

Fr. Martin's Reflection – April 30, 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Last weekend, we celebrated First Holy Communion for our 2nd Grade students. It was a wonderful celebration, and the boys and girls were so excited and so well prepared. I want to take this opportunity to thank Margaret Zola, our Religious Education Coordinator, our 2nd Grade teachers and to you, the parents, for preparing our young people for this wonderful and beautiful sacrament of First Holy Communion. Let us forever keep them in our hearts and prayers.

On May 10th, our 8th Graders will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, a sacrament equally beautiful to First Holy Communion, and yet very different. In a way, Confirmation is like the handing over of the 'faith baton' from parents/godparents to those for whom you have been safeguarding the faith, for them now to nurture and grow for themselves. We don't abandon them in their faith journey, but we run, walk, and sit with them as they move through life. As May 10th approaches let us make a conscious decision to personally pray for them. Let our prayer not be for the Holy Spirit to come upon them, the Holy Spirit willingly does that, but let us pray that they will open their hearts and minds to accept the Holy Spirit, and that they will allow the Holy Spirit to guide them in all aspects of life.

Monday is May 1st, and May, traditionally, is the month of Mary, the Mother of Jesus. This weekend we will celebrate the 'Crowning of Mary, Queen of Heaven and Earth.' I remember when I was growing up, my mother would send me out to pick May flowers to place at the May altar that my mom would have created in our sitting room, 'the good room.' Every evening she would have us all gather in the 'good room,' and we would pray the rosary in honor of our blessed Mother.

I would like to extend the invitation to all families to create a May altar in a quiet corner of a room. What you need:

- A small table in a quiet room,
- A statue of Mary in the center,
- A battery candle/real is good but be safe,
- Flowers,
- A bowl of holy water, to bless yourself as you begin and end prayer,
- A separate bowl where family members can place prayer intentions,
- Pictures of loved ones that you will pray for during the month of May.
- You are ready to pray!

Finally, I want to say a BIG thank you to all who have helped with our Religious Education this year. Our teachers, classroom assistants, hall monitors, and to Frank and Meghan, and all those who have assisted with parking through the cold and our one Sunday of rain, seriously, thank you! Your generosity is truly appreciated.

Mary, Help of Those in Need

Holy Mary, help those in need, give strength to the weak, comfort the sorrowful, pray for God's people, assist the clergy, intercede for religious. Mary, may all who seek your help experience your unfailing protection. Amen

May Mary, our Blessed Mother, pray for us.

Fr. Martin