

AFRICA

Living with Christ

GROWING UP DAILY WITH THE GOOD NEWS

Weekly LWCA

**Christmas
Time**

bayard afrique

Contents

Living with Christ January 2023

I Editorial

Praying with the Church

2 Pope's Prayer Intention

3-5 Focus on the Sacraments *The Sacrament Of Holy Orders*

Daily Readings and commentaries

6-14 January I *Mary, the Holy Mother of God*

15-46 January 2-7 *Weekdays of Christmas Time*

Liturgical texts:

Texts contained in this work derived whole or in part from Daily Missal copyrighted by St Paul Communication/ Daughters of St Paul.

On our cover: A young african lady in prayer

© Freepik

Editorial

January 2023



Rev. Fr. François Nzanzu, a.a. Nairobi-Kenya

Celebrating the New Year with Mary, Mother of God

We are delighted to commence the New Year, 2023 with the celebration of the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. The Feast of Mary, the Holy Mother of God reminds us that, she is also our Heavenly Mother. This is an occasion to renew our devotion to Mary, who is also the Mother of the Church and our Spiritual Mother.

The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God was instituted in 1970 by Pope Paul VI. In his encyclical on devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, “*Marialis Cultus*”, he wrote: “This celebration, assigned to January the 1st is meant to commemorate the part played by Mary in the mystery of salvation. The Church puts the feast of this solemnity on the first day of the New Year to emphasize the importance of Mary’s role in the life of Christ and of the Church. As Mother of our Redeemer and of the redeemed, she reigns as Queen at the side of Christ the King”. On the same day, the Church marks the World Day of Peace.

As we begin the new year, I take this opportunity to wish you a Happy and Peaceful New Year 2023.



The Pope's Prayer Intention

For educators: We pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all.

Other papal intentions and videos can be found on: <http://apostleshipofprayer.org/>

The Sacrament Of Holy Orders

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, Holy Orders is the sacrament through which the mission entrusted by Christ to his apostles continues to be exercised in the Church until the end of time (CCC 1536). It includes the episcopate (bishop), the presbyterate (*priest*) and the diaconate (deacon). By virtue of their ordination, bishops, priests and deacons are called to the service of all. They are called to be ministers like Jesus Christ who humbled himself to save the humankind.

A deacon is at the service of the bishop. There is a strong relationship between the episcopate and the diaconate. It is only the bishop who lays his hands on the candidates to the diaconal ordination. The proclamation of the Word of God in the liturgy is one of his duties. The diaconate may be permanent or not. While there are deacons who aspire to become priests, some decide to remain deacons their entire life. A great number of permanent deacons are married men. Since

Vatican II, some married men can become deacons but not priests.

A priest works hand in hand with the bishop to whom he promises obedience. He presides over the Eucharistic celebration in which Jesus Christ gives himself to the faithful as Bread of Life and Spiritual Drink. He also anoints the sick. We have the ministerial priesthood and the common priesthood. By virtue of Baptism, all Christians participate in the common priesthood of Jesus Christ who is the High Priest. The ministerial priesthood is at the service of the common priesthood. The sacrament of Holy Orders is administered to a baptized male who has fulfilled the requirements described in the Code of Canon Law.

Bishops are the ministers of the sacrament of Holy Orders since they are the successors of the Apostles who were successors of Jesus Christ. It is important to note that only one bishop ordains priests and deacons. But three bishops are involved in the ordination of a priest called to the episcopate. The presiding bishop is called consecrator. The other two are called co-consecrators. In some countries where the number of bishops is limited,

the Church authorities always find an alternative so that the ordination of a bishop may take place validly. During the ordination of a priest as well as the ordination of a bishop, the Holy Chrism oil is used. The hands of the priest are anointed while it is the head of the bishop that is anointed. The deacon is not anointed. It is worth saying that the same Holy Chrism oil is used during Baptism, Confirmation, the dedication of Churches and the consecration of altars.

Rev. Fr. Jérôme K. M. Kombi,
Kinshasa, D.R. Congo



Sunday January 1

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

*Numbers 6: 22-27 / Psalm (66) 67: 2-3. 5. 6. 8 (2a) /
Galatians 4: 4-7 / Luke 2: 16-21*



“ Mary, however, kept all these things, pondering them in her heart.”



