

# Living Faith Kids

Daily Devotions for Africa



bayard Publications

“...they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him.”



**Matthew 2:11**

**Dear friends in Christ,**

As we will be celebrating the New Year 2023, this will be for each one of us the opportunity to praise God and thank Him for his wonders in our lives. May we also take new resolutions for a better life in the future. Through His word, God keeps on inviting us on daily basis to be good christians and hard-working children. Oh Lord Jesus Christ, thanks for the gift of your word. Pour out upon us your Holy Spirit and may the Virgin Mary, your Mother pray for us and help us do your will.

***Happy New Year in the Lord!***

*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.





# January at a Glance

## Activity Calendar of January



**Week** Mary Mother of God.

**1**

Pray for the peace of the world.



**Week** Baptism of the Lord.

**2**

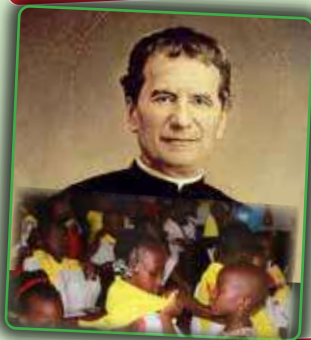
Pray for all unbaptized children.



**Week** Conversion of Saint Paul

**3**

Pray one our Father for the conversion of sinners.



**Week** Saint John Bosco

**4**

“Repeat daily” All for Christ nothing for myself.

When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child.

Luke 2 :17

Sunday

January 1



### MARY MOTHER OF GOD

**In order to give a good testimony,** it is very important to see or to have a particular experience. Like the shepherds, let us make ourselves available and attentive to let ourselves be transformed by the word of God day after day.

Lord, help us  
to become the  
messengers of  
God.



Number 6: 22-27/ Psalm 67: 2-3. 5. 6. 8 (2a) / Galatians 4: 4-7/ **Luke 2: 16-21**

Who is the liar? It is whoever denies that Jesus is the Christ..

1 John 2:22

Monday January 2

SAINTS BASIL THE GREAT AND GREGORY NAZIANZEN,  
BISHOPS AND DOCTORS

**A liar is a person who tends to tell falsehoods.** And our early childhood education strongly forbids us to do so. The Ten Commandments of God mention it very well, “you shall not lie”. So to deny that Jesus is the Christ is to lie because as baptized people, we recognize that Jesus is the only Son of God. He died on the cross for our sins and rose again to save us from death.

Jesus, we believe that you are the Son of the Living God.

1 John 2: 22-28 / Psalm 98: 1. 2-3ab. 3cd-4 / John 1: 19-28

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world!"

John 1:29

Tuesday

January 3

**Do we remember that every time we attend Mass,** the priest says this word at the moment of consecration? "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world." In reality, John the Baptist recognized in Jesus Christ the one sent by the Father to bring us out of the death of sin. Do we also believe today that Jesus is the lamb of God?



1 John 2: 29 - 3: 6 / Psalm 98: 1. 3cd-4. 5-6 /  
**John 1: 29-34**

The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning.

1John 3 :8

Wednesday January 4

**We know that sin is a way of going against God's will.** It is a lack of love towards God but also towards our neighbor and towards ourselves. The wages of sin is death because it takes us away from God. As children of God, the Church invites us to avoid everything that leads to sin in order to remain worthy children of God.

Let us pray to  
the Lord not to  
let us enter into  
temptation.



1 John 3: 7-10 / Psalm 98: 1. 7-8. 9 / John 1: 35-42

“How do you know me?” Nathanael asked.

John 1:48

Thursday January 5

**Nathanael is surprised that Christ knows him.** He did not think that Jesus could testify about him. We often think that we are not known or even abandoned by the Lord. We need to know that each person is a sacred story in the eyes of God. **The Lord knows us personally because he created us. He knows what we need.**



1 John 3: 11-21 /  
Psalm 100: 1b-2, 3, 4, 5 /  
**John 1: 43-51**

And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.

Mark 1:11

Friday

January 6

**The birth of a child brings joy to the family.**

All the attention is turned towards this newborn child who is a sign of blessings and love. For the parents, the wish is that he or she will grow in wisdom and intelligence so that one day he or she will honor the family name. The child Jesus also received a special love and was blessed by his parents to grow up properly. Our heavenly Father has placed many talents in us, a sign of his love and joy.

