

Fr. Martin's Reflection – November 16, 2025

Dear Friends in Christ,

At Mass last weekend you were introduced to an upcoming bible course beginning in February 2026. I know it seems a long way away, but we feel that it is so important that we want to give you time to pray about it and discuss it with your family, with the possibility that it could be your family Lenten gift to yourselves. Another opportunity might be to have a discussion with friends and invite them to journey with you. You could offer to be host for the 7 weeks, or, if you have 7 in the group, each could host on alternate weeks. Having a better understanding of the scriptures opens, not just our minds, but our hearts to God's message to us. It gives us a better understanding of our relationship with God and why we believe what we believe and celebrate each week at Mass and all the sacraments. So, I ask you to reflect on taking this course, pray about it, speak to family and friends about it, and then treat yourself to the best experience of your life.

Bordentown Interfaith- denominational Thanksgiving Service

Dear friends, since I came to Mary, Mother of the Church Parish, the Bordentown Churches have held an interfaith/denominational Thanksgiving Service, and this year is no different. The service will be held in the **First Presbyterian Church, Farnsworth Ave, on Wednesday, November 26 at 7pm**. I know Wednesday evening may be difficult for many of you to attend, but for those who can, I would love to see you there. It lasts about an hour and the homilist/speaker this year is yours truly, Fr. Martin, (Hmm, not sure if that is an incentive or a deterrent to attend). Personally, I feel it would be wonderful if as many of us as possible could attend, not because of me, but because it is a way of expressing to God that we may come from different rooms, but we are all in the same house, all members of one family, God's children.

Thank You

I would like to thank you for attending our Holy Hour for Vocations and our two Masses for our departed loved ones. Stepping out of our norm to express our needs and acknowledging our departed loved ones is good for our spiritual health. This coming Thursday, November 19 at St. Mary Church, Bordentown, beginning at 7pm, we will have our Memorial Service. This Memorial Service is to remember all those who have died from our parish in the last year. I extend the invitation to all and encourage all to attend as a show of solidarity to our brothers and sisters who are grieving at this time.

Prayer for Departed Loved Ones and their Families

Loving and merciful God, we commend to Your tender care our recently departed loved one. Grant them eternal rest, free from pain and sorrow, and let perpetual light shine upon them. Comfort those who grieve – family, friends, and all who feel this loss. Surround them with Your peace and strengthen their faith in the promise of resurrection and reunion. In moments of sadness, remind them of Your steadfast love and gift of cherished memories that endure. May hope in Christ sustain them until we are all united once more in Your heavenly presence. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

Fr. Martin