Repent and Be Renewed

As we begin the year, several celebrations come together: firstly, the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God; this is Mary's most important title, by which she has gone down in history and is part of the history of the Church and of our own personal history; secondly, the beginning of the New Year in the civil calendar; and finally, the World Day of Prayer for Peace. With these elements, we turn to Mary, who is a mother from the depths of our heart. We do so entrusting this New Year under her protection, so that the Peace of God may increase day by day everywhere.

We all want it to be truly a prosperous year. How many plans! What possibilities! "This is going to be my year," the optimists think. It is good to be optimistic, because - as a Christian - I am sure that Christ takes care of me. That is why we easily turn to Jesus and ask for His help so that, at the end of the year, He can be happy with us. We know that we would not gain anything by succeeding in our professional life, in sports, etc., if, in the end, we hadn't come closer to Him.



Sunday January 1

Today, our attention is also turned towards the presence and the announcement to the shepherds at the crib. These simple and poor people were the first ones to whom the Good News of the birth of Christ is revealed. May we embrace their attitude of disposition and astonishment at this new year as we try to follow the example of these shepherds: “They came in haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger.”

We would like to get to know how to look for Him in a certain hurry, because time passes fast: we have already started one more year. We will find Jesus if we look for Him where Mary and Joseph are. This is why having devotion to Mary and Joseph, we also find Jesus, and then we too will marvel as those people who listened to the shepherds.

With what attitudes do I wish to start and live during the course of this new year? Let us ask Mary and Joseph to help us recognize the presence of God in the realities that make up our day.

Rev. Fr. Silvano Ochuodho, Nairobi-Kenya



Entrance Antiphon

Hail, Holy Mother, who gave birth to the King, who rules heaven and earth forever.

Or

Today a light will shine upon us, for the Lord is born for us; and he will be called Wondrous God, Prince of peace, Father of future ages: and his reign will be without end.

The Gloria in excelsis (*Glory to God in the highest*) **is said.**

Collect

O God, who through the fruitful virginity of Blessed Mary bestowed on the human race the grace of eternal salvation, grant, we pray, that we may experience the intercession of her, through whom we were found worthy to receive the author of life, our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son. Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit one God for ever and ever. **Amen.**



Sunday January 1

First Reading (Numbers 6:22-27)

A reading from the Book of Numbers

The Lord said to Moses, “Say to Aaron and his sons, thus you shall bless the sons of Israel: you shall say to them, The Lord bless you and keep you: The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you: The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace. “So shall they put my name upon the sons of Israel, and I will bless them.”

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm (66) 67:2-3. 5.6 and 8)



May God be gra-cious to us and bless us.



R. O God, be gracious and bless us.

O God, be gracious and bless us
and let your face shed its light upon us.



So will your ways be known upon earth
and all nations learn your salvation. R.

Let the nations be glad and shout for joy,
with uprightness you rule the peoples;
you guide the nations on earth. R.

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
May God still give us his blessing
that all the ends of the earth may revere him. R.

Second Reading (Galatians 4:4-7)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Galatians

Brethren: When the time had fully come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” So through God you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son then an heir.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**



Sunday January 1

Acclamation (*Hebrews 1:1-2*)

Alleluia. Alleluia. In many and various ways God spoke of old to our fathers by the prophets; but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son. **Alleluia.**

Gospel (*Luke 2:16-21*)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

At that time: The shepherds went with haste to Bethlehem, and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it they made known the saying which had been told them concerning this child; and all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

The Creed is said.



Prayer of the Faithful

The following intentions are suggestions only.

R. Lord, hear us!

For good and compassionate leaders in Africa and in other parts of the world, let us pray to the Lord our God. R.

For good witnesses of the word of God in Africa and all over the world; for fruitful apostolates and pastoral works, let us pray to the Lord our God. R.

For the end of terrorism and for those threatened and killed for their faith, let us cry out to the Lord our God. R.

For fruitful apostolates and pastoral works let us pray to the Lord our God. R.



Sunday January 1

Prayer over the Offerings

O God, who in your kindness begin all good things and bring them to fulfilment, grant to us, who find joy in the Solemnity of the holy Mother of God, that, just as we glory in the beginnings of your grace, so one day we may rejoice in its completion. Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Communion Antiphon (*Heb 13:8*)

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Prayer after Communion

We have received this heavenly Sacrament with joy, O Lord: grant, we pray, that it may lead us to eternal life, for we rejoice to proclaim the blessed ever-Virgin Mary Mother of your Son and Mother of the Church. Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.