Let us make sure that we put our talents at the service of our neighbors.

His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you.

John 2:5

Saturday

January 7

**We know well the role of a mother in a family.** We also see in this passage, the concern of the Virgin Mary, the mother of Jesus, for the good progress of the marriage in Cana. She is attentive to the events and knows that her Son Jesus can intercede in their favor. As a mother, she knows our concern also.

Let us implore her intercession to benefit from the graces of her Son.



When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

Matthew 2: 10

Sunday

January 8



### THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

**Has it ever happened to us to lose something very important?** How do we feel when we have it back? Have we not experienced a deep joy? This is the feeling that animated the Magi after seeing the star. A deep joy to have found the sign that led them to the baby Jesus. How do you feel in front of Jesus in the crib?



Isaiah 60: 1-6 / Psalm 72: 1-2, 7-8,  
10-11, 12-13 / Ephesians. 3: 2-3a, 5-6 /  
**Matthew 2: 1-12**

This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

Matthew 3 :17

Monday

January 9

BAPTISM OF THE LORD

**At the baptism of Jesus, a voice was heard.**

It is God himself speaking to his beloved Son. He has put all his love into Jesus. Like Jesus, we benefit from this love because with Him we are brothers and sisters. We receive this grace in baptism.

Eternal Father, we entrust our lives to you.

Isaiah 42: 1-4. 6-7 or Acts 10: 34-38 / Psalm 29: 1-2. 3-4. 3. 9-10 (11b) /

**Matthew 3: 13-17**

The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law.

Mark 1:22

Tuesday

January 10

**Jesus comes with a new teaching.** He teaches with authority and this is quickly noticed by those around him. Jesus brings a renewal, because he differs from the scribes, who were teaching before He came. He based His teaching on love which is an important element for each one of us. He is open to everyone and at any time so that everyone can benefit from God's mercy.

Lord Jesus, we want to be transformed by your word and your teaching.

So he went to her, took her hand and helped her up.

Mark 1: 31

Wednesday January 11

**The difference between us and those who do not believe in God is that we are very close to our God and our God is close to us.**

Yet, we do not see Jesus Christ physically, we believe that He is with us. This is why, whenever we pray, we do believe that He is hearing what we are requesting.

Thank you Lord for being with us.



Hebrews 2: 14-18 /  
Psalm 105: 1-2. 3-4. 6-7. 8-9 /  
**Mark 1: 29-39**

But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called “Today,” so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness.

Hebrew 3 :13

Thursday

January 12

**One of the major ways to avoid sin is to listen to good advice.** When we open our hearts to listen to the word of God and the good advices of others, we can in this way avoid many sins. In the same sense, we should also be capable of giving good advices to our friends even when it is not pleasing to them.

In fact, it is in this giving and receiving words of encouragement from others that we grow up in wisdom.

Hebrew 3: 7-14 / Psalm 95: 6-7c. 8-9. 10-11 / Mark 1: 40-45

Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them.

Mark 2 :3

Friday

January 13

**A paralysed person is someone who is not able to move some parts of his/her body.** Jesus healed a paralysed man who was brought to Him by four men. This is teaching us that God can heal many people through our help. God can heal a sick person through our prayer.

So, we need to be praying for all those who are sick.

On hearing this, Jesus said to them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.

Mark 2: 17

Saturday January 14

**Sickness are of two kinds.** There is a sickness of the body and a sickness of the soul. When the body is sick we go to the hospital. When the soul is sick, go to Christ for healing through the confession of our sins. What makes our soul sick are our sins.



Hebrews 4: 12-16 / Psalm 19: 8. 9. 10. 15 / Mark 2: 13-17

Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world!

John 1:29

Sunday

January 15



SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**People used to kill some animals like lamb in sacrifice so that their sins may be forgiven by God.** But when Jesus came, he decided that he is going to die for our sins. This is why he is called the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world.



Isaiah 49: 3. 5-6 /  
Psalm 40: 2. 4. 7-8. 8-9. 10 (8a. 9a) /  
1 Corinthians 1: 1-3 /  
**John 1: 29-34**



Son though he was, he learned obedience  
from what he suffered.

