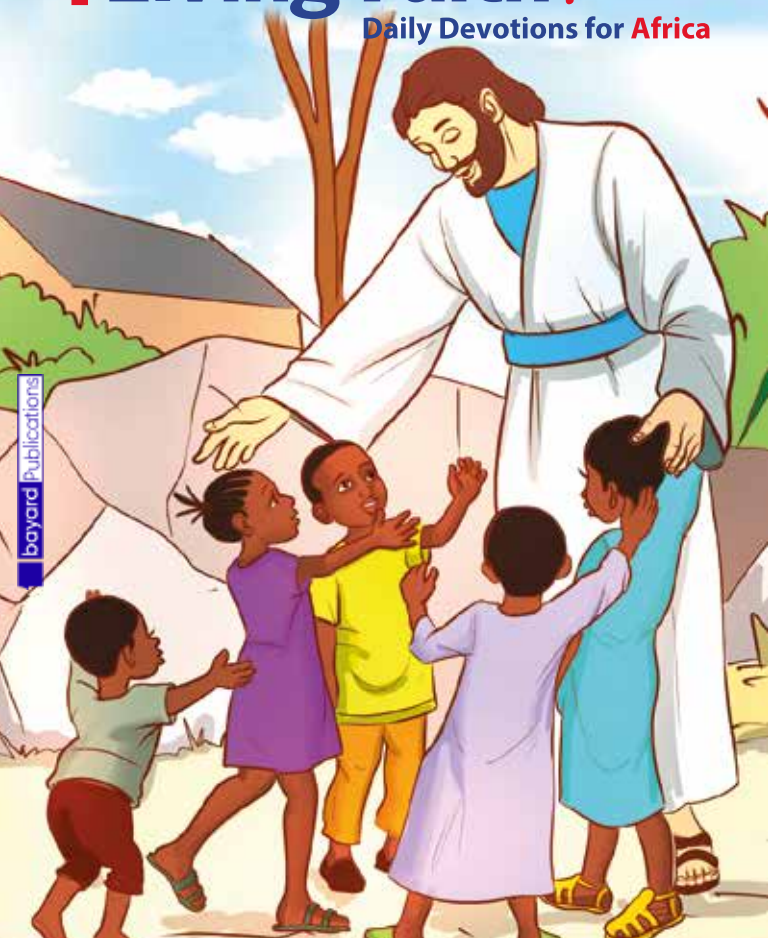


Living Faith Kids

Daily Devotions for Africa

bayard Publications



JANUARY 2024 • N° 22

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

Matthew 2:11



Dear young friends,

Every year on January 1, we mark the World Day of Peace. As we start the new year, let's think about this special gift of peace. In our faith, we learn from Jesus Christ, who is called the Prince of Peace. He tells us to be peacemakers in our lives and in the world.

Peace is like a big, warm hug that makes everyone feel safe and happy. We can create peace by being good friends, helping others, and treating everyone with love.

Imagine if everyone in the world shared smiles, laughter, and kindness. That's the kind of world God dreams for us. So, let's promise to be peacemakers and spread love in our hearts, in our homes, and all around the world. Remember, even small acts of kindness can make a big difference.

**Happy New Year and may God's love
and peace be with you always!**

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.

And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart.

Luke 2:19

Monday

January 1

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

Sometimes we get some information that is very precious. Do you know the information Mary kept in her heart? Please check from your bible in Luke 2. It is a good habit to always reflect on good news when we receive them. It helps us to better understand the news, keep remembering it and apply it in our lives. We should always listen to God speak to us through His word, teachers, parents and priests.

Lord, help us to hear your word and reflect on it daily!

Numbers 6:22-2 / Psalms 67:2-3.5.6 and 8 / Galatians 4:4- 7/ **Luke 2:16-21**

“I am ‘the voice of one crying out in the desert,’
Make straight the way of the Lord,”

John 1:23

Tuesday

January 2

SAINTS BASIL THE GREAT AND GREGORY NAZIANZEN
MEMORIAL

Today's gospel talks about John the Baptist.

He tells us who he is and what he has been sent to do! To announce the coming of Jesus Christ. Like John, we are invited to also announce the coming of Jesus especially to those who do not know Him. Who should we tell them that Jesus is? Tomorrow's reflection gives us a hint of who Jesus is as we announce Him to other children.

Lord Jesus, give us a clear understanding of who you are as we share your presence with others.

