

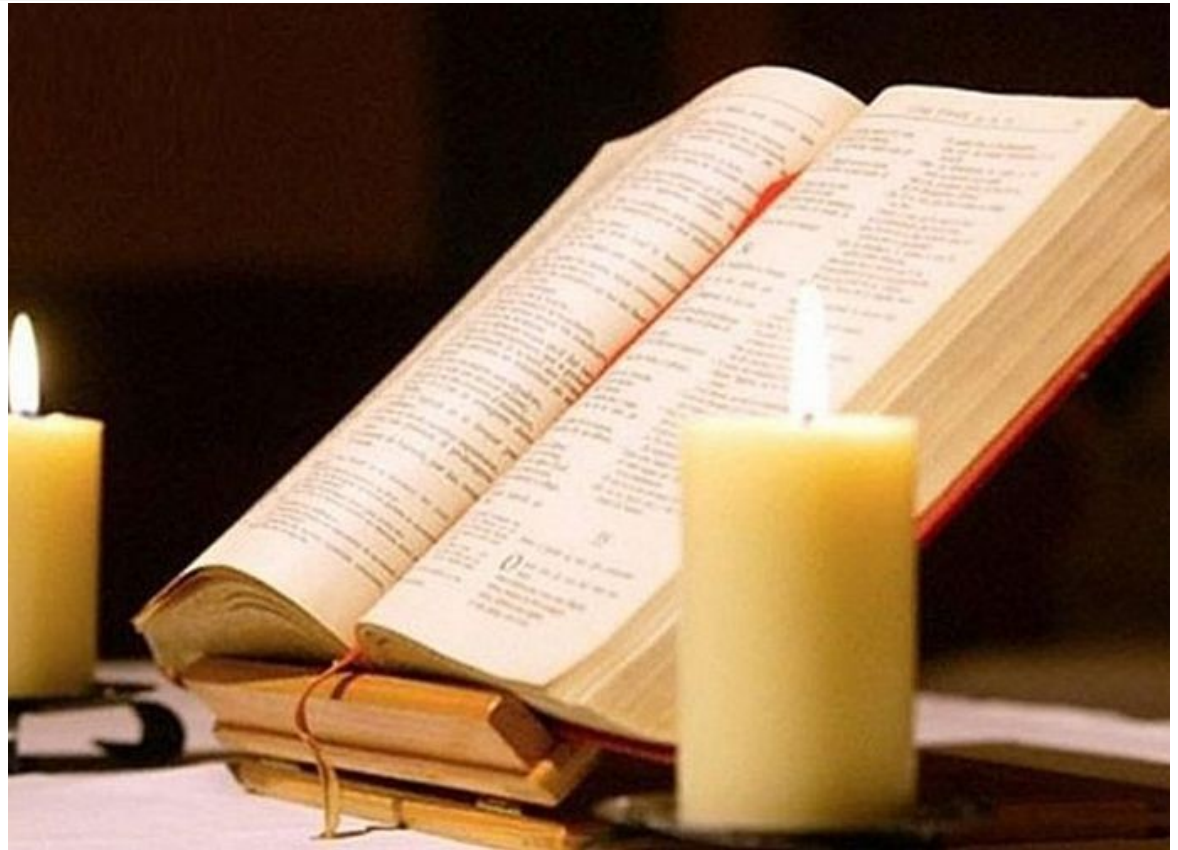
**GOSPEL PEARLS**

## By next Sunday

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18\_08\_2021



*Jesus said to his disciples: "For the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and to them he said, 'You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.' So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, 'Why do you stand here idle all day?' They said to him,*

*'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You go into the vineyard too.' And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the labourers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.' And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?' So the last will be first, and the first last." (Matthew 20: 1-16)*

All of us without Jesus are absolutely worthless "zeroes." We only take on meaning if, by our faith, we see ourselves as less important and completely follow Him Who is the One and Almighty God. In God's mind, therefore, the first "zeroes" among us are just as useful as the last, from the first disciples to the good thief on the cross. All those who asked Jesus for forgiveness for their sins are now in paradise. And do you often ask Jesus for forgiveness? How long has it been since your last confession? Perhaps you should try and go to confession by next Sunday?