

Welcome to

LIVING FAITH *Kids!*

In this magazine, you will find...

Selections from the Bible

God speaks to us in Scripture, especially in the life and words of Jesus. Every day, there is a special set of Bible readings for Mass. We select a short quote and make it the focus of a devotion.

Daily devotions

As you contemplate God's Word, you might be lead into prayer. Daily prayer is a good way to have a growing relationship with God. You might learn something about your faith or grow in hope.

The thoughts and comments we offer are called DEVOTIONS (dee-VOH-shuns). They remind us of the Bible passage all day long. Some devotions end with a prayer or an idea for an activity.



Saints, Seasons and More

On holy days and special feasts, we add a little extra just for you. Enjoy the games and puzzles too!

Holy Day January 1

Mary, Mother of God

*The LORD bless you and keep you!
The LORD let his face shine upon you, and be
gracious to you!*



*The LORD look
upon you kindly
and give you
peace!*

Numbers 6:24-26

God gave the words of this special blessing to the man who led the Hebrew people out of Egypt. Do you know his name?

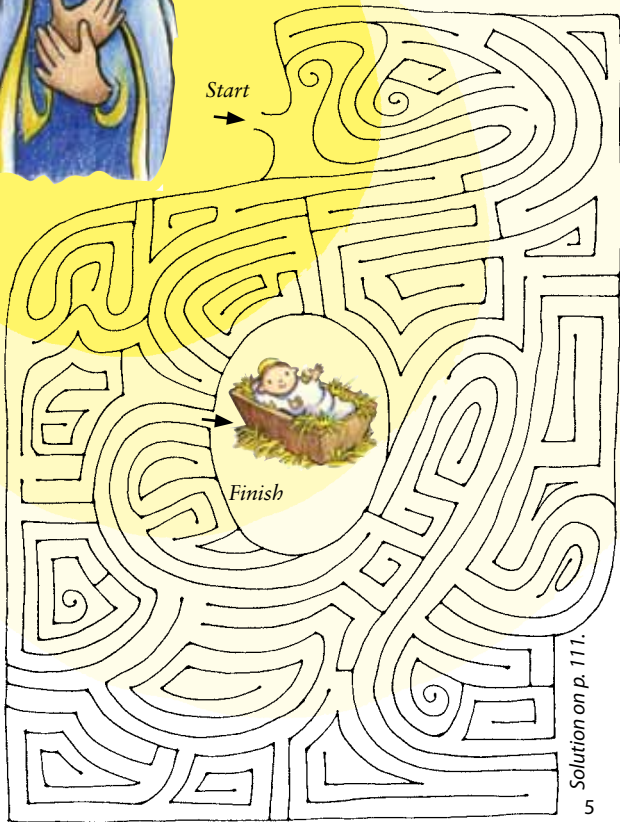
Use these words to bless each member of your family today.

**Numbers 6:22-27 • Psalm 67:2-3, 5-6, 8
Galatians 4:4-7 • Luke 2:16-21**



A *Mary* Maze

Follow Mary as she carries Jesus from the Annunciation to his birth.



Solution on p. 111.

Saturday **January 2**


Sts. Basil and Gregory Nazianzen

*The LORD has made his salvation known:
in the sight of the nations he has
revealed his justice.*

Psalm 98:2

God does not hide important things from us. Everything that we can see, touch and feel was created by God. The problem is that we don't always recognize what is right before our eyes.

Science helps us understand the natural world. But to understand salvation, we rely on the Holy Spirit who has inspired the Bible and guides the teaching of the Church.



*Holy Spirit, enlighten
my mind so that I can see
the world as God's cre-
ation. Move my heart so
that I can believe more
deeply in God's word.*

1 John 2:22-28 • Psalm 98:1-4
John 1:19-28

Sunday January 3

Epiphany of the Lord

Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.

Matthew 2:2

Do you know whom these visitors were looking for and where they found him?

For your prayer
before dinner tonight,
sing the traditional song
of the three visitors from
the East.