Monday January 2

Christmas Weekday

Memorial

Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, bishops and doctors

Entrance Antiphon

(Sir 44: 15.14) **Let the peoples recount the wisdom of the Saints, and let the Church proclaim their praise. Their names will live on and on.**

Collect

O God, who were pleased to give light to your Church by the example and teaching of the Bishops Saints Basil and Gregory, grant, we pray, that in humility we

may learn your truth and practice it faithfully in charity. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

First Reading ————— *(1 John 2:22-28)*

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John

Beloved: Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, he who denies the

Father and the Son. Anyone who denies the Son does not have the Father. He who confesses the Son has the Father also. Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you will abide in the Son and in the Father. And this is what he has promised us, eternal life. I write this to you about those who would deceive you; but the anointing which you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that any one should teach you; as his anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie, just as it has taught you, abide in him. And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears

we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming. The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

***Responsorial Psalm——
(Psalm (97) 98:1.2-3ab.3cd-4)***

**R. All the ends of the earth
have seen the salvation of
our God.**

O sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders. His right hand and his holy arm have brought salvation. R.

The Lord has made known his salvation, has shown his deliverance to the nations. He has remembered his merciful love and his truth for the house of Israel. R.

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Shout to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song, and sing out your praise. R.

Acclamation
(*Hebrews 1:1-2*)

Alleluia. Alleluia. In many and various ways God spoke of old to our fathers by the prophets; but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son. **Alleluia.**

Gospel —————
(*John 1:19-28*)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask

him, “Who are you?” He confessed, he did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.” And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the prophet?” And he answered, “No.”

They said to him then, “Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us.

What do you say about yourself?” He said, “I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as the prophet Isaiah said.” Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, “Then why are you baptising, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?” John answered them, “I baptise with

water; but among you stands one whom you do not know, even he who comes after me, the thong of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.” This took place in Bethany beyond the Jordan, where John was baptising.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayer over the Offerings

Accept this sacrifice from your people, we pray, O Lord, and make what is offered for your glory, in honour of Saints Basil and

Gregory, a means to our eternal salvation. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(1Cor 1:23-24) **We proclaim Christ crucified; Christ, the power of God and the wisdom of God.**

Prayer after Communion

May partaking at the heavenly table, almighty God, confirm and increase strength from on high in all who celebrate the feast day of Saints Basil and Gregory, that we may preserve in integrity the gift of faith



and walk in the path of Through Christ our Lord.
salvation you trace for us. **Amen.**

Confessing the Truth

Commentary

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

John had gained great prestige among the Jews. Many, even the priests, already had him as a prophet, as the expected Messiah.

John clearly said, "I am not the Christ." He could have avoided such a clear answer to maintain the fame that was being created around him. But no; although he knows he will "lose points" with this statement, "he confessed the truth."

Jesus, how I like to look good and want the people around me to see the good things I do or at least think I'm doing it right. Please forgive me and help me change.

Rev. Fr. Silvano Ochuodho, Nairobi-Kenya



Tuesday January 3

Christmas Weekday

Optional Memorial

or Most Holy Name of Jesus

Entrance Antiphon

(Phil 2:10-11) **At the name of Jesus, every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

Collect

O God, who founded the salvation of the human race on the Incarnation of your Word, give your peoples the mercy they implore, so that all may

know there is no other name to be invoked but the Name of your Only Begotten Son. Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Reading ————— **(1 John 2:29-3:6)**

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John

Beloved: If you know that God is righteous, you may be sure that every one

who does right is born of him. See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; it does not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. And every one who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure. Every one who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he appeared to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. Any one who abides in him does not sin; any one who sins has

not seen him, nor has he known him.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

***Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm (97) 98:1.3cd-4.5-6)***

***R. All the ends of the earth
have seen the salvation of
our God.***

O sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders. His right hand and his holy arm have brought salvation. *R.*

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Shout to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song, and sing out your praise. *R.*

Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp, with the

harp and the sound of song. With trumpets and the sound of the horn, raise a shout before the King, the Lord. R

Acclamation

(John 1:14a.12ac)

Alleluia. Alleluia. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. To all who received him he gave power to become children of God. **Alleluia.**

Gospel

(John 1:29-34)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks before me, for he was before me.’ I myself did not know him; but for this I came baptising with water, that he might be revealed to Israel.” And John bore witness, “I saw the Spirit descend as a dove from heaven and remain on him. I myself did not know him; but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptises with the Holy Spirit; And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.’”

