

## Surely God is in This Place

Let's take stock for a minute of where we are?

Did you make any New Year's resolutions?  
Think about why do we make them?  
Do you ever resolve to grow your faith? Be a better person (other than physically)?

So far we have discussed:

Our faith journey (who or what do you take? Where are you headed?)  
Gifts of the Holy Spirit (what are they and how do we use them?)  
Exploring questions or obstacles to our faith  
Sharing a retreat experience where we discovered or re-enforced the idea that God loves us so much that he wants a personal relationship with each of us.

This month we will ponder how we do this and who is God to me?

### **Encounter**

Complete the attached form and reflect upon what we learn about God in the Bible. I have provided some of the scripture citations for you of passages. Some have the scripture text but feel free to look up and discover more about your heavenly Father.

Watch a short clip from the documentary "Wasteland" about artist Vic Muniz who creates beautiful masterpieces of people often invisible in society. God sees the masterpiece within each of us. God sees us as beautiful.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=glnKde8FmH4>

### **Engage**

As you reflect upon who God is and how you can develop a more personal relationship with Him let's review what you already know.

We believe in a Trinitarian God. Yikes – are you thinking that is new. Don't worry here is a quick review of the trinity.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cgu2iNZHyEo>

Now that we are feeling more comfortable about God the Father, God the Son and God the Spirit, let's focus in on who God is:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wLDtzv6VBGg>

Take a moment to think about these videos and bask in the knowledge that you are the beloved child of an unconditional God.

Read Reflecting on who God is, then complete the journaling page Who is God to Me?

Now take the time to complete the Spiritual Autobiography. Reflect on your first memories of God, who has brought you closer to God? What has put distance between you and God? Take this time to dig deeper into how you view God and your relationship with him.

Think of your relationship with God, what can you do to grow any relationship? What are you willing to do to grow your relationship with God?

## **Embrace**

How can you get to know God better? Being Catholic is not a passive activity. You must work on it just like any other meaningful part of your life. To be a contributing member of a class, team, theater group, choir, family or community you must be willing to put in the time. To work and practice. Pick yourself up when you get it wrong, seek forgiveness and then move on. You must love the other, not in the romantic sense, but in the sense that we are all God's children. If one is hurting the entire community is less than its potential. Here are some ways to grow closer to God.

Go to Mass – pick a Sunday and log onto our recorded Mass. Listen to the readings, the music, Father Sas' homily. What is God telling us today? What is the message for you?

Watch one of the video reflection on the USCCB website for the daily readings before our next class.  
<https://bible.usccb.org/podcasts/video>

Review the list of attributes of God. Pick one or two and practice incorporating them into your daily life by your actions and choices?

Participate in one of the service projects this month and be the hands and feet of Christ for another. What can you do to create God's kingdom on earth? How can changing your behavior towards others let God's light more fully shine through you?

Say a prayer for a different person each morning when you wake up.

Participate in Creating on the Margins competition and access your creative side!!!!  
Details can be found at : <https://www.usccb.org/resources/COTM%20Student%20Packet.pdf>

Make a Valentine for your grandparents or elderly relative or neighbor.

**Service project opportunities** (keep a look out for new projects coming soon):

Make sandwiches for St. Vincent DePaul – must be brought to the church on Thursday, January 28<sup>th</sup> between 8:30am-1:30pm or 7:00-7:30pm or Thursday, February 25<sup>th</sup> (same times)

Make peanut butter sandwiches for House of Bread – I have peanut butter and jelly.

Make cards for the homebound

Make lunch bags for House of Bread (I have the supplies)

Buy a few items at the grocery store and bring them to the Food Bank in town.

Thank your parents for supporting you as you switch from virtual to in person school.

Write one of your teachers or coaches a note letting them know how much you appreciate their support!

Find five items such as clothes or books that you no longer use and bring them to Goodwill. If you go to the Goodwill in Middletown or Rocky Hill let me know as we have coupons that can be turned in with donations that provide clients at St. Vincent DePaul credit to go in and purchase items for their families.

## Playlist

No One Loves You- Chris Tomlin

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SG\\_IXFEO8yE&list=PLbHrn3EIgfhFJ86vrnkdxIA8wDtsWQZE0&index=175](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SG_IXFEO8yE&list=PLbHrn3EIgfhFJ86vrnkdxIA8wDtsWQZE0&index=175)

Here comes the Sun

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h2IGoEqneac>

Chris Tomlin - How Great is Our God

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bHAZGXsVF1k>

Playing for Change -Lean on Me

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SG\\_IXFEO8yE&list=PLbHrn3EIgfhFJ86vrnkdxIA8wDtsWQZE0&index=175](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SG_IXFEO8yE&list=PLbHrn3EIgfhFJ86vrnkdxIA8wDtsWQZE0&index=175)

Love Moved First - Casting Crowns

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qDdTt7AB0gl>

There was Jesus" by Zach Williams

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MtMQPW09qTU>

