

I am going to reflect on the Bible verse of the day: Isaiah 60:1.

Isaiah 60:1, “Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.”

Let’s reflect. What does this mean for all of God’s children?

It’s time for us to shine. It’s time for us to come out of our shells and let the Holy Spirit guide us. It’s time for us to shine as bright as the Lord allows us to.

No more fear holding us back. No more self doubt. No more hiding in the shadows.

Let’s shine bright as stars and make our God proud.

-MERCEDES

Faces in the sky

Throughout my life, I always thought, I was being watched, and I didn’t know why. Until I looked up and saw the faces in the sky.

The first face I saw was close but far. It was a face of an angel my mother the bright and shining star

The second face I seen was just like the first it’s was the face of my father of strength and wealth.

The last face I saw was one who looked like god full of salvation, who’s light shined so fare.

Jesus, is his name. He’s the great I am. Since I accepted him as my true savior nothing stayed the same

I write this short poem because he’s my savior I’m truly not ashamed, for what ever I’m in need I receive by calling on Jesus
Amen

-RODNEY SMALL

Life is full of misery and trouble,
And to get out of this you must struggle.
For there is a long way to go,
And lots to undergo.
Before you can finally go to bed,
And not worry about anything ahead.
go ahead follow your dream
leave the trouble behind in your sleep
live every day like it’s your last
treat others like you want to be treated
that’s all God ever ask for.

- HENRY YEE



Drawing by Khari

Blessing hit different when you stay in the lanes that god has created for you. It’s okay to feel the weight of life and still trust god. Faith doesn’t erase the struggle, it gives us the strength to endure it. Hold on even when it is hard. He’s holding you too. Don’t be anxious about anything, but in every situation? By prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to god (Philippians 4:6)

Jesus loves me. Yes I know. For the Bible tells me so. In my life, I try my best to wear a smile when possible because god wants the best for me and all of his children. I had some moments of self-discovery and began to read self-help books along with the King James Version of the holy bible.

There are four principles of real self-care in this life. First, you should set boundaries with others. You should change how you talk to yourself. You should bring in what matters most to you. Lastly you should use your powers and use it for good. Try to be positive and help others when possible. Spread love whenever possible. Let’s enjoy the remainder of this summer season.

-ZOE SIMMONS

STREET VOICES

St. Francis Breadline
Franciscan Bread for the Poor
COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

V5 N34 ■ AUGUST 2025

If you have any content to share for our newsletter please see one of the breadline staff. **We are in need of content such as a poem, lyrics, writing, thoughts, questions, image of your artwork or anything uplifting or informative.** Anyone who contributes content for our newsletter will receive a \$10 gift card.

The St. Francis Breadline and this publication is made possible by the Our Lady of Guadalupe.

FRANCISCAN 360 IS OPEN!

WHAT: Case Management, Computer Access, Mailing Address, Health Clinic

WHERE: 144 W. 32nd Street

WHEN: Monday - Thursday, 9am - 4pm
Scheduled appointments only on Friday from 9am - 4pm

WHO: All are welcome!

NEW: Art and Guitar classes, Work space available
Tuesday 9am - 11am

Good morning! This week we have writing from Rhyan Scorpio- Rhys, writing from Jane Farmer, a reflection on the verse of the day from Mercedes, writing from Sawanda Stewart, writing from Rodney Wise, poetry from Henry Yee, writing from Rodney Small, poetry from Gregory Spears, writing from Zoe Simmons, artwork from Khari and Lola Derrick

Nahum 1:7

*The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble.
He cares for those who trust in him.*

Be the first person to correctly answer all three trivia questions and win a gift card.

Who is Sylvester Stewart?

Who is Rogers Nelson?

Who is Stevland Hardaway Judkins?

Answers to last weeks trivia questions

Who is Paul David Hewson? Bono

Who is Robert Allen Zimmerman? Bob Dylan

Who is Farookh Bulsara? Freddy Mercury

❄️ The Last Call ❄️

Ho! everyone who thirst, come to the waters; and you who has no money come, buy and eat. Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. Why do you spend money for what is not bread, and wages for what does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourself in abundance. ISAIAH 55:1-2.

