

Living Faith Kids

Daily Devotions for Africa

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DECEMBER 2023 • N° 21

“Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.”

Luke 2:11



The true meaning of Christmas

Every year, around the world, people celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ on Christmas Day, 25 December. It's a day – and season – filled with Christmas carols, tree decorating, gift-giving and parties. In the midst of the celebrations, what is the real meaning of Christmas? The true meaning of Christmas dwells in the name **Emmanuel**.

Emmanuel, which means “God with us” (Matthew 1:23), is another name for Jesus. His birth and life is a message of good news for us because it means we are never alone. It doesn't matter how hard or hopeless our situation may appear to be, God is there for us. We don't have to journey through our challenges and struggles alone. He understands them. He is always and everywhere with us.

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:

BOOK  **Psalm 47:2**  CHAPTER
 VERSE

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.



December at a Glance

Activity Calendar of December



Week 1 Prepare a crib in your family

Repeat daily baby Jesus come in my heart.



Week 2 St. John of the Cross

Write down about Saint John of the Cross



Week 3 Christmas

Send Christmas wishes to the needy children and help them.



Week 4 Nativity of our Lord.

Join others for Holy Mass
Repeat daily "Lord make me joyful".

Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not.

Luke 21: 33

Friday

December 1

THIRTY-FOURTH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

The Word of God is like a monument or a house. Unlike the houses we live in that can be destroyed by rains and harsh weather after some time, the word of the Lord can never be destroyed. It does not get old nor expire. It lives for all generations. For us, today we are assured that God's presence is always with us.



Daniel 7: 2-14 / Daniel 3: 75. 76. 77. 78. 79. 80. 81 / Luke 21: 29-33

But watch at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the son of man.

Luke 21: 36

Saturday December 2

THIRTY-FOURTH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

Our Lord Jesus Christ asks us to pray and be watchful always. Why is it important to always pray and watch? It is important because many things happen which we do not prepare for. For example, recently, we had Covid-19 which killed many people. It is good to always pray so that when such things happen God will watch over us. Praying also makes us not to lose confidence in God when we are troubled.

May the Lord give us strength to be prayerful.

Lord, help us to prayerfully keep watch at all times. Amen!

Daniel 7: 15-27/ Daniel 3: 82. 83. 84. 85. 86. 87/ **Luke 21: 34-36**

Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time will come.

Mark 13:33

Sunday

December 3

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

In the classroom, when the teacher is not around, students make a lot of noise. But when they see the teacher from far coming back to the classroom, everybody keeps quiet. However, good students will always keep quiet even when the teacher is not there because they are responsible and wise. Jesus is telling us to imitate the good students in our Christian life. This is because we do not know the time or the hour, he will visit us. We do so through prayer and good behavior.

Jesus, always accompany us as we prepare for eternity with you.
Amen!

Isaiah 63: 16b-17, 19b; 64: 2-7 / Psalms 80: 2-3, 15-16, 18-19 (4) / 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9 / **Mark 13: 33-37**

Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; but only say the word, and my servant shall be healed.

Matthew 8: 8

Monday

December 4

MONDAY OF THE FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

To be a Christian and a child of God is to be humble. What does it mean to be humble? It means recognizing that we are not perfect; it is to recognize that we have some weaknesses. It is only when we recognize these weaknesses that we will see the need of the Lord's presence in our lives. When these needs are seen, we can now request in God to help our needs. In this way, we see that we cannot do anything without God.



Isaiah 2: 1-5 / Psalms 122: 1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9 / **Matthew 8: 5-11**

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear; but with
righteousness he shall judge the poor.

Isaiah 11:3-4

Tuesday

December 5

TUESDAY OF THE FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

Have you ever done something wrong, which you regretted and ask God for forgiveness, yet people still say that you are a bad person? Jesus Christ is telling us that He does not judge or condemn like human beings. Jesus knows our hearts more than anyone else does. When we repent what we have done wrong and have asked for God's forgiveness maybe through confession, we only need to live in happiness thanking the Lord because He knows us more than we know ourselves.

Lord, I thank you for your forgiving grace. Amen!

Isaiah 11: 1-10 / Psalms 72: 1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/ Luke 10: 21-24

"I have compassion on the crowd, because they have been with me now three days... I am unwilling to send them away hungry..."

