



Daily Catholic Devotions

April • May • June 2016

Volume 11 • Number 2

Living Faith Kids provides a daily reflection based on a Scripture passage from the daily Mass. With Mass readings listed at the bottom of each devotion, this booklet helps children pray with the seasons of the Church Year and thereby grow in relation with Christ and his Church.

Connie Clark ... Editor; Kasey Nugent ... Assistant Editor
Mary Breiner, Julie Dortch Cragon, Kathy Finley, Steve Givens,
Fr. Ken Grabner, Maureen Kavanaugh, Fr. Joe Kempf,
Karla Manternach, Paul Pennick, Caroline Pignat,
Sarah Reinhard, Marge Schumer, Catherine Welch ...
Contributing Writers

Carolyn Niehoff ... Designer; Jim Burrows ... Interior illustrations;
Shutterstock ... Photos; Justin Dial ... Cover Art

IMPRIMATUR

Most Rev. Edward M. Rice • Archdiocese of St. Louis

© 2016 by Creative Communications for the Parish

Living Faith Kids (USPS 13580) Vol. 11 No. 2 is published quarterly in January, April, July and October by Creative Communications for the Parish, 1564 Fencorp Drive, Fenton, MO 63026, a subsidiary of Bayard, Inc., sponsored by the Augustinians of the Assumption. **Subscription rates:** 1 year, \$14.25 (Canada \$18.25); single copy, \$4.00 (Canada \$5.50). Periodicals postage paid at Fenton, MO, and at additional mailing offices. Canadian GST# is 84231 1870RT. Printed in the U.S.A.

Postmaster: Please send address changes to:

Living Faith Kids, P.O. Box 292824, Kettering, OH 45429.

Welcome to

Living Faith

Daily Catholic Devotions



In this magazine, you will find...

Words from the Bible



God speaks to us in Scripture. *Living Faith Kids* picks a short quote from one of the daily Mass readings to share.

Daily devotions

Daily prayer is a great way to build our relationship with God. The reflections in this booklet will help you pray each day with the Word of God.

Saints, Seasons and More

On holy days and special feasts, we add a little something extra—often a puzzle or craft—just for you. Enjoy!

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:

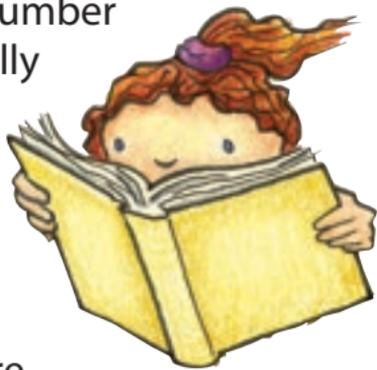


1: Book. The Bible is divided into books. Check your Bible for a list of titles.

John 14:27 is from the Gospel of John.

2: Chapter. The first number is the chapter. Bibles usually show book and chapter at the top of each page.

John 14:27 is in Chapter 14 of John's Gospel.



3: Verse. Last are the verse number(s). Verses are usually a sentence or two long. The tiny numbers are hidden inside the text.

John 14:27 is verse 27 of Chapter 14.

Ready? Set? Go!

Practice by looking up **John 14:27**.

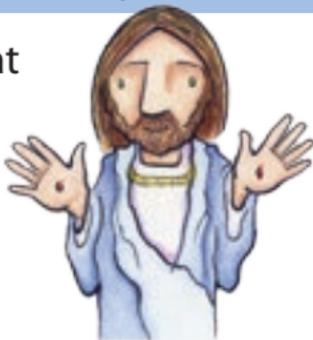
Friday April 1

Friday within the Octave of Easter

When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he tucked in his garment...and jumped into the sea.

John 21:7

This was the third time that the risen Lord appeared to his disciples. But Peter was just as excited as the first time. He couldn't wait for the Lord but jumped right into the water and swam to him!



We should be excited about the risen Lord too. The resurrection has happened for us, just as it happened for those first believers. Jesus Christ is alive today, here and now! The light of Christ will never go out. It shines brightly in us, whenever we do what Jesus asks: love God, love others and love ourselves.

Risen Lord, fill my heart with wonder and excitement that you are alive!

Acts 4:1-12 • Psalm 118:1-2, 4, 22-27

John 21:1-14

Saturday April 2

Saturday within the Octave of Easter

Observing the boldness of Peter and John and perceiving them to be uneducated, ordinary men, they were amazed, and they recognized them as the companions of Jesus.

Acts 4:13

The religious leaders of Jesus' time were educated, important men. People looked up to them and listened to them. On the other hand, nobody expected much of Peter and John. They weren't educated, after all. They seemed to be ordinary men. But they knew and followed Jesus. They spoke and acted in his name, passing on what they had learned from him.

What about you? Maybe some people think you're "just a kid." But what you say and do matters. When you learn about Jesus and do what he teaches, you bring his message to others.

Lord Jesus, I might be "just a kid," but I believe you can work through me!

Acts 4:13-21 • Psalm 118:1, 14-21

Mark 16:9-15

Sunday April 3

Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday)

[Jesus] said to them... “Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained.”

