

## ADVENT - WEEK 3 REFLECTION

Forming a Relationship with God  
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For a large part of my life, I wasn't someone that felt an intimate closeness with Christ. He always felt like a far away power I learned about but never truly knew. He felt more like the president or the Pope than my Savior.

So much of my experience with my religion purely came from the things I learned in religion class. I just could never feel that intimacy others felt. A lot of this was definitely my fault, as I put in little effort to make my part of that connection with him. No mass on Sundays, no prayer before bed, no reading the Bible.

I really came around on my faith during quarantine. I felt a genuine connection to God I had never felt before. I began putting in more effort in order to genuinely build a relationship with Him. I began praying more. I focused more on living a life free of sin. It was a process, and I didn't feel much at first, but after some time I started to feel the closeness others felt that I had been lacking.

My relationship with God truly reached its peak this year.

I can really feel God working through my personal life. Though this year has been extremely difficult and stressful, I've felt more at peace and happier than before because I can feel God in what I'm doing.

Through cross country and through student council and through campus ministry I know that I'm not working alone.

What I'm doing is an extension of God's hand. I feel Him working through me in the things I'm doing which makes what I'm doing that much more motivating and that much easier to do. Where certain things used to really stress me out, it's now easier to find peace in knowing that no matter who's supporting me or what's happening, God is with me.

The advice I'd give to anyone currently in the position I was in is to just give yourself up to Christ. There's no reason to keep a wall up between you and His love. Just reading a Bible passage or going to mass can't hurt anything, but it can really change your life for the better. God has so much to give you, and all you have to do is give him a little bit. With the faith of a mustard seed, God will do something great with your life.