Matthew 15: 32

Wednesday December 6



WEDNESDAY OF THE FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

Jesus fed the crowd after they followed him three days without eating anything.

They hungered for God's Word more than ordinary food. Yet Jesus will still feed them with both His Word and ordinary food. This teaches us that we should always hunger for God's Word by reading this reflection every day, by reading the Bible, by listening attentively when the Word of God is proclaimed in the Church. When God sees that we are hungry of His Word, He feeds us with those other things we need.

Dear Lord, help me to be a good listener of your word. Amen!

Isaiah 25: 6-10a / Psalms 23: 1-3a. 3b-4. 5. 6 / Matthew 15: 29-37

Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of my Father in heaven.

Matthew 7:21

Thursday

December 7

ST. AMBROSE, BISHOP AND DOCTOR, MEMORIAL

A Child of God goes to church and obeys God's commandment at all times. It is not enough to be a Christian by words only but one must have faith which is seen through their actions. We are encouraged to profess Jesus and build our lives in a solid foundation of faith and obedience to Gods will.

Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for your love and grace that you give at all times. Amen!

“Hail full of grace, the Lord is with you!”

Luke 1: 28

Friday

December 8

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

When Angel Gabrael visited Mary, he told her that she is full of grace and the Lord is with her. It is because of this grace that Mary was able to conceive Jesus Christ in her holy womb. Whoever does the will of God, the Lord is always with the person. We should always look at Mary as the perfect example of the one who does the will of God. Through following her examples, we can also gain blessings from God.

Mary, pray for us as we strive to do the will of God. Amen!

Genesis 3: 9-15. 20 / Psalms 98: 1. 2-3ab. 3cd-4 / Ephesians 1: 3-6. 11-12 /

Luke 1: 26-38

“The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.”

Matthew 9:37

Saturday

December 9

SATURDAY OF THE FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

We might be living in a parish where we have priests who celebrate mass for us every Sunday or even every day. But there are people who live in very far villages where they rarely see a priest. We can understand that these people are in need of pastoral care. You can decide to be a priest

or a sister in order to help these people in future. We can also remember them in our prayers so that the Lord may send to them some priests.



Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

Mark 1:3

Sunday

December 10

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Today we are urged to prepare the way for the Lord through kindness and compassion. Just as we'd prepare for an adventure, we're encouraged to prepare our hearts for something significant by embracing kindness and spreading goodness, thus making them a welcoming place for love and light. This verse teaches us to be messengers of goodness, emphasizing that, even in challenging times, we can ready ourselves for the Lord's presence by cultivating a heart filled with love and compassion.

Lord, help us to always live a righteous life. Amen!

Isaiah 40: 1-5. 9-11 / Psalms 85: 9-10. 11-12. 13-14 (8) / 2 Peter 3: 8-14 /
Mark 1: 1-8

And when he saw their faith he said, “ Man,
your sins are forgiven

Luke 5: 20

Monday

December 11

MONDAY OF THE SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT

There is nothing a Christian can do without having faith. Our faith attracts God's blessings not only for us but also for our families, relatives and friends. It is through our faith that we can pray and a sick person will be healed. It is important to have faith because our faith does not only serve us but it serves people around us too. In the Bible there are so many examples where the faith of one person was the cause of healing for another person or people.

Lord, multiply our faith and trust in you. Amen!

“Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord.
May it be done to me according to your
word,”

Luke 1:38

Tuesday

December 12

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE, FEAST

Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary because she said “yes” when Angel Gabriel visited her. Mary obeys God’s will. At times, we reject God’s will knowingly or unknowingly. For example, when we are doing bad things or refusing to help a person in need, we are rejecting God.



No one ever regrets being a good person. Let us always do good, helping those who need our help.

Zech. 2:10-13 or Rev. 11:19a; 12 / 1-6a.10ab / Ps.: Judith 13:18bcde.19

Luke 1:26-38

“Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” Matthew 11: 28

Wednesday December 13



ST LUCY, VIRGIN AND MARTYR, MEMORIAL

Jesus is inviting all who have burdens and are overloaded with difficulties to come to him because He is the solution to their problems.

