

## Fr. Martin's Reflection – December 25, 2022

### Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Let's reflect on the birth of Jesus, the impact this birth had on our world. The life Jesus lived, the impact this life had on our world. The words Jesus spoke, the impact these words had on our world. The healing Jesus brought, the impact this healing had on our world. Is there anything we can learn from Jesus? As we approach 2023, is there anything we should change that would make us more Christ like?

Do I appreciate my birth, the impact my birth has on this world? The life I live, the impact my life has on others. The words I speak, the impact my words have on others. The healing I bring, the impact my healing has on others. Is there anything others could learn from me?

The impact Jesus had/has on our world, remember, we can have the same impact by allowing the same Christ Child to be born in us and allowing the Christ Child to work through us. All it takes is a 'YES' from us. My prayers for you are that you will proclaim that 'YES.'

I take this opportunity to wish you a very Happy Christmas – I truly hope and pray that you will be able to gather all your family and loved ones together over the Christmas period to show appreciation to each other, to affirm each other, to love each other and to show forgiveness to each other where forgiveness is needed.

For loved ones far from home, I truly pray that they will feel on Christmas Day, the love of their family and the love of their God in their hearts and know they are missed and thought of often.

I know for all of us we speak about Christmas in joyful terms but there are many who are grieving. Departed loved ones fill this period with fond memories of joy and laughter that can bring heartache and pain. Please know, I, and the whole parish, are thinking of you and praying for you. May the Child Jesus bring you hope, love and comfort.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who take an active part in the life of Mary, Mother of the Church Parish, it would be impossible to do it without you. To the Office Staff, Cleaning Staff, Ushers, Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Music Coordinators and Cantors, Sacristans and Altar Servers thank you for all you do. To Mary and Helvy and your team of dedicated helpers for the wonderful work you do in both Churches to make them so beautiful, not just at Christmas, but throughout the year, thank you!

To our clergy, thank you for all the support you give to the people of our parish both sacramentally and spiritually, it is appreciated by one and all. Fr Anson, Fr Steve, and Fr Martin Padovani, thank you for all your help and support. Deacon Gary, Deacon Tom, and Deacon Larry, you do such great work and give great support, thank you! A special thank you to Margaret Zola and all our Religious Education teachers, classroom assistants and hall monitors thank you, your willingness to give of your time speaks volumes about who you are. To all our parish societies – Thank You!

May the love of the Christ Child fill your hearts, grow in your lives, and guide you in the year ahead.

*Fr. Martin*

