



GOSPEL FOR FEBRUARY 2022

Luke 2:22-40

OTHER READINGS

Malachi 3:1-4. Hebrews 2:14-18

MONTHLY EXAMEN

We invite you to prayerfully reflect:

Presence

Become aware that God's presence is active at each moment of your life, looking at you with love, desirous of speaking directly to your heart.

How do you feel at this moment?

Ask

Ask God for the grace to see the ways God is working in your life.

Gratitude

Be grateful. Thank God for the gifts, both big and small of the day.

What are you most grateful for today?

Review

Trust that God is with you at each moment of day, during the good and challenging moments. God never abandons you.

What were the good moments of today?

What were the greatest challenges of today?

Respond

You are not stuck. Tomorrow is a new day. Ask God to give you the grace to be the loving and generous person you were created to be.

What can you do tomorrow to be more generous and loving?

Conclude with the Sign of the Cross.

SPIRITUAL COMPANIONS

Sometimes our prayers are not just between us and God. This is made clear in a famous story from the Gospel of Mark, in which a paralyzed man's friends were trying to bring him to Jesus to ask for healing. But there was a big problem: a thick crowd of people prevented them from getting to the door of the house where Jesus was staying.

Fortunately, they didn't give up. They carried the man up to the roof of the house, broke a hole through it, and lowered him down to Jesus inside! Can you imagine what it would have been like for Jesus to be sitting in the living room talking to the crowd, and suddenly being scared out of his wits when part of the roof caved in? But instead of being angry, Jesus is impressed with their faith. He forgives the man's sins and heals him on the spot, all because of the determination of his friends.

Like the paralyzed man, we all go through times when we find it difficult to approach God. The spiritual obstacles of fear, shame, doubt, or suffering prevent us from seeing that God loves us and wants to heal us. It is in those moments that other people can "carry" us to God by their encouragement and support. Who are the people in your life that have helped you and stuck up for you in a time of need? Who are the people that you yourself have helped? Tell God "thanks" for putting them in your life.

*Rob L., Jesuit Scholastic at Cizek Hall,
Fordham University*





SEA OF SERENITY

Have you ever looked up at the moon and wondered how it got there? Scientists over the years have tried to figure it out. Most of them now believe that the moon was created by a huge collision between Earth and a smaller planet, a long time before humans were around. This collision sent trillions of shattered little rocks into space. Gravity eventually clumped these rocks together to form the moon.

It's a very good thing this happened. A lot of those same scientists believe that without the moon, we would not be here! This is because the moon's presence over time makes the Earth more stable. Without it, our planet might have wobbled around too much, and the temperature would have kept flipping between too hot and too cold for humans to exist.

Isn't it interesting that the moon was created in the violence of a collision, but it still managed to create calm and stability on Earth? In a similar way, we humans experience times of great difficulty that can suddenly knock us off our feet and change the course of our lives. But it is the slow and steady work of God to bring us peace and confidence in the face of chaos.

So, the next time you look up at the moon, may it remind you of God's love, faithfulness, and constant companionship.

*Rob L., Jesuit Scholastic at Ciszek Hall,
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THRIVE FOR LIFE PARTNERS WITH CATHOLIC CHARITIES BROOKLYN AND QUEENS

Thrive For Life and Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens (CCBQ) are excited to announce a new partnership to support the families affected by incarceration in the Diocese of Brooklyn, which includes the boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens.

Thanks to the generosity of CCBQ, Thrive For Life has hired a full-time Coordinator of Spiritual Care. With the parishes of Brooklyn and Queens, the Coordinator of Spiritual Care has started to reach out to families affected by incarceration to raise awareness of the spiritual accompaniment that Thrive For Life provides behind and beyond prison walls.

Starting in Lent, Thrive For Life will provide retreats and prayer services to families with loved ones behind walls. These events will include activities for children to assure that the little ones also receive the support they need. CCBQ will provide a large network of services including affordable housing, emergency and food assistance, homelessness prevention, senior programs, youth and young adult services, and behavioral health.



BECOME A RESIDENT SCHOLAR AT IGNACIO HOUSE OF STUDIES!

If you are passionate about your education and wish to continue your academic journey post-release, we urge you to consider becoming a Resident Scholar at Thrive For Life's Ignacio House of Studies.

At Ignacio House, we offer transitional supportive housing along with a holistic suite of services for formerly incarcerated students, to help them find a sense of purpose and overcome barriers to employment, permanent housing, and education. If you are interested in joining us, please send us the following:

- † Full name,
- † DIN number,
- † Current college you are enrolled in and/or where you will study post-release,
- † Contact information for college/university where you will study.

Please see our contact information at the top of this page.