Hebrews 5 :8

Monday

January 16



**Jesus is a powerful God.** He has the strength and power to command the heavenly soldiers and Angels to fight against those who crucified Him. But he decided not to do that. By deciding not to kill those who killed Him, He is teaching us a very important thing called humility. Sometimes we can decide to punish others just because we are more intelligent than them or because our parents are richer than their parents.

*We should not treat anybody bad because we are better than them in any way.*

Hebrews 5: 1-10 / Psalm 110: 1. 2. 3. 4 / Mark 2: 18-22

And so after waiting patiently, Abraham received what was promised.

Hebrews 6 :15

Tuesday

January 17

SAINT ANTHONY, ABBOT

**We all know the story of Abraham whom God promised to bless with many children.** After this promise, God delayed in realising the promise He made to him. Despite this delay, Abraham never lost faith. And God finally blessed him as He promised. Sometimes, God can delay in answering our prayers. He may do that just to know if we can still rely upon Him.

When there is this delay, that is when we know those who have faith.

Then Jesus asked them, “Which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?”

Mark 3 :4

Wednesday January 18

**One Sunday, an old man was pushing a wheelbarrow filled with oranges that he was selling.** At a point, he got tired and in front of him was a young coming from the Church. He requested the young man to help him push the barrow but this young man responded “we are told not to work on Sunday, so I can’t help you”! Did this young man do well? No! This is because, what Jesus is requesting from us is to do good at all times.

So helping someone in need on Sunday is fulfilling the commandment of Love of neighbour.

For he had healed many, so that those with diseases were pushing forward to touch him.

Mark 3:10

Thursday January 19

**At the time Jesus was healing many people,** some people could just touch his body or cloth and they were all healed. Now Jesus is not with us physically. Does it mean that He cannot heal us since He is not with us? No! Jesus tell us to simply pray with faith that he is always with us.



Hebrews 7: 25 8: 6 / Psalm 40: 7-8a. 8b-9. 10. 17/ **Mark 3: 7-12**

He appointed twelve that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach.

Mark 3 :14

Friday

January 20

**Have we ever asked ourselves why we are Christians?** This is a very important question to help us know what we are supposed to do as Christians. From the day we were baptised, we became the disciples of Christ. And the quality of a disciple is to imitate the Master. Jesus is our master and he is expecting us to do all he did during his life time.



When his family heard about this, they went to take charge of him.

Mark 3 :21

Saturday January 21

SAINT AGNES, VIRGIN AND MARTYR

**When Jesus was doing great things like healing the sick,** driving out demons from the possessed persons, some people thought he was mad. They tried to take him and give him some medications but he never listened to them, he continued his good work. That is what we are supposed to do ourselves. When we are serious in Church activities, our friends will laugh at us. They will think that we are not updated like them.

We need to continue with our good work because Jesus is the one who rewards us.

Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people.

Matthew 4 :19

Sunday

January 22



THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**We all know that fishermen or fisherwomen are those who go into the oceans or rivers** with their fishing tools looking for fish. Jesus is telling us that we should be like them. Not going into the water to look for fish but going around preaching his Good News to people. We are to be fishers of people by living a good life.



Isaiah 9: 1-4 / Psalm 27: 1. 4. 13-14 (1a) / 1  
Corinthians 1: 10-13. 17/ **Matthew 4: 12-23**

If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand.

Mark 3:25

Monday

January 23

**The football team of Frank was playing with the football team of Johnson.** At a point during the match, the team of Frank started quarrelling and blaming each other. The team of Johnson was peaceful and united. Johnson's team used the opportunity of the problem in the other team to win them. The story is teaching us that whenever we are divided among ourselves, we are giving room to our downfall.

Jesus is telling us that united will stand and divided will fall.



Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother.

Mark 3:35

Tuesday January 24

SAINT FRANCIS DE SALES, BISHOP AND DOCTOR

**Does Jesus Christ have brothers and sisters?** Yes! Who are they? We are his brothers and sisters. How are we his brothers and sisters? It is by doing God's will. How do we do God's will? It is by following and obeying the Ten Commandments. Jesus is telling us today that whoever does his wills shall become a member of his family.



Hebrews 10: 1-10 / Psalm 40: 2 and 4ab. 7-8a. 10. 11/ **Mark 3: 31-35**

You will be his witness to all people of what you have seen and heard.