We may think that we do not have burdens but we all do. Those exams which are stressing us, that our future that we keep on thinking about are already some burdens. When we present them to God, He inspires us to find better solutions. Even the difficulties of our friends are to be presented to God by us. So, all of us are overburdened in way or the other.

Lord Jesus, help us to carry our burden. Amen!

He who has ears to hear, let him hear.

Matthew 11: 15

Thursday December 14

ST JOHN OF THE CROSS, PRIEST AND DOCTOR

In a classroom when a teacher is teaching, some students are attentive while others get distracted. Therefore, they listen but do not understand. The same happens to us when a priest is preaching. Our mind sometimes wanders away from what is going on during the Holy Mass. Jesus is calling us to listen attentively in order to hear his Word and avoid distraction.

Lord Jesus, help us to always pay heed to your word. Amen!

He who follows you, Lord, will have the light of life.

John 8:12

Friday

December 15

FRIDAY OF THE SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT

Have you ever watched a film where in the darkness the person who has a torch is leading others. Jesus Christ is our light and He leads us. His word illuminates the darkest parts of our lives. When we think that there is no light in our lives, live in the most difficult moments of our lives, we should always look up to Christ because He is the light of our life.

Lord Jesus, help me to follow you and your ways. Amen!

“...but I tell you that Elijah has already come, and they did not know him... so also the Son of man will suffer at their hands.”

Matthew 17: 12

Saturday December 16

SATURDAY OF THE SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT

Jesus told his disciples that Elijah came and people did not recognize who he was. Likewise, he said that he would suffer because the same people would not recognize him. He was simply saying that for Him to save mankind he had to suffer. Today, we may fail to recognize Jesus in our lives. Let us pray that in every situation, we recognize Jesus as Lord and King!

Lord Jesus, help us to recognize you and your voice in our everyday life. Amen!

Sirach 48: 1-4. 9-11 / Psalms 80: 2ac and 3b. 15-16. 18-19 /

Matthew 17: 9a. 10-13

“....I am the voice of one crying in wilderness, ‘make straight the way of the Lord,’

John 1: 23

Sunday

December 17

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

John the Baptist began his mission calling people to conversion. He was the last to appear among all the prophets. His role was to prepare people to welcome Christ in their lives. Today, we are called to prepare others to welcome Christ in their lives. We shouldn't be the ones misleading people through our actions. Our lives should be an example for others to come to Christ.



Isaiah 61: 1-2a, 10-11 / Luke 1: 46-48, 49-50, 53-54 / 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24 /

John 1: 6-8, 19-28

“Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel (which means, God with us)”

Matthew 1 :23

Monday

December 18

MONDAY OF THE THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

The birth of Jesus was special. It was announced by an Angel who instructed Mary to call the boy Emmanuel. Emmanuel means God with us. God has never abandoned anyone He created. This is why, when Adam and Eve our first parents, sinned against God, God still sent his Son Jesus Christ to show that he is always with us. We should constantly call him in time of our needs. Jesus left for us Holy Sacraments as a reminder that he will always be with us though not physically.

Jesus, thank you for your reassurance of your presence through the sacraments. Amen!

Jeremiah 23: 5-8 / Psalms 72: 1-2. 12-13. 18-19 / **Matthew 1: 18-25.**

But the Angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zachariah, for your prayer is heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John..."

Luke 1:13

Tuesday

December 19

TUESDAY OF THE THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

Zachariah and Elizabeth are parents of John the Baptist. They had spent a number of years without having a child. But they kept on praying to God and God granted their prayers by giving them a son named, John the Baptist. Many people are living like the parents of John the Baptist, they do not have children, they are praying to get children. Today we should pray for people with different needs that God may grant their desires.

Lord Jesus, remind us to pray for all those who ask of our prayers. Amen!

And Angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son of Most High..." Luke 1: 30

Wednesday December 20



WEDNESDAY OF THE THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

When the Angel visited Mary, she was afraid but the Angel told her not to be afraid because she had found favour with God. How do we find favour with God like Mary? We do so by becoming like Mary. We become like Mary by being humble, respecting our elders, praying to God for ourselves, for our families and friends, and being truthful at all times. When we do these, we find favour with God like Mary.

Mary Queen of Peace, pray for us to obtain God's favor. Amen!

And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the child leaped in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit...

