

Living Faith Kids

Daily Devotions for Africa

bayard Publications



SEPTEMBER 2023 • N° 18

“She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

Matthew 1:21



Dear friends,

On 8th of september, we will be celebrating the birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Her birth is a preparation for God's great plan of salvation. The role of Mary in the plan of salvation is an extraordinary one. By faith and total trust in God, she embraced all the pains, sufferings, and sacrifices. Her simple “yes” created a great impact during her time and up to now, we are still learning from her. Our mother Mary is so close to our hearts and plays an important role in our lives, most especially in our families. We are much grateful that we have Mary our mother who always looks after us and intercede for us. “Hail Mary, Mother of God pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death” Amen!

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.



September at a Glance

Activity Calendar of September



Week Nativity of Blessed Virgin

1

Mary

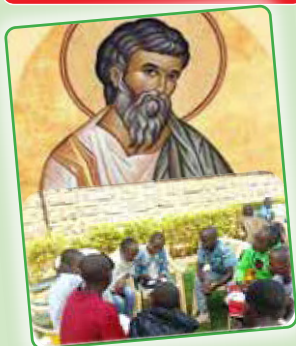
Recite daily Hail Mary



Week Exaltation of the cross.

2

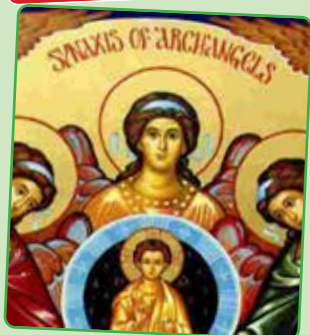
Teach a child how to do the sign of the Cross



Week Saint Matthew

3

Read the Gospel of Matthew with your friends.



Week Saints Michael, Gabriel and Raphael.

4

Write down what you know about these Angels.

“....watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

Matthew 25:13

Friday

September 1

To Watch is to pay close attention to and to be ready for something. As Christians we are called to be watchful as we wait for the coming of the Lord. This is a sign of love and patience. Like a mother who waits for the return of her children, we wait for the return of Christ. This waiting pushes us into selfless and loving service to our neighbor.

Lord, give us
the grace to
be watchful
as we await
You.



“.... well done good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master”...

Matthew 25:23

Saturday September 2

Each one has been given a particular gift which they must develop. In this passage, the master praises his servant who has made his talents bear fruit. We too have been given talents by the Lord. God intended us to use the gifts to serve Him and benefit others. This way, the gifts bear fruit.

Help us Lord to put our talents at the service of our brothers and sisters.

Therefore, I appeal to you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

Romans 12: 1

Sunday

September 3

Giving a gift to someone is a sign of love for that person. We give good quality gifts to our loved ones. Likewise, before we bring our offering to the Lord, we make sure that it is of good quality. Saint Paul invites us to offer our bodies, as a living sacrifice. This means keeping ourselves holy by repenting from our sins and using our gifts to serve God. This makes us worthy to be sacrifices to our Lord.

Lord Help us to be Holy by emulating your life here on earth.

For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.

1 Thessalonians 4: 14

Monday

September 4

After His death, Jesus resurrected on the third day. He has conquered death and is alive forever. All human beings will die. Just as Jesus resurrected, as Christians we believe that we will live with Jesus forever in His Kingdom. This is the basis of our Christian Faith. Do you believe in the resurrection?



Dear Jesus, give us faith to believe and prepare for eternal life with you.

1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18 / Psalms 96: 1 and 3. 4-5. 11-12. 13 / Luke 4: 16-30.

Therefore let us not sleep as the rest do but let us stay alert and sober.

1 Thessalonians 5:6

Tuesday

September 5

Have you ever been caught unawares by something? A policeman is always alert, keeping watch to ensure nothing bad happens. The word tells us to keep alert and sober. What do you think this means? As Christians we are constantly struggling with the evil spirits who mislead us. We are reminded that in order to defeat satan, we should be prayerful and always doing the will of God.

Dear God, give us your holy spirit to always guide us at all times.

