

# Living Faith Kids

Daily Devotions for Africa



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“ And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.”



**Luke 2:40**

**Dear friends in Christ,** here we are with a new month. Throughout this month of february, we will be sharing the word of God along with some particular events such as: prayer of the consecrated people through which we are invited to pray for consecrated people and the ministers of God. We will be also celebrating the World Day for the Sick. On this day, we are invited to remember the sick, pray for them and visit them. Another great event in this month is the Ash Wednesday through which we enter the Lenten Season. This season invites us to make our relationship with Christ stronger through prayer, almsgiving and fasting.

***May the Lord be with us throughout this month of february.***

*Rev. Fr. Jean-Claude DIWEDIGA, a.a.*

Welcome to

# Living Faith Kids

Daily Devotions for Africa

With this magazine, we can...

## Read words from the Bible

**God speaks to us** in Scriptures. So each day, we pick a short quote from one of the daily Mass readings in order to think and pray about.

## Pray with daily devotions

**Daily prayer is a great way** to get to know God better. Each reflection can help us to pray with the Word of God—every day!



## Discover, learn, play and love

**Our Catholic faith** is like a big treasure chest waiting for us to discover. Here we will find games, activities, puzzles and more to help us learn about the sacraments, saints, feast days, the Mass and more. Have fun!

# Reading the Bible

Our daily devotions begin with a passage from the Bible. Want to read more? The CITATION (sigh-TAY-shun) will guide you to the reading in three easy steps:



**1: Book.** The Bible is divided into books. Check your Bible for a list of titles.

*Psalm 47:2 is from the Book of Psalms.*

**2: Chapter.** The first number is the chapter. Bibles usually show book and chapter at the top of each page.

*Psalm 47:2 is in Chapter 47 of the Book of Psalms.*



**3: Verse.** Last are the verse number(s). Verses are usually a sentence or two long. The tiny numbers are hidden inside the text.

*Psalm 47:2 is verse 2 of Chapter 47.*

## Ready? Set? Go!

Practice by looking up Psalm 47:2.



# February at a Glance

## Activity Calendar of February



### Week 1 Presentation of the Lord.

**1** Pray for all the consecrated people



### Week 2 Our lady of Lourdes World Day for the Sick

**2** Say one Hail Mary daily for the sick.



### Week 3 Saint Faustina

**3** Say the Divine Mercy Chaplet



### Week 4 Ash Wednesday

**4** Be kind to all the people you meet. Say the Lord's prayer daily.

And he marvelled because of their unbelief.  
And he went round about the villages,  
teaching.

Mark 6:6

Wednesday February 1



ORDINARY WEEKDAY

Jesus is surprised at the lack of faith of his fellow citizens in him because they cannot understand how he can do such great things, having seen him grow. Jesus seems too familiar to them! Sometimes familiarity with people can prevent us from believing in their competences, especially when we have known their weaknesses; and we might be surprised about their changes, their hidden capacities. We are called not to judge too quickly, and to overcome all prejudices.

Let us ask the Lord to grant us  
this grace today.

And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

Luke 2: 40

Thursday February 2

### THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

**Growing in age and height are not sufficient to be complete humanely speaking;** true human growth requests wisdom, psychological maturity, spiritual, cultural and intellectual building, and all this in the grace of God; so was the young Jesus in the midst of the scholars in the temple. This can be a good wish of every parent for his child!

Malachi 3: 1-4 /  
Psalm 24: 7. 8. 9. 10 /  
Hebrews 2:14-18 /  
**Luke 2: 22-40**



When Herod heard John, he was greatly puzzled; yet he liked to listen to him.

Mark 6: 20

Friday

February 3

**Herod can't get past the stage of being puzzled listening to John.** He understands that John's words are true and right, but they don't get into his heart. Sometimes we can be like Herod, listen to what it is said, but not be moved to do the right thing. The gospel is designed to teach us by listening to it how to act so we have peace, and how to submit to God and gain eternal life with Him. What do you do with the word of God after listening to it?

And those words of your parents?  
Do they move you to action?



When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd.

