

All Saints Church
Good News Daily

Devotional readings for each day, parish birthdays and anniversaries

December 28, 2025—January 3, 2026

Sunday, December 28

Psalm 96 *Sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples.* (vv.2-3 NIV)

Three days ago, we celebrated the birth of Jesus, our Savior and our Lord. Can there be a better time than this to sing praises to God, to proclaim His salvation, and to declare His glorious deeds? Even though, according to the church calendar, the Christmas season has just begun, in the world Christmas is over. The time to celebrate is past.

What better time joyfully to tell our friends that the season of celebration is just beginning? It is, in a sense, a season which lasts forever because the babe born in Bethlehem is God’s gift to us forever. This Son will grow up to proclaim that the kingdom of God is here, will show us how to live, will die for our sins so that we can be reconciled with the Father, and will send us the Holy Spirit so that we can know and do God’s will.

May the joy of Christmas continue to shine in us and may we declare God’s glory and proclaim His salvation.

1 Samuel 1:1-2, 7b-28; Psalm 93; Colossians 1:9-20; Luke 2:22-40

Birthdays: Isabelle Dunnam, Meagan Feibelman, Harrison Horowitz, Dan Mathewes, Karen Raton, Jon Wiese

Anniversaries: Eric & Riley Turner

Monday, December 29

2 John 1-13 *As you have heard from the beginning his command is that you walk in love.* (v.6b)

One of the major challenges facing the Church and each of us is to understand what it means to walk in love. One of the best books I have read about love is *The Road Less Traveled* by M. Scott Peck.

Peck defines love as “the will to extend oneself for the purpose of nurturing one’s own or another’s spiritual growth.” He writes, “Love is not simply giving; it is judicious giving and judicious withholding as well. It is judicious praising and judicious criticizing. It is judicious arguing, struggling, confronting, urging, pushing and pulling in addition to comforting. It is leadership. The word ‘judicious’ means requiring judgment and judgment requires more than instinct; it requires thoughtful and often painful decision making.”

As I look at Jesus and his life and death, this is the kind of love he modeled. May God give us the will to extend ourselves to nurture spiritual growth in ourselves and others. May He grant us each wisdom and discernment so that our judgment may be informed by Him.

2 Samuel 23:13-17b; Psalm 18:1-20; John 2:1-11

Birthdays: Davis Freyer, Nancy Johnson, Willie Newkirk, Phoenix O’Brian, Mary Hill

Tuesday, December 30

3 John 1-15 *Anyone who does what is good is from God.* (v.11b)

It is easy to say we are Christians, but God does not judge us by our words but by our actions. In this letter, the good work for which John commends Gaius is a specific: the offering of hospitality and assistance to missionaries. Gaius not only gave the missionaries a place to stay but also provided for their journey.

We don’t know why the church led by Diotrephes would not assist those sent by Paul and indeed forbade its members to do so. Could it have been that they felt they had to take care of their own needs first? Do we and our churches provide hospitality to those who are committed to taking the Good News to the lost at home and abroad? Do

we support them in their work, or do we look at our budgets, at our own needs, and close our doors and our pocketbooks?

John’s judgment is harsh. If we do not do good by assisting those who go out in God’s name we are not, in truth, Christians.

1 Kings 17:17-24; Psalms 20, 21; John 4:46-54

Birthdays: Diane Andrews, Van Clark, Sean Croup, Lydia De Jesus, Faith Milensky, Trent Turbyfill

Anniversaries: Ted & Tyler Alden, Ernie & Carol Heina, Greg & Kathy Mellowe, Michael & Cheryl Murphy

Wednesday, December 31

James 4:13-17, 5:7-11 *If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn’t do it, it is sin for them.* (v.17)

It’s New Year’s Eve, a time when many of us make New Year’s resolutions phrased in terms of “I will” or “I won’t.” We look ahead and make plans for the coming year.

