

It's good to keep busy. It's good to have a purpose whether it be a daily task you have to commit to or a long-term goal you're trying to reach. While it's nice to take a break and relax every now and then, it's important that we don't allow ourselves to slip into the comfort of complacency. Change is never easy. Growth is never easy. Anything that will propel us to the level of greatness God knows that we're capable of achieving will be difficult to accomplish. There will be resistance facing us at every corner; outside influences or forces wishing us to remain stagnant. It's up to us to have the willpower to persist and the sense of urgency necessary to make progress in the short amount of time we have on this earth. You become overwhelmed and decide you're going to give yourself a day or two to rest and before you know it that day or two has turned into a year and you are still in the same place you were when you first decided to take a break. Years can pass you by without you having accomplished much at all. That's why it's necessary to remain aware of the time that you have and use it responsibly. While the business of day-to-day life might be overwhelming, remember the positive aspects of it. Think of how good it feels to have completed something that you set out to do; to check off a single box on a long list of tasks you have to complete. The feeling of accomplishment cannot be understated. The feeling of knowing that your hard work eventually paid off and now you're in a better position than you were just a few days ago is euphoric and unmatched. Take a break, but remember the fulfillment you get from hard work and dedication. Remember where you want to be and what God expects of you. Put in the difficult work necessary to get you to where you know you ought to be and let God handle the rest.

- JANE FARMER

Walk with Jesus

I walk with Jesus because He comes with the fire and the fury. I want to be sin-free and forever be a man after God's own heart. From beginning to end, from end to start, I want everyone to see Him from near too far.

A man can plan his life in his heart, but it is the Lord God who directs his steps. I will never commit adultery and will guard myself from any man or woman tempting me, so that I may save my soul from death. I want to live in Heaven forever with God, worshipping with my loved ones.

I want to be clean, pure as Adam and Eve were in the Garden. Free as an eagle or raven to soar the skies, worshipping Jesus, whom I can call upon anytime in a time of need or in moments of persecution.

- KL

Today's Bible verse is Lamentations 3:22.

Lamentations 3:22: *"Because of the LORD's great love, we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail."*

God loves us no matter what. No matter what mistakes we make or what we do wrong, God's love for us is infinite and never ending. He loves us so much which is why he sent his son to die for us on the cross. His love for us has never stopped, even with all the wickedness in the world. He understands us and loves us as we are.

- CORA SHAW

FREE

For God so loved the world, that He gave His ONLY begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. — John 3:16

These days if someone is offering something for free, you might have to beware that there's something fishy going on, or strings attached to it.

The greatest gift in the world is eternal salvation from God. God loved us so much He decided to come to this earth in Human form to save humanity. The Father sent His ONLY begotten Son, Jesus (God with us) that those who chose to believe in Him might be saved from the wrath that is going to come. Eternal damnation. So, if you haven't had an encounter with Jesus, and who He really is, do so before time runs out. Salvation is God's GRACE and FREE gift. You don't have to purchase it online or get a special app, just RECEIVE Jesus in your heart with GENUINE repentance.

- RODNEY WISE

STREET VOICES

St. Francis Breadline Franciscan Bread for the Poor COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

V5 N49 ■ DECEMBER 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

WHERE: 144 W. 32nd Street

WHEN: Monday - Thursday, 8:30am - 4pm
Scheduled appointments only on Friday from 9am - 4pm

WHO: All are welcome!

Good Morning! This week we have writing from Ryan Scorpio-Rhys, writing from KL, words of encouragement from Evelyn Yeboah, a murder mystery from James D., writing from John David, work from Jane Farmer, writing from S.L., a piece from Nadine Joseph, bible reflections from Mercedes Daniels and Cora Shaw, and artwork from Carol and an anonymous contributor.

Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob, Whose hope is in the Lord their God.

PSALMS 146:5

This week, instead of trivia questions, the first person to solve the murder mystery written by James D. (Aka Steve) and included in this newsletter (on page 3) will be rewarded with a gift card.

Answers to last weeks trivia questions

What is the largest living structure on Earth that can be seen from space? Answer: The Great Barrier Reef

What is the only metal that is liquid at room temperature? (standard room temperature around 20–25°C) Answer: Mercury

Which animal is the only known mammal capable of true sustained flight? Answer: Bats

Today's Bible verse is Isaiah 41:10.

Isaiah 41:10: *"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you; I will uphold you with my righteous hand."*

There's nothing to fear because God is with us. There's no need to be stressed or to worry about things because God is always protecting us. God knows what's best for us and he's making sure everyday that we're doing what we're supposed to be doing and that nothing is able to hurt us in this world so long as we follow his word.

- MERCEDES DANIELS

Knowing God

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God how unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways. For who has known The Mind of The Lord, or who has been his counselor? Blessed is the man who pursues under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.

- JOHN DAVID WITH LOVE

The Apology I Didn't Want to Make

I didn't want to apologize. Not to her. Not this time. It was a stupid argument at first—a planning meeting at church, too many opinions about too few decisions. She cut me off in front of everyone, and I felt heat rise in my face. When it was my turn, I made sure my words were sharp enough to draw blood. I smiled while I did it. That was the worst part. The room went quiet. Someone changed the subject. We finished the agenda and went home like grown-ups do—polite on the outside, bruised underneath. All evening I rehearsed why I was right. She should apologize first. She embarrassed me. She always has to have the last word. I went to bed with my case neatly argued in my head. I woke up with one sentence stuck there instead: "Francis kissed the leper, not the friend who already loved him back." I tried to shake it off, but it followed me to the kitchen, to the car, to the inbox full of emails I pretended were more important than my conscience. By noon, I knew what I had to do. Not because I suddenly thought she was blameless, but because I couldn't call myself a follower of Christ and keep choosing my pride over our peace. So I wrote her a message: "I spoke to hurt you yesterday. You didn't deserve that. I'm sorry." I hovered over "send" longer than I'd like to admit. Then I clicked. Her response came faster than my fear: "Thank you. I'm sorry too. Can we start again?" Nothing in the parish changed overnight. The budget didn't balance itself. The problems didn't vanish. But something in me shifted—a small crack in the armor I'd been calling "self-respect" and God had been calling "stubbornness." Franciscan peace doesn't float down from the sky. Most days, it starts with one person deciding that being kind is more important than being right. This week, that person needed to be me.

