



Daily Devotional Readings, Parish Prayers, and Parish Birthdays and Anniversaries November 1, 2026 – November 7, 2026

Good News Daily Devotional Readings

Sunday, November 1

Matthew 18:21-35 *“Lord, how many times may my brother sin against me, and I forgive him and let it go? As many as up to seven times?”* (v.21 AMP)

Seven times? I relate to that. We can try seven times in our own strength, but we need God if we are going to accomplish lasting forgiveness as an act of love! In Scripture we are told to love the Lord and our neighbor as ourselves. We are ever in the process of learning how to love God and others. And all of us experience difficult times with people.

I well remember a difficult time with a person in my life. In my mind I was not at fault, so for a time I played the role of victim. I tried the “seven times.” I even thought this was the cross I had to bear in life. I did want a solution, so I finally asked the Holy Spirit what to do. He showed me that I was very busy protecting myself, and regardless of how I thought I was being treated, I must forgive to be free.

I asked the Lord for forgiveness for the resentment I had in my heart. Resentment had grown into bitterness and even hatred. Forgiveness takes time. I had doubting moments, as resentment would come again to my mind. I discovered a simple “Thank You, Lord; You have forgiven me,” and I was obedient. Many months later my friend apologized.

Ezekiel 20:18-26; Psalms 24, 29; 1 Corinthians 12:27—13:13

Birthdays: Mary Clark, Joshua Martinez

Anniversaries:

Monday, November 2

Luke 12:49-59 *“I have come to cast fire upon the earth, and how I wish that it were already kindled!”* (v.49)

Well, a fire can destroy or it can cleanse. God has said, “In the world you will have tribulation, be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” So, discord will come even in our homes, because of people like you and me. Under the skin we all have the same sin of wanting our own way every chance we get.

God is faithfully working for change in our lives. We had many troubled times in our home as our children grew up expressing their wills. We needed God’s view to walk in His Spirit, who gives light, love, wisdom, and common sense. We did learn together the hard way. One thing we knew, we as parents needed to change—not just our children. This was a family affair. God loves us too much to let us go our own ways—a parent’s role is much the same.

We needed help, which we sought, and we resisted some of the help, but we did persevere and helped each other. So, we cheered up, laughed at ourselves, and gave God thanks for His care and the knowledge He was working everything together for His good. Our two children today have shared with us three grandsons, and we are thankful always for the strong relationships we have together. And, most of all is love. Thank You, Lord, for Your refining fire.

Ezekiel 20:27-44; Psalms 56, 57, 58; Revelation 14:1-13

Birthdays: Lisa Clemons, Jeffrey Lanham, Eva Gray Llana

Anniversaries:

Tuesday, November 3

Luke 13:1-9 *“Unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.”* (v.3)

In this passage, Jesus declares how the kingdom of God works. It is not by doing works of sacrifice that we are in the kingdom. God has made the way to reconciliation with Him by giving His Son to come to earth to live as a human being totally dependent on the Holy Spirit to do the Father’s will, which in the end was the death on the

cross. In the garden, on the night before his death, Jesus asked that this cup be taken from him, but said “Not my will, but the will of my Father.” It was not the painful death he found hard, but the separation of relationship with God, the Father.

Jesus took my sins and yours onto his body. God initiated that great love and way to reconciliation with Him. My part is to respond. In today’s lesson the Lord makes it very clear how we respond: “I tell you...unless you repent—[that is, change your mind for the better and heartily amend your ways with abhorrence of your past sins]—you will all likewise perish and be lost [eternally].”

However we express it, we need to come to him. My husband in coming to Christ said simply, “I’ve heard you are in the life changing business. Here’s one, have at it!”

Simple, but repentant, he gave his will to a God of love, who initiated reconciliation.

Ezekiel 24:1-14; Psalms 61, 62; Revelation 14:14—15:8

Birthdays: Maverick Rodriguez, Angie Souder

Anniversaries:

Wednesday, November 4

Luke 13:10-17 *When Jesus saw her, he called [her to him] and said to her, “Woman, you are released from your infirmity!”* (v.12)

This healing on the Sabbath is a short story filled with God’s grace and love.

As Jesus was teaching on the Sabbath, he saw a woman twisted and bent. He laid hands on her; suddenly she was tall and straight, recognized the Lord Jesus Christ, and gave glory to him. What followed was concern about breaking rules rather than rejoicing in the miracle. It seems easier to follow our many man-made rules than to trust God.