James warns us of the danger of making our plans without an awareness of our dependence on God for we “do not know about tomorrow.” If we simply read the verse quoted above, we might think it refers to good works we know we should do but don’t do. In this context, however, it is clear that the good we ought to do is recognizing that we are not in charge. The greatest good we can do is to trust in God, recognize our dependence on Him, and seek His will and direction.

Relying on ourselves and boasting of what we will do in our own strength is sin. As we make our New Year’s resolutions and plan for the year ahead, may we seek God’s will and the strength to accomplish it—always aware that our days are in His hands.

1 Kings 3:5-14; Psalms 46, 48; John 5:1-15

Birthdays: Larry Coates, Dickson Colado, Cole Colado, Merrill Colado, Shauna Gideon, Barbara Hughes, Mercy Peterson, Elizabeth Piotrowski, Benjamin Wurtzel

Anniversaries: David & Elizabeth Colon, Tom & Liz Sims, David & Lucy Strong, Don & Tammy Wacker

Thursday, January 1

Revelation 19:11-16 “*On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.*” (v.16)

Today our lessons focus on who Jesus is. Jesus is described as Savior, as God with us, as redeemer, as judge, as warrior, and finally, as “King of Kings and Lord of Lords.” God has given Jesus all authority in heaven and on earth.

In the service of Baptism, people are asked a series of questions: “Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior?” “Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?” “Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord?” We are expected to respond, “I do.”

For me it is easy to continue to live in the recognition that Jesus is my Savior. But it is a continuous struggle to follow and obey Jesus as my Lord, for that means giving up control. It is possible only because I do trust in his grace and love. I know that his plan for my life is better than anything I could come up with, and I know that his grace will empower me to fulfill his plan. May each of us begin each day by praying, “Lord, what would you have me do?”

Isaiah 62:1-5, 10-12; Psalm 103; Matthew 1:18-25

Birthdays: Gary Davies, Francie Dear, Carolyn Dymond, Ethan Smith, Riley Turner

Friday, January 2

Ephesians 4:1-16 *From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.* (v.16)

Each of us is called and gifted by God to perform a certain function in the body of Christ. If we do not use our gifts, if we do not do the work God has called us to do, the body will not be strengthened and grow as God intends.

Understanding how important each one of us is to the functioning of the body of Christ is often difficult. In *Fearfully and Wonderfully Made*, Dr. Paul Brand and Philip Yancey helped me to understand the image of the Church as the body of Christ by explaining how the human body functions. Did you know that a cancerous lipoma is caused by a single fat cell which refuses to give up its reserves—the gift it has been given for the body’s use—and then multiplies out of control?

If I don’t want to be a cancer cell in Christ’s body, I must use my gift. The health of the Church depends on each of us using our gifts. Are you using your gifts to build up the body of Christ?

1 Kings 19:1-8; Psalms 66, 67; John 6:1-14

Birthdays: Arlo Deibler, Carol Pierce, George Standridge, Michael Wenrich, Butch Wooten

Anniversaries: Robert & Marcia Klettner

Saturday, January 3

Ephesians 4:17-32 *Put off your old self...be made new...put on the new self.* (vv.22-24)

Thank God, it’s not all up to me! Reading these verses reminds me that as I seek to become the person God created me to be I don’t have to do it all myself. I am not called to make myself into a new person, I am simply called to cooperate with God as He makes me new. Did you know that Christianity is the only religion which does not call us to perfect ourselves?

God makes us new by giving us His Holy Spirit who leads us into all truth and empowers us to do God’s will. Our part is to cooperate. We must be willing intentionally to put aside anything in our lives which is not pleasing to God, and we must actively and intentionally put on new attitudes. God won’t change us against our will; but, as we prayerfully place ourselves in His hands He will, day by day, mold us into the image of His Son.

1 Kings 19:9-18; Psalm 68; John 6:15-27

Birthdays: Pat Boyer, Mae Davey, Anne Deuchler, David Robison

by Diane Brown

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