

All Saints Church Good News Daily

Devotional readings for each day, parish birthdays and anniversaries

March 22-28, 2026

Sunday, March 22

Romans 12:1-21 *Be transformed by the renewal of your mind.* (v.2 RSV)

A Christian counselor friend of mine says she first asks her patients about the condition of their hearts, not their minds, heads, brains, or emotions. The heart, she says, drives the brain, muscles, and bones. Quiet the heart and you quiet the patient, setting the stage for spiritual healing.

Many years ago, when I attended my first prayer conference, a friend said he was “glad I had joined the ‘renewal’ movement.” I was shocked by this. I had not come for “renewal” nor did I think I needed it. If that was the agenda of the conference, I would have stayed home.

Over time, I began to realize that the essence of prayer is the renewal of your heart, mind, soul, and body. As the power of the Holy Spirit keeps washing the waves of eternity on the shores of our hearts and souls, our minds become “renewed.” This is the only way God can activate that divine breath, wind, and spirit He installed in each of us at birth. It is the only way our minds can be renewed to become faithful, obedient, living sacrifices, holy and acceptable to God.

Exodus 3:16—4:12; Psalm 118; John 8:46-59

Birthdays: Chase Everett, Kelly Moreira, Clara Minear

Anniversaries: Jonathan Durcan & Marti Hall

Monday, March 23

Mark 9:30-41 *“Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me; and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me.”* (v.37)

My wife and I love to have our 2 1/2-year-old grandson spend a weekend with us. We always enjoy taking him to church. “It’s fun,” he says. He loves the hymns and processions. Our happiest moment is when we take communion. He stands on the altar cushion, between us, wide-eyed and dazzled, with our arms surrounding him as our priest blesses him.

Recently, as the three of us knelt at the altar rail, I had a feeling of not wanting to leave. I had a sense the three of us were just where God wanted us to be. Then, I realized I had to get up and go back into the real world. God had entered our souls and bodies. We were blessed and energized as a family, and we now were ready to re-enter the world.

The simple, innocent posture of amazement and expectation that our little boy assumed at the altar was a perfect picture of “receiving one child in my name.” If all grown-ups could experience the joy and amazement that we saw in our grandson at the altar, we would return to the world employing only plowshares, no swords.

Exodus 4:10-31; Psalm 31; 1 Corinthians 14:1-19

Birthdays: George Andreae, Charli Jane Braun, Jere Daniels, Shannon Gridley,

Tom Hamberg, Rod Jones, Theresa Linscott, Tom Poppell, Lindy Snyder

Anniversaries: Michael & Megan Wenrich

Tuesday, March 24

Psalm 122 *Pray for the peace of Jerusalem!* (v.6a)

Phrases from the psalms are so deeply imbedded in our liturgical worship that most of us don’t realize how much a part of our daily lives they can become. As our knowledge and personal experience with the psalms grows, they become the woven fabric of our personal understanding of who God is.

Psalm 122:6 became locked into my spiritual fabric one cold November Sunday, while attending worship at the Garden Tomb in Jerusalem. As the crowd swelled, I

stepped backwards and tripped over a little sign reading “Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem.” I liked the idea and did it. Only later did I learn it was Psalm 122:6. I will never forget it.

“My help comes from the Lord who made heaven and earth” is part of Psalm 121. I was thrilled when Astronaut Jim Irwin read it from the moon in 1971. He returned to earth and spent the next 20 years telling thousands of people how he felt God’s presence on the moon as he stood where no man had ever stood since creation.

Jim used our house as his Connecticut office, and we got to know him well and traveled with him. It is impossible for me to look at the moon and not recall Psalm 121. It’s hard to improve on knowing a man who has visited another planet and found God.

Exodus 5:1—6:1; Psalms 120, 121, 123; 1 Corinthians 14:20-40; Mark 9:42-50

Birthdays: Chadwick Seiler, Morgan Tyler

Wednesday, March 25

2 Corinthians 2:14—3:6 *For we are the aroma of Christ to God...* (v.15)

Paul admonishes us to be the “aroma” of Christ. The New Testament encourages us to be the image of the invisible God in the world.