Luke 1: 41

Thursday

December 21

THURSDAY OF THE THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

Mary was pregnant when she visited Elizabeth who was also pregnant (carrying John the Baptist). At this visit, Elizabeth was filled with joy and the Holy Spirit because through Mary, Jesus Christ visited them. The Holy Spirit is the sign and gift that is given from God. When we go to Church, we visit Jesus Christ during the Mass and the Holy Spirit goes home with us in our hearts. This is why we always rejoice while going home from Mass: the Holy Spirit is with us.

Song of Solomon 2: 8-14 or Zephaniah 3: 14-18a / Psalms 33: 2-3, 11-12, 20-21 /

Luke 1: 39-45



“My Soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my saviour...”

Luke 1: 46

Friday

December 22



FRIDAY OF THE THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

In few days to come, we are going to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Are we happy for what is about to happen or are we sad? If we are not happy then we are not Christians. Mary was extremely happy when she says that her spirit rejoices in God her saviour. Our hearts should be filled with joy that Jesus Christ will be born for us. Jesus does not live in an angry heart. He likes when we are happy for Him. Let us rejoice!

Jesus, fill our hearts with
expectation of newness.

1 Samuel 1: 24-28 / 1 Samuel 2: 1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd / **Luke 1: 46-56**

Look up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.

Luke 21: 28

Saturday

December 23

SATURDAY OF THE THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

The people of Israel waited for the coming of Jesus Christ for thousands of years. They were almost discouraged saying that He might never come. But God told them to rejoice because their redemption is drawing near. Jesus' coming brought redemption for the whole world. Redemption means that Jesus saving us from the hands of our enemy, satan. It is because of this redemption that we can call on Jesus whenever we are in trouble. He is the one who saves us from all kinds of trouble. *Jesus, we thank you for your salvation. Amen!*

Malachi 3: 1-4. 23-24 / Psalms 25: 4-5ab. 8-9. 10 R. / Luke 21:28 and 14 /

Luke 1: 57-66

The holy spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you.

Luke 1: 35

Sunday

December 24

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Tomorrow is the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. By now, we have prepared everything in our families, all the decorations are set, our Christmas' dresses are probably ready. We are just waiting for the day to break so that we can start rejoicing. But, as we prepare all these things, we need also to prepare our hearts. Jesus is not going to be born as a baby again, He is going to be born in our hearts. Is your heart ready to welcome Jesus?

Father, as we welcome Jesus into our hearts, we repent of all our sins.
Amen!

2 Samuel 7: 1-5. 8b-12. 14a. 16 / Psalms 89: 2-3. 4-5. 27. 29 (2a) / Romans 16: 25-27 / **Luke 1: 26-38**

The light shines in the darkness, and darkness has not overcome it.

John 1: 5

Monday

December 25

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD, SOLEMNITY

Today the Saviour of the world is born.

Before Jesus was born, the world was living in total darkness. This darkness is the sins of the world. Human beings were not in good relationship with God because of their sins. Jesus came to reconcile, that is, to repair the damaged relationship between God and human beings. If Jesus was not born, human beings would still be living in a total darkness. His coming removed the sins of the world and brought us salvation. This is why we can now pray to God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.



And as they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."

Acts 7: 59

Tuesday

December 26

ST STEPHEN, PROTO MARTYR, FEAST

Do we know the first person who was killed because of his love for Jesus? His name is Saint Stephen. He is called the first martyr, which means one who was killed for Jesus. Yesterday, we celebrated the birth of Jesus, today, we are remembering the death of Stephen. This is a lesson for us. Whoever loves Jesus will give his or her life for his sake just like Stephen did. To be a Christian is to accept to rejoice and also to suffer for the sake of Christ.

Lord Jesus, help me to love you all my heart and to do your will. Amen!

Acts 6: 8-10; 7: 54-59 / Psalms 31: 3cd-4. 6 and 8ab. 16bc and 17/
Matthew 10: 17-22

...Mary Magdalene ran, and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved...

John 20:2

Wednesday December 27

ST JOHN, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST, FEAST

Today we celebrate John the evangelist. In the Bible, he is also called the “beloved disciple whom Jesus loved.” He is called like this because he was always with Jesus, he never left his master for anything. Even during the death of Jesus, he stood with Mary. He is a perfect example of whom we should be. We should be the ones who are also with Jesus for those who are with him he calls beloved.