...“I must preach the good news of the Kingdom of God to the other cities also; for I was sent for this purpose”

Luke 4:43

Wednesday September 6



In this passage, Jesus tells us about his mission on earth. He came to bring the Good News of the Kingdom of God and to save us from the death of sin. Today, the Church continues the mission of Christ. Jesus insists that He must preach the gospel in all cities. As His followers, we should be ready to share the gospel with all people even those who are discriminated.

Dear Lord, may we proclaim your deeds among all peoples of the earth.

“Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But to your word I will let down the nets.”

Luke 5:5

Thursday

September 7

Peter was a fisherman. He had worked all night without catching any fish. He knew that it would be difficult to catch fish during the day. But when Jesus asked him to cast the nets, he did so without hesitation. Peter trusted and allowed himself to be guided. This obedience to Jesus' word enabled him to catch a large quantity of fish. Likewise, when Jesus guides us, we succeed even in the most difficult tasks we have.



Colossians 1: 9-14 /
Psalms 98: 2-3ab. 3cd-4.
5-6 / **Luke 5: 1-11**

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

Matthew 1:23

Friday

September 8

NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, FEAST

The celebration of the nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary reminds us of God's plan for the whole of humanity. Mary's birth was in accordance to God's plan. She is the one through whom the saviour came to us. Through her obedience to God, we have obtained the salvation that comes from Emmanuel, God with us.

Virgin Mary, through your intercession, help us to be available and open to God's different projects in our lives.

Micah 5: 1-4a or Romans 8: 28-30 / Psalms 13: 6ab. 6c /

Matthew 1: 1-16. 18-23

“The son of man is Lord of the Sabbath”

Luke 6:5

Saturday

September 9

Sabbath was understood as the day of the Lord where no one was allowed to work. It was a day of worship and rest. Jesus teaches us another way of living Sabbath. We should respect Sabbath (Sunday) while remaining open to render services for people. We need great inner freedom in order to live our Sundays in the presence of God.

Give us, Lord Jesus, the grace to place mercy above all laws, so that we may better serve our brothers and sisters.

Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

Romans 13:10

Sunday

September 10

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Christ showed us the greatest commandment: love of God and love of neighbours. God is love and He calls us to be like Him. To love is to listen, to care and to serve. Love is the basis of Christian life and the testimony of our life of faith. We should always show that we love people through helping them whenever our help is needed.

Help us, Lord,
to love like
you.



Ezekiel 33: 7-9 / Psalms 95: 1-2. 6-7. 8-9 (8) / **Romans 13: 8-10** /
Matthew 18: 15-20

In God is my salvation and glory.

Psalms 62:7

Monday September 11

Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth. The psalmist knows that salvation and glory comes from God. He is the creator of all things. He will know how to intervene to bring what we need. Our hope comes from him. But often our lack of faith leads us to doubt God. Let us ask God to help us believe in him, for he is the one who enables us to remain faithful.

Lord, we thank you for being our constant help and salvation.

... and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured.

Luke 6: 18

Tuesday

September 12

Many sick and tormented people were restored to health. God knows us all and has good plans for each one of us. It is therefore important to have regular moments of prayer in order to remain in constant relationship with our Lord. With God, we are safe.

Lord Jesus, teach us to persevere in prayer.

“Blessed are you poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.”

Luke 6: 20

Wednesday September 13



SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM, BISHOP AND DOCTOR, MEMORIAL

Jesus teaches his disciples about the beatitudes. Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. The poor are needy people, deprived of material wealth. The disciples of Jesus emptied themselves of the material goods because of Jesus. Like the disciples, let us learn to trust in God who provides our needs.

Lord, help us to trust in you, for you are our inheritance.

And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even on cross.

Philippians 2:8

Thursday September 14

THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS, FEAST

The centre of the Christian faith is to believe in Jesus, the Son of God, who came to save humanity. He gave himself up on the cross for love. From now on, the cross, which was a sign of a curse, becomes a path to life. By his resurrection he saved the human race from death. This is the difference between human love and the love of God.

Thank you Lord for your Love for us.