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

John 1:29

Wednesday January 3

CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY

Remember yesterday's reflection on who Jesus is? Today, the gospel tells us that Jesus is the lamb of God who takes away our sins! As we share with others about Jesus, we should always tell them that Jesus forgives us our sins, and helps us to always be free to enjoy life without feeling guilty. When we make mistakes and offend others, Jesus takes our guilt away. He gives us peace and reconciles us to God and other people.

Jesus our redeemer, always help us to seek your forgiveness when we sin.

1 John 2:29—3:6; Psalms 98:1.3cd-4.5-6 John 1:29-34

Little children, let no one deceive you.
He who does right is righteous, as he is
righteous.

1 John 3:7

Thursday

January 4

CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY

Have you ever thought about who a righteous person is? Sometimes we are not sure if one can be righteous or not. In the book of John, the word of God gives us a hint. We are encouraged to do what is right. Obey our parents, our elders and treat other people well. That way, we will be righteous. We will be happy and confident that God lives in us. Other people will see our good deeds and praise God.

Lord, help us to always do the right thing.

Little children, let us not love in word or speech but indeed and in truth.

1 John 3:18

Friday

January 5

CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY

Today, the word of God again tells us to do good. John, says that our actions should be guided by love. When we love, we treat people fairly, with care not to hurt or offend them. We should always be truthful. What are some situations that tempt you to lie? How should you act when tempted to lie? Talk to your friend about this, then ask a trusted adult to guide you.

Father, you call us to live truthfully and honorably. Help us to always defend the truth no matter how hard it is.

1 John 3:11-21 / Psalms 100:1-2,3,4,5. / John 1:43-51

He who has the son has life; he who has not the son of God has not life.

1 John 5:12

Saturday

January 6

CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY

What do you think it means not to have life, yet we are living? What could be word of God mean by having life in the Son of God? It means being spiritually connected with God through Jesus. When we have life in Jesus, our actions are guided by Jesus, we love others and do what is good. We also receive special help from God which helps us overcome difficulties in our lives.

Father, give us the grace to always be connected with our savior.

1 John 5:5-13 / Psalms 147:12-13,14-15,19-20 /
Mark 1:7-11 (or Luke 3:23-38 or 3:23,31-34,36,38)

They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage...

Matthew 2:10-11

Sunday

January 7



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Today is called the Epiphany Sunday.

Epiphany is a special day when we celebrate baby named Jesus. Three Wise Men, saw a really bright star in the sky. They followed that star to find the baby Jesus, and when they found Him, they gave Him special gifts. This shows that baby Jesus was special. He came to bring love and goodness to everyone, no matter where they're from.

Lord Jesus on this Epiphany, remind us that you are a special light in our lives. Guide us to be kind and loving to others.

Isaiah 60:1-6 / Psalms 72:1-2,7-8,10-13. / Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6. /

Matthew 2:1-12.

And a voice came from the heavens, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.

Mark 1:11

Monday

January 8

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD, FEAST

Today we celebrate Jesus' baptism. Again, God announces to us who Jesus is. After Jesus got baptized, God announced to the world that Jesus is His son. What do you think God said when you got baptized? The Bible says that there is great rejoicing in heaven when someone (including you) is baptized! Do you celebrate the day you were baptized? Many times, we don't remember that day. Please ask your parents to celebrate the day you were baptized.

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

“Eli said, “Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant you what you have requested.”

1 Samuel 1:17

Tuesday

January 9

FIRST WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

Today marks the beginning of a new ordinary season. How many other seasons do you know? Do you know the story of Samuel the prophet? Samuel's Mother trusted God for a gift of a child. Eli, the priest saw Hannah praying and thought she was drunk. When Eli talked to Hannah, he prayer for her and God heard their prayer. Our reading reminds us to always trust God and ask people we trust to pray with us too. Equally, like the priest prayed for Hannah, we should also pray for others.

Lord, help us to always pray for those who need our prayers.

1 Samuel 1:9-20 / Ps 1 Samuel 2:1.4-5.6-7.8. / Mark 1:21-28.

Samuel grew up, and the Lord was with him, not permitting any word of his to go unfulfilled.

1 Samuel 3: 19

Wednesday January 10

FIRST WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

Samuel grew up as a young boy like any other child. The Lord was with Samuel, He had anointed Him as His servant. Everything he said, the Lord made it come true. This way everyone recognized Samuel as a prophet of God. Today, God answers our prayers and fulfils His promises to us. We are called to believe in Him and his intentions for our lives.

