

New Year's Message from Good Shepherd Parish Pastor



New Year's greetings. Our parish begins a new year, as we happily say goodbye to 2020 – which seems to have lasted more than 365 days. Here we are beginning 2021 with Mary the Mother of God and each other, in great company. Good Shepherd Parish, our family of faith, begins this year in the midst of a time of pandemic, a time of COVID-19. Christmas and New Year's Day remind us of our HOPE at a time when it can be difficult to find hope in the world. With the brightness of Christmas and Mary's feast Day, we can and should look back (quickly), and then forward into our New Year.

Back: reminds us of the well-deserved retirement of our parish's pastor, Monsignor Rene Mathieu and the kind welcome by the parish, parish staff and Fathers Morin and Dominic, of me your new pastor. I look forward to the post-COVID meeting of more and more parishioners. Speaking of COVID, the past year saw us adjusting how we attend Mass, and only doing emergency anointings of the sick and dying, and the inability to bring the Blessed Sacrament to our elderly parishioners. We are all looking forward to the time when we have the ability to be together more often as a parish family.

Forward: I am looking forward with anticipation for the future of our Parish life. This coming year will see us emerging out of the Clustering Process and the COVID Pandemic. The areas of most importance will be: restrengthening the Sacramental Life of all or our parishioners; developing strong methods of communication; developing many forms of ministering to elderly parishioners and strengthening all the ways we share and teach the Faith to parishioners of all ages.

God our Father, Jesus our Good Shepherd, we pray with their Holy Spirit to bless our lives, families, homes and all parish efforts with the holy virtues of Faith, Hope and Love; we know the greatest of these is love. May we make good efforts to trust, to hope, and to endure whatever comes. This is a perfect and Good Shepherd way to handle this New Year, and COVID for that matter: Love never comes to an end.

In this year of St. Joseph proclaimed by Pope Francis, as your pastor, I want to do as Joseph did and knock on your door. I knock on the door asking each of you for the hospitality of your heart and ask you to make room for Mary and Jesus. I promise that if you permit them to come in from the cold of this world, with all its hurt, preoccupation and indifference, it is they who will warm your heart and our parish this new year. Happy and Blessed New Year.

I am,

Yours Sincerely in Christ Jesus,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Rev. Timothy J. Nadeau". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Reverend Timothy J. Nadeau

Pastor