Numbers 21: 4b-9 / Psalms 78: 1bc-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38 / **Philippians 2: 6-11** /
John 3: 13-17

“Woman, behold your son”

Luke 2:26

Friday

September 15

OUR LADY OF SORROWS

On the cross, Jesus addresses his mother and the disciple he loved with a wonderful gift. He entrusted John to his mother. In the pain that Mary felt, Jesus wants to allow Mary's heart to love again. In doing so, Jesus entrusts each of us to his mother. From now on we are Mary's sons and daughters. It is up to us to open the doors of our hearts to welcome our mother.

Mother Mary, help us to support all those who suffer.

Hebrews 5:7-9; Psalm 31:1-2ab,dc-3,4. 14-15.90 / John 19: 25-27/ or

Luke 2: 33-35

Jesus said to his disciples, “No good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit; for each tree is known by its own fruit.

Luke 6: 43

Saturday

September 16

SAINTS CORNELIUS AND CYPRIAN

When a mango is sweet and juicy, we know that the mango tree from which it comes is good and produces good fruits. This is how our actions reveal the nature of our heart. As Christians we are to be like our heavenly Father. He has fashioned us and wants our actions to be in accordance with his will.

Lord, God, help us to bear witness to you through our actions.

Forgive your neighbour the wrong he has done, and then your sins will be pardoned when you pray.

Sirach 28: 2

Sunday

September 17

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Forgiveness is a crucial element in the life of a Christian. As Jesus told his apostles, there is no limit to forgiveness. Our God is a merciful God who never tires of forgiving. Like Christ, we must offer forgiveness to others so that our prayers will be answered. It is not always easy, but by God's grace we will succeed.

Lord Jesus,
teach us how
to forgive.

Sirach 27: 30- 28: 7 /
Psalms 103: 1-2, 3-4, 9-10,
11-12 (8) / Romans 14: 7-9 /
Matthew 18: 21-35



I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarrelling

1 Timothy 2:8

Monday

September 18

Prayer is the believer's spiritual communication with God. It is essential in the Christian life because it is an essential condition for communion between God and his children. Saint Paul invites us to raise our hands in order to pray to God in every place. Indeed, we must always pray in a position that favours our spiritual communication with God.

Lord Jesus, teach us to pray.

...“Young man I say to you arise.”

Luke 7:14

Tuesday

September 19

As Jesus passed by with his disciples, he saw a crowd accompanying the lifeless body of a widow's only son for burial. Jesus felt compassion and touched the coffin, ordering the young man to get up. Jesus' attitude challenges us. Although he was busy teaching, he knew how to be attentive to what was going on around him. Like Jesus, we often need to pause to be concerned about our neighbours.

Dear Lord, help us to be attentive to the needs of our neighbours.

Great are the works of the Lord.

Psalms 111:2a

Wednesday September 20



SAINT ANDREW KIM TAEGON AND COMPANIONS, MARTYRS,
MEMORIAL

When we look at nature, it is amazing.

When we see the blue sky, the expanse of the sea, the trees, the birds, etc., we notice a certain beauty. Indeed, everything around us has been created by God. We feel the greatness and the power of God in the beauty of creation. That is why the psalmist exclaims "great are the works of the Lord". So by our work we contribute to the work of creation and praise the Lord.

May your name be praised Lord, for
your works are great.

1 Timothy 3: 14-16 / **Psalms 111: 1-2. 3-4. 5-6** / Luke 7: 31-35

“For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.”

Matthew 9:13

Thursday

September 21

SAINT MATTHEW, APOSTLE, FEAST

At the hospital, the doctor treats the sick, not the healthy. Jesus came for sinners. He did not come to judge, but to stand by sinners to help them repent. He invites us to repent from our sinners and welcome him into our lives.

God, Lord help us grow to grow in your mercy.

But as for you, man of God, shun all this; aim at righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness.

1 Timothy 6:11

Friday

September 22



The Apostle Paul urges Timothy to continue on the path as a man of God.

He lists the essential qualities of an apostle. Righteousness, godliness, faith, charity, perseverance, gentleness are the fighting weapons of a Christian. As baptised persons, we also have a mission. It is to participate in the ministry of Christ, to witness to the Good News.

Dear Lord, please help us to be holy so that we may be worthy and full members of your body.

And as for the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bring forth fruit with patience.