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayer over the Offerings

Bringing you these offerings from what your bounty bestows on us, we pray, O Lord, that just as you have given to Christ, obedient even until death, the Name that saves, so you may grant us protection by its power. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Ps 8:2) **O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name through all the earth!**

Prayer after Communion

May the sacrificial gifts offered to your majesty, O Lord, to honour Christ's Name and which we have now received, fill us, we pray, with your abundant

grace, so that we may come Through Christ our Lord.
to rejoice that our names, Amen.
too, are written in heaven.

Closer to God

Commentary

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

Lord, you are “the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.”

With your life, which is the life of man and the life of God, and with your death, which is a sacrifice of infinite value, you have brought me closer to God.

This consideration has helped me to see and understand the evil and nastiness of sin, knowing that for each of them you have died on the cross.

Dear Lord, may I value being in grace, so that I might live supernatural life - the life of a child of God – aware that you have given your life for us.

Rev. Fr. Silvano Ochuodho, Nairobi-Kenya



Wednesday January 4

Christmas Weekday

Ferial

or St Elizabeth Ann Seton, religious,

Entrance Antiphon

(Gal 4:4-5) **God sent his Son, born of a woman, so that we might receive adoption as children.**

Collect

Before the Solemnity of the Epiphany

Almighty ever-living God, who were pleased to shine forth with new light through the coming of your Only Begotten Son, grant, we pray, that, just as he was pleased to share our bodily form through the child-bearing

of the Virgin Mary, so we, too, may one day merit to become companions in his kingdom of grace. Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Reading ————— **(1 John 3:7-10)**

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John

Little children, let no one deceive you. He who does

right is righteous, as he is righteous. He who commits sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. Any one born of God does not commit sin; for God's seed abides in him, and he cannot sin because he is born of God. By this it may be seen who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not do right is not of God, nor he who does not love his brother.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

***Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm (97) 98:1.7-9ab.9cd)***

**R. All the ends of the earth
have seen the salvation of
our God.**

O sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders. His right hand and his holy arm have brought salvation. R.

Let the sea and all within it thunder; the world, and those who dwell in it. Let the rivers clap their hands, and the hills ring out their joy at the presence of the Lord, for he comes, he comes to judge the earth. R.

He will judge the world with justice, and the peoples with fairness. R.



Acclamation (*Hebrews 1:1-2*)

Alleluia. Alleluia. In many and various ways God spoke of old by the prophets; but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son. **Alleluia.**

Gospel ————— (*John 1:35-42*)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples; and he looked at Jesus as he walked, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. Jesus turned, and saw them following, and said to them, "What do you seek?" And they said

to him, "Rabbi" (which means Teacher), "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying; and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour. One of the two who heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon, and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which means Christ). He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him, and said, "So you are Simon the son of John? You shall be called Cephas" (which means Peter).
The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayer over the Offerings

O God, who give us the gift of true prayer and of peace, graciously grant that, through this offering, we may do fitting homage to your divine majesty and, by partaking of the sacred mystery, we may be faithfully united in mind and heart. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Jn 1:16) **From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.**

Prayer after Communion

May your people, O Lord, whom you guide and sustain in many ways, experience, both now and in the future, the remedies which you bestow, that,



with the needed solace of things that pass away, they may strive with ever deepened trust for things

eternal. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Firm in Prayer

Commentary

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

John remembers, sixty years later, even the hour of his first encounter with Jesus.

Since then, John and Andrew have sought no other ideal than to do His will.

Jesus, I too want to learn to talk to you in prayer with spontaneity, with emotion, with the love of those first two disciples. I also want to be a firm rock on which others can lean. May I realise that I can only stand firm if I am very attached to my Mother, the Holy Church, and to those who, by mission received from You, govern and serve Her.

