

## **Devotions 2026: February 16 to February 22**

*For daily devotions I am going to start using 60 days of prayer published by Guideposts.*

**Monday:** Welcome Back

*Joel 2:12 – “Return to me with all your heart.”*

You do not need to come to God perfectly prepared; just come with your heart open. Lent is a gentle invitation to slow down and draw near. It is not about shame or pressure; it is about reconnecting with the One who loves you. Even your smallest step toward His is met with joy.

*Prayer: Gracious God, thank You for meeting me with kindness. Help me return to You with hope and honesty.*

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Stay safe, stay healthy, take care and God Bless! Pastor Mary Lou

**Tuesday:** God Listens When You Are Angry

*Job 7:11 – “Therefore I will not keep silent; I will speak out in the anguish of my spirit, I will complain in the bitterness of my soul.”*

God is not scared off by your emotions. In fact, He welcomes them. Even your anger, confusion, or bitterness can be part of honest prayer. Job cried out in despair; and God listened. Bring your raw feelings to the One who understands. He loves the real you, not the edited version.

*Prayer: God, thank You for letting me come to You with every emotion. Even when I am upset, You stay close.*

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**Wednesday:**       Begin with a Willing Heart

*Psalm 51:10 – Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.*

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent; a season to quiet your spirit and open your heart to God’s work. This journey is not about having everything in order. It is about offering what you can and trusting that God will meet you there. Even the smallest step of faith invites His renewing presence.

*Prayer: God, I open my heart to You. Help me renew what is tired and awaken what still longs to grow.*

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**Thursday:**       Someone Else’s Breakthrough

*Romans 12:15 – Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.*

It can sting to see someone else’s prayers answered while yours seem to wait. God understands that ache, and He invites you to bring your whole heart; including your jealousy or sadness; to Him. Rejoicing with others becomes easier when you trust that your time is still coming.

*Prayer: Lord, teach me to bless others without bitterness, trusting You with my unfolding.*

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**Friday:**       Make Space for his Presence

*Isaiah 30:15 – “In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength, but you would have none of it.”*

Lent is about making room; for quiet, for rest, and for God. This verse reminds us that our strength is not found in striving but in stillness. Yet how often do we resist the very things that restore us? Try setting aside one small habit; scrolling, multitasking, or rushing; and replace it with silence. In that quiet space, God meets us with peace, direction, and renewal.

*Prayer: Lord, show me what to lay down so I can be more open to You. I want to walk these days of Lent with intention and grace.*

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**Saturday:** Give Credit Where It is Due

*Daniel 2:28 – There is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries.*

Daniel faced an impossible task, but instead of panicking, he turned to God. When the answer came, he did not boast or point to his wisdom. Every answered prayer, insight, or open door is an opportunity to point back to the One who makes the impossible possible. In every breakthrough or moment of clarity, may we remember where the glory belongs.

*Prayer: God, You are the Giver of wisdom, strength, and every good thing. When good comes from my efforts, remind me to lift the praise back to You.*

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**Sunday:** When You Feel Overlooked

*James 4:10 – Humble Yourselves before the Lord, and He will lift you up.*

Some seasons feel thankless, and your quiet efforts may seem to go unnoticed. But God sees every unseen act of love and faithfulness, and he promises to lift what the world often misses. Your worth is not measured by attention or applause but by the steady love of God who sees everything.

*Prayer: Lord, remind me that You see me even when no one else does. Help me to keep going in faith; not for applause but for Your glory.*

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