Acts 22: 15

Wednesday January 25

### THE CONVERSION OF SAINT PAUL, APOSTLE

**Every Sunday in the Church**, there are four readings: the first reading, the second reading, the Psalms and the Gospel. Apart from that, there is also a preaching from the priest who is celebrating the Mass. Do we often pay attention to these readings? If no, then we should start paying attention to them because Jesus is telling us that we must share what we heard with other people.



Acts 22: 3-16 (or Acts 9: 1-22) / Psalm 117: 1bc. 2 / Mark 16: 15-18

If someone who promotes peace is there, your peace will rest on them; if not, it will return to you.

Luke 10:6

Thursday January 26

SAINTS TIMOTHY AND TITUS, BISHOPS, MEMORIAL

**One of the best gifts we can receive from God is the peace of mind.** What it means to be in peace is that we are not in disagreement with anybody. It also means that our parents are living in good relationship. If we are not experiencing those things, it then means that we are not having a peace of mind. Therefore, we should ask for God's peace in our family.

If we stop being trouble makers and become peacemakers people will love us and God will bless us for God loves peacemakers.

2 Timothy 1: 1-8 or Timothy 1: 1-5 / Psalm 96: 1-2a. 2b-3. 7-8a. 10  
/ Luke 10:1-9

You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised.

Hebrews 10:36

Friday

January 27

**There was a man who was very intelligent when he was studying.** After his studies, he looked for work for five years and could not find one. After many years of prayer and hope in God, he finally got a job in a big company in his country. God is telling us today that we should learn how to be patient in life.

Sometimes God is preparing good things for us but we are not patient to allow God's will manifest in our lives.



Hebrews 10: 32-39 /

Psalms 37: 3-4, 5-6, 23-24, 39-40 /

Mark 4: 26-34

He said to his disciples, “Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?”

Mark 4: 40

Saturday

January 28

SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS

**What happens when our parents, our brother or sister is sick?** What happens when we are sick? We are naturally afraid of dying. We forget that there is God who can heal our sicknesses. The same happens when we are in difficulties, we often forget our God. Jesus is telling us to simply have faith because with faith we can overcome every difficulty in our life.



Hebrews 11: 1-2. 8-19 /  
Ps Luke 1: 69-70. 71-72. 73-75 /  
**Mark 4: 35-41**

God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.

1Corinthians 1: 27

Sunday

January 29



FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**When people become rich**, sometimes they start treating the poor people badly. Also when some of us have discovered that we are intelligent, we start neglecting the ones who are less intelligent. The reason why God makes people richer or more intelligent is for them to help others. We should know that God loves those people who are neglected.

Zephania 2: 3; 3: 12-13 /  
Psalm 146: 6-7. 8-9. 9-10 /  
**1 Corinthians 1: 26-31** /  
Matthew 5: 1-12a



So the man went away and began to tell in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him.

Mark 5: 20

Monday

January 30



**There was a man who paid the school fees of a poor kid.** After paying, this kid forgot to go and thank him. When the year ended, the next year, the kid was again in need of school fees. When he got to the same man to request for school fees, the man refused and told him, “you did not thank me last time I paid for you, therefore I will not pay again.”

This is how Jesus is not happy with us when he does good things for us and we do not appreciate Him.

In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.  
Hebrews 12:4

Tuesday

January 31



### JOHN BOSCO, PRIEST, MEMORIAL

**Sin is something that destroys our relationship with God.** When we sin, we separate ourselves from God. In our baptism, we were washed from our sins and we became like a white cloth. But when we sin, we become like a black cloth and God is not happy with us. So when we sin, we are to ask for forgiveness from God through confession.



Hebrews 12: 1-4 / Psalm 22: 26b-27, 28 and 30, 31-32 / Mark 5: 21-43



*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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63026 a subsidiary of Bayard, Inc., sponsored by the Augustinians of Assumption.

Marketing and Sales Manager: Virginia Kabugu

Published by Bayard Publications – Printed in Nairobi, Kenya,  
address: P.O. BOX 58488 City Square 00200 Nairobi, Kenya,  
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### **IMPRIMATUR**

+Rt Rev. Dominic Kimengich  
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February 15, 2018

**“Behold, the Lamb of God, who  
takes away the sin of the world!”**

John 1: 29



**“A child is what you put into him.”**

Africa