Mark 6:34

Saturday

February 4

**Jesus' compassion always leads to action**, whether healing, feeding, providing, or calling others to serve! What would it look like if you too were moved with compassion? By the way, do you know what compassion is? Compassion means we care about others, treat them with kindness, and feel a strong desire to help people in need. Compassion is empathy in action. At your age, compassion might look like giving a hug, making a card, or saying something kind to help a friend or family member who is feeling sad or upset.

Lord Jesus, teach me to cultivate compassion as I follow you!

Hebrews 13: 15-17. 20-21 / Psalm 23: 1-3a. 3b-4. 5. 6 / **Mark 6: 30-34**

“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.”

Matthew 5: 14

Sunday

February 5

**You probably know what it is to find yourself in the dark**, for instance when there is a sudden blackout while you are watching TV, or reading a book. Darkness is not something desirable. For real nobody likes being in the dark! Darkness on the contrary is frightening, especially for children! Because it evokes insecurity! But think of when light comes back, the joy it brings. Light is joy, it is life!

1 Isaiah 58: 7-10 / Psalm 112: 4-5. 6-7. 8-9 (4a)  
/ 1 Corinthians 2: 1-5 / **Matthew 5: 13-16**



They begged him to let them touch even the edge of his cloak, and all who touched it were healed.

Mark 6:56

Monday

February 6

SAINTS PAUL MIKI AND COMPANIONS

**“Touching” is fundamental for children’s growth;** to feel touched by his mother to be assured by her protective presence; and “touching” builds child’s curiosity; by touching things, he explores and discovers his environment; Jesus like a mother lets himself to be touched; He reassured those sick people, by his protective presence, He restores life by healing. You as a child, you are still the beloved child of your parents, and beloved brother or sister of Jesus who in silence touches you, protects you and assures you of his presence.

Lord in your mercy, lay on me  
your healing hands.

Genesis 1: 1-19/ Psalm 104: 1-2a. 5-6. 10 and 12. 24 and 35c/ **Mark 6: 53-56**

When they come from the marketplace they do not eat unless they wash.

Mark 7:4

Tuesday

February 7

**You must have learned especially more in the last two years with the covid-19 the importance of hygiene**, hand washing to protect yourself from germs. The Jewish ritual of hand washing though it has that part of hygienic signification was twisted by the Pharisees and became a heavy meaningless law. Jesus will make them know that there is absolutely nothing more important than cleaning one's hearts by living in coherence, justice and the love of others.

For anytime we have missed to be coherent with ourselves, we miss to be just and do good to others, we miss the essential point.

He went on: “What comes out of a person is what defiles them.

Mark 7: 20

Wednesday February 8



ORDINARY WEEKDAY

**Jesus is not condemning all washing of hands before eating.** What Jesus is condemning is the false idea that a ritualized tradition could make someone spiritually clean. It's what comes out of a person's mouth, for instance insults, lies, dirty words, those cause that person to be spiritually unclean.



Genesis 2: 4b-9. 15-17/ Palms 104: 1-2a. 27-28. 29bc-30/

Mark 7: 14-23

The woman was a Greek, born in Syrian Phoenicia. She begged Jesus to drive the demon out of her daughter.

Mark 7: 26

Thursday

February 9

**You may have heard of demons in fairy tales as frightening creatures.** The demon is the symbol of evil, the enemy of God, but our enemy too, but beware, he is not just a symbol, the demon is real; it constantly tests our faithfulness to God, and if we're not vigilant it leads us into behaviors that transform us into enemies of God. The demon is happy when we do what is wrong in the eyes of the Lord. It's important to know about the devil.

Eternal Father, we entrust our lives to you.

People were overwhelmed with amazement. “He has done everything well,” they said. “He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak.”

Mark 7:37

Friday February 10

SAINT SCHOLASTICA

**It is common that children like adventures, where there are fun activities, wonders.**

The Bible invites us into the greatest adventure of all following Jesus! Jesus is an amazing teacher, friend, and miracle worker: “He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak.” What will be your reactions in real life to see a mute speak? Or a blind recover his sight? It may be difficult for you to imagine that. The verse says “People were overwhelmed with amazement”; because miracles are unusual happenings. *May the Lord help us grow in understanding his wonders in us and around us!*

Genesis 3: 1-8 / Psalm 32: 1-2, 5, 6, 7 / **Mark 7: 31-37**

The people ate and were satisfied.  
Afterward the disciples picked up seven  
basketfuls of broken pieces that were left  
over.