Rev. Fr. Silvano Ochuodho, Nairobi-Kenya



Thursday January 5

Christmas Weekday

Ferial

or St John Neumann, bishop

Entrance Antiphon

(Cf. Jn. 1:1) **In the beginning and before all ages, the Word was God and he humbled**

Collect

O God, who by the Nativity of your Only Begotten Son wondrously began for your people the work of redemption; grant we pray, to your servants such firmness of faith that by the guidance they may attain the glorious prize you have promised. Who lives and reigns with you

and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. **Amen.**

First Reading —————

(1 John 3:11-21)

A reading from the first letter of Saint John

Beloved: This is the message which you have heard from the beginning that we should love one another, and not be like Cain who was of the Evil One and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and

his brother's righteous. Do not wonder, brethren, that the world hates you. We know that we passed out of death into life because we love the brethren. He who does not love remains in death. Any one who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. By this we know love, he laid down his life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But if any one has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or speech but in deed and in truth. By this we shall know that we are of truth, and

reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm (99) 100: 1-2.3.4.5)***

R. Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth.

Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth. Serve the Lord with gladness. Come before him, singing for joy. *R.*

Know that he, the Lord, is God. He made us, we

belong to him. We are his people, the sheep of his flock. R.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with songs of praise. Give thanks to him, and bless his name. R.

Indeed, how good is the Lord, eternal his merciful love. He is faithful from age to age. R.

Acclamation (*Luke 1:28*)

Alleluia. Alleluia. A hallowed day has shone upon us: come, O nations, and adore the Lord; for today a great light has come down to earth. **Alleluia.**

Gospel ————— (*John 1:43-51*)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

At that time: Jesus decided to go to Galilee. And he found Philip and said to him, “Follow me.” Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael, and said to him, “We have found him of whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.” Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and said of him, “Behold, an Israelite indeed in whom is no guile.” Nathanael said



to him, “How do you know me?” Jesus answered him, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.” Nathanael answered him, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!” Jesus answered him, “Because I said to you, I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You shall see greater things than these.” And he said to him, truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heavens opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man.” The

Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Prayer over the Offerings

Receive our oblation, O Lord, by which is brought about a glorious exchange, that, by offering what you have given, we may merit to receive your very self. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Jn. 3:16) **God so loved the world that he gave his only Begotten Son, so that all who believe in him may not perish, but may have eternal life.**

Prayer after Communion

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that, by the power of these holy mysteries,

our life may be constantly sustained. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Commentary**Come and See!**

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

Philip had the need to communicate to his friend the joy of having found you.

Likewise, if I really find you, Jesus, it is natural that I try to take you to my friends so that they too will find you.

When I talk about You to my friends, I sometimes get the same response of skepticism .

It is time to say, like Philip: “Come and see”, and then take the friend to the sacraments or to talk to a priest. Thus, he too will come face to face with you and can also say, “You are the Son of God.”

Rev. Fr. Silvano Ochuodho, Nairobi-Kenya



Friday January 6

Christmas Weekday

Entrance Antiphon

(Ps (111) 112:4) **A light has risen in the darkness for the upright of heart; the Lord is generous, merciful and just.**

Collect

Cast your kindly light upon your faithful, Lord, we pray, and with the splendour of your glory set their hearts ever aflame, that they may never cease to acknowledge their Saviour and may truly hold fast to him. Who lives and reigns with you and

the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Reading

(1 John 5:5-13)

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John

Beloved: Who is it that overcomes the world but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? This is he who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the witness, because the Spirit

is the truth. There are three witnesses, the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three agree. If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has borne witness to his Son. He who believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. He who does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne to his Son. And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who has not the Son of God has not life. I write this to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that

you may know that you have eternal life. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm ⁽¹⁴⁶⁾ 147:12-13.14-
15.19-20)***

℟. O Jerusalem, glorify the Lord!

Or. Alleluia.

O Jerusalem, glorify the Lord! O Sion, praise your God! He has strengthened the bars of your gates; he has blessed your children within you. *℟.*

He established peace on your borders; he gives you your fill of finest wheat. He sends out his word to the



earth, and swiftly runs his command. R.

He reveals his word to Jacob; to Israel, his decrees and judgements. He has not dealt thus with other nations; he has not taught them his judgements. R.