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

Monday **January 4**

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Matthew 4:17

When John the Baptist was preaching in the desert, he used these same words: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" (Matthew 3:2). He warned people that the kingdom of God was coming. He told them to get ready. He told them to change their ways before it was too late. He meant that soon, God would overcome all sin.

He was right. Jesus came, and the kingdom of God had arrived. Jesus reached out with love, and in his death and resurrection, he drew us all back to God.

Jesus, I am a sinner. Help me to seek God in my heart.

1 John 3:22--4:6 • Psalm 2:7-8, 10-12

Matthew 4:12-17, 23-25

Tuesday **January 5**

St. John Neumann



Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God; everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God.

1 John 4:7

Whom do you love? Your parents? Your friends? Someone who has been especially kind to you? Love is more than a feeling. Love means wanting what's best for another person. Love means being on somebody else's side. Love means looking out for someone else and not just for ourselves.

Do you know why you love? It's because you came from God. All people who love are people of God, because God made us in his image. People who love are following God and have God living in their hearts.

God, help me to love others.

1 John 4:7-10 • Psalm 72:1-4, 7-8

Mark 6:34-44

Wednesday **January 6**

Bl. André Bessette

Beloved, if God so loved us, we also must love one another... God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God and God in him.

1 John 4:11, 16

Can you think of a time when it's hard to love? Maybe when your little sister breaks something of yours or a classmate is mean to you. You might never have warm, fuzzy feelings for people who treat you badly. But it's good to remember that no matter what they've done, God still loves them. And more than that, God wants us to love them too.

That doesn't mean you should let people hurt you. It does mean you should try to forgive them. It might mean treating them better than they treat you.

God, help me to love all people.

1 John 4:11-18 • Psalm 72:1-2, 10, 12-13

Mark 6:45-52



Thursday **January 7**

St. Raymond of Peñafort

*[The Lord] has anointed me
to bring glad tidings to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free...*

Luke 4:18

In Jesus' time, many Jews followed the religious laws very carefully. They paid close attention to what they ate, what they touched and how they cleaned themselves. They acted as though God cared about the laws more than how they treated others.

When Jesus came, he cared about people. He especially reached out to those who were poor, left out, in pain or forgotten. Jesus showed us that God really wants us to treat each other with love and respect. Who can you reach out to today?

1 John 4:19--5:4 • Psalm 72:1-2, 14-15, 17

Luke 4:14-22

Friday January 8



The report about [Jesus] spread all the more, and great crowds assembled to listen to him and to be cured of their ailments, but he would withdraw to deserted places to pray.

Luke 5:15-16

Jesus had a lot of work to do. Imagine how busy he must have been: traveling from place to place, teaching people about God, caring for those who came to him. There were always more people to teach, more people to cure. But in spite of that, Jesus made a point to take time away to go somewhere quiet and pray.

When we pray, we give God a chance to remind us what's really important. Take a minute to pray right now. Sit quietly and take some deep breaths. Imagine your problems being lifted from you.

Loving God, open my heart.

1 John 5:5-13 • Psalm 147:12-15, 19-20

Luke 5:12-16

He must increase; I must decrease.

John 3:30

John the Baptist was a disciple like none other. He understood what his job was: to prepare the way for Jesus. Once Jesus drew crowds who began to believe in him, John knew his job was over.

That must have been hard for John. At first, people thought he was the Messiah, and John had to tell them no, he was just a prophet. Then he had to watch while more and more people left him to follow Jesus. It must have been hard, but John knew he had done what God asked him.

Saint John the Baptist, pray for me so that I can let Jesus increase in my life.

Sunday January 10

The Baptism of the Lord

A voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

Luke 3:22



When Jesus was baptized in the River Jordan by John the Baptist, the Holy Spirit appeared in the form

of a bird. Do you know what kind of bird it was?

Imagine your heavenly

Father saying to you, "You are my beloved son/daughter. With you I am well pleased."

Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7 • Psalm 29:1-4, 9-10
Acts 10:34-38 • **Luke 3:15-16, 21-22**

Monday **January 11**

[Jesus] walked along a little farther and saw James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They too were in a boat mending their nets. Then he called them.

