

MORNING MEDITATION

Monday, Second Week of Advent

Gratitude is a profound feeling that nurtures your soul.

Isaiah 35:1-10

Isaiah shares his vision of extraordinary prosperity and peace. Yahweh will deliver his people from bondage and restore them to their original dignity and glory. God will break in and usher in new beginnings...the blind will see, the deaf will hear, the lame will walk, the dumb will speak.... great and wonderful things will happen because God is breaking in. So, be strong and trust in God and wait in hope!

Psalms 85

**Kindness and truth shall meet;
Justice and peace shall kiss.
Truth shall spring out of the earth,
And justice shall look down from heaven.....**

Luke 5:17-26

This is the story of the paralyzed man who was lowered through the roof by his friends because there was no other way to bring him before Jesus. The paralyzed man was saved by his friends! The man was paralyzed, and his friends cared.

Reflect on various kinds of paralysis that need healing! Reflect on what caring friends can do to bring about healing! Reflect on what you can do to bring someone to Christ for healing, for forgiveness, for compassion, for a transformation of life!

Nothing stopped his friends from bringing the paralyzed man to Jesus!

What stops you from bringing yourself or someone else to Christ or may be, just a little closer to Christ? Reflect on going up the roof and coming down through the roof in front of Jesus in the middle of the crowd! What does it mean for your life?

Many of us are saved by the faith of those who love us. We owe much to the faith and love of those who really cared. BE GRATEFUL! Prayerfully remember those precious influences in your own personal life that brought you to Christ, that brought you closer to Christ, that still calls you to come closer!

Saint of the Day, December 6 - St. Nicholas and 7 other saints are remembered this day.

Tradition tells us that Nicholas was born on March 15, 270 in Myra, Asia Minor (now Turkey), and died on December 6, 343. Very little is known about the historical Saint Nicholas. The earliest accounts of his life were written centuries after his death and contain many legendary elaborations.

According to a legend, when Nicholas was a baby and his parents brought him to Church to be baptized, he jumped eagerly into the water. A story is told about a man who was so poor that he could no longer buy food for his family. He was going to sell his daughters into slavery so they wouldn't starve. Bishop Nicholas found out about this. So, at night he tossed three bags of gold into their house through a window. Other early stories tell of him calming a storm at sea, saving three innocent soldiers from wrongful execution, and chopping down a tree possessed by a demon. In his youth, he is said to have made a pilgrimage to Egypt and the Palestine area. Shortly after his return, he became Bishop of Myra. He was later cast into prison during the persecution of Diocletian, but was released after the accession of Constantine.

Although we know very little about the historical Nicholas, the legends speak of his generosity as well as eagerness to follow the way of Jesus. He challenges us to reflect on how eager we are today to plunge into the waters of Baptism and follow the way of Jesus and how generous we are with the many blessings we have received from the Lord.

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