- RHYAN SCORPIO-RHYS



When life gets hard look deep within and you will find how incredibly strong you are.
There isn't a storm or mountain that you can't overcome.
So believe in yourself and never stop moving forward.
For Romans 12:21 reads Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. Amen

- EVELYN YEBOAH


Drawing
by an
Anonymous
Guest



Fighting Through

I'm fighting through the ups and downs, and I've realized I am who I am. I am not weak, and I'm not going to let myself become weak. I've met a few people recently who have truly helped me get out of that old way of thinking, the negativity and the self-pity. I won't let the devil on my shoulder try to hold me back from succeeding.

I am very happy and honored for the people I have around me. I used to think, "Oh, poor me, I'm not going anywhere." Then I stopped and realized, wait. There is only one way to go, and that's up.

So, I got up. I fought. And I'm still fighting.

This is a process, and it won't happen overnight, but I'm thankful for where I am now and for finding myself again.

- S. L.

→ SOLVE THE MURDER MYSTERY ←

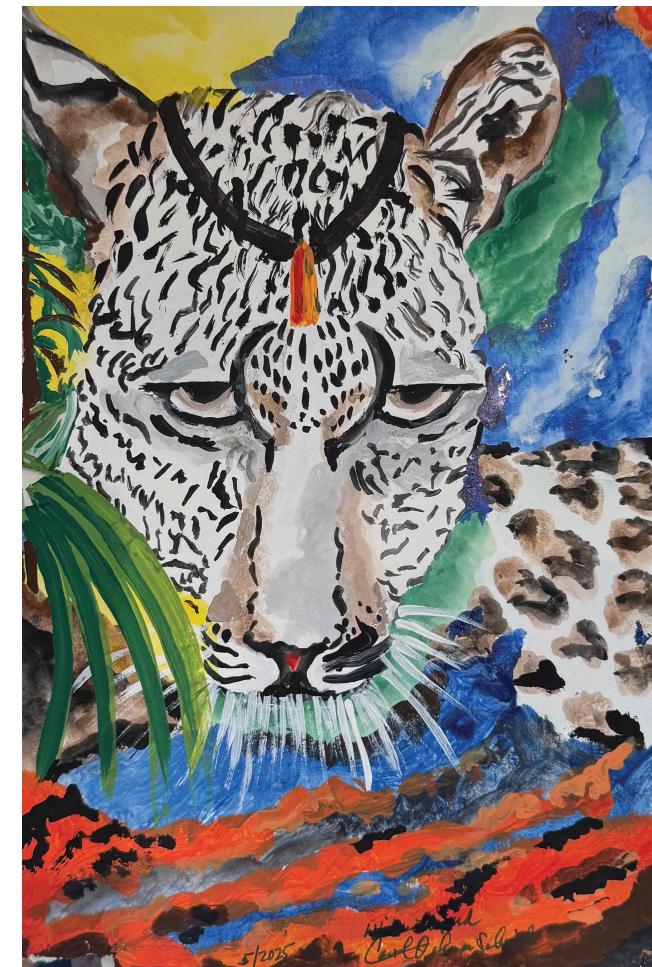
The Case of the Gentle Jewel Thief

Inspector Gregory Ramsay of Scotland Yard is telling you of his Atlantic crossing and his success in apprehending Brenda Gibson, international jewel thief. Our voyage had nearly ended. Begins Gregory, and I was beginning to lose hope of catching her with the goods—although I was positive she had the diamonds in her possession. We were approaching the statue of liberty. I stood at the rail watching her. How attractive she looked, elegantly dressed, waving an elaborately long cigarette holder to point out other interesting landmarks to the other passengers. Not to the other passengers. Not a bit like one's notion of a jewel thief. She sounds lonely, Gregory, you say what about the diamonds? Yes, I knew I had to find them before we docked. If she got past your custom officials, all would be lost. Luckily I had become acquainted with her on board. We had cocktails and danced together several times. In view of this, I told her how much I enjoyed her company, and asked if I might have her New York number. She agreed very sweetly and rummaged in her purse for her card.

I thought at the time that she must be quite nervous. Judging from the heavy nicotine stains on her fingers, and then, just as she found her card and gave it to me with a smile, it came to me—I knew where she was I knew where she was hiding the jewels. And I was right!

Where did the inspector find the diamonds?

- JAMES D (AKA STEVE)



Painting by Carol

Are you hungry? Good!

Have you ever just finished eating and still feel hungry? Still feeling peckish after lunch? Going to the refrigerator every 20 minutes looking for something new to magically appear? Wanting to consume something but you don't know what? You may not be hungry for food. God is calling you to fill you with something else. Mathew 5:6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled."

He is calling you not to be filled with the desires of this world but to be filled with his word and with his light. He wants you to seek him to feed your soul. John 6:35 "Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

How might one do that? By obeying his commandments and instructions, following him in deed, having him ever present in your life, turning away from evil. It's simple really. Galatians 5:22-23 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law."

- NADINE JOSEPH