

All Saints Church

Good News Daily

Devotional readings for each day, parish birthdays and anniversaries

January 25-31, 2026

Sunday, January 25

Galatians 2:1-10 *They agreed that we should go to the Gentiles, and they to the circumcised.* (v.9b NIV)

Paul and the Christian Jews, who included Peter, disagreed about what Paul was preaching to the Gentiles. Both of these zealous men must have strongly felt they were correct. God spoke to these men and resolved their differences by sending Paul to the Gentiles and Peter to the Jews.

Although it must have been difficult for them, Peter and Paul heard the voice of God and understood that God had not chosen either one of them exclusively to do His work of spreading the gospel throughout the world. We need to remember this whenever we find ourselves taking on too much responsibility in the Church.

God has distributed wonderful gifts among His people which we are to use to glorify Him. It is important to note, however, that God did not give every gift to any one person. God's work on this Earth is to be a shared responsibility among his people.

Many of us, when we see a need, feel we, individually, must take on the responsibility for that need. If we don't do that, we often feel guilty. We must remember, though, that it can be just as bad to be involved with too much as too little. It is important to seek God's guidance in these matters so we will be better able to determine our assignment in God's great army.

Genesis 13:2-18; Psalm 63; Mark 7:31-37

Birthdays: Jeni Caraway, Ruth Harris, Ali Kern, Sadie Miller, Sam Shelby

Monday, January 26

Hebrews 8:1-13 *"For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."* (v.12)

Has someone wronged you lately? Have you forgiven that person? Did you forgive in man's way or God's?

As Christians we know that it is our duty to forgive "our debtors." But we don't always understand what it means to forgive. Usually our (human's) idea of forgiveness is quite different from God's. We say, "I forgive you." Then, instead of wiping the slate clean, we record the event in our minds, only to have it raise its head again in the future. We insist on holding onto the anger and resentment, which have served us well in defending ourselves from the pain.

God does not forgive that way. When God forgives, He forgets. He relieves the sinner from the penalty of our sin, separation from Him.

God intends for us to forgive in the same way. In some situations, we think this to be impossible. And if we try to do it without God's help it is. We must freely confess to God those things that prevent us from forgiving—our anger, resentment, fear. Then we must release those emotions to God, who, through Jesus Christ, takes them from us onto himself. It is only by putting our total trust in Him that we can truly forgive. But if we do, we will experience the real joy specially reserved for who follow the commandments of God.

Genesis 14:1-24 ; Psalms 41, 52; John 4:43-54

Birthdays: Angela Bishop, Connie Cox

Anniversaries: Jack & Peggy Rogers, John & Wendy Schafer

Tuesday, January 27

John 5:1-18 *Later Jesus found him at the temple and said to him, "See, you are well again. Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you."* (v.14)

Sounds easy doesn't it? All we must do is decide we are not going to sin, and we won't. Right? Wrong. Ask the alcoholic or drug abuser to stop using. Ask the family breadwinner to quit spending so much time at the office away from the children. Ask the out-of-control shopper. Chances are they will say that they would like to stop their sinful behavior but can't. This sad fact doesn't make them evil—just human.

It is naive for any of us to think that sin can be conquered simply by deciding to quit committing the sin. It is this kind of thinking which results in so many failed attempts to change our destructive behavior. As humans we find this hard to accept; it presumes we

are not capable of controlling ourselves. But, in fact, we are not able to control ourselves; only God can. Our acceptance of this simple principle is vital to any effort to change our sinful behavior.

We all have had times when, despite all efforts, we don't seem to be able to stop our bad behavior. When that happens, it is vital to take a moment to consider whether we are asking God to control our situation or whether we are trying to beat sin by ourselves. We must remember that is only by calling on God's help that we are able to live the life God has intended for us to live.

Genesis 15:1-11, 17-21; Psalm 45; Hebrews 9:1-14

Birthdays: Joyce Harris, Sean Leider, Cal Peters, Django Rupert, Amy Wettach

Anniversaries: Ron & Marshall Schirtzer

Wednesday, January 28

Psalm 119:49-72 *It was good for me to be afflicted so that I might learn your decrees.* (v.71)

The modern-day version of this passage is, "No pain, no gain." Everyone has experienced adversity in his life. While in the midst of that painful experience, it's usually very hard for us to see any good coming out of it. But whether we see it or not, there is good that can come from it; we just have to be wise enough and courageous enough to seize it.

