

# MORNING MEDITATION

## Wednesday, Second Week of Lent

**Find serenity by trusting that God will provide strength  
for carrying your burdens.**

### **Jeremiah 18:18-20**

Men of Judah and Jerusalem began to plot against Jeremiah. They began to carefully note every word that he spoke. Jeremiah turned to God and expressed his frustrations. The people he had prayed for have become his adversaries and have turned against him. Jeremiah wondered: “must good be paid with evil”!!!

**Be gracious! Do good to all, even to those who are not good to you!**

### **Psalm 31**

**You will free me from the snare they set for me,  
for you are my refuge.  
Into your hands I commend my spirit;  
You will redeem me, O Lord, O faithful God.**

### **Mathew 20:17-28**

Jesus said to the disciples that he was on his way to Jerusalem and that he would be judged, flogged, and crucified. But on the third day he would rise again. Mathew tells us, at this point, that the mother of the sons of Zebedee requested Jesus to let her two sons have important positions in the Kingdom. **Be sensitive to the feelings and needs of others! Look beyond your own needs and concerns. Look out for opportunity to love and serve and not for prestige and positions of importance.**

Jesus assured them a share in the cup he was going to drink. But important positions come from the Father. And important positions and greatness in the kingdom result from humble service to others in need. Jesus told them that he came to serve and give his life as a ransom for many.

**Be prepared to drink the “cup” that Jesus offers – the cup of suffering and salvation and the wine of compassion and forgiving and healing love. Be gracious! Learn to surrender yourself in service. Greatness in the kingdom comes from total giving in love and humble service to others in need.**

## **Saint of the Day, March 4 - St. Casimir and 11 other saints are remembered this day.**

Casimir, the second son of Casimir III, King of Poland, was born on October 3, 1458. From the custody of a very virtuous mother, Elizabeth of Austria, he passed to the guardianship of a devoted master, the learned and pious John Dugloss. As a teenager, Casimir lived a highly disciplined, even severe life, sleeping on the ground, spending a great part of the night in prayer and dedicating himself to lifelong celibacy.

When nobles in Hungary became dissatisfied with their king, they prevailed upon Casimir's father, the king of Poland, to send his son to take over the country. Casimir obeyed his father, as many young men over the centuries have obeyed their governments. The army he was supposed to lead was clearly outnumbered by the "enemy"; some of his troops were deserting because they were not paid. At the advice of his officers, Casimir decided to return home.

His father was irked at the failure of his plans and confined his 15-year-old son for three months. He made up his mind never again to become involved in the wars of his day, and no amount of persuasion could change his mind. He returned to prayer and study, maintaining his decision to remain celibate even under pressure to marry the emperor's daughter.

He had a great devotion to the Passion of Our Lord, which moved him to charity to the poor and afflicted. His love for the Blessed mother is expressed in a long and beautiful hymn, familiar to us in English as Daily, Daily, Sing to Mary.

He reigned briefly as king of Poland during his father's absence. He died of lung trouble at the age of 25 on March 4, 1484 while visiting Lithuania, of which he was also Grand Duke. He was buried in Vilnius, Lithuania.

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