

## Belated Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year from the Adult Faith Office!

I have been away from the office since the beginning of November as my daughter was very ill. Many of you pray for her and our family. Thank you. I firmly believe in the power of prayer, and ask that you continue to pray for us, and especially Emma. I will continue to pray for all of you each day.

I have to admit...I am not sorry to see 2020 behind us, but I also want to acknowledge that it contained many blessings.



I realize 2021 is not exactly off to a great start with our parishes locked down, but I am hopeful. Family health issues recently took me to the United States, which appears to be COVID central at this point. It was a different experience. My sister and my nephew both contracted COVID and came through it with ease. Thanks be to God. However, I must say, with all that was going on...my daughter's illness, my sister and nephew having COVID-19, separation from loved ones at Christmas, I found great comfort and strength because I could attend daily Mass and daily holy hour(s) in adoration. I felt very safe, and it gave me the courage and hope to persevere through one of the most difficult times in my life. I am sad that I cannot do that here in Canada. I have found myself floundering since returning home. I long to sit in silence in front of the Eucharist and attend the daily celebration of the Mass, both of which give me great peace.

Since this is not possible, I have been asking God in prayer what I can do right now, in this situation, to give me strength. I have concluded that in 2021, I am going to delve into the Word of God. St. Jerome said, "Ignorance of scripture is ignorance of Christ." In his Apostolic Exhortation, *Verbum Domini*, Pope Benedict tells us that "Unless we acknowledge the Lord's real presence in the Eucharist, our understanding of Scripture remains imperfect." I have recently signed up for the podcast *Bible in a Year* with Fr. Mike Schmitz. He is following the *Great Adventure Bible Timeline*. So far it has been amazing. I love the podcast as Fr. Mike reads aloud the Bible reading for the day, and then provides commentary. There is something about hearing the words being read, as opposed to just reading them myself, that has been more beneficial to my aging brain. If you would like to sign up for this, follow this link: <https://ascensionpress.com/pages/biy-registration>

Another project I am working on is a Catholic Reading Challenge similar to one that we did in 2019. Each month was a different category of book and several book selections were provided that were available in the Adult Faith Library or in the bookstore to purchase. This year, because of my resolution to delve into God's Word, many of the selections will be orientated to the goal of getting to know God through sacred scripture. The challenge and book options will be sent out monthly as opposed to all at once in January. I realize January's selection will need to be something short as we are almost half way through the month! Stay tuned...

**Thank you all for your patience and prayers. God bless!**