



GUIDELINES FOR PRAYER

Life - we want to live!

Week 1

(December 31 – January 6)

General Theme: Life and Love

General Objective:

- to present a quality and fullness of life that makes those who pray about this question strongly about their life.

- to show a superior life revealing the genuine identity of God and of humanity.

Objective of the week:
To encourage one another to want to live life. To present the value and qualities of life.

INTRODUCTION

A Happy New Year to all!

New year reminds us that life does not begin and end in the numbers in the calendar but rather renewed every day, every week, every month, and every year. This is something we should be grateful for to God – for the hope to renew the way we live our life.

Our life is a gift from God to the world - each of us unique according to God's design. Our life is the only gift we have that when we die we lose everything. There's no material thing that we can take for ourselves. But the quality of the life we've lived and shared to others is something that would last beyond our lifetime.

The way we live is different from each other, yet our lives intertwine and tangle in perfect harmony in God's hand. This life that we have every day, from the moment we wake up is something that can't be exchanged for anything. Nothing in this world can replace the life we are given. No material possession can match the value of life.

A life lived with God, is a life in love... cf 1 John 4:16. Love is the foundation for life, and we learn to love from the one who first

showed us what is love. We live in love for the sake of each other and not our own. A life lived without love is not living. It is by experiencing love that we realize that our life is worthwhile, despite the challenges and difficulties we face. How has been our 2018? Was it filled with love? In what experiences have I had a strong encounter with God in 2018?

As we begin this new year, may we find hope and joy as Jesus is born. A new life is born among us, within our hearts so that we too may live.

MONDAY

A Life Worth Living

Luke 9:24-25

For if you want to save your own life, you will lose it, but if you lose your life for my sake, you will save it. Will you gain anything if you win the whole world but are yourself lost or defeated? Of course not!

There are many things that we want to gain in this life thinking that these are everything we need to live. But not everything we hold truly make us live in freedom and love. In this new year, let us leave the things that would promote self-destruction. How do I see my life's worth?

How am I living my life right now?

TUESDAY

A Life of Fulfilment

Psalm 84:10

10 One day spent in your Temple is better than a thousand anywhere else; I would rather stand at the gate of the house of my God than live in the homes of the wicked.

In the different realities we live in, violence can come in subtle ways easily ignored. People suffer and die from within not just physically but spiritually. God is the source of life. It is His presence in our lives here on earth that helps us find meaning and live with love. Where and from whom do I seek love, peace, joy, fulfillment in my life?

WEDNESDAY

The Preciousness of our Life

1 Peter 1:18-19

For you know what was paid to set you free from the worthless manner of life handed down by your ancestors. It was not something that can be destroyed, such as silver or gold; it was the costly sacrifice of Christ, who was like a lamb without defect or flaw.

Christ's sacrifice is a sacrifice made out of love for us. Even if we lose everything, we do not lose our worth. God all the more, calls us to live with the kind of love that Jesus taught us. How much do I value my life? Am I aware that my life is worth Jesus' sacrifice of love?

THURSDAY

The Price of our Life

1 Corinthians 6:20, 7:23

He bought you for a price. So use your bodies for God's glory. God bought you for a price; so do not become slaves of people.

God values your life more than you will ever know. Am I taking good care of this life that God gave to me? What are the things that enslave me to be truly free to live for what God has prepared for me? How can I glorify God in my daily life?

FRIDAY

The Value of Life

Matthew 6:19-20

"Do not store up riches for yourselves here on earth, where moths and rust destroy, and robbers break in and steal. Instead, store up riches for yourselves in heaven, where

moths and rust cannot destroy, and robbers cannot break in and steal. For your heart will always be where your riches are.

The value of our life is not measured by our wealth. Jesus teaches us that it is not about how much we gain, but how much we give. It is not by how much we can buy, but how much we can build. God values what we treasure in our hearts more than all our possessions combined. What are the things that I value in my life? Which of these should I value most?

SATURDAY

The Goal of Living

Matthew 13:44

"The Kingdom of heaven is like this. A man happens to find a treasure hidden in a field. He covers it up again, and is so happy that he goes and sells everything he has, and then goes back and buys that field.

Our life is a pursuit of happiness. In the same way our discipleship is like this field where we find Jesus in our life, and discover that in Him we are truly fulfilled, with Him we can truly love, for Him we can truly live. How willing am I to give up what I have for this treasure hidden in the field?



SUNDAY

(Epiphany of the Lord)

1st Reading – Isaiah 60:1-6

Responsorial Psalm – Psalm 72

2nd Reading – Ephesians 3:1-12

Gospel – Matthew 2:1-12



DYNAMISM OF THE WORD

