

Fr. Martin's Reflection – December 28, 2025

Dear Friends in Christ,

I hope you had a wonderful Christmas, and I pray that the Christ Child will always find a home in your hearts. May you feel His presence in every aspect of your life. Always know, He is there for you!

As we head into 2026, we traditionally make new year resolutions. Let me outline some of my new year resolutions for the parish.

Our parish grows from month to month. On average we have 10-15 new families or individuals joining our parish each month, averaging out to 150 new parishioners each year. That in itself is wonderful, but what is even a greater blessing is the different ethnic and cultural backgrounds they come from.

So, some of my new year resolutions are:

- Have a greater representation of our parish family members involved in our parish ministries, i.e. Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Ushering, Parish Choirs, etc.
- Have a parish culture day – dress, music, food etc.
- Establish a parish pastoral team – listening to the pastoral needs of our long-term family members and our new family members and putting into action what will best serve our parish family.

I think it is important to set achievable resolutions, so I'm going to focus on these three. With the help of all of us, I believe they are achievable. Let's do this!

A Prayer for a New Year of Ambitious Purpose

**Gracious and faithful God, as we stand at the threshold of this New Year,
we lift our hearts in gratitude for the gift of new beginnings.**

**You are the One who plants dreams within us, who stirs our spirits toward growth,
courage, and generous service.**

**Bless the goals we set before You—goals that stretch us, challenge us,
and call us to become more than we have been.**

**Grant us clarity of mind to plan wisely, discipline of heart to persevere when momentum fades,
and humility to seek Your guidance in all things. When obstacles arise, strengthen our resolve;
when doubt whispers, remind us that You walk beside us; when success comes,
keep us grounded in gratitude.**

**May our ambitions never be merely for ourselves, but for the good of others—
for justice, compassion, reconciliation, and hope.**

Shape our work so that it reflects Your light in the world.

**Help us celebrate small steps forward, learn from our setbacks,
and rise each day with renewed trust in Your providence.**

Lord, bless this year with purpose, focus, and holy boldness.

Make our goals pathways to deeper faith and deeper love. In Your holy name we pray. Amen.

Christ's blessings for 2026.

Fr. Martin