



*“For this slight momentary affliction  
is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory  
beyond all comparison,  
because we look not to the things that are seen  
but to the things that are unseen.  
For the things that are seen are transient,  
but the things that are unseen are eternal.”  
-- 2 Corinthians 4: 17 – 18*

Heart of Jesus, I trust in You.  
May my sufferings bind me ever closer to You, my crucified Lord.

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**ON SACRIFICE AND SUFFERING**

# St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church

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I invite all of us to take time during this grace-filled liturgical season of Lent to deeply ponder the themes of sacrifice and suffering. Why? Because there is a great paradox in doing so -- the more we understand sacrifice and suffering, the more we will understand true love and joy! All deep questions concerning the meaning of life and the true nature of God, faith, family, love, happiness, and eternity cannot be wisely answered without a foundational understanding of sacrifice and suffering. Yes, this fact can seem a bit counter-intuitive, but take heart. Jesus expended much effort during His time with us on earth to help our human minds and hearts understand the difficult realities of sacrifice and suffering. We must always remember: We follow a crucified Lord. Let us take time to learn how following the "suffering servant" leads us to the abundant life of eternal joy that He so desires for us! Our Church is rich in wisdom and resources to help us in understanding – let us draw from some of these riches this Lent!

Provided in the pages of this booklet are many varied things to help enrich our minds in coming to a deeper understanding of sacrifice and suffering: inspirations from Sacred Scripture, wisdom from the saints, concepts explored in sacred art, teachings from the Church, poignant prayers, and menus of suggestions for further study, contemplation, and for living out our Catholic faith more deeply. Let us take time with this booklet – read through it slowly and repeatedly throughout this Lent, and see what strikes a chord, see what moves our hearts, and then ponder and pray over these things. Let us choose among its many suggestions that can help lead us into deeper relationship with the Lamb of God, "who takes away the sins of the world" (John 1: 29) and who "will guide us to the springs of living water and wipe away every tear from our eyes." (Rev. 7: 17) It is my fervent prayer that as God expands our minds and souls into new understandings of sacrifice and suffering this Lent, our parish will come to love Him all the more, and experience an Easter joy like never before.

In Christ Jesus,

Fr. James Yamauchi

# *The Kiss of Christ*

*Lo, there He hangs --  
ashened figure pinioned against the wood.  
God grant that I might love Him ever as I should.*

*I draw a little closer to feel His love divine,  
and hear Him gently whisper,  
"Ah, precious child of mine!"*

*If now I should embrace you,  
My hands would stain you red,  
And if I leaned to whisper,  
My thorns would pierce your head."*

*'Twas there I learned in sorrow  
that love demands a price;  
'Twas then I learned that suffering  
is but the Kiss of Christ.*

