

Fr. Martin's Reflection – November 12, 2023

**O God, you are my God whom I seek; for you my flesh pines and my soul thirsts
like the earth, parched, lifeless and without water. Ps 63:1**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Psalm 63 makes clear whom we should seek and why. We can fill our days with all kinds of things; some things will be very creative and productive and will bring some joy and happiness, but that joy and happiness will pass, and we will have to find something else to fill that void. The Psalmist clearly tells us that our spiritual selves will only find fulfillment and contentment in God. Without God our lives will become like the earth without water, parched and lifeless. Like water nourishes the earth, God nourishes us. Like all health programs some of us need some help, maybe something out of the ordinary, something that we can ask a friend or family member to join us in, something that is different, something that we must make a conscious decision to attend. This weekend we welcome Our Lady of Guadalupe Torch to our parish, and during the week ahead we have several special liturgies arranged. This is an opportunity to step out of the norm. An opportunity to go away to a quiet place and be with your God.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Torch

- **Monday:** The Knights of Columbus and The Altar Rosary Society are hosting an Encounter Evening with Christ in the Eucharist at Holy Assumption Church, Roebling beginning at 7pm. This will be a very prayerful, peaceful, and beautiful time with our Lord Jesus Christ.
- **Tuesday:** Living Rosary – hosted by the Religious Education Department, beginning at 6:15pm, St. Mary School, Bordentown.
- **Wednesday:** Mass of Thanksgiving and Blessing for all who took part in the small group discussions: *Jesus and the Eucharist*. Mass begins at 6:30pm, St. Mary Church.
- **Thursday:** Memorial Service – remembering all our departed loved ones and giving thanks to God for the beautiful gift of their lives. The Memorial Service begins at 7pm at St. Mary Church, Bordentown.
- **Friday:** Soup and Friendship and Grace-filled Talk. What better way to end this beautiful and grace-filled week than to spend some time with our fellow brothers and sisters, break bread together and share a meal, capping it all off with a wonderfully inspirational talk. Soup is served at 6pm followed by a talk at 6:30pm.
- All are welcome to the above celebrations.

Prayer to Our Lady of Guadalupe

Dearest Lady of Guadalupe, fruitful Mother of Holiness, teach me your ways of gentleness and strength. Hear my prayer offered with deepfelt confidence to be this favor ... (make request). O Mary, conceived without sin, I come to your throne of grace to share the fervent devotion of your faithful Mexican children who call to you under the glorious Aztec title of "Guadalupe" the virgin who crushed the serpent. Queen of Martyrs, whose Immaculate heart was pierced by seven wounds of grief, help me to walk valiantly amid the sharp thorns thrown across my pathway. Queen of Apostles aid me to win souls for the Sacred Heart of my Savior. I plead this through the merits of your merciful Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen
May Our Lady of Guadalupe pray for us.

Vocation Awareness

Next weekend Fr. Chris Colavito, Director of Vocations for the Diocese of Trenton, will be speaking at all the Masses at St. Mary Church. Please offer him a warm welcome! (Please note that Fr. Chris will be visiting Holy Assumption to speak at the Masses there in early December.)

Fr. Martin