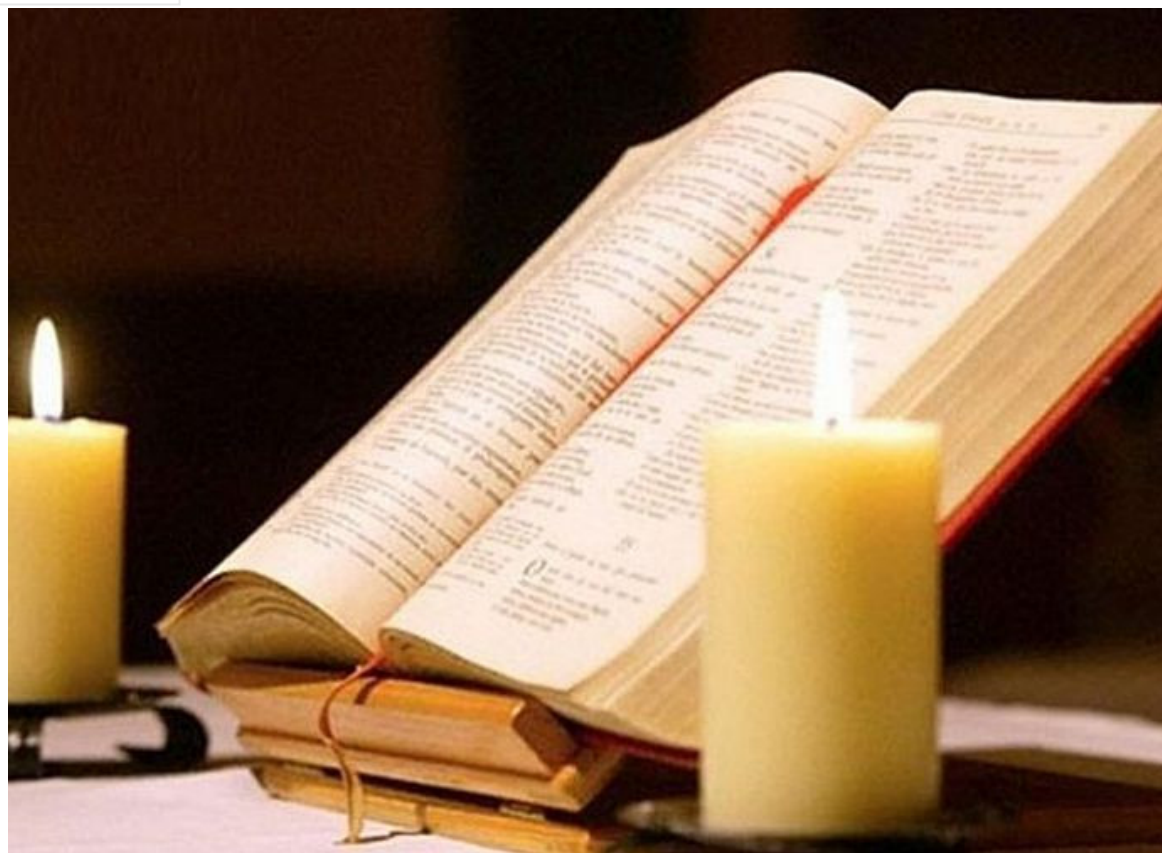


GOSPEL PEARLS

What you can do during engagement

GOSPEL PEARLS

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Jesus said to Nicodemus: “And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world,

and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.” (John 3: 14-21)

In Jesus's words to Nicodemus, darkness is an image that recalls mortal sin, that is, an evil act in an objectively serious matter committed intentionally and knowingly that it is a serious sin. Those who are in the habit of committing mortal sins prefer the darkness of secrecy and lies, so as not to be recognised and condemned. With the essential help of Grace, anyone who has freed himself from evil desires is not afraid of the Light that represents Jesus' teaching and testimony. So where do you stand? If you do something in secret, ask yourself if you are beginning to give in to temptation. For example, engaged couples should not do things that they would be ashamed of doing in front of their own mothers.