

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

Dear Friends in Christ,

This weekend we welcome back all our Religious Education students, teachers, classroom assistants, and hall monitors. A special welcome to our 1<sup>st</sup> Graders and those joining us for the first time, may they be students or staff. We hope you had a wonderful summer and ready for an exciting year ahead. May your heart be open to the great and wonderful gift that is the Holy Spirit.

### Mass for Life

This coming Thursday, September 25, the Catholic Dioceses of New Jersey will gather at the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption, Trenton, to celebrate Mass calling us to respect life from conception to natural death. I know for many people when we hear of a Mass for Life, we think it just refers to the pre-born, but the Mass for Life is that and more. It is about recognizing the dignity of all human life, from the child in the womb to those suffering from incurable illnesses and everyone in between. Over the last couple of weeks, we have seen how some view life as disposable, from the school shootings at Annunciation Catholic Church, Minneapolis, and Evergreen High School, Colorado, to the cruel and intentional shooting of Charlie Kirk. This Mass for Life is an opportunity for all of us to stop and reflect on the value of all human life and a recognition of how vulnerable human life is. So, if you have the opportunity on Thursday, September 25 @ 9:30am please join us as we celebrate the importance and dignity of all human life.

### The Prayer for Reverence for Life

Almighty God, giver of all that is good,  
we thank you for the precious gift of human life:  
For life in the womb, coming from your creative power,  
For the life of children, making us glad with their freshness and promise,  
For the life of young people, hoping for a better world,  
For the life of people who are disabled, teaching us that every life has value,  
For the life of the elderly, witnessing to the ageless values of patience and wisdom.  
Like Blessed Mary, may we always say "Yes" to your gift.  
May we defend it and promote it from conception to its natural end.  
And bring us at last, O Father,  
to the fullness of eternal life in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen  
(Archdiocese of Vancouver)

Thoughts and prayers for the week ahead.

*Fr. Martin*