

## Fr. Martin's Reflection – December 21, 2025

Dear Friends in Christ,

Welcome to the Fourth Week of Advent and just 3-4 sleeps away from celebrating the birthday of Jesus and the possible second coming of Christ our saviour. Do you feel as I do, that these four weeks went so fast? We need to STOP and THINK. Think about the birth of Jesus, the impact this birth had on our world. The life he lived, the impact this life had on our world. The words he spoke, the impact these words had on our world. The healing he brought, the impact this healing had on our world. Is there anything we can learn from Jesus? As we approach 2026, is there anything we should change that would make us more Christ like?

Do I appreciate my own birth, the impact my birth has on this world? The life I live, the impact my life has on others. The words I speak, the impact my words have on others. The healing I bring, the impact my healing has on others. Is there anything others could learn from me? The impact Jesus had/has on our world, remember, we can have the same impact by allowing the same Christ Child to be born in us and allowing the Christ Child to work through us. All it takes is a 'YES' from us. My prayer for you is that you will proclaim that 'YES.'

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a very Happy Christmas – I truly hope and pray that you will be able to gather all your family and loved ones together over the Christmas season to show appreciation to each other, to affirm each other, to love each other and to show forgiveness to each other where forgiveness is needed.

For loved ones far from home I truly pray that they will feel love of family and God in their hearts on Christmas Day and know they are missed and thought of often.

I know for all of us we speak about Christmas in joyful terms but there are many who are grieving. Departed loved ones fill this period with fond memories of joy and laughter that can quickly turn and bring heartache and pain. Please know, I and the whole parish, are thinking of you and praying for you. May the Child Jesus bring you hope, love and comfort.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all who take an active part in the life of Mary, Mother of the Church Parish. It would truly be impossible to do it without you. To the Office Staff, Cleaning Staff, Ushers, Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Music Coordinators, Cantors, Sacristans, and Altar Servers—thank you for all you do. I leave the biggest **Thank You** to you the parishioners. Your support for me personally, and to all the clergy, has been nothing short of amazing. May the Christ Child bless you always and may the love he possesses fill your hearts and keep you close throughout 2026.

To our clergy, thank you for all the support you give to the people of our parish both sacramentally and spiritually, it is appreciated by one and all. Fr. Anson, Fr. JC, and our Deacons; you do such great work and give great support, thank you! A special thank you to all our Religious Education teachers, classroom assistants and hall monitors, your willingness to give of your time speaks volumes about who you are. To all our parish societies and organizations – Thank You!

### **Christmas Carol Service**

I truly hope you have marked your calendars for our annual Christmas Carol Service. If you have been blessed to have had the opportunity to attend in previous years you know how wonderful it is, and I have no doubt it will be equally so, if not better, this year. I look forward to meeting you all this evening at 6:00pm St. Mary Church, Bordentown, for this wonderful event.

May the love of the Christ Child fill your hearts, grow in your lives, and guide you in the year ahead.

*Fr. Martin*