

Rosh Hashanah Greetings from Timothy Cardinal Dolan, Archbishop of New York



Rosh Hashanah, your New Year, is a big day here in New York City. It is more than the turning of a calendar page, but an affirmation that our God is a God of new beginnings, of second chances - an infinite number of fresh starts.

He is always with us, and we are never alone. We need that message - Jews and Christians alike - and are grateful for the inspiration this high holy day brings.

The story of the Jewish people, and God's covenant with them, demonstrates time and again that the Lord never abandons His chosen people, even when they might turn their backs on Him!

He is always there, just as He was with the Israelites when things looked bleak and hopeless, giving them manna in the desert, leading them to the Promised Land!

Here in America, it's tempting now to wonder, "Has God abandoned us?"

The corona-virus pandemic which has touched so many lives, the unrest in our streets, the bitterness that seems to divide us, even natural disasters, can sometimes

make us believe that God has said "enough!" and that we are on our own.

Rosh Hashanah cogently tells us that the Lord's promise remains true today, and we know He is near.

We see His presence in the fire fighters and first responders, courageously battling the dreadful fires currently engulfing large portions of the west coast.

We can find Him in the heroic work of doctors and nurses, who worked long hours to care for the sick and dying at the height of the pandemic. We can hear His voice in the gentle words of a caregiver to a person in need, and those cleaning up after the hurricanes.

We even sense His invitation to trust Him during this divisive campaign!

To my friends in the Jewish community, I wish Shanah Tovah, and promise you a special remembrance in my prayers for this new year!

Shanah Tova

*Timothy Cardinal Dolan
Archbishop of New York*