John 20:21, 23



Has anybody ever held a grudge against you? Maybe you hurt someone and they wouldn't forgive you. Maybe you lied to someone and they stopped trusting you. All you can do is ask for forgiveness and show that you won't make the same mistake again. Then you just have to wait. Waiting is the hardest part! Knowing that someone hasn't forgiven you can feel like a weight you carry around with you. But if you are truly sorry and doing your best, God does forgive you—even if others don't. God loves you, no matter what you've done.

Loving God, I'm sorry for the times I hurt other people. Please heal my heart and theirs.

Acts 5:12-16 • Psalm 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24

Revelation 1:9-13, 17-19 • **John 20:19-31**

Monday April 4

The Annunciation of the Lord

Therefore the Lord himself will give you this sign: the virgin shall be with child, and bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel.

Isaiah 7:14

Isn't it strange to hear the story of Jesus' birth right after we've celebrated Easter? For weeks, we've been hearing the readings that lead up to Jesus' death and resurrection. Now we're back at the beginning. It kind of makes your head spin! But it also makes perfect sense. As Jesus' followers, we aren't watching his life unfold before our eyes. That happened thousands of years ago. We can think about different parts of his life during different seasons of the year, but we already know the whole story. Every part of it is important—how it began, how it “ended” and how it continues today.

Lord Jesus, help me to find meaning in every part of your life.

Isaiah 7:10-14; 8:10 • Psalm 40:7-11

Hebrews 10:4-10 • Luke 1:26-38

Tuesday April 5

St. Vincent Ferrer

The community of believers was of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they had everything in common.

Acts 4:32



If you've ever had to share a bedroom, a locker or even a bucket of popcorn, you know how hard it can be. Can you imagine sharing everything like the early disciples did? How on earth did they do it? The Bible doesn't say it was easy. But they did it because they believed it was the right thing to do. They knew it was what Jesus wanted. Jesus had shared his very life with them. He gave everything he had. That was how much he loved them. That's how much he loves all of us. Can we show some of that same love by sharing with others?

Lord Jesus, help me to be generous like you.

Acts 4:32-37 • Psalm 93:1-2, 5

John 3:7-15

Wednesday **April 6**

*I will bless the LORD at all times;
his praise shall be ever in my mouth.*

Psalm 34:2

Have you ever said something mean to another person and regretted it immediately after you said it? Sometimes we speak in anger or without thinking how our words hurt others. Words are powerful. They can hurt and tear people apart. But they can also heal and bring people together. When we remember how much God loves us, we fill our minds and mouths with words of thanksgiving. Then, filled with praise for God, there is no room for words that hurt others.



Lord, help me remember the power of my words. Help me choose to praise you and offer only kind words to others.

Acts 5:17-26 • Psalm 34:2-9

John 3:16-21

Thursday **April 7**

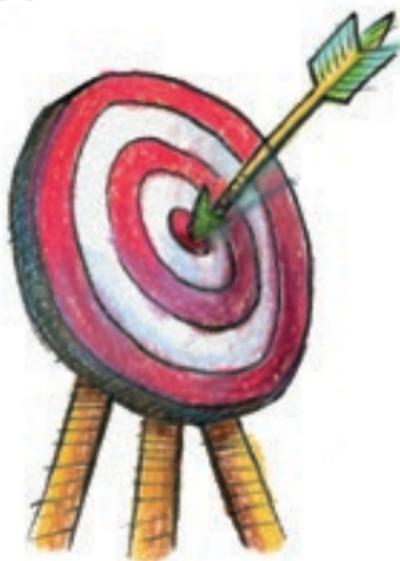
St. John Baptist de la Salle

We must obey God rather than men.

Acts 5:29

As we grow up, we learn to follow rules and obey laws. But what would you do if you were playing a game and someone made up a rule that wasn't fair or maybe even hurt one of the players? Would you keep playing just because that was the rule? Of course not! The Ten Commandments are God's rules, and they help us know right from wrong. Following God's rules is not always easy or popular, but it is always right, and it should always be our goal.

God, give me the courage to do what is right in your eyes.



Acts 5:27-33 • Psalm 34:2, 9, 17-20

John 3:31-36

Friday **April 8**

Gather the fragments left over, so that nothing will be wasted.

John 6:12



We all know this story about Jesus feeding thousands of people with just a few pieces of

fish and a couple of loaves of bread. It's a miracle! But we sometimes forget the end of the story. There was so much food they had to collect the scraps so nothing would be wasted. That's how Jesus works with us today. He gives us more than we actually need so we will have enough to give to others. A life with Jesus is a life of abundance. Our job is to never waste a thing he gives us.

Jesus, show me the way to share my blessings with others.

Acts 5:34-42 • Psalm 27:1, 4, 13-14

John 6:1-15

We Care for God's Creation!

What would you do if you got a letter from the pope? Well, Pope Francis has sent you a letter, and it's an important one! He's sent it to the whole world, actually. In this letter, called an encyclical [en-SICK-lick-ull], Pope Francis reminds us that the earth is a gift from God, and we need to take care of it. Here are some of our Holy Father's suggestions:

- Don't be part of the "throwaway culture." Share your blessings and material things with others. (And don't forget to reduce, reuse and recycle.)
- Keep our oceans and waterways clean and free of pollution.
- Be aware of how your actions affect all living things: plants, animals and people.
- "Live wisely, think deeply and love generously."

Everyone's having a great time cleaning up the park. Can you spot the 12 differences between these two pictures?