

# *Merry Christmas & Happy New Year*

Dear Friends:

At this time of year there are many television programs that feature, "The Year in Review". Each of these showcase everything from trending Hollywood movies or singers, to key world events of the past year. By clicking on a certain icon, Facebook will automatically turn your year of photos into a video remash reminding you of all the selfies you took, bad hair days and all.

During the Advent and Christmas Seasons we take time to recall the events that led to the coming of our Saviour and the events surrounding His birth. In a world that continues to be in need of the Saviour's Grace, each of us longs for the Peace and Love that He alone can bring.

Our Parish Pastoral Council dedicated their December meeting to a time of reflecting on the past year and pondered the action of God in our midst. By the end of our sharing each exclaimed in one way or another, "Wow, it has been a very full year. Our community of faith has certainly accomplished a lot!"

We do have a very diverse and rich life which includes: Sacramental Preparation Programs, Parish Socials, Faith Sharing through the seasons of Arise, Parish/School involvement, continued repairs and improvements to our building and property, out reach programs for Barrydowne College, the Food Bank, and the Syrian Refugees. We also have a multitude of people involved in Liturgical Ministries coming together to ensure great celebrations of the Eucharist every weekend of the year. And there is so much more! We have been truly Blessed by God's Spirit active in so many generous people.

In the midst of the often frantic pace of Christmas with travelling to be with family, gift giving and celebrating, it would serve each of us well to pause and reflect on the events of the past year. To ponder the joyful times as well as the rough sections in our journey. Our reflection may inspire in us words of thanksgiving for God's blessings, tears of sadness mixed with joy, or even resolutions to live with greater awareness and purpose.

May this Holy Season afford each of you a special time with family and friends. In your reflection of God's action in this past year, may you be led to experience His Salvation in new ways during the coming year.

Fr Jim K

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