Acclamation (*Mark 9: 6*)

Alleluia. Alleluia. The heavens opened and the Father's voice was heard: "This is my beloved Son, listen to him". **Alleluia.**

Gospel —————

(Mark 1: 7- 11)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

At that time: John preached, saying, "After me comes he who is

mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stop down and untie. I have baptised you with water; but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit". In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptised by John in the Jordan. And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens opened and the spirit descending upon him like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased". The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Or: *Luke 3: 23- 38*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

At that time: Jesus, when he began his ministry, was about thirty years of age, being the son (as was supposed) of Josef, the son of Heli, the son of Matthat, the son of Levi, the son of Melchi, the son of Janna-I, the son of Josef, the son of Mattathias, the son of Amos, the son of Nahum, the son of Esli, the son of Nagga- I, the son of Maath, the son of Mattathias, the son of Seme-in, the son of Josech, the son of Joda, the son of Jo-anan, the son of Rhesa, the son of Zerubbabel, the son of She- alti- el, the son of Neri, the son of Melchi, the son of Addi, the son of Cosam,

the son of Elmadam, the son of Er, the son of Joshua, the son of Eliezer, the son of Jorim, the son of Matthat, the son of Levi, the son of Simeon, the son of Eliakim, the son of Mele-a, the son of Menna, the son of Mattatha, the son of Nathan, the son of David, the son of Jesse, the son of Obed, the son of Boaz, the son of Sala, the son of Nahshon, the son of Amminadab, the son of Admin, the son of Arni, the son of Hezron, the son of Perez, the son of Judah, the son of Jacob, the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham, the son of Terah, the son of Nahor, the son of Serug, the son of Reu, the son of Peleg, the son of Eber, the son of Shelah, the son of Ca-inan, the son

of Arphaxad, the son of Shem, the son of Noah, the son of Lamech, the son of Methuselah, the son of Enoch, the son of Jared, the son of Mahalalel, the son of Ca-inan, the son of Enos, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God. The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Or shorter:

Luke 3: 23. 31- 34. 36. 38

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

At that time: Jesus, when he began his ministry, was about thirty years of age, being the son (as was supposed) of Josef, the son of Heli, the son of Mele-a, the son of Menna, the son of Mattatha, the

son of Nathan, the son of David, the son of Jesse, the son of Obed, the son of Boaz, the son of Sala, the son of Nahshon, the son of Amminadab, the son of Admin, the son of Arni, the son of Hezron, the son of Perez, the son of Judah, the son of Jacob, the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham, the son of Terah, the son of Nahor, the son of Serug, the son of Reu, the son of Peleg, the son of Eber, the son of Shelah, the son of Ca-inan, the son of Arphaxad, the son of Shem, the son of Noah, the son of Lamech, the son of Methuselah, the son of Enoch, the son of Jared, the son of Mahalalel, the son of Ca-inan, the son of Enos, the son of

Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayer over the Offerings

Receive with favour, O Lord, we pray, the offerings of your people, that what they profess with devotion and faith may be theirs through these heavenly mysteries. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(1 Jn. 4:9) **In this way the love of God was revealed to us: God sent his Only Begotten Son into the world that we might have life through him.**

Prayer after Communion

O God, who touch us through our partaking of your Sacrament, work, we pray, the effects of its power in our hearts, that



we may be made fit to receive your gift through this very gift itself. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Accepting the
Love
of God**

Commentary

**1 John 5: 5-13/ Psalm 147: 12-13. 14-15. 19-20/
Mark 1: 7-11 or Luke 3: 23-38**

What is this all about? Becoming “Beloved Sons” is above all about performing specific actions through which our neighbor can be sensitized and inspired. Unfortunately, not all of us can say with our hearts in our hands, that we feel we are “Beloved Sons”. To achieve this, we must accept the Love of God the Father and allow it to come through us to our closest neighbors: our children, family, friends and colleagues.
May we know how to act in faith, day by day, for the building of the Kingdom of God.

Rev. Fr. Silvano Ochuodho, Nairobi-Kenya



Saturday January 7

Christmas Weekday

Ferial

or St Raymond of Penyafort, priest

Entrance Antiphon

(Gal 4:4-5) **God sent his Son, born of a woman, so that we might receive adoption as children.**

Collect

Almighty ever-living God, who were pleased to shine forth with light through the coming of your Only Begotten Son, grant, we pray, that just as he was pleased to share our bodily form through the child-bearing of the Virgin Mary, so we, too,

may one day merit to become companions in his kingdom of grace. Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Reading

(1 John 5:14-21)

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John

Beloved: This is the confidence which we have in the Son of God, that if we ask anything according

to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have obtained the requests made of him. If any one sees his brother committing what is not a deadly sin, he will ask, and God will give him life for those whose sin is not deadly. There is sin which is deadly; I do not say that one is to pray for that. All wrongdoing is sin, but there is sin which is not deadly. We know that any one born of God does not sin, but He who was born of God keeps him, and the Evil One does not touch him. We know that we are of God, and the whole world is in the power of the Evil One. And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, to know him

who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life. Little children, keep yourselves from idols. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm ⁽¹⁴⁸⁾ 149: 1b-2.3-4.
5- 6a and 9bc)***

***℟. The Lord takes delight
in his people.***

or: Alleluia.