Lord, give us the confidence to trust in your plans even when we have no clarity what they are!

1 Samuel 3:1-10, 19-20 / Psalms 40:2.5.7-8.9-10. / Mark 1:29-39.

Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand and touched him, and said to him, "I will; be clean."

Mark 1:41

Thursday January 11

FIRST WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

In today's reading we see Jesus healing a sick man. Jesus had the power to do good, perform miracles as he willed. Do you know that this same Jesus lives in us today? He loves us; he wants us to take our troubles to Him in faith. What is the one thing you wish Jesus can do for you? Always believe in Jesus' power and you will experience miracles in your life.

Lord Jesus, please affirm to us your miraculous deeds in our lives today.

-He said to the paralytic- “I say to you, rise, take up your pallet and go home.”

Mark 2: 11

Friday

January 12

FIRST WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

Just like yesterday, we see Jesus healing a man who was paralyzed. Healing is a very common activity that Jesus did. Why do you think Jesus healed the sick? Does Jesus still heal today? Are there diseases that Jesus cannot heal? From Jesus healing ministry, we realize that Jesus healed all manner of sicknesses – in the body, mind and spirit. The church invites us to ask Jesus to heal our pains and set us free!

Lord Jesus, I pray for healing in my life and family.

“Those who are well don’t need a physician, but the sick do. I did not come to call the righteous but sinners”.

Mark 2 : 17

Saturday

January 13

FIRST WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

Have you ever wondered when one should go to hospital? Jesus says that only the sick need to see a doctor, not everyone. What does this mean to us today? Jesus uses this imagery to help us understand that those who need His salvation are sinners not the righteous. When we discover this truth, we stop judging others. That is why the Catholic church welcomes everyone to Christ instead of blocking them.

Jesus, help us to always welcome others to experience your saving grace.

1 Samuel 9:1-4.17-19; 10:1a / Psalms 21:2-3.4-5.6-7. / **Mark 2:13-17.**

“... Samuel, Samuel! Samuel answered,
“Speak, for your servant is listening.” ”

1 Samuel 3: 10

Sunday

January 14



SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Do you know how many times God called Samuel? I bet your answer is three times. However, the answer is four. Today's reflection reminds us about Samuel response when he discovered that God was calling him. He said exactly as he was instructed by Eli. Likewise, many times God talks to us today in different ways. How do we listen to God? How do we know its God calling (talking to) us? Talk to a trusted adult about how to listen to the voice of God today.

Lord God, help to hear your voice
in our lives!

1 Samuel 3:3b-10.19 / Psalms 40:2.4.7-8a.8b-9-10. / 1 Corinthians
6:13c-15a, 17-20. / John 1:35-42

... Obedience is better than sacrifice, ...

1 Samuel 15:22

Monday

January 15

SECOND WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

What do you think is the best way to express God's love in our lives today?

Is it by going to church? Or reading the bible? Or doing good things to others? Our reading today tells us that although it is good to do all the above, we must obey at all times. Obey our parents, teachers and other senior people. Above all, we should obey the word of God. That way we fulfil what God wants of us.

Lord God, help us to obey you even when it seems difficult to do so.

1 Samuel 15:16-23 / Psalms 50:8-9.16bc-17.21 and 23. / Mark 2:18-22.

Then he said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man not man for the Sabbath. That is why the son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath."
Mark 2:27-28

Tuesday

January 16

SECOND WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

The people of Israel strictly observed laws about sabbath (day of rest and worship).

Instead of doing good deeds, they would have preferred not to do anything simply because the law said they should not work on sabbath. Jesus taught that it is better to do good deeds than to simply obey the law and not do good. Likewise, today, we should always choose to do good deeds as opposed to simply observing the law.

Jesus, help us to live by your grace,
always seeking to do your will

Thus David triumphed over the philistine with sling and stone; he struck the Philistine dead and did it without a sword in his hand.

1 Samuel 17: 50

Wednesday January 17

SAINT ANTHONY, ABBOT, MEMORIAL

Do you remember the story of David and Goliath? If you don't, read about it again. Today we are reminded that David used only a sling and a stone to defeat the giant whom everyone was afraid of. What does this teach us about victory? It teaches us that God does not need weapons and armies to protect us. For us, we only need to trust God to fight our battles for us. What kind of battles could you be fighting today?

