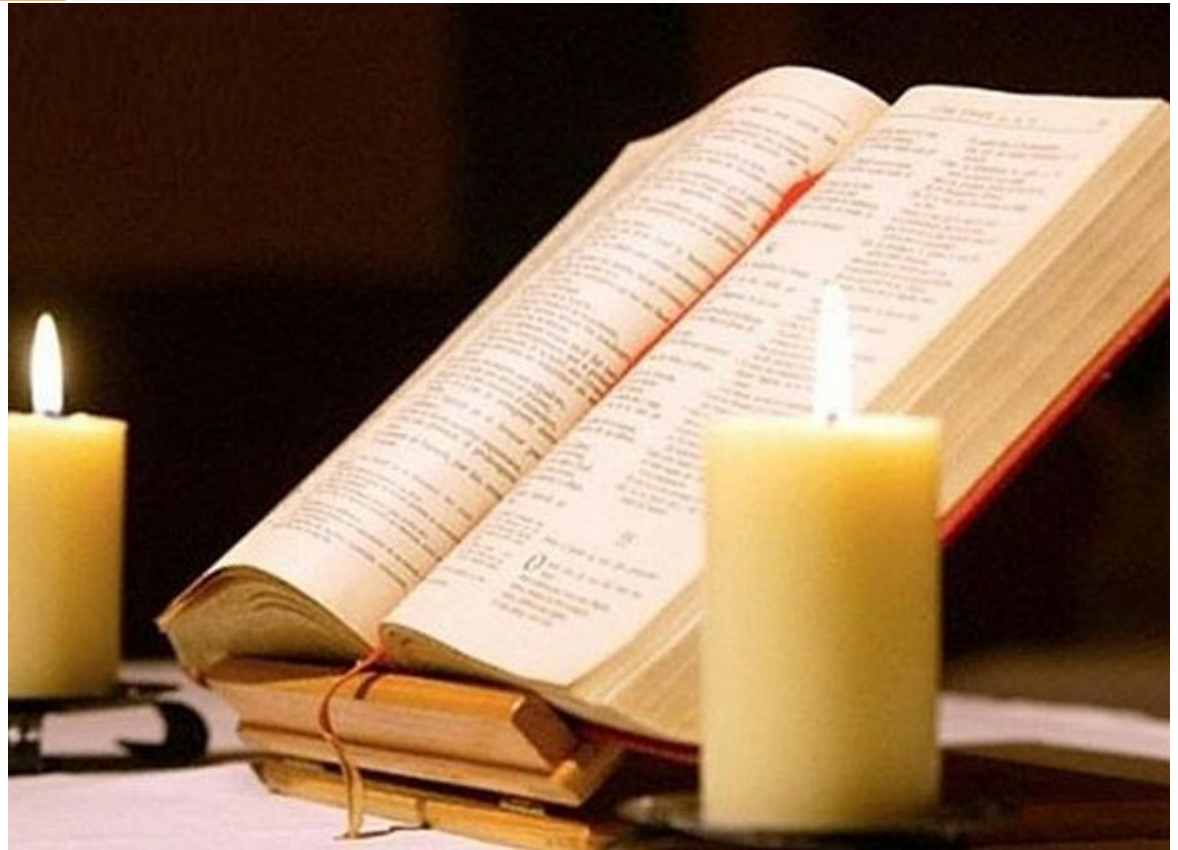


GOSPEL PEARLS

Effective Signs of God's Grace

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When Jesus and his disciples had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored to the shore. And when they got out of the boat, the people immediately recognized him and ran about the whole region and began to bring the sick people on their beds to wherever they heard he was. And wherever he came, in villages, cities, or countryside, they laid the sick in the marketplaces and implored him that they might touch even the fringe of his garment. And as many as touched it were made well. (Mark 6: 53-56)

Jesus became incarnate by lowering himself to the human condition in order to raise it to divine dignity. Therefore, when getting down from His boat, Jesus also descends from Heaven so as not only be not only heard but also touched. Today this experience continues with His Sacrament which are visible and "touchable" signs of Him. The Sacraments help save our souls and sometimes even our bodies. Let us try, therefore, to receive the sacraments with faith, as people did with Jesus.