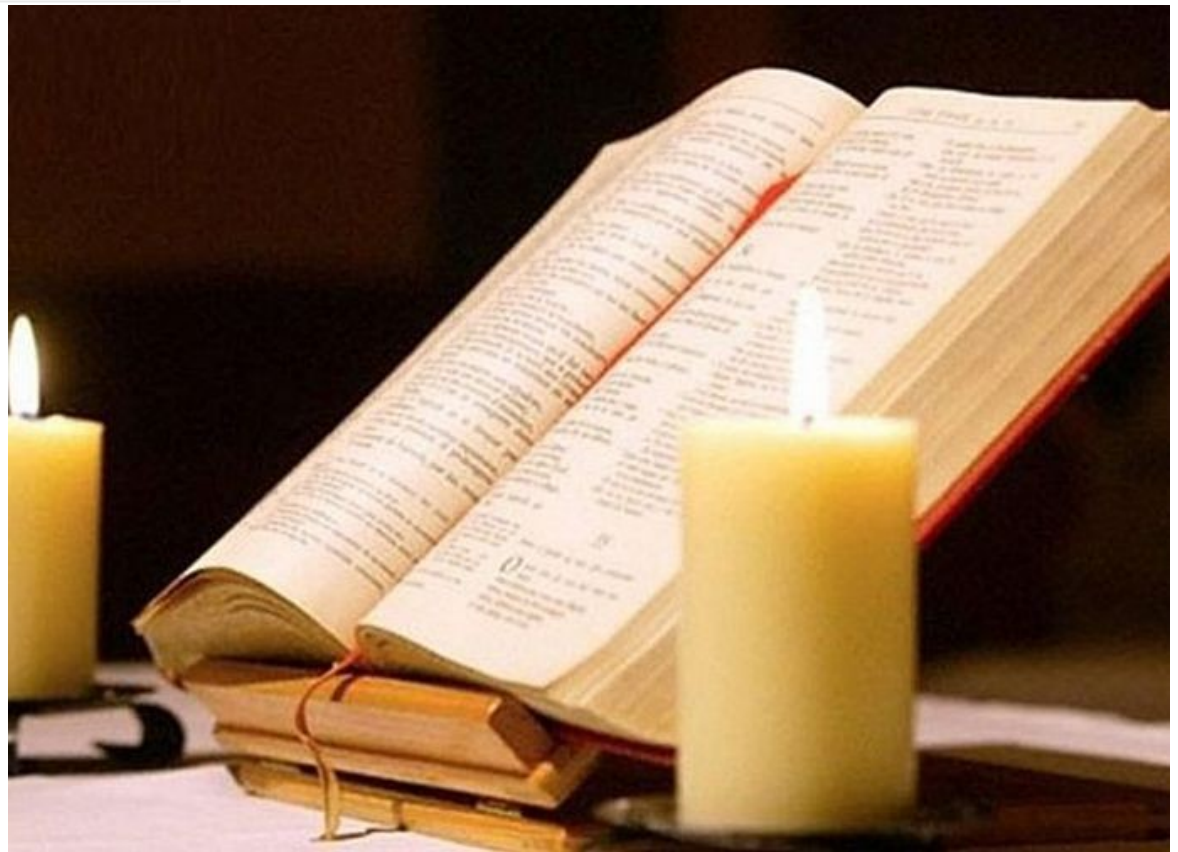


GOSPEL PEARLS

Sacrilege invokes God's anger

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And again Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son, and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding feast, but they would not come. Again he sent other servants, saying, "Tell those who are invited, "See, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast." But they paid no attention and went off, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them. The king was angry, and he sent his

troops and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding feast is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore to the main roads and invite to the wedding feast as many as you find.' And those servants went out into the roads and gathered all whom they found, both bad and good. So the wedding hall was filled with guests. But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment. And he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot and cast him into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen." (Matthew 22: 1-14)

The wedding garment represents being in state of Grace, i.e. purity in relation to God. The ordinary and certainly effective means of recovering and strengthening this state are the sacraments, including Confession and especially the Eucharist. The person who receives this sacrament not in a state of grace, like the guest without a wedding garment, commits a sacrilege: a very serious sin that offends God by mocking Him and which invokes His anger. So never commit sacrilege by taking Communion in a state of sin, and if you know you have committed a mortal sin, confess immediately so as to recover your state of grace as soon as possible.