I grew up in an Anglo-Catholic high Episcopal church in Baltimore, where I served on the altar as the thurifer. I loved the smell of incense, the thrill of leading the procession and swinging the thurible 360 degrees overhead. Living in New England now, where incense is almost never used in Episcopal churches, I still miss the ceremony and the fragrant, pungent smell of incense as heavenly smoke rises to the ceiling.

Originally used to herald the homecoming of a conquering hero or alert citizens that the king is about to pass by, it also masked the odor of sewage from open roadside drainage ditches. An incense crucible can distribute a heavenly aroma for 30 minutes and spread it within a 100-foot radius.

If each Christian could be a potent aroma for Christ within a 100-foot radius, we would have the job of evangelism all locked up.

Exodus 7:8-24; Psalm 119:145-176; Mark 10:1-16

Birthdays: Carol Aiken, Juli James, Phyllis Otto, Layla Race, James Welch

Anniversaries: Steve & Shirley Saphos

Thursday, March 26

2 Corinthians 3:7-18 *And where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.* (v.17)

Joe is being released from prison at age 65, after serving five years. He spoke to our Kairos Prison Ministry group and thanked us for helping him find “total freedom” for the first time in his life, even though he was behind bars. Joe doesn’t know it, but he beat the statistics that show only one person in 500,000 becomes a Christian at age 65.

How did Joe do it? He didn’t, but the Holy Spirit did. Joe came to prison for abusing his family. A high school drop-out, he drank a lot and held modest jobs as farm hand and janitor.

In prison, Joe immediately became a father-figure to the 70 men in his cellblock, whose average age was 22. Previously nobody ever sought advice from Joe or wanted Joe’s opinion or his help. Now, all the younger men were asking him deep, intimate, spiritual questions. Joe was “somebody.”

Joe began to attend church and Bible study. The hard heart he brought to prison began to soften, and he became free to be the man God wanted him to be. He listened and told others.

Exodus 7:25—8:19; Psalms 131, 132, 133; Mark 10:17-31

Birthdays: Kris Crosby, Shiree Hinds, Micha Mitchell, Lawrie Platt Hall, Jeff Staneff

Anniversaries: Brentley & Paige Romine

Friday, March 27

2 Corinthians 4:1-12 *But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us.* (v.7)

There are many “causes” in this world: social, political, environmental, economic, and religious. As Christians, we pursue the “cause of Christ” which under girds all other causes.

I wish I had understood this earlier in life, when conquering the world and becoming rich was my “cause.” Had I understood the cause of Christ, I would not have been so reckless in my first business, 30 years ago.

If we are serious about the cause of Christ, I believe he gives us reality-checks and wake-up calls along the way. My first reality-check was a brush with death 30 years ago, a taste of bankruptcy five years later. I re-set my compass on Christ and had a 25 year long run of steady business success.

Ultimately a minister friend nudged me to sell the business and serve the cause of Christ. I waffled until God got my attention through another illness and I decided to sell my business, pursuing the “cause of Christ” more actively.

Exodus 9:13-35; Psalm 22; Mark 10:32-45

Birthdays: Perry Nies, Ryan Plumley

Saturday, March 28

2 Corinthians 4:13-18 *For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.* (v.15)

Very dear Jewish friends invited us to a political reception for a lawyer who wants to run for Congress. We anguished over going. We probably would not know anybody. There were far more qualified candidates for Congress. But it was clear that we had to respond to a heartfelt invitation from dear friends.

I kept wondering what the Lord wanted me to accomplish. Finally the opportunity came, just as the reception was ending.

The daughter of our hosts had undergone serious cancer surgery several years ago. She was totally cured. Although I had never met her, I prayed actively for her, carrying a card in my pocket with her name on it. Suddenly she appeared at the party. Her parents introduced me as the man who prayed for her healing, even though I did not know her. She joyfully shared the story of my prayers with several other Jewish people in the group. It was suddenly clear why God wanted me there.

Exodus 10:21—11:8; Psalms 137, 144; Mark 10:46-52

Birthdays: Marilyn Burke, Quinley Felton, Gabriella Gauthier, Dan Jeancola,

Daryl Pulido, Michael Shaw, Mary Walther

Anniversaries: Luc & Bonnie Burkhardt

by Laird Mortimer

Used with permission from the BIBLE READING FELLOWSHIP

P. O. Box 380, Winter Park, FL 32790

www.biblereading.org