Lord God, strengthen us as we face afflictions and trials in our everyday life.

1 Samuel 17:32-33.37.40-51 / Psalms 144:1.2.9-10. / Mark 3:1-6.

In God I trust; I shall not fear.

Psalms 56: 5b

Thursday

January 18

SECOND WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

Today's Psalm is simple. It is a statement of faith. It is an acclamation of a firm belief in God. You are invited to make this psalm your firm resolve. Simply trust in God, fear nothing because God will take care of everything. Is there something that has made you fear? What do you wish to ask God to take care of? Simply say it in your heart, write on your journal, diary or exercise book, 'In God I trust, I shall not fear' Make this your everyday statement of faith.

Lord God, I choose to trust in you.

He went up the mountain and summoned those whom he wanted and they came to him.

Mark 3:13

Friday

January 19

SECOND WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

How many disciples did Jesus have? Does Jesus call out disciples today? Jesus calls all of us to different vocations. Do you know the meaning of vocation? Please ask your teacher, catechist or parent to tell you more about vocations. Some are called to married life, some to religious life and others to priesthood. How do you know what vocation you are called to? Through the different vocations, we are called to serve God and humanity.

Lord, direct us towards our vocations and service.

1 Samuel 24:2-20 / Psalms 57:2.3-4.6 and 11. / **Mark 3:13-19.**

Let your face shine on us, Lord, and we shall be saved.

Psalms 80:4b

Saturday

January 20

SECOND WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

Today, our reading offers a very unique prayer to God. Psalmist prays to God to shine His face as a way of getting salvation. This is a powerful prayer. It reminds us that it only takes Gods face to shine on us and all works out well. God's power reflected in our lives changes us forever. Let us in the same light, ask the Lord to shine His face on all our situations and we shall be saved.

Lord, shine your face on us, give us your salvation.

The word of the Lord came to Jonah saying
“Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and
proclaim to it the message that I tell you.”

Jonah 3:1

Sunday

January 21



THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Often times, God sends us on very specific missions. You remember the story of Jonah? Jonah was sent to a faraway city to proclaim Gods message and invite the people of Nineveh to repent. Do you at times wonder what God has called you to do? How can we know what God wants us to do for Him? To understand better God's call, please talk to a trusted adult, your catechist, priest or nun. They will help you listen and respond to God's call.

Lord help us to always hear your voice as
you send us.

Jonah 3:1-5.10 / Psalms 25:4-5ab.6 and 7bc.8-9 / 1 Corinthians 7:29-31 /
Mark 1:14-20.

...But whoever blasphemes against the holy Spirit will never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an everlasting sin.”

Mark 3:29

Monday

January 22

THIRD WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

Do you think there is a sin that God will not forgive? Are all sins the same? This is a hard question many of us struggle to understand. Today, the gospel cautions us against blasphemy against the spirit of God. This means that we must always obey the spirit, speak well of the spirit of God and believe in the power of the spirit.

We should not doubt the spirit exists and lives among us.

Lord Jesus, help us to always hear and obey your spirit.

Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.

Mark 3:35

Tuesday

January 23



THIRD WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

Did you know that just as you have siblings in your family, we have siblings in the kingdom of God? How do siblings treat each other? As we reflect on the gospel, we are reminded that everyone who belongs to the family of faith (our church, Christian community) is a brother or sister. We are therefore expected to love and help those we share our faith with.

Lord may we always recognize the value of brotherhood and sisterhood we share in the faith. .

2 Samuel 6:12b-15.17-19/ Psalms 24:7.8.9.10. / **Mark 3:31-35.**

But those sown on rich soil are the ones who hear the word and accept it and bear fruit thirty and sixty and a hundredfold.

Mark 4: 20

Wednesday January 24

SAINT FRANCIS DE SALES, BISHOP AND DOCTOR OF THE
CHURCH MEMORIAL

Do you remember the parable of the sower? You may have studied it in school. Do you know the meaning of the parable? Today we are reminded of the seeds that fell on fertile soil. We are told that every time listen to the word of God and do what it says, we are like the seeds on fertile soil. What prevents you from doing the will of God? Is it pride? Is it anger? Is it our families? Think about it and share with someone you trust. *Lord, help us to live in accordance with your words.*

2 Samuel 7:4-17 / Psalms 89:45.27-28.2930 / Mark 4:1-20.

He said to them "Go into the world and proclaim the gospel to every creature...

