

Fr. Martin's Reflection – September 28, 2025

Dear Friends in Christ,

On Thursday last, Bishop O'Connell had a medical procedure to fix a hole in his heart. I ask you to continue to keep him in your prayers and that he will make a speedy recovery.

Saying Goodbye to Family Members Who Depart from this World

This past week has been a difficult week for us as a parish family as we said goodbye to Rita Marino, Randy Belknap, and Lucas Fryc, members of our faith family and a wife, a husband, a son, a mother, a father, and a brother to those closest to them. Let us gather around them, embracing them, praying for them, reassuring them, lifting them up and strengthening them with our prayers and love. May they forever remain in the care and love of Christ Jesus, our loving and caring Savior.

Dear friends, shortly after I arrived in the parish, I changed how we remember and honor our departed loved ones from placing the envelopes containing their names on the altar to printing their names on the large boards that are displayed in our churches and printed in our bulletin, giving all of us the opportunity to remember and pray for each other.

This year I would like to add to this by celebrating two special masses for all our loved ones whose names are submitted with the special envelope that is contained in your box of envelopes. I know the envelope may be a little confusing, but I would like for you to write out your loved one's names on some paper and place it in the envelope and drop it into the collection basket at Mass or hand it into the office before Friday, October 17. This will give us time to print all names on the large boards and the bulletin.

On Wednesday, **November 5th, at 7pm** there will be a mass at **St. Mary Church, Bordentown**, for all the names submitted through these envelopes. The following Wednesday, **November 12th, at 7pm at Holy Assumption Church, Roebling**, our departed loved ones will be remembered once again. And on the **Wednesday, November 19th, at 7pm at St. Mary Church, Bordentown**, we will have our annual **Remembrance Service** for all those who departed this world in the past year. I would like to extend this invitation to all. Let us be a comfort to each other, especially to those who are in the early days of grief.

Prayer for Departed Loved Ones

Heavenly Father, I call on you today. Please be with me through this devastating time of my life.

It feels as though I've lost a part of me and the pain is unbearable. My heart is in pain. My soul is in distress.

I feel lost and empty and all I can do is cry. Please be my strength and my comfort in this time.

Help me cope with this loss. You are my refuge, Lord. Embrace me in your loving arms.

Heal my broken heart and soothe my soul as I pray for the soul of my dearly departed loved one.

Thank you for the time I was able to spend with them. Please keep their soul safe.

Even though I grieve, I find comfort in your promise of eternal life.

Thank you for always being with me. Amen

Blessings and prayers for the week ahead.

Fr. Martin