

## Fr. Martin's Reflection – March 20, 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

What a wonderful week we had here in Mary, Mother of the Church Parish. We began on Saturday with our 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade reconciliation retreats. I want to say thank you to Margaret Zola, our Coordinator of Religious Education, and to her team of adult and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade volunteers.

On Sunday we had a wonderful celebration in honor of St. Patrick. It was wonderful to see so many gathered from the parish and beyond. The liturgy was very beautiful and uplifting. Thank you to Alfonso, Cathy, and the choir for all your hard work, it really shone through. A big thank you to our bagpipers, drummers, and the beautiful Irish dancers. Thank you to Mary Smith and her team of wonderful volunteers for the preparations in the church and the school gym – both were beautifully decorated.

Monday and Tuesday evening we celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation with our 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade students. Congratulations to them, their parents, and all involved. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is one of the more beautiful sacraments we receive but rarely use. We come to God and allow God to embrace us with arms and heart filled with love for us, and allow that love to strengthen us and help us change aspects of our lives for the better. I hope and pray the parents of these children will enable their children to experience this love often.

Wednesday we celebrated Soup and Scripture hosted at Holy Assumption Church. Thank you to all involved. The speaker was yours truly. Modesty prevents me from saying how good or bad the talk was! Wednesday evening we had a retreat for our Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Altar Rosary Society, and the Knights of Columbus. Our speaker was Msgr. Mike Walsh; thank you Msgr. Mike for your inspiring words. Our theme was Eucharist.

Friday we celebrated Stations of the Cross at 3pm at St. Mary Church, and Soup and Stations at 6pm at Holy Assumption Church. I thank everyone involved in helping us remember the journey of suffering Christ endured for us and to show how cruel we humans can be to each other.

Monday – Friday the Eucharist was celebrated at 12:30 pm in St. Mary Church, and Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday at 9:30 am Holy Assumption Church.

Arise with Jesus and Walking with Purpose programs run on different days and different places throughout the week – there is one near you!!

I have outlined all of the above, not to blow my own trumpet. I would have no right to blow any trumpet because the majority of all this work has been done by others. I outline it to open a window into the life of our parish – a parish for all – a spiritual home for all. I am hoping that there is, in this spiritual home, a place where you can feel welcomed, safe, and loved.

**“And so, we know the love that God has for us, and we trust that love. God is love. Those who live in love live in God, and God lives in them. We love because God first loved us.” 1 Jn 4:16, 19**

*Fr. Martin*