Mark 16: 15

Thursday

January 25

THE CONVERSION OF SAINT PAUL THE APOSTLE FEAST

God created us for various reasons. Do you know the reasons why God created you? Today we are reminded of one of the reasons we were created. To serve Him. In a very special way, Christ sends us to the world to preach the good news of His salvation. How can you fulfil this calling? Who will you target to share with about Jesus?

Lord Jesus, increase in us the desire to share your love with those around us.

Acts 22:3-16 (or Acts 9:1-22) / Psalms 117:1.2. / **Mark 16:15-18.**

Do not be ashamed then of testifying to our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but take your share of suffering for Gospel in the power of God.

2 Timothy 1:8

Friday

January 26

SAINTS TIMOTHY AND TITUS, BISHOPS, MEMORIAL

Yesterday, Jesus called us in a special way to share the gospel. Have you ever felt ashamed of telling others about Christ? Do you at times feel like it is hard? In our reading today, Paul (an elder) advises Timothy (youthful preacher) not to be ashamed of sharing the gospel. Likewise, this message should strengthen us. We should be like Timothy – strong and unashamed of the gospel!

May the Lord help us to bear the burden and shame of the gospel.

2 Timothy 1:1-8 (or Titus 1:1-5) / Psalms 96:1-3,7-8a,10 / Luke 10:1-9.

... Quiet! Be still! The wind ceased and there was a great calm.

Mark 4:39

Saturday

January 27

THIRD WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

In our Christian journey, we are sometimes faced by challenges – these can be equated to violent storms that can easily destroy our lives. However, in the gospel today, we see Jesus the Lord of the universe calming a violent storm at sea! Imagine Jesus words are enough to calm the wind! How much more would Jesus calm the storms in our lives? Let us invite Him to help us deal with the challenges we face every day.

Jesus, may your power manifest in us every new day.

O that today you would listen to his voice!
Harden not your hearts.

Psalms 95:7.8a

Sunday

January 28

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

When we are faced by challenges, when we find it hard to live the will of God, what happens to us? Maybe you have experienced a moment when you are unable to pray, sing or even feel God's presence. Such moments may make our hearts hardened and block us from hearing from God. Our reading today invites us to always be keen not to be with hardened hearts, but to always be ready to receive the word of God.

Father, may our hearts be receptive to your words always.

Deuteronomy 18:15-20 / **Psalms 95:1-2.6-7abc.7d-9** / 1 Corinthians 7:32-35
Mark 1:21b-28.

...Go home to your friends, and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you.”

Mark 5: 19

Monday

January 29

FOURTH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

Jesus went about healing and doing other miracles. Our reading today reminds us about a man who was demon possessed – whom Jesus healed. The man wanted to follow Jesus but Jesus refused him. Why do you think He refused? Jesus wanted the man to share with his people what the Lord had done. When we receive miracles, blessings and favors from God, it is good to give testimony. What is one thing Jesus has done and you can share with others?

Lord Jesus, remind us to always sing of your good deeds in our lives.

2 Samuel 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13a / Psalms 3: 2-3.4-5.6-7/ **Mark 5:1-20**

Turn your ear, O Lord. And answer me.

Psalms 86: 1a

Tuesday

January 30

FOURTH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

Did you know that a psalm is a song ? Songs carry different themes for different occasions. Today, our reading presents an appeal to the Lord. What are some situations that make you feel like God has left you ?

It is perfectly normal to feel like that. However, it good to remember that the Lord never leaves us despite what we experience. Remember to pray and ask the Lord to answer your prayer.

In my distress, turn your ear, O Lord. And answer me.

O Lord, forgive the guilt of my sin

Psalm 32:5a

Wednesday

January 31

SAINT JOHN BOSCO, PRIEST, MEMORIAL

Welcome to the last Day of the Month! We end the month with a beautiful scripture. Another prayer from the psalms. Can you recall yesterday's prayer?

Today we make a prayer of repentance. We ask the Lord to forgive us for the times we have been disobedient, have not lived His will, have been ashamed of testifying about Him, and other ways through which we offend God. Pray that the Lord forgives you and gives you the grace to carry on serving Him in the new month.

O Lord, forgive the guilt of my sin

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
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



“A child is what you put into him.”

African proverb