his homily on June 1, Pope Leo XIV said "...families become privileged places in which to encounter Jesus, who loves us and desires our good, always."

Your family is that privileged place of encounter—encountering the Lord in shared play, work, & prayer.

Join Bishop Ruggieri on August 30, 2025 to:

- Learn from Bishop & parents about what works to foster faith in our children and a vibrant Catholic family life in the home.
- Pray with other families
- Engage in fun, family activities

Faith grows strongest when we live it together. I look forward to sharing this day with you and your family.

Schedule—9:45am-5:45pm:

9:45am Registration
10:00am Guided Adoration
10:30am Snack & fun break
10:45am Bishop Ruggieri - Message for Families
11:30am Break
11:45am Small groups sessions for kids and parents
12:15pm Lunch and more fun!
1:15pm Living Rosary
2:00pm Family discussion and activity
3:00pm Parent Panel Discussion & Kids Activities
4:15pm Vigil Mass with Bishop Ruggieri
5:45pm Supper on-site or to-go

Location: St. Mary's Catholic Church, Houlton, ME

Sponsored by: Roman Catholic Diocese of Portland Office of Lifelong Faith Formation

REGISTER ONLINE: portlanddiocese.net/faithfamilyfunday



2025 BLUE MASS

Honoring law enforcement officers, firefighters, and emergency personnel for faithful commitment and self-sacrifice.

Celebrated by Bishop James Ruggieri

Sunday, September 21 at 10:00 a.m.
Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception
307 Congress Street, Portland

Sunday, September 28, 10:30 a.m.
St. Mary of the Visitation Church
110 Military Street, Houlton

More Info: <https://portlanddiocese.org/BlueMass>



AUSPICE MARIA

Most Reverend James Ruggieri
Bishop of Portland

THIS WEEK'S EPISODE OF THE AUSPICE MARIA PODCAST IS NOW LIVE!

Evangelizing Culture

IN THIS WEEK'S EPISODE OF THE AUSPICE MARIA PODCAST, BISHOP JAMES RUGGIERI REFLECTS ON WHAT IT MEANS TO EVANGELIZE CULTURE. HE INVITES US TO SEE HOW FAITH MEETS DAILY LIFE—IN OUR MEDIA, OUR ART, OUR EDUCATION, OUR POLITICS, AND EVEN IN THE SMALL CHOICES WE MAKE AT HOME. WITH THE GUIDANCE OF ST. JOHN PAUL II, POPE BENEDICT XVI, AND ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI, BISHOP RUGGIERI REMINDS US THAT CULTURE IS NOT SOMETHING TO FLEE FROM, BUT SOMETHING TO ENTER INTO AND TRANSFORM WITH THE LIGHT OF CHRIST.

ALL EPISODES OF OUR PODCASTS ARE AVAILABLE ON SPOTIFY, APPLE PODCASTS, AND YOUTUBE. ALL CAN BE FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE, TOO AT:
[HTTPS://PORTLANDDIOCESE.ORG/PODCASTS](https://portlanddiocese.org/podcasts)

MASSES & INTENTIONS AUGUST 17TH - AUGUST 24TH

- Saturday, August 16th:

St. Martin of Tours at 4:00PM – for the Vatchky & Miller Families by The Family
- Sunday, August 17th:

St. Benedict’s at 8:30AM - (D) Stanley, Glenda & Ray Gadbois by Bev & Randy, Anna & Joe
 St. Peter’s at 10:00AM – for the Deceased Members of the Chasse Family by Rita
 St. Martin of Tours at 12:30PM – Claudette Tardy by Mark & Karen Emerson
- Monday, August 18th:

St. Peter’s at 8:30AM – (D) Tony Megno (59th Anniversary) by Francis & Tina
- Tuesday, August 19th:

St. Peter’s at 4:30PM- (D) Marc Thibodeau (Happy Birthday) by Siblings
- Wednesday, August 20th:

Father Justin’s Day Off
- Thursday, August 21st:

St. Martin of Tours at 4:00PM – for the Souls in Purgatory
- Friday, August 22nd:

St. Benedict’s at 9:00AM - (D) Dean Fitzgerald by Anna & Billy Robinson
- Saturday, August 23rd:

St. Martin of Tours at 4:00PM – (D) Greg O’Neil Rioux (13th Anniversary) by Bruce & Julie
- Sunday, August 24th:

