

Fr. Martin's Reflection – November 6, 2022

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Christmas is coming! I can't believe I have written those words; it just seems so far away and yet the last Sunday in November is the first Sunday of Advent. I mention this now because times like Advent are inclined to creep up on us and even though we have promised ourselves that this year we would be better prepared for Christmas, spiritually, we need to start preparing now. This time of the year our days are shorter, our nights longer. We have so much to do, gifts to buy, decorations to go up, school plays to attend, or staff parties to go to. Then Christmas Day arrives, and we say, so much for been spiritually prepared for Christmas.

So, how does one spiritually prepare? By demanding personal time for you and God. Finding a quiet place, learning to sit for a while, breathing, reading scripture, and sitting face to face with Jesus in the Eucharist.

For the four Wednesdays of Advent, following the 12:30pm mass, the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed in St. Mary Church, Bordentown, till 8pm. The last hour will be as it is presently, Novena to Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, Rosary with special prayer intentions, and Benediction.

This will give all of us the opportunity to sit with Jesus, to read his word, and to breathe. Jesus said to his disciples: **"Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest awhile."** (Mk 6:31) Why? Because the world can be a very busy, noisy, and time-consuming place. Jesus is concerned for us. We will have the opportunity to speak to Jesus, say exactly what is in our hearts and on our minds. We can take the missalette and reflect on the up-coming Sunday readings or sit and listen to the soft music and just breathe.

To make this all possible I need to be assured that there will always be someone present in the church while the Blessed Sacrament is present on the altar. So, I have outlined a time frame from 1pm – 7pm for the four Wednesdays of Advent. If you can commit to a particular time each week, please sign the form below and send it back to the parish office no later than the weekend of November 26/27.

Adoration for the Wednesdays of Advent

If you can commit to an hour, please sign both lines

1pm – 1:30pm	Name: _____	Number: _____
1:30pm – 2pm	Name: _____	Number: _____
2pm – 2:30pm	Name: _____	Number: _____
2:30 – 3pm	Name: _____	Number: _____
3pm – 3:30pm	Name: _____	Number: _____
3:30 – 4pm	Name: _____	Number: _____
4pm – 4:30pm	Name: _____	Number: _____
4:30pm – 5pm	Name: _____	Number: _____
5pm – 5:30pm	Name: _____	Number: _____
5:30pm – 6pm	Name: _____	Number: _____
6pm – 6:30pm	Name: _____	Number: _____
6:30pm – 7pm	Name: _____	Number: _____