

## Fr. Martin's Reflection – May 19, 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On this great weekend of Pentecost, may you open your heart to receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit:

**Wisdom:** In the gift of wisdom, we see God at work in our lives and in the world.

Wisdom enables us to see God in everyone and everything everywhere.

**Understanding:** We comprehend how we need to live as a follower of Christ. It is the gift whereby self-evident principles are known.

**Counsel (Right Judgement):** With the gift of counsel/right judgement, we know the difference between right and wrong, and we choose to do what is right.

**Fortitude (Courage):** With the gift of fortitude/courage, we overcome our fear and are willing to take risks as a follower of Jesus Christ.

**Knowledge:** With the gift of knowledge, we understand the meaning of God. The gift of knowledge is more than an accumulation of facts.

**Piety (Reverence):** With the gift of piety/reverence, we have a deep sense of respect for God and the church. A person with reverence recognizes our total reliance on God and comes before God with humility, trust, and love.

**Fear of the Lord (Wonder and Awe):** With the gift of fear of the Lord we are aware of the glory and majesty of God. A person with wonder and awe knows that God is the perfection of all we desire: perfect knowledge, perfect goodness, perfect power, and perfect love.

To all our young people, who received the Sacrament of Confirmation this past Friday, and for all in our parish, I extend this prayer and blessing:

**All powerful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, by water and the Holy Spirit you freed  
your sons and daughters from sin and gave them new life.  
Send your Holy Spirit upon them to be their helper and guide.  
Give them the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of right judgement and courage,  
the spirit of knowledge and reverence. Fill them with the spirit of wonder and awe in your presence.**

### **Mary, Mother of The Church Feast Day**

'When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved he said to his mother, "Woman, behold your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.' Jn 19: 25

Friends, on the Monday that follows Pentecost we celebrate the Feast of Mary, Mother of the Church, the patron of our parish. May Mary forever keep us in her care and present all our intentions and prayers to her Son, Jesus. As John took Mary into his home and heart, let us also invite Mary into our homes and our hearts. I would like to extend a personal invitation to you to join together with us on Monday evening at 6:30pm at St. Mary Church as we celebrate our Patron Saint, Mary, Mother of the Church.

Let us continue to pray for all our young people who have received the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation this year.

**'Happy are you, holy Virgin Mary, and most worthy of all praise,  
for from you arose the sun of justice, Christ our God.'**

*Fr. Martin*