St. Benedict’s at 8:30AM - Richard McAvoy by the St. Benedict’s Prayer Group
 St. Peter’s at 10:00AM – (D) John Farmer (12th Anniversary) by Marilyn & Family
 St. Martin of Tours at 12:30PM – (A living intention) Chantel Traham by Joyce & Mike Landry

Weekly Readings and Observances of Saint Days

Readings for the week of August 17th, to August 24th,

- Sunday 8/17:

Jer 38: 4-6, 8-10/Heb 12:1-4/Lk 12:49-53
- Monday 8/18:

Jgs 2:11-19/Mt 19:16-22
- Tuesday 8/19:


St. John Eudes, Priest Jgs 6:11-24a/Mt 19:23-30
- Wednesday 8/20:

St. Bernard of Clairvaux, Abbot and Doctor of the Church Jgs 9:6-15/Mt 20:1-16
- Thursday 8/21:

St. Pius X, Pope Jgs 11:29-39a/Mt 22:1-14
- Friday 8/22:


The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ru 1:1,3-6, 14b-16, 22/Mt 22:34-40
- Saturday 8/23:

St. Rose of Lima, Virgin Ru 2:1-3, 8-11: 4:13-17/Mt 23:1-12

"What we love we shall grow to resemble."
 -Saint Bernard of Clairvaux
 

Prayer List

Cathy Cyr Duffy
 Riley Wheaton
 Ryan Robinson
 Beckham Willett
 Janie Cummings
 Irene Heath
 Families Afflicted by Addiction
 Our Men & Women in the Service

When we serve the poor and the sick we serve Jesus.
 We must not fail to help our neighbors, because in them we serve Jesus.
 ~St Rose of Lima
 

A great sign appeared in the sky, a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. ~Revelation 12:1

The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Pius XII honored both Mary's queenship and her Immaculate Heart, always connecting the two together.

The Catholic Church celebrates each year the feast of the Queenship of Mary on August 22. Previously this feast was celebrated on May 31, established by Pope Pius XII.

Pius XII also instituted the feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in 1944, originally assigning it to August 22.

However, after the revision of the General Calendar, Pope Paul VI decided to switch the feasts of the Immaculate Heart and the Queenship of Mary. The feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary was joined to the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (celebrated on the Saturday following the feast of the Sacred Heart, typically in June) and the Queenship of Mary was moved to August 22. What's interesting is how this switching of feast days is actually quite appropriate and in line with Pius XII's own writings and actions.

Consecration to the Immaculate Heart

Pius XII wrote in his encyclical Ad Caeli Reginam (On the Queenship of Mary) that he desired to renew the consecration of the world to Mary's Immaculate Heart, on the feast of the Queenship of Mary!

Since we are convinced, after long and serious reflection, that great good will accrue to the Church if this solidly established truth shines forth more clearly to all, like a luminous lamp raised aloft, by Our Apostolic authority We decree and establish the feast of Mary's Queenship, which is to be celebrated every year in the whole world on the 31st of May. We likewise ordain that on the same day the consecration of the human race to the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary be renewed, cherishing the hope that through such consecration a new era may begin, joyous in Christian peace and in the triumph of religion.

He saw a close connection between Mary's queenship and her heart, the heart of a mother.

"With a heart that is truly a mother's," to quote again Our Predecessor of immortal memory, Pius IX, "does she approach the problem of our salvation, and is solicitous for the whole human race; made Queen of heaven and earth by the Lord, exalted above all choirs of angels and saints, and standing at the right hand of her only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, she intercedes powerfully for us with a mother's prayers, obtains what she seeks, and cannot be refused."

Above all, Pius XII believed that we should all go to Mary, the Queen of our Hearts, and beg for her assistance. Let all, therefore, try to approach with greater trust the throne of grace and mercy of our Queen and Mother, and beg for strength in adversity, light in darkness, consolation in sorrow; above all let them strive to free themselves from the slavery of sin and offer an unceasing homage, filled with filial loyalty, to their Queenly Mother.

Even though the feasts were switched by a different pope, it providentially reflects a deeper spiritual truth and how the two concepts are intimately connected.

Prayer:

Mother and Queen of Heaven, this day I run to you as a child with confidence and trust. You are the glorious Queen Mother, reigning over all of your children with love and mercy. Please pray for me, and bestow upon me all that I need. I open my heart to the grace of your Son, which you are entrusted to dispense. Make me holy and free from sin, so you can present me spotless and pure to your beloved Son, the King of the Universe. Queen of Heaven, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.

