

All Saints Church
Good News Daily

Devotional readings for each day, parish birthdays and anniversaries

February 8-14, 2026

Sunday, February 8

2 Timothy 2:14-21 *Charge them before God not to quarrel about words....* (v.14a ESV)

People have enjoyed and relaxed with dancing all through history. The list of different dances is long and varied. What we don't see is anyone at the waltz doing a polka, or doing hip-hop at a minuet. They're all dances. But each dance is conducted with the cooperation of others. It's expected. It's good manners. It's courteous.

Today, people will gather in 10,000 different churches. The Bible will be read in languages old or new. Songs will be sung from books or screens or memory. Prayers will be heard loud or soft, long or short. Worshippers will stand, or kneel, or sit, hands lifted up or held calmly folded. Those who enjoy loud, excited events will seek out others with that temperament. Some will gather quietly. Ideally, there will be no contention about where anyone got baptized—or how wet they got.

Jesus will be present at them all. He wants his family at peace, with him and with each other. Dancing works best when everyone stays in step.

Genesis 24:50-67; Psalm 93, 96; Mark 10:13-22

Birthdays: Kimberly Botic, Miller Felton, David Peterson, Virginia Ruby, Brian Smith

Anniversaries: Andrew & Indhira Minear

Monday, February 9

Genesis 25:19-34 *"If it is thus, why is this happening to me?"* (v.22b)

When people lose something, it's common to hear two outbursts. "I've looked everywhere!" and "It's always in the last place you look!"

The remark about the *last place* is true because we usually stop searching when we find what's missing. We don't look further. But where have we looked at first? We're accustomed to being blamed—or deserving blame—so we commonly start by assuming ownership. Rebekah did. "Why is *this* happening to *me*?" But, this time, it wasn't about her. She was just the bystander God had used to further carry out His purpose. Like the poor guy beaten on the road to Jericho and waiting for someone to help (Luke 10:25ff). God was using him to examine the hearts of the priest, the Levite, and the Good Samaritan passing by.

Sometimes it's not about us. It's about what God is doing all around us. We get to play a part, even when God doesn't explain everything to us right away.

Psalm 80; Hebrews 13:1-16; John 7:37-52

Birthdays: John Balke, Michael Brannon, Gaston Bugia, Pamela Griffin

Tuesday, February 10

Psalm 78:1-39 *They forgot his works....* (v.11a)

I grew up in an attractive, modern church building. The pastors taught the words of God's Word faithfully each week. I never had doubts about what God had said. I sat in light, surrounded by walls made of undecorated, colored panes of glass.

Later in life, I attended a church built a few years before I was born. The teachers there were also faithful to the Bible. But in this church, I was surrounded by stained glass pictures of the life of Jesus and many saints who had followed him. These reminded us that God had done more than talk. He had fed crowds, healed them, led them through all kinds of obstacles. He made promises and kept commitments. There were real deeds, filling the daily lives of real people. And

there were names and dates on small signs all around us. These were testimonies and reminders to those of us who only heard their stories long afterwards.

Their testimonies called to us. "Don't forget. God did more than talk. We saw him in action."

Genesis 26:1-6, 12-33; Hebrews 13:17-25; John 7:53—8:11

Birthdays: Weeze Cobb, Brayden Moeller, Lilly Musice, Martin Ressler, Megan Wenrich

Anniversaries: Patrick & Maria Daniels, Mike & Lynda Piercy

Wednesday, February 11

Romans 12:1-8 *Think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.* (v.3)

Rebekah told her son, Jacob, "Listen only to me." Blind Isaac still could notice that the young man speaking to him at that moment sounded like Jacob but felt hairy like Esau. The two things did not match.

Pharisees objected that Jesus had no one else but himself witnessing for his identity. They ignored the confirming evidence of what God in heaven was saying and doing for His son, and had *already* said about him in in the Scriptures.

Paul took instruction from Deuteronomy 19:15, that a single witness was not enough to confirm a claim. We draw on the sound reason of Scripture to guide our steps. Those words do not pass away. But reason and understanding alone are not enough for anyone. We must also draw on the distinct, separate indications of the trust God grows in us through our memory and experiences of His faithfulness.

Genesis 27:1-29; Psalm 119:97-120; John 8:12-20

Birthdays: Mark Anderson, Jeff Hale

Anniversaries: Ellis & Christie Marder

Thursday, February 12

Psalm 147 *He determines the number of the stars; he gives to all of them their names.* (v.4)

There are actual events, and there are headlines where we find out about those events. The events do not get repeated. They don't need to be. They have happened. That's enough. The headlines get repeated and passed from one person to another. People say they "know what happened" from the headlines, the descriptions, even if they were not witnesses to the unrepeatable, original events.

Esau wept when Isaac said he'd already given his blessing to someone else. The event was done. He could not repeat it. But Esau's tears of anguish were real, new facts of life, even though he was only hearing a headline of history from his dad.

God made every individual star. He gave them individual names so we could talk about them and sort them out from each other. Even when those names get changed, ignored, or forgotten, the actual, original stars exist to be seen by all.

Our individual lives before God are the same.

Genesis 27:30-45; Psalm 83, 146; Romans 12:9-21; John 8:21-32

Birthdays: Matthew Ahl, Jonah Anderson, Nancy Cavett, Madeleine Gross, Sarah Gross, Kathy Mellowe, Bill Thielers, Mary Van Kleunen

Friday, February 13

Genesis 27:46—28:4, 10-22 *"Surely the Lord is in this place, and I did not know it."* (v.16)

My life has looked different to me from the opposite ends of it. As a child, I stared at the very church platform from which I would later marry my wife, a girl I had only known for a couple of years by then. I wanted to work at

jobs that would fire me, or that I would abandon. Those transitions opened opportunities for me to meet people who became significant new friends, mentors who wrote entirely unexpected chapters in my life.

Seeing all of this now, I appreciate God was truly in my life, shaping my days in ways I did not recognize in the midst of the long journey. I hear St. Paul's admonition ("The hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed.") with greater sobriety now.

The Lord was always in all the places of my life, whether I knew it or not.

Psalm 88; Romans 13:1-14; John 8:33-47

Birthdays: Jonathan Bilby, DeForest Davis, Dave Holt, Joann Jordan, Patty Peelen, Elisabeth Walters

Saturday, February 14

John 8:47-59 *"You have not known him. I know him."* (v.55a)

Today, lots of people have shared Valentine cards. Those cards have been given to people in all kinds of situations. There are very few, if any, that have been sent to strangers unmet and not known by the senders.

Jesus drew a distinction between those who knew *of* God, who knew lots of stories and history *about* God, but did not have any personal relationship *with* God. They knew about God as a milestone, a marker on the road, but not as one who had any authority over their steps. They heard and knew words, but did not know the one who had spoken them. They were happy to get a Valentine card in the mail. But they didn't concern themselves with who had signed it.

It matters who has sent you mail. That's how you sort out and discard junk mail and spam. You don't want to respond to all of it. Say thanks for the Valentine cards from people who know you.

They're the ones who love you.

Genesis 29:1-20; Psalms 87, 90; Romans 14:1-23

Birthdays: Valerie Gauthier, Robbie Latimer, Walker Tamoney

by Rick Hoover

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