Jesus, teach us to love you like John did. Amen!

.....Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there till I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.

Matthew 2: 13

Thursday

December 28

HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS, FEAST

Today we remember the death of the Holy innocents. Who were they? They were little children who were killed by Herod when he was looking for a way to kill Jesus. Herod was a king of the Israelites. He did not want Jesus to live. So, he killed all the male children thinking that Jesus will be among those he killed. But Jesus' parents had taken him to another country called Egypt. Today, let us remember to pray for all the children who are suffering and dying in countries where there is war.

Lord, we pray for innocent babies who die for various reasons. Amen!

Beloved: By this we maybe sure that we know Jesus Christ, if we keep his commandments.

1John 2:3

Friday

December 29

THIRTY-FOURTH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

How can we be sure that we Love Jesus?

Is it possible to love Jesus and not do as He wants us to do? We love Jesus by keeping all His commandments. As Christians today, we are invited to obey Jesus, by obeying our parents and the adults in our lives. By doing this we shall be showing the world our love for Jesus

Dear Jesus, help us to love you in our deeds. Amen!

I am writing to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven for his sake.

1 John 2:12

Saturday

December 30

CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY

The only person who has the power to forgive sin is Jesus Christ. Through his birth that we celebrated, he has forgiven the sins of all the world. But we continue to commit sins every day. This means that we are always in need of His forgiveness. Because we continue to sin, we should continue to look for his face for our forgiveness.



1 John 2: 12-17 / Psalms 96: 7-8a. 8b-9. 10 / Luke 2: 36-40

And the child grew and became strong,
filled with wisdom; and favour of God was
upon him.

Luke 2:40

Sunday

December 31

HOLY FAMILY, FEAST

Today is the feast of the Holy Family. It is in remembrance of how Mary and Joseph took care of Jesus. Jesus obeyed them and because of that obedience he grew in wisdom and knowledge. Do we obey our parents? If we want to grow in wisdom and God's love, we need to be obedient to our parents. Today, we are invited to pray for our parents. If possible, we should also say to them today "mom and dad we love you. May God bless you!"

Lord Jesus, help me to love my
family and to always pray for them.
Amen!

Genesis 15: 1-6; 21: 1-3 Psalms 105: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 (7a, 8a) / Hebrews 11: 8, 11-12, 17-19 / **Luke 2: 22-40**

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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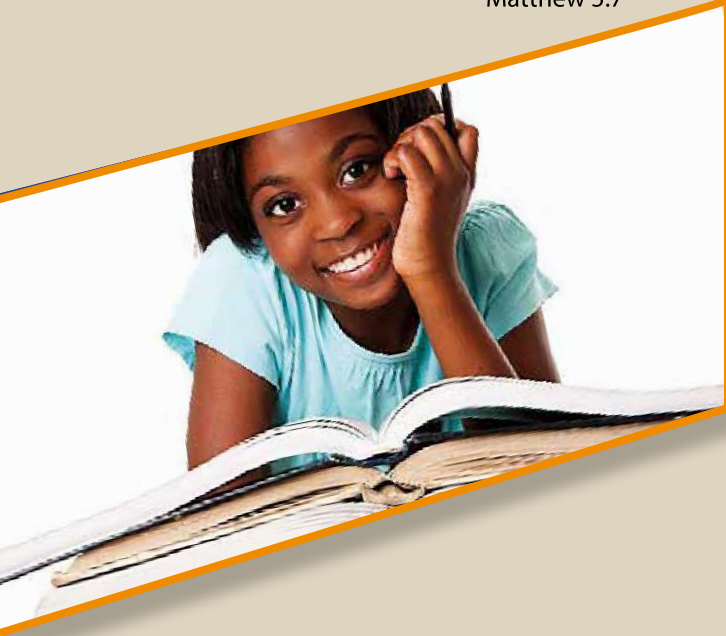
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IMPRIMATUR

+Rt Rev. Dominic Kimengich
Chairman, Commission for Liturgy
Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops
February 15, 2018

**“Rejoice always, pray continually,
give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is God’s will for you
in Christ Jesus.”**

Matthew 5:7



**“Birds sing not because they have
answers but because they have
songs”**

African proverb