Mark 1:19-20

I think James and John were like any other family members: they got along most of the time, but they argued too—maybe about whose turn it was to mend the net!

At the moment Jesus called them, they were working together, and together, they followed him. Jesus is calling all of us. He calls us to be a part of his family: to help each other, to work together, to lift up the poor and sick in ways that are hard to do alone.

Jesus, I'm glad to serve you and your family.

1 Samuel 1:1-8 • Psalm 116:12-19

Mark 1:14-20

Tuesday **January 12**

His fame spread everywhere throughout the whole region of Galilee.

Mark 1:28

I used to think it would be really great to meet famous people: movie stars, singers, even the president.

Some famous people are very talented, but really, are they so different from me? I started to wonder why I thought famous people were “worth” more than non-famous people. That didn’t seem right.

Jesus was famous, because the disciples spread his Good News. But his worth came from the power God gave him: the power to heal and forgive our sins.

Here’s the awesome part: that famous Jesus? You can meet him—and he wants to meet you too!

1 Samuel 1:9-20 • 1 Samuel 2:1, 4-8

Mark 1:21-28

Wednesday January 13

St. Hilary

Rising very early before dawn, he left and went off to a deserted place, where he prayed.

Mark 1:35

Usually noisy is good. Noisy is laughing, telling jokes and teasing. Noisy is funny movies, music that makes you want to dance and pots clattering on the stove telling you that dinner is on the way.

But quiet is good too. Alone can be very good. Sometimes we only think to be alone when we're mad. Did you ever make a choice to be alone when you're not mad—when you just want to talk to God for a minute, tell him "I love you" or "thank you for all the noise"?

Dear God, like Jesus, I'm coming to you alone. Listen to my prayer.

1 Samuel 3:1-10, 19-20 • Psalm 40:2, 5, 7-10

Mark 1:29-39

Thursday January 14

A leper came to him [and kneeling down] begged him and said, "If you wish, you can make me clean."

Mark 1:40

Are you sometimes afraid to ask for help?

Maybe your parents are busy.

Maybe you think your problems aren't that important, that everyone has other things to worry about.

Or maybe you are afraid you'd be in trouble or laughed at. You gave up hope that anyone could help you.

The man in this verse was suffering from a sickness no one could cure. But he gathered his courage and spoke to Jesus, the man he believed could heal him.

Jesus, I know you can help me. Let me tell you what's wrong.

1 Samuel 4:1-11 • Psalm 44:10-11, 14-15, 25-26

Mark 1:40-45

Dear Father Joe,

When I go to Confession, I disguise my voice because I'm embarrassed. Can you help?

Josefa



Dear Josefa,

Thanks for the honesty of your question. Certainly it is appropriate to feel sorry for the wrong we've done and the good we've failed to do. But we never need to fear God's reaction when we go

to Confession. The truth is that we do not have enough power to make God stop loving us. God never invites us to grow without first loving us where we are!

Perhaps you are embarrassed about what the priest might think. But I'm sure that almost every priest is like me in this regard: When someone comes to me in the Sacrament of Reconciliation because

they are sorry, I do not think badly of them. Instead, I only have more love in my heart for them.

When Jesus told us the story of the Prodigal Son, he described a young man who had broken his dad's heart and made a mess of his life. When the son returned to his father to beg for mercy, his dad was so glad to have him back, he threw his arms around him! Jesus told us that story to describe what God is like. I encourage you to let your own voice be known, because that is the kind of love that waits for you in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

In Jesus,

Father Joe

Fr. Joe Kempf is pastor of Assumption Church in O'Fallon, MO, author of numerous videos and books for children and founder of "Gospel Values," a nonprofit organization dedicated to proclaiming the beautiful message of Jesus to children of all ages. Be sure to visit him and his blue, furry helper, Big Al, at WeLoveBigAl.com.

Traditional Prayers

Our Father

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into
temptation,
but deliver us from evil.



Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou among women, and
blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death.

Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ,
his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived

by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day, he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand
of the Father.

He will come again to judge
the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.