Mark 8: 8

**Saturday** February 11

**Remember in yesterday's comment, we've started talking about miracles.** Here is another one called "the multiplication of the loaves". Jesus uses a little boy's lunch to feed 5000 people, how is that possible? Sometimes when God fixes things, He uses us to get the job done. God can use us as part of the solution to our own problems, God can use us to fix things for others.

Genesis 3: 9-24 /  
Psalm 90: 2. 3-4abc. 5-6. 12-13 /  
**Mark 8: 1-10**





...if you are offering your gift at the altar and they remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift. Matthew 5: 23-24

Sunday

February 12

SIX SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**Today's verse talks about reconciliation. Righteousness is not an affair between me and God.** I can't be righteous coming before God with hatred in my heart against my brother or sister. For this, I must go to those with whom I quarrelled, for instance, by saying a malicious word, an insult to make peace before meeting the Lord; thus we manifest the unity of the Church, communion with our brothers. If you resent your parents, your little brothers or your big sister, it's time to forgive and receive forgiveness.

For what pleases the Lord is a humble heart instead of sacrifices!

Sirach 15: 15-20 / Psalm 119: 1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34 (1b) / 1 Corinthians 2: 6-10 / **Matthew 5: 17-37**

He sighed deeply and said, “Why does this generation ask for a sign? Truly I tell you, no sign will be given to it.”

Mark 8: 12

Monday February 13

**How do you feel sometimes when you don't get an answer from your dad or your mom while asking a question?**

It's common that children come to ask some embarrassing questions; you may have already done this. It's not a big deal for children to ask questions, it is even formative, thus they learn and explore their environment. However, you may not get answers to all the questions, because the question might not be appropriate for your age, or the question is beyond a healthy curiosity! In that case, you need to wait for the appropriate time. *May the Lord strengthen you in your search for the truth!*

Genesis 4: 1-15. 25 / Psalms 50: 1 and 8. 16bc-17. 20-21 / **Mark 8: 11-13**

“Why are you talking about having no bread? Do you still not see or understand? Are your hearts hardened?”

Mark 8: 17

Tuesday

February 14

SAINTS CYRIL AND METHODIUS

**The disciples are worried about not taking bread with them.** They are preoccupied by food. They seem to have forgotten what Jesus did in the desert multiplying five breads for 5000 people. Sometimes we forget what is important in our lives. You as a child, what preoccupies you the most? It seems that children don't have big worries like adults, because they are confident they will be provided for by their parents. We as children of God rely on his providence, which doesn't prevent us from working hard each at his level, including you. *The Lord is our provider, nothing shall we lack!*

Genesis 6: 5-8; 7: 1-5. 10 / Psalm 29: 1a and 2. 3ac-4. 3b and 9c-10 / **Mark 8: 14-21**

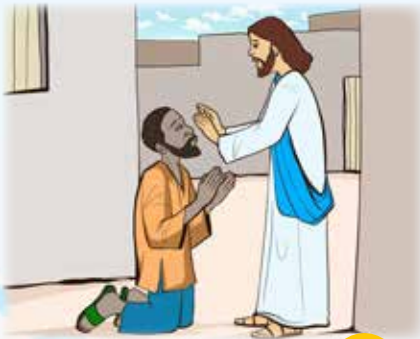
After that he put his hands again upon his eyes, and made him look up: and he was restored, and saw every man clearly.

Mark 8: 25

Wednesday

February 15

**Jesus has just healed a blind man.** We are told that he is restored from his blindness. Blindness is a serious illness, because it prevents you from seeing. But you know, there is also spiritual blindness that is to say when one is completely in ignorance of God, one cannot or one does not want to see him. Because sometimes we can choose not to see God.



Genesis 8: 6-13. 20-22 /  
Psalm 116: 12-13. 14-15. 18-  
19 / **Mark 8: 22-26**

“Get behind me, Satan!” he said. “You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.”