You know people today are tied up more in to what the world has to offer them. Don’t get me wrong Social security, retirement and all this other stuff are somewhat important. But, it’s not going to last long in the END. The only thing that is going to last is the WORD OF GOD. “Heaven and earth shall pass away but my words shall not pass away”. God supplies all my needs according to His riches and Glory”. Stop looking at the next politician, or Congressman. Waiting for them to fulfill their broken promises. Worried about who is sitting in the “White House” chair. You’re waiting for their next move to make you feel better. “Trust in the Lord with ALL your HEART.”

- RODNEY WISE

The Man Who Asked the Right Question (in Two Voices)

[Voice 1 — The Man on the Curb]

I was sitting on the curb outside the shelter, head in my hands, trying to keep the world small enough to survive. People passed. One said, “You should really get into a program.” Another: “You just have to stay positive.” Someone else rattled off a list of places I could go for help. They meant well. But all their words slid right off me like rain on a tarp.

[Voice 2 — The Man Who Stopped]

I’ve been that shape before. When people see you like that, they usually come in with a plan—directions, lectures, fixes. It’s not that they don’t care. They just don’t know where to start. I learned the hard way: you don’t start with advice. You start with a door. And for me, that door has always been a question.

[Voice 1]

Then this guy stopped. Didn’t hand me anything. Didn’t launch into a sermon. He just sat down—not too close, but close enough to mean it.

[Voice 2]

I asked, “What happened to you?” Not what’s wrong with you. Not why are you here. Just—What happened.

[Voice 1]

It was like the words didn’t fit at first. Nobody asks you that. Not like they want to hear the real answer. But he waited. And I told him. About the eviction notice, the layoff, the surgery I couldn’t pay for, the family that stopped answering the phone. Things I hadn’t said to anyone.

[Voice 2]

I didn’t interrupt. Didn’t try to fix it. When he finished, I just said, “That’s a lot for one person to carry alone.” Because it was. And I knew saying it out loud matters.

[Voice 1]

That was it. No miracle. No overnight solution. But it was the first time in months someone had seen me as a person with a story instead of a problem to solve.

[Voice 2]

I’ve been in enough holes to know—sometimes you can’t pull someone out in a day. But you can climb down far enough to let them know they’re not alone in the dark. That’s why I asked. Because someone once asked me.

[Voice 1]

And I guess that’s the thing— Sometimes the right question won’t change your whole life. But it will change the moment you’re in. And sometimes, that’s enough to keep you moving.

- RHYAN SCORPIO-RHYS

The Silver Lining

We must live joyfully and in peace. There is no use in fretting over what we cannot change. We are only human, after all, and there are forces far greater and far more powerful than us at play. How can we fight the most natural forces of the universe such as life, death, love, and hate? All we can control is ourselves and our own actions. We are responsible for only ourselves and we have choices to make every single day. Each small decision we make is part of a bigger picture. That bigger picture is God’s plan for all of His children. His plan for us is that we live this mortal life here on Earth, read and follow His word, accept Christ as our savior, and do our best, everyday, to live according to His word. If we can manage that, then we will be granted the privilege of rejoining Him in His Kingdom. We will be granted the opportunity of eternal life- free from pain, suffering, physical ailments, and all other Earthly afflictions. Whatever suffering you are experiencing here in this realm, remember that there is a silver lining- a light at the end of the tunnel. The suffering we endure for the short time we are here is nothing compared to the bliss we will experience in the Kingdom of Heaven. The 80 years or so that we are made to experience is nothing more than a challenge for us to grow our immortal souls and prove our worthiness to God. This is important to keep in mind whenever you find yourself feeling down or experiencing a pain you never before came across. All negative emotions and battles here on Earth are temporary. There is relief in the end and the “end” is not truly the end as it is everlasting. Do not stray off the path of righteousness and you will find yourself enjoying the fruits of your hard labor for all eternity.

-JANE FARMER



Drawing by Lola Derrick

Here’s to Beverly
You are a star
I like you very much
But love you from a far
Anything you ask
That thing I’ll do
I always say
I’ll do it for you
When you are around
You get my attention
And all bad feelings
Are in suspension
Stay like you are
You are a good friend to me
But in another reality
You’d be my guest...

-GREGORY SPEARS

Peace and quiet was not something that came often growing up in my household. Often times I had to steal little moments here and there. I was told that peace is not the absence of chaos but the ability of to find comfort amongst the noise. During the loudness of our every day lives it is important to always go within to find the peace that surpasses all understanding

- SAWANDA STEWART

