

## Covenant Life

- Our next in-person Gathering is a week from today, Sunday February 12<sup>th</sup> at **3pm** continuing the pattern of meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays.
- Click [HERE](#) to RSVP for our Golden Jubilee Celebration on March 25-26 at MSM and to order new CCGD Logo shirts (orders must be placed by Feb 12<sup>th</sup> to ensure delivery before the event).
- If you were unable to attend our last prayer meeting, you can listen to the audio [here](#), and read the Word Gift summary [here](#) and the transcript [here](#).
- Your ongoing financial support to the Community is sincerely appreciated. Please donate online [here](#) or mail your donations to P.O. Box 225008 Dallas, Tx 75222.
- **NOVENA**: We are preparing for our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a **nine-week novena** to pray, meditate, and discern what God is asking of us going forward. Try to spend quality time daily praying and reflecting, attentive to prophetic words. We want the Lord to reveal His plan for us in this time, individually and as a Community. **This week's topic is Jesus Renews Hearts!**
  - The attached meditation provides questions, scriptures, and prayers to pray and meditate upon. Please join in asking our Lord to reveal Himself to us, to speak to us, and to make His Will known to us.
  - Do not worry if you fall behind or miss a day, each day is a new invitation from the Lord to turn to Him, and "*His mercies are made new each morning*" Lm. 3:22. Consider just ONE of the Scriptures and ONE bullet point and respond with your own prayer. God is not looking at the number of our prayers, but our hearts turned to Him.
  - If you know someone who is without email, consider printing a copy and visiting them so we can all be united in seeing the Lord and please continue prayers for Gretchen and the Jubilee team.

Today in the readings Jesus issues a call for us to be **salt** and **light**. Reflecting upon this and knowing how essential salt was for physical food preservation, Jesus is being clear about our ultimate mission of making God known through our daily words and actions during our short time on earth. We will have eternity to spend with Him but our lives today are about making Him known! The last verse of the [Gospel](#) is so clear "*Your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.*" That's it. This is what we are called

to, as Christians and as members of the Christian Community of God's Delight...to be salt...loving and meeting the practical needs of our sisters and brothers...to be light...living virtuous lives and sharing our love for God and one other...that shines brightly on the One who love us first!

The [First Reading](#) provides practical ways we do this by exhorting us to share, shelter, and clothe. It details the promise of light that will accompany our selfless attention to others. The [Responsorial Psalm](#) continues this theme with its exhortation to be upright, gracious, merciful, firm, trusting, and steadfast. By cultivating these virtues and giving to the poor promise that we will be a light in the darkness.

Hearing these words and reflecting on them I was tempted to focus on the times that I do not show these attributes. Am I selfless with others? Do I shelter and clothe others? Am I a light to those around me through what I do and say? It can be a humbling reflection. But as I prayed about this I was drawn back to the our Jubilee meditation and the promise that Jesus Saves! This is where the first scripture from [Ezekiel \(36:25-28\)](#) was so powerful: *"I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my spirit within you, and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances. Then you shall live in the land that I gave to your ancestors; and you shall be my people, and I will be your God."* What a powerful promise that we can remind ourselves of over and over, especially when we are feeling down or that we have let our Lord down. He is begging us to allow Him to be our Savior and cleanse us and give us His heart, His Spirit, so that we can again be His people!

*"Heavenly Father, we are so grateful that You took our stony hearts and transformed them into new hearts of flesh. You have set us free in so many ways and continually cleanse and heal our sinful hearts through your Holy Spirit. Come, Lord, we invite You to reveal to us today the areas where our hearts have grown*

*hard. Renew my heart and the heart of our Community that we may walk in the unity and love of Your Holy Spirit, following wherever You lead. Jesus, we trust in You!"*

God Bless,  
David