I remember a funny situation as a new believer in Christ Jesus. I lacked understanding of God’s grace, so I was very quick to follow the rules so people would see that I could behave in the right ways. One Sunday, during the service I noticed that around me no one had red polish on their nails as I did. I clenched my hands into tight fists to hide my nails. Howard, my husband, observed this and asked, “What are you doing?” I responded, “I’m hiding my nails. I don’t think I should have polish on my nails.” His response was, “Well, if you are hiding them from people you are doing a good job, but if you are hiding them from God, guess what? He sees them.”

Set us free, Lord, from our infirmities!

Ezekiel 26:1-14; Psalm 72; Revelation 16:1-11

Birthdays: Seth Michot

Anniversaries:

Thursday, November 5

Luke 13:18-30 *“What is the kingdom of God like? And to what shall I compare it?”* (v.18)

One of my favorite quotes is this: “It takes God a hundred years to make a good solid oak, only six weeks to make a squash.” It is appropriate here as Jesus answers the question above. The kingdom of God is His life in us. It is like a mustard seed planted and becoming a tree strong enough for bird nests or like bread rising strong by the yeast. He is the one who causes good solid growth and expands our life to be on the heavenly plane.

“Lord, will only a few be saved?” He replied, “Strive to enter by the narrow door.” In other words, put your mind on your life with God. The way to God is vigorous and requires your total attention.

A friend explained to me Revelation 3:20. She reminded me of that old familiar picture which shows Jesus standing at the door knocking and there is no doorknob on the outside. The doorknob is on the inside, and the door is my will, and I had to be willing to invite him in. I was not a puppet—I had free will. I responded in willingness, because I wanted to know this God of love and forgiveness.

And the kingdom of God entered my life and I sat down at God’s salvation banquet. Since that time, I have been in the process of being made a solid Christian, and I have had many rips on the road, but I do keep turning to God and am growing up in Him.

Ezekiel 29:17-21; Psalms 70, 71; Revelation 16:12-21

Birthdays: Lawrence Bondari, Raquel Davila, Hattie Martin, Jeff Prevost, Sara Stellges

Anniversaries:

Friday, November 6

Luke 13:31-35 *"I tell you, you will not see me again until...you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.'"* (v.35)

Jesus felt such sorrow for Jerusalem, even in the warnings from the Pharisees telling him to leave because Herod wanted to kill him. He ignored their advice and said, "Go and tell that fox (not an endearing word!), I drive out demons and perform healings today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my course."

Now, how are we when we share the love of God with others? Do we stand as Jesus did in the face of fearful warnings, or do we let fear take over? Are we concerned about being about our Father's business: to walk in the light of His word and be obedient to His will? Do we truly love with His love—continually caring and loving—in spite of refusal from people? Are we more concerned about ourselves than others?

Everything that Jesus Christ did on this earth was done with great power because he said, "I have no power of my own, it is from the Father." The same Holy Spirit we have is the one he depended on! So, I depend upon him who said, "Without me, you can do nothing." And that becomes something in his power!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Amen!

Ezekiel 12:12-28; Psalm 69; Revelation 17:1-18

Birthdays:

Anniversaries:

Saturday, November 7

Luke 14:1-11 *"For every one who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."* (v.11)

I really enjoy dinner parties with pleasant conversation around a delightful meal. I dislike interrupting the time together by moving away from the table, so we often have long times around the table.

The Lord enjoyed food and conversation as the Bible records many visits in homes, at weddings, and always with a variety of people. His table conversation in this passage was uncomfortably direct. First, he brought up healing on Sunday and the Pharisees responded with silence. Next he talked about trying to sit at the place of honor at the table and suggested all sit in the lowest place or the host may move you. Then the Lord brought up a third bad item for discussion. He suggested to the host that in the future he might not just invite friends, family, and rich neighbors, but some who never get invited.

We have this idea of what can and can't be said to have a pleasant time. We need to pray with every invitation that the Lord Jesus reign in our lives and that our words be edited with his love! And he will bless.

Ezekiel 13:1-16; Psalms 75, 76; Revelation 18:1-14

Birthdays: Tom Galvin, Everett Gutierrez

Anniversaries:

by Barbara Ball

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Collect: Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord: Give us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those ineffable joys that you have prepared for those who truly love you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

Prayer: God of faithful surprises, throughout the ages you have made known your love and power in unexpected ways and places: May we daily perceive the joy and wonder of your abiding presence and offer our lives in gratitude for our redemption. *Amen.*

Parish Prayer Requests

Pray for: St. Nicholas', Spring Branch

Pray for our weekly intercessions: Pray for All Saints', Pleasanton; and the Eastern Partners in Ministry.