Sing a new song to the Lord, his praise in the assembly of the faithful. Let Israel rejoice in its Maker; let Sion's children exult in their king. *℟*

Let them praise his name with dancing, and

make music with timbrel and harp. For the Lord takes delight in his people; he crowns the poor with salvation. R

Let the faithful exult in glory, and rejoice as they take their rest. Let the praise of God be in their mouths. This is an honour for all his faithful. R

Acclamation (*Luke 7:16*)

Alleluia. Alleluia. A great prophet has risen among us, and God has visited his people. **Alleluia.**

Gospel ————— (*John 2:1-11*)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

At that time: there was a marriage at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there; Jesus also was invited to the marriage with his disciples. When then wine failed, the mother of Jesus said to him, “They have no wine”. And Jesus said to her: “O woman, what is that to you or to me? My hour has not yet come.” His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you”. Now six stone jars were standing there, for the Jewish rite of purification, and each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, “fill the jars with water”. And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, “Now draw some out, and take it to the steward of

the feast". So they took it. When the steward of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who have drawn the water knew), the steward of the feast called the bridegroom and said to him, "Every man serves the good wine first; and when men have drunk freely, then the poor wine; but you have kept the good wine until now". This is the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory; and his disciples believed in him. The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Prayer over the Offerings

O God, who give us the gift of true prayer and of peace, graciously grant that, through this offering, we may do fitting homage to your divine majesty and, by partaking of the sacred mystery, we may be faithfully united in mind and heart. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Jn. 1:16) **From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.**

Prayer after Communion

May your people, O Lord, whom you guide and sustain

in many ways, experience, both now and in the future, the remedies which you bestow, that, with the needed solace of things that pass away, they may strive with ever deepened trust for things eternal. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Faith in Christ

Commentary

**1 John 5: 14-21 / Psalm 149: 1-2, 3-4, 5
and 6a and 9b / John 2: 1-11**

We encounter once again the miracle of the Wedding at Cana, a festive context that celebrates the love of a couple. In this context, Mary “notices” a problem that is affecting this important moment. That is empathy: to become aware of the problems of others, to be in the shoe or in the skin of the other.

Mary was not asking for the conversion of sinners, nor bread for the hungry; she only wanted to get the bridegroom out of trouble with a miracle or something like that. Everything indicates the great faith in Jesus.

Rev. Fr. Silvano Ochuodho, Nairobi-Kenya



Publisher : Pierre LANGLOIS
Publishing & Development Manager
Editor in Chief: Rev. Fr. François NZANZU a.a.
Assistant: Rev. Fr. Jean-Claude DIWEDIGA a.a.
Editorial Secretary: Virginia KABUGU
Graphic designer: Naomi SAWADOGO

Ghana Coordinator: Rev. Fr. Dennis OPOKU;
Associate Publishers: Fr. Walter Ihejirika, Regional Coordinator, LWC Nigeria,
Other **Contributors:** Rev. Fr. Emmanuel SALIFU
Rev. Fr. Jérôme K. M. KOMBI; Rev. Fr. Silvano OCHUODHO.

Digital : HODIEB Dominique

ISSN: 2424-7464; **Contact:** Living With Christ
Rue E104, Lot 1076 Ilot 116 - Cocody Riviera 3 Abidjan , Côte d'Ivoire
Address: P.O. BOX 08 BP 2469 Abidjan 08 -
Phone number : (+225) 25 22 02 11 11 -
E-mail: info@livingwithchrist-africa.com





WhatsApp : **+225 05 94 79 75 68 / +254727074304**



Website : **[https:// www.livingwithchrist.africa](https://www.livingwithchrist.africa)**



Facebook : **Living with Christ Africa**



Tiktok



YouTube

Growing up Daily with the Good News