

Fr. Martin's Reflection – March 5, 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Welcome to the second week of Lent. I hope it is going well and you are finding your Lenten journey rewarding and renewing. I have spoken often about the importance of finding space for quiet time, reflective time, prayer time, to be with your God. For the Wednesdays of Lent the **Blessed Sacrament will be exposed from 1pm – 8pm at St Mary Church, Bordentown**. This is an opportunity to sit with God present in the Blessed Sacrament, and to let God sit with you.

Stations of the Cross is a biographical prayer of the end times of Jesus' life on this earth. It is an opportunity for us to journey with him and find ourselves at different stations as we journey through Lent. We pray the Stations every Friday of Lent at 3pm St Mary Church, Bordentown, and 7pm Holy Assumption Church, Roebling.

Soup and Scripture talks are a great opportunity for those who don't like to come out late in the evenings but still would like to be a part of something extra for Lent. Our second talk will take place at Holy Assumption Church this coming Wednesday beginning at 12:30pm. The Soup and Scripture talks are great on many fronts; the soup is delicious, the talks are inspiring, and the people we meet are wonderful.

St Patrick's Day Mass will be celebrated at Holy Assumption Church, Roebling on March 19 at 10:30am. It is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate your Irish-ness, or maybe the Irish-ness of a family member or friend, or simply you just like hanging out with Irish people. Not only do Irish priests celebrate the best Masses in honor of St. Patrick, but they also serve the best 'coffee' at the céilí afterwards. Looking forward to seeing you there.

24 Hours for the Lord. I have no doubt many of you know one of the recurring themes of Pope Francis' papacy has been mercy. He dedicated a December 8, 2015 – November 20, 2016 as the Jubilee year of Mercy. Following on from this, in 2017, Pope Francis called for 24 Hours for the Lord during the Lenten period. Providing everyone the opportunity to spend time with the Lord and to benefit from the wonderful sacrament of Reconciliation. I am in the process of organizing 24 Hours for the Lord at St. Mary Church, Bordentown, March 24 – 25. I am asking you to consider signing up for an hour. I also feel it is a wonderful opportunity for our parish groups to work together and sponsor an hour, and it would be a great opportunity for you as a family to come pray together. A sign-up chart will be published soon.

Annual Catholic Appeal. I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support for the Annual Catholic Appeal. What you give does great things for those who are in great need. I also want to take this opportunity to encourage you personally or as a family to support those who need support and help. A big Thank You goes out to Jim Morgan for all his hard work in promoting and encouraging all of us in supporting the Diocesan Annual Catholic Appeal. We are so blessed to have someone like Jim who cares so much for God's people and supporting them in their time of need.

'Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.'

Have a great week, filled with love and compassion.

Fr. Martin