**MONDAY DECEMBER 05 – SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT [A]**

**But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins'' - he said to the man who was paralyzed, "I say to you, rise, pick up your stretcher, and go home." He stood up immediately before them, picked up what he had been lying on, and went home, glorifying God.**

**Before Jesus, a lifeless man is lowered from the roof. Jesus immediately gives life to his life and his spirit: “As for you, your sins are forgiven.” For every man, life begins from the forgiveness of sins. Forgiveness is not a judicial act. According to the prayer of David and the Old Prophecies, to the forgiveness of sins, one combines the creation of a new heart, a heart of flesh capable to love, namely capable of every obedience: “Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge. Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb; you taught me wisdom in that secret place. Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity. Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.” (Psal 51,3-14). With the prophet Ezekiel, the Lord promises the gift of a new heart. God wants his people no longer walk with a heart of stone. He will give them a heart of flesh himself. This heart is his new creation: “Thus the word of the LORD came to me: Son of man, it is about your kinsmen, your fellow exiles, and the whole house of Israel that the inhabitants of Jerusalem say, "They are far away from the LORD; to us the land of Israel has been given as our possession." Therefore say: Thus says the Lord GOD: Though I have removed them far among the nations and scattered them over foreign countries - and was for a while their only sanctuary in the countries to which they had gone - I will gather you from the nations and assemble you from the countries over which you have been scattered, and I will restore to you the land of Israel. They shall return to it and remove from it all its detestable abominations. I will give them a new heart and put a new spirit within them; I will remove the stony heart from their bodies, and replace it with a natural heart, so that they will live according to my statutes, and observe and carry out my ordinances; thus they shall be my people and I will be their God. But as for those whose hearts are devoted to their detestable abominations, I will bring down their conduct upon their heads, says the Lord GOD.” (Ez 11,14-21). Even this new heart must be perennial creation of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit creates the new heart, always under will of man, though, through his uninterrupted prayer.**

**Let us read the text of Lk 5,17-26**

**One day as Jesus was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there who had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and Jerusalem, and the power of the Lord was with him for healing. And some men brought on a stretcher a man who was paralyzed; they were trying to bring him in and set (him) in his presence. But not finding a way to bring him in because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on the stretcher through the tiles into the middle in front of Jesus. When he saw their faith, he said, "As for you, your sins are forgiven." Then the scribes and Pharisees began to ask themselves, "Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who but God alone can forgive sins?" Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them in reply, "What are you thinking in your hearts? Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins'' - he said to the man who was paralyzed, "I say to you, rise, pick up your stretcher, and go home." He stood up immediately before them, picked up what he had been lying on, and went home, glorifying God. Then astonishment seized them all and they glorified God, and, struck with awe, they said, "We have seen incredible things today."**

**The scribes and the Pharisees are from the heart of stone. Their thoughts attest it. They are not according to God, for they are not in the Prophetical Scriptures. They are thoughts that accuse the Author of every life of blasphemy, only because He had given life to this paralyzed man who was laying before Him. Jesus, who lives with the heart of the Father, perennially governed by the Holy Spirit, knows that He cannot demonstrate his truth of true prophet of the living God with any reasoning neither using the Holy Scripture and nor the sound, righteous, formed, wise human rationality. Not being able to argue with the words, He argues with the deeds. You, Pharisees and scribes, say that I speak blasphemies for I have forgiven the sins to this man. That I am true prophet of the living God I attest it with deeds. Who can say to a paralyzed man: “Rise and walk?”, only God. Now, so that you know that the Son of Man has the power to forgive the sins, I say to this paralyzed man: “Rise and walk.” As soon as I pronounce this command, the paralyzed man immediately stands up, picks up his stretcher and walk. When the Christian is before every man with the heart of stone, words are useless. One needs the reasoning through the deeds. We know that the Saints have made use of the deeds to attest the most pure truth of faith. May the Mother of God always come to our rescue.**