Luke 8:15

Saturday

September 23

SAINT PIUS OF PIETRELCINA, PRIEST, MEMORIAL

To plant the seed, the farmer must prepare the soil. Good soil is that which has been ploughed, worked to remove stones and brambles for it to be fertile for plants. This soil can be compared to our heart. When we recognise our condition before God and open our hearts to his grace, the word of God is retained. When our hearts are fertile, it grows the Word of God in us. It becomes a wellspring of life.

1Timothy 6: 13-16 /
Psalms 100: 1b-2. 3.
4. 5 / **Luke 8: 4-15**



Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; ...

Isaiah 55: 6

Sunday

September 24

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

God is a loving Father who never ceases to show himself to us in the daily routine of our lives. He is to be found in simple gestures, in acts of kindness and love. But do we look for him? It is important to seek him through his word, among our brothers and sisters, to invoke him in our various activities, because he always answers our call.

Dear Lord, you are close to us, Please help us to discover you in the simple daily gestures.

Isaiah 55: 6-9 / Psalms 145: 2-3. 8-9. 17-18 (18a) / Philippians 1: 20c-24. 27a
/ Matthew 20: 1-16a

No one after lighting a lamp covers it with a vessel, or puts it under a bed, but puts it on a stand, that those who enter may see the light.

Luke 8: 16

Monday

September 25

We light the lamp to illuminate and dispel the darkness. To place a lamp under the bed or to cover it, is to take away its ability to spread light. Indeed, when we receive the Word of God, Jesus, into our lives, we become children of light. It is our duty to spread Jesus Christ, the light of our lives.

Lord Jesus, may we become your light for the world.

“My mother and my brethren are those who hear the word of God and do it.”

Luke 8:21

Tuesday

September 26

Jesus shows us that there is a spiritual kinship for all those who listen to God's word and put it into practice. Do we spend time in our day meditating on the word of God? Does this word find its place in our lives? Jesus tells us that we must be members of his family.



Ezra 6: 7-8, 12b, 14-20 / Psalms 122: 1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5 / **Luke 8: 19-21**

Jesus called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases.

Luke 9: 16

Wednesday September 27

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL, PRIEST, MEMORIAL

The Lord chooses and sends his apostles and gives them the power and authority to carry out his mission. As baptised people, we are also sent by Christ. Let us not be afraid, for the success of the service we render does not depend on us. He uses our talents, but it is he who works in us and through us.

Dear Lord, help us to become better disciples.

The Lord takes delight in his people.

Psalms 149:4a

Thursday September 28

God has always shown his love for his people in many ways. Like a merciful Father, he forgives us. He sent his only son for us to save us from the death of sin. Even today we can see his powerful hand, his works in our lives. He is proud of us and wants us to do his will.

Lord, you rejoice for your people,
help us to trust you more.

Rejoice then, O heaven and you that dwell therein!

Revelation 12:12

Friday

September 29

SAINTS MICHAEL, GABRIEL, RAPHAEL, ARCHANGELS, FEAST

In this passage we are invited to rejoice.

Indeed, the one who has received Jesus in his life and walks with him has received true joy. Joy is a pleasant emotion that springs from a personal encounter with Christ. It is Jesus himself who gives us joy. Our witness to life does not consist in doing big deeds, but only in witnessing to the joy of feeling loved by Christ.



Daniel 7: 9-10. 13-14 or

Revelation 12: 7-12a /

Psalms 138: 1-2ab. 2cde-3.

4-5 / John 1: 47-51

“Sing and rejoice, o daughter of Zion.”

Zechariah 2:14

Saturday

September 30

SAINT JEROME, PRIEST, MEMORIAL

The daughter of Zion refers in the Bible to the name given to the inhabitants of Jerusalem. She is invited to a great joy, because the Lord comes to dwell in her. We see that there is a loving relationship between God and his people. The Lord wants to dwell in us too. Are we ready to welcome him? Let us prepare our hearts to give him a warm welcome.

Lord, we welcome you into our lives.

Zechariah 2: 5-9. 14-15a / Jeremiah 31: 10. 11-12ab. 13 / Luke 9: 43b-45

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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
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February 15, 2018

***“...the Son of Man must be lifted up,
that everyone who believes may
have eternal life in him.”***

John 13:14.15



***“As You Sow, So Shall You
Reap.”***

African proverb