

Fr. Martin's Reflection – March 17, 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I know I don't need to tell you about the condition of our parking lots, especially the parking lot at St. Mary Church. I have reached out to several contractors, and I am awaiting quotes. I have received two quotes so far and as you can imagine they are pretty substantial, but I am delighted to say, because of your monthly contributions to our building fund we will be able to cover the work on the Holy Assumption parking lot and phase one (driveway between Church and Food Pantry) of the St. Mary parking lot, and hopefully we will do the main parking lot the following year.

Also, because of your generous support toward the Annual Catholic Appeal, we received from the diocese over \$9,000. This enabled us to install extra handrails on the steps of Holy Assumption Church, with two more to come, and to paint St. Mary School Gym over the Easter break. As our new Appeal campaign has just gotten underway, I would encourage you to support it. As you see, we all benefit. I simply want to say, 'Thank You' for your generous support of your parish.

Saints of the Week

This week marks the feast days of two saints that have left an indelible mark on world history: March 17, the feast day of St. Patrick, and March 19, the feast day of St. Joseph. I know St. Patrick's Day may be more famous for the "after party" than for its faith teaching. With that being said, Patrick and Joseph's faith journey began with great disappointment. Patrick was kidnapped and sold into slavery in Ireland. Joseph's betrothed, Mary, was found to be pregnant before they could be together as husband and wife. He had to deal with his own personal sense of betrayal and with the public humiliation this would bring to his family.

What sustained Patrick through his lonely and desperate years as a slave in Ireland was his faith in God. What sustained Joseph through his personal and public humiliation of Mary's pregnancy and what lead him to accepting Mary and taking her as his wife, his faith in God. There is so much we can learn from these two men, how to deal with difficulties and challenges in life. It can be the brutality of slavery or the personal sense of betrayal and public humiliation, with God on our side, all things are possible.

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St Patrick Breastplate

Christ with me, Christ before me,
Christ behind me, Christ in me,
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ on my right, Christ on my left,
Christ when I lie down,
Christ when I sit down,
Christ when I arise,
Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,
Christ in every eye that sees me,
Christ in every ear that hears me.

Prayer to St Joseph

Glorious Saint Joseph, spouse of the immaculate Virgin,
obtain for me a pure, humble, charitable mind, and perfect resignation to the divine Will.
Be my guide, my father, and my model through life
that I may merit to die as you did in the arms of Jesus and Mary. Amen.

Blessing of Easter Baskets

Blessing of Easter Baskets will take place in St. Mary Church, Bordentown, on Holy Saturday @ 10am.

Confessions: Tuesday, St. Mary Church, March 19 from 7-8pm

Have a blessed and holy week.

Fr. Martin