Mark 8: 33

Thursday

February 16



**This verse derives from a conversation between Jesus and Peter;** Peter has just affirmed that Jesus is the Son of God, and Jesus even congratulated him; but he did not want Jesus to suffer after Jesus announced his coming suffering. Jesus does not call Peter Satan because he really is, but he thinks as Satan would have thought; indeed Satan wants to stop Jesus in his mission, and Jesus recognized it immediately. Jesus is a man of prayer, he knows how to read the actions of the devil; we too, in the footsteps of Jesus,

Let's remain vigilant in prayer so as not to fall into the traps of the devil.

Genesis 9: 1-13 / Psalm 102: 16-18. 19-21. 29 and 22-23 / **Mark 8: 27-33**

If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels.”

Mark 8:38

Friday

February 17

SAINT ANTHONY, ABBOT

**It happens that Christians in some countries at some places don't want to appear as Christians,** they will not for instance make the sign of cross, they don't want to be noticed as Christians, not because this could be harmful for them buy simply because they are ashamed to be treated as stupid, believing in an inexistent God.



Genesis 11: 1-9 / Psalm 33: 10-11. 12-13. 14-15 / Mark 8: 34- 9: 1

Then a cloud appeared and covered them, and a voice came from the cloud: "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!"

Mark 9:7

Saturday

February 18

**Jesus is called by His Father as the Son that He loves.** That must be a great honor for Jesus to hear that! You too are a beloved child of your parents, Even if sometimes you disobey, and you are not nice. Our parents still love us, they can't stop loving us! And imagine God is even greater, he loves us equally despite our stupidities! That said, we are indebted to this love with a response of love in turn.

Try to do something to show your parents that you love them as they love you, and Jesus that you love him as he loves you as a beloved child.

Hebrews 11: 1-7/ Psalm 145: 2-3. 4-5. 10-11/ **Mark 9: 2-13**

Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.

Matthew 5 :42

Sunday

February 19

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**One of the first values we learn from our parents is generosity.** It is the desire to give what you have to others. Generous people are not selfish. They want to help those in need and are always willing to share. It happens to see children who don't want to share their stuff with others, a toy to play with others for instance, a food, a chocolate bar. The contrary of generosity is avidity, keeping all for oneself. But many people in the world suffer from this. Were we more generous in the world, there might be less poverty.

Are you generous enough to partake in the change of the world?

Leviticus 19: 1-2. 17-18 / Psalm 103: 1-2. 3-4. 8. 10. 12-13 (8a) / 1 Corinthians 3: 16-23 / **Matthew 5: 38-48**



“If you can’?” said Jesus. “Everything is possible for one who believes.”

Marc 9 :23

Monday

February 20

**Everything is possible for those who believe!** Would you be able to talk about your experience of faith? How are you marked, for example, by your way of praying, of going to the Eucharist, if you take communion, what do you really feel? Let us call it your “encounter with Jesus in your heart”. Maybe it’s going to be very difficult for you to talk about this at your age. But if you can, don’t hesitate to talk about it with your parents.



Sirach 1: 1-10 /

Psalms 93: 1ab, 1cd-2, 5 /

Mark 9: 14-29

“Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me.”

Mark 9 :37

Tuesday

February 21

**Welcoming, receiving,** hosting or entertaining guests is an attitude that portrays openness, respect, and generosity. As a child you ask yourself, what this has to do with me. The Lord is calling us today to be welcoming persons. Whether a child or not; you may remember the first day you entered a classroom where there were already your classmates, did you feel welcomed? Can you remember how they welcomed you? What have they done to you to feel integrated into the group? How did you succeed in creating friendship?

Certainly they have been good to you. Now remember to do the same to others.

Sirach 2: 1-11 / Psalm 37: 3-4. 18-19. 27-28. 39-40 / Mark 9: 30-37

Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.

Matthew 6: 6

Wednesday

February 22



ASH WEDNESDAY

**The point in this verse is:** It is a pride to show others that one is righteous; whatever you do to get admiration from others does not glorify God. There is something fake with it. For instance you don't need to show your parents, nor to anybody "ringing a bell" to tell them "just look at me, I'm a good boy, or I'm a good girl". The call of the word of God today is a call for truth, truth about what really we are, in discretion, simplicity and humility.

