

Forever In My Sight

Daily Gospel Reading and Reflection

"I hold that the Gospel is the body of Christ and the Scriptures are His teachings. The words of JESUS: 'One who eats my body and drinks my blood' (John 6:54) can be understood to mean the mystery (Eucharistic) and also, as that true body and blood of Christ that is the word of Scripture... The Word of GOD is that flesh and that blood of Christ that enters within us through listening."

Saint Jerome

We are called to have the Heart of Mary toward JESUS. The Heart of Mary is never, and has never been for one moment, separated from the Heart of JESUS. Their Hearts are forever turned toward the other, beating forever as one.

The Blessed Virgin Mary is "...portrayed by Luke as a woman whose **primary and typical occupation is pondering the Word of GOD in her heart.**" Thomas Dubay S.M.

You are invited, in imitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, to keep JESUS forever in your sight and in your heart, by reading three chapters of the Gospels daily with the following **Thirty Day Gospel Reading Plan...**

Thirty Day Gospel Reading Plan

<u>Day</u>	<u>Morning</u>	<u>Daytime</u>	<u>Evening</u>
1	<u>Matthew</u> 1	2	3
2	4	5	6
3	7	8	9
4	10	11	12
5	13	14	15
6	16	17	18
7	19	20	21
8	22	23	24
9	25	26	27
10	28	<u>Mark</u> 1	2
11	3	4	5
12	6	7	8
13	9	10	11
14	12	13	14
15	15	16	<u>Luke</u> 1

<u>Day</u>	<u>Morning</u>	<u>Daytime</u>	<u>Evening</u>
16	2	3	4
17	5	6	7
18	8	9	10
19	11	12	13
20	14	15	16
21	17	18	19
22	20	21	22
23	23	24	<u>John 1</u>
24	2	3	4
25	5	6	7
26	8	9	10
27	11	12	13
28	14	15	16
29	17	18	19
30	20	21	

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NOTE: You may find the **Gospel Reading Plan** is made easier by traditional Jewish prayer practices of 1. silently mouthing the words of the scriptures and following them with your finger as you read, and of 2. standing and swaying in prayer. The ritual of swaying - in worship and in reading scriptures - either from side to side, or forward and back, can help you to concentrate upon the readings and intensify your devotion (even to ecstasy). "When a Jew utters one word of Torah, the light in his soul is kindled... and he sways to and fro like the flame of a candle." From 'The Zohar'.

The Gospel Commentary

You are also invited to **reflect upon the Gospels verse by verse** by using a **Gospel Commentary** as daily spiritual reading.

The goal is not just to read, but to **ponder** what you are reading - so that, over time, your life of spiritual communion with JESUS will be grounded, not on mystical graces, but upon your **knowledge** of the Lord JESUS in the Word of GOD, for you cannot love someone you do not know.

You are exhorted "...first to know Him rather than to enjoy Him: for love comes of truth known and the grace of enlightenment is of more value than the greatest grace of sweetness and consolation. Truth remains but sentiment passes." Saint Peter Julian Eymard

So take a Gospel Commentary with you **wherever** you go and let the stories of JESUS fuel your contemplation and love as you go about your day. They will be a continual source of inspiration and conversation with JESUS as you walk and talk with Him in the paradise of your heart.

" A single human thought is worth more than the whole world; hence, GOD alone is worthy of being its subject."

Saint John of the Cross

Some Suggested Commentaries

" **The Catholic Commentary on Sacred Scripture** is an ideal tool for living our faith more deeply. This extraordinary resource combines superior scholarship and a vivid, accessible style that will serve the interested layperson and the serious scholar equally well. It feeds both the mind and the heart and should be on the shelf of every committed Catholic believer." Charles J. Chaput, OFM Cap, Archbishop of Denver Published by Baker Academic

The Better Part is a great commentary/meditation upon all four gospels in one volume. It's like hearing a little homily on each passage of scripture. " Without the daily renewal and deepening of your personal relationship with Jesus Christ that happens especially through meditation, sooner or later routine sets in. You get into a rut. Your prayers get mechanical, your sacramental life slides into hollow ritualism, and before you know it, your faith gets sidelined and you get dragged back into the rat race in some form or other. The daily meditation keeps your faith, that pearl of great price, lively, supple, and relevant. It irrigates the soil of your soul, making your sacramental life more fruitful, keeping your other prayer commitments meaningful, and continually opening up new vistas along the path to spiritual maturity." From the Introduction. By John Bartunek, LC. Published by Circle Press

The Daily Study Bible is a New Testament Commentary recommended by the late great Catholic Archbishop Fulton Sheen. The author is a Protestant - Dr William Barclay (1907-1978) - Professor of Divinity and Biblical Criticism at Glasgow University in Scotland, U.K. To use this multiple volume commentary, you have to be able to navigate through some Catholic-v-Protestant doctrinal waters - but it is a wonderful commentary for 'the man in the street' - that has been loved by millions of readers both Protestant *and* Catholic. Dr Barclay's deep love and reverence for the Lord JESUS Christ will inflame your own soul with a fire of love and apostolic fervor in the service of Christ the King. Published by The Saint Andrew Press

In Conversation With God is a popular commentary published by Scepter. This set of seven books provides meditations for every day of the year on the readings from the daily Mass. It provides spiritual direction for daily Christian living.

The Orthodox Study Bible: New Testament & Psalms. "For the first time, English-speaking Orthodox Christians have an edition of the New Testament and Psalms that offers bible study aids written from the Orthodox perspective. Prepared under the direction of canonical Orthodox theologians and hierarchs, The Orthodox Study Bible presents a remarkable combination of historic theological insights and practical instruction in Christian living..." A New Testament Bible Commentary to read on your knees in awe at the beauty of Orthodoxy - but you won't be able to stay there for long before you're leaping and dancing and praising GOD!

NOTE: Whether you prefer the old 'King James' or the 'Message', choose a bible version that, to read it is the "...joy and the happiness of your heart"
cf:Jeremiah 15:16.

"Your reward for one year of thinking about Me in your mind will be greater in heaven than it would be for one hundred years of vocal prayer." JESUS to Margery Kempe - Anchorite