Surely, we all can think back to times in our lives when it seemed that our world was coming to an end and we could not imagine ever recovering from the sorrow. But we made it through and, it is important to note, we were a more mature person having gone through the experience.

It's hard for us to see God's hand at work when we are suffering. We must remember, though, that we humans are incapable of having the same perspective on things as God has. If we were able to sit on God's shoulder, the tragic events in our lives might make much more sense to us.

God allows us to suffer the consequences of our actions. Often that is the only way we will ever learn an important lesson we will need for our well-being. Sometimes we must suffer an "affliction" to open our eyes to things we might not otherwise see. Maybe He intends to use us to help others who might meet the same sort of trouble we are going through. Maybe God is using the pain to bring us back or closer to Him.

We can't completely avoid bad things happening to us. But we can take comfort in the fact that through pain we grow.

Genesis 16:1-14; Hebrews 9:15-28; John 5:19-29

Birthdays: Jon Baety, Ryan Freyer, Marti Hall, Tom Hartley, Maeve Sheahan

Anniversaries: Glenn & Joyce Harris, David & Debbie Robison

Thursday, January 29

Psalm 50 *I have no need of a bull from your stall or of goats from your pens, for every animal of the forest is mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills.* (vv.9-10)

When this psalm was written, God's people worshiped Him with animal sacrifice. God reminds them, however, that they do not do so because of any need on God's part. God already owned all the animals, and He was certainly capable of obtaining any sacrifice He might want. He happily accepted their sacrifice, however, because it was their expression of praise and thanksgiving.

It was proper to sacrifice only the best stock to God. By presenting their best to God (as opposed to the leftovers) His people symbolically proclaimed that they regarded Him as their Lord and that they were thankful for His grace.

We no longer sacrifice animals as our expression of our devotion. Instead, we gather together in worship to offer to God our praise and thanksgiving. We don't do this because of some need on God's part. We do it to express our own love for Him. In worship we take the opportunity to express our reverence and thanks. In worship we have the chance to make and fulfill promises to God. We recognize God's stature and where we as humans stand in relation to His greatness. We do all this to further our effort to secure an intimate relationship with Him.

Our worship replaces the blood sacrifice of long ago. We must remember that our worship is our symbolic expression of our love for He who loves us better than we could ever love Him.

Genesis 16:15—17:14; Hebrews 10:1-10; John 5:30-47

Birthdays: Rebecca Evans, Judy Hulsey, John Maciewicz, Regan Oyler, Carl Wendnagel, Eloise Wenrich

Friday, January 30

Hebrews 10:11-25 *...not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another...* (v.25a)

How nice it is to sit alone quietly talking with God or studying the Bible. There is nothing like this to calm one's spirit and put our thoughts into proper perspective. In our quiet room we are insulated from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. Sometimes even going to church deprives us of the blissful solitude. At moments like this we may feel that we would like to separate from the rest of the world.

Quiet time alone is an important component of a Christian life. We must remember, however, that it is only part of a healthy Christian life. Whether we recognize it or not, we need the companionship of other people: "It is not good for the man to be alone" (Genesis 2:18).

Other Christians need us as well. Our Christian life is to include a combination of individual and corporate worship. We are the family of God. We are called on to encourage each other as we make our way as Christians in this sinful world. Isolationism is contrary to God's plan for us. He wants us to live and to thrive together.

Genesis 17:15-27; Psalms 40, 54; John 6:1-15

Birthdays: Ray Colado, Stephanie Harley

Saturday, January 31

companion, my close friend. (vv.12-13)

Having a true friend (including a spouse) is a wonderful and fulfilling experience that everyone should be lucky enough to have. Being a friend means having an intimate relationship with another human being. Intimacy cannot occur unless one is willing to take the chance of being vulnerable to being hurt by the other person.

Those of us involved in such a relationship must remember the sacrifice our friend is making by putting his or her trust in us. We are stewards of this trust, and we owe our friend a special duty not to breach that trust.

Those of us who have suffered a breach of our trust face a difficult, but not impossible, rehabilitation. We must remember that it was not wrong for us to make ourselves vulnerable to the other person, the wrong lies in the breach of that trust. Most importantly, remember that Jesus came to this Earth so that he would be available to us to shoulder our pain, whatever the cause. Take Him up on His offer. It is only by doing so that you will experience true healing, allowing you to be a friend again.

Genesis 18:1-16; Hebrews 10:26-39; John 6:16-27

Birthdays: John Cox, Soleil Iacuzzo, Lilly Lawton, Eli Smith

by Stephan Carter

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