Pray for our parishioners: Travis Kiker*, Brandi Woehler*, Nancy Priest*, Christopher Weaver*, Dolores Jones*, Bob Thompson*, Helen Lynch*, Caroline Barnett*, John Throop*, Geoffrey Martin*, Jon Swanson*, Tom Braley*, Martin Wizorek*, Katherine Turner*, Karen Rhodes*, Tom Foster*, Martha Hubby*, Beverly & Charlie Hamlett*, Alma & Patrick Garcia*, Terry and Linda Francis*, Ed & Angela Springer*, Kathryn Woehler*, John Worthington*, Rodney & Catherine Gillespie*, *Randy Meriwether, Byrne & Stephanie Cady, Judy Thompson, Cora Beckcom, Art Roch, Beverly Wheeler, Carol Ann Britt, Kate Benne, Patti Evans, Bob Andrews, Lisa Drozdick, Beth Turner

Pray for those who have served and are serving in our Armed Forces.

Pray for those who have died.

Pray for family & friends:

Richard Needham* - *brother of Sue Needham*
Robbie Branco* - *former parent of STES student*
Greg Norz & Cari Woolf Norz* - *family of Frank Woolf*
Tami Perez* - *daughter of Beverly Wheeler*
Rusty Felter* - *father of Matt Felter*
Peter Brazy* - *friend of Kathy Lathrop*
Kathy Rieth* - *friend of Kathy Lathrop*
Ayla Marie Clark* - *daughter of Mary & Ed Clark*
Catherine Armitage* - *niece of Mary & Ed Clark*
Helen Richt* - *aunt of The Cady Family*
Jan Deines* - *sister of Carol Keith*
Tanya Lemons* - *daughter of Terry Francis*
Raquel Davila* - *sister-in-law of Rick & Amanda Rodriguez*
Cathy Cole-Perez* - *parent of Greg & Lizzie Perez*
Ed Bateman* - *son of Barbara Baugh*
Russell Schlicher* - *brother of Dan Schlicher*
April Hancock* - *friend of John Throop*
Lauren Huerster* - *friend of Karin Anderson*
Eric Knight* - *friend of the Lynch Family*
Larry Lathrop* - *brother-in-law of Kathy Lathrop*
George & Darcy Needham* - *family of Sue Needham*
Scott Simon* - *parent of STES student*
Erin, Shelby, & Aria Ball* - *family of Sherry West*
Rylynn Rodger* - *friend of St. Thomas*
Charles Rueve* - *father of Lisa Nelson*
Lena* - *daughter-in-law of Nancy Leming*
Marcie Aduddell* - *friend of The Slavich Family*
Kristie Miller - *friend of St. Thomas*
Janet Deyong - *friend of The Beckcom Family*
Nancy Pittman - *friend of Sue Rathbone*
Peter Holdren - *friend of St. Thomas*

Don Gabriel - *friend of Mary Wells*
Brian Brown & Family - *friends of Maria Weaver*
Makenna - *friend of St. Thomas*
Mike Baird - *friend of The Lukefahr Family*
Bobby Garza - *friend of John & Carol Keith*
Bob Coffman - *friend of Stephanie Cady*
Patricia Adams - *friend of John & Carol Keith*
Chris & Denise - *son & daughter-in-law of Mary Wells*
The Greer Family - *friend of Gretchen Benne*
Mateo & Iliana - *children of Debby Gil*
Lill - *friend of Mary Carter*
Diana & George Geis - *parents of Mallory Geis*
Lori Klein - *friend of Robert & Chloe Seiler*
Carolyn Reynolds - *sister of Linda Albrecht*
Chip Valosio - *brother of Linda Albrecht*
Roger Olson - *friend of Wayne Stoeber*
Al Rath - *friend of Wayne Stoeber*
The Bianco Family - *friends of Wayne Stoeber*
Kalen Alvarez - *friend of St. Thomas*
Renee Benson - *friend of St. Thomas*
Olivia Dzurovcik - *friend of Gretchen Benne*
Tom & Karen Keck - *family of Gretchen Benne*
Alison Adams' Friends & Family - *friends of Gretchen Benne*
Mai Wang - *friend of The Drozdick Family*
Ryan Robertson - *grandson of Linda Albrecht*
Susan & James Todd - *parents of Lucinda Todd*
Daniel Holger - *friend of Bob Andrews*
Allyson Hoidoo - *friend of St. Thomas*
Iam Morris - *friend of St. Thomas*
Carlos Quintana - *friend of St. Thomas*

To submit names to the Prayer List, email stthomaschurch@tom1604.org. Please indicate whether the person is a parishioner, family member, or friend and if they should remain on our long-term prayer list or short-term prayer list.