Lord Jesus, glory be to you, the only righteous, the most humble, the most discreet of all times!

Joel 2: 12-18 / Psalms 51: 3-4. 5-6ab. 12-13. 14 and 5: 20 -- 6:2 /

Matthew 6: 1-6.16-18

For I command you today to love the Lord your God, to walk in obedience to him, and to keep his commands...

Deuteronomy 30: 16

Thursday

February 23

AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY

**One of the common misconceptions about obedience**, whether to God, or to parents, is that we do the right thing or follow the commandments just to avoid punishment or difficulties. But in reality obedience is an act of love; we obey our parents not because we are afraid of them, but because we love them, and we do what the Lord asks of us because of our deep gratitude for Him.

Deuteronomy 30: 15-20 /  
Psalms 1: 1-2. 3. 4 and 6 /  
Luke 9: 22-25



The time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them; then they will fast.

Matthew 9:15

Friday

February 24

AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY

**Certainly you are not yet old enough to fast!** But what if! Fasting is not just about food deprivation. One can fast on something else, fasting means depriving oneself of something to remain more disposed to welcome God into one's heart. It can also mean cutting something that distances us from God in our life, a bad behavior for example, a bad habit. What do you think does not allow you to be resolutely a good child, a child beloved by God and by his parents?

Take a little time alone to see what you can fast from.

I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”

Luke 5: 32

Saturday February 25

AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY

**For a child like you, repentance might be a big word**, but it has a pretty simple definition. Repentance means to turn away from our sin. Turning from our sin is an important part of our relationship with Jesus because it brings glory to His name and it helps us to enjoy His best for our lives! You may need to learn how to identify that icky feeling after taking your brother or sister's toy, or running away from Mommy, or saying that unkind word.

It is important to repent, this is how we create space for the Holy Spirit to lead us to Jesus.

Isaiah 58: 9b-14 / Psalm 86: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6 / Luke 5: 27-32

Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Matthew 4:4

Sunday

February 26

### FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

**Some of us, what we do better is to eat!** We like eating more than doing other things. And there are some you have to beg or force them before they eat. It is important to eat for the body to be healthy; not only should the body be taken care of but also the spirit. Therefore, there must be a balance for man to be built as a complete being, body and spirit. Today's word of God leads us towards that comprehension "Man shall not live on bread alone".

What are the other things that nourish you, and make you grow?

Genesis 2: 7-9; 3: 1-7 / Psalms 51: 3-4. 5-6. 12-13. 17 / Romans 5: 12-19 or  
5: 12. 17-19 / **Matthew 4:1-11**

Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.

Matthew 25:40

Monday

February 27

### LENTEN WEEKDAY

Jesus calls all who are sons and daughters of His Father, His brothers and sisters, as we strive day by day to keep faith and good works, by being brothers and sisters among ourselves first! This means, you cannot be a brother or a sister of Jesus, treating others as your enemies.

Leviticus 19: 1-2. 11-18 /  
Psalms 19: 8. 9. 10. 15 /  
**Matthew 25: 31-46**





For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

Matthew 6:14

Tuesday

February 28

LENTEN WEEKDAY

**One of the typical sentences that you may have heard or you may have said yourself is:** “I will never forgive you” Let us imagine that is just a sentence! It has never been healthy if one intends really not to forgive! But Jesus says we must forgive, it is not advice, it is a command.



Isaiah 55: 10-11 / Psalms 34: 4-5. 6-7. 16-17. 18-19 / **Matthew 6: 7-15**

*Living Faith Kids* features daily devotions based on the daily Scripture readings, commentaries and illustrations. This quarterly pamphlet is mainly made for African children in order to help them grow in faith and wisdom. It also helps develop their habit of daily prayer and build their relationship with Jesus Christ and the Church. This is an important tool for our kids to take part in liturgical worship and parish life. It can therefore be used in our schools, catechesis classes and homes.

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### **IMPRIMATUR**

+Rt Rev. Dominic Kimengich  
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February 15, 2018

**“And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.”**

Luke 2:40



**“A child among elders converses with its ears.”**

Africa