WEEK OF THE CONSECRATION OF THE CHURCH

SUNDAY

Matthew 16:13-20 Peter's Declaration about Jesus

Let us be attentive to the Gospel of Life and Salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ as recorded by the apostle Matthew.

The Apostle writes:

When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples,

"Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"

And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

He said to them,

"But who do you say that I am?"

Simon Peter answered,

"You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

And Jesus answered him,

"Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah!

For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you,

but my Father in heaven.

And I tell you, you are Peter,

and on this rock I will build my church,

and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it.

I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven,

and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

Then he sternly ordered the disciples

not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

MONDAY: Consecration

John 17:1-8 Jesus Prays for his Disciples

Let us be attentive to the Gospel of Life and Salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ as recorded by the apostle John.

The Apostle writes:

After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed. "I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me.

TUESDAY: Consecration

John 17:9-13 Jesus Prays for his Disciples

Let us be attentive to the Gospel of Life and Salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ as recorded by the apostle John.

The Lord Jesus says:

I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves.

WEDNESDAY: Consecration

John 17:14-19 Jesus Prays for his Disciples

Let us be attentive to the Gospel of Life and Salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ as recorded by the apostle John.

The Lord Jesus says:

I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

THURSDAY: Consecration

John 17:20-23 Jesus Prays for his Disciples

Let us be attentive to the Gospel of Life and Salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ as recorded by the apostle John.

The Lord Jesus says:

"I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

FRIDAY: Consecration

John 17:24-26 Jesus Prays for his Disciples

Let us be attentive to the Gospel of Life and Salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ as recorded by the apostle John.

The Lord Jesus says:

"Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."

SATURDAY: Consecration

John 15:15-21 The World's Hatred

Let us be attentive to the Gospel of Life and Salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ as recorded by the apostle John.

The Lord Jesus says:

"I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another. If the world hates you, be aware that it hated me before it hated you. If you belonged to the world, the world would love you as its own. Because you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world — therefore the world hates you. Remember the world that I said to you, 'Servants are not greater than their master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you; if they kept my word, they will keep yours also. But they will do all these things to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me.

WEEK OF THE RENEWAL OF THE CHURCH

SUNDAY

John 10:22-42 Feast of the Dedication

Let us be attentive to the Gospel of Life and Salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ as recorded by the apostle John.

The Apostle writes:

At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem.

It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon.

So the Jews gathered around him and said to him,

"How long will you keep us in suspense?

If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly."

Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe.

The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me;

but you do not believe,

because you do not belong to my sheep.

My sheep hear my voice.

I know them, and they follow me.

I give them eternal life, and they will never perish.

No one will snatch them out of my hand.

What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand.

The Father and I are one."

The Jews took up stones again to stone him.

Jesus replied,

"I have shown you many good works from the Father.

For which of these are you going to stone me?" The Jews answered, "It is not for a good work that we are going to stone you, but for blasphemy, because you, though only a human being, are making yourself God." Jesus answered, "Is it not written in your law, 'I said, you are gods'? If those to whom the word of God came were called 'gods' — and the scripture cannot be annulled can you say that the one whom the Father has sanctified and sent into the world is blaspheming because I said, 'I am God's Son'? If I am not doing the works of my Father, then do not believe me. But if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, so that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father." Then they tried to arrest him again, but he escaped from their hands. He went away again across the Jordan to the place where John had been baptizing earlier, and he remained there. Many came to him, and they were saying, "John performed no sign, but everything that John said about this man was true." And many believed in him there.

MONDAY: RENEWAL

John 10:1-6 The Good Shepherd

Let us be attentive to the Gospel of Life and Salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ as recorded by the apostle John.

The Lord Jesus says:

"Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

TUESDAY: RENEWAL

John 10:7-10 The Good Shepherd

Let us be attentive to the Gospel of Life and Salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ as recorded by the apostle John.

Again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

WEDNESDAY: RENEWAL

John 10:11-16 The Good Shepherd

Let us be attentive to the Gospel of Life and Salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ as recorded by the apostle John.

The Lord Jesus says:

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away — and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.

THURSDAY: RENEWAL

John 10:17-21 The Good Shepherd

Let us be attentive to the Gospel of Life and Salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ as recorded by the apostle John.

The Lord Jesus says:

For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father." Again the Jews were divided because of these words. Many of them were saying, "He has a demon and is out of his mind. Why listen to him?" Others were saying, "These are not the words of one who has a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?"

FRIDAY: RENEWAL

Mark 2:18-22 The Question about Fasting

Let us be attentive to the Gospel of Life and Salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ as recorded by the evangelist Mark.

The Evangelist writes:

John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting; and people came and said to Jesus, "Why do John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?" Jesus said to them, "The wedding guests cannot fast while the bridegroom is with them, can they? As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast. The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast on that day. "No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old cloak; otherwise, the patch pulls away from it, the new from the old, and a worse tear is made. And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and the wine is lost, and so are the skins; but one puts new wine into fresh wineskins."

SATURDAY: RENEWAL

Mark 1:21-28 The Cure of a Demoniac

Let us be attentive to the Gospel of Life and Salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ as recorded by the evangelist Mark.

The Evangelist writes:

They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, Jesus entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching — with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

SEASON OF THE GLORIOUS BIRTH

WEEK OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT TO ZECHARIAH

SUNDAY

Luke 1:1-25 Birth of John the Baptist Foretold

Let us be attentive to the Gospel of Life and Salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ as recorded by the evangelist Luke.

The Evangelist writes:

Since many have undertaken to set down an orderly account of the events that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed on to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word,

I too decided, after investigating everything carefully from the very first, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the truth concerning the things about which you have been instructed.

In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him,

With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

Zechariah said to the angel, "How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years." The angel replied, "I am Gabriel.

I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur."

Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. When he did come out, he could not speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. When his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, "This is what the Lord has done for me when he looked favorably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people."

MONDAY: ZECHARIAH

John 8:31-37 True Disciples

Let us be attentive to the Gospel of Life and Salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ as recorded by the apostle John.

Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?" Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed. I know that you are descendants of Abraham; yet you look for an opportunity to kill me, because there is no place in you for my word.

TUESDAY: ZECHARIAH

John 8:38-40 Jesus and Abraham

Let us be attentive to the Gospel of Life and Salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ as recorded by the apostle John.

The Lord Jesus says:

"I declare what I have seen in the Father's presence; as for you, you should do what you have heard from the Father." They answered him, "Abraham is our father." Jesus said to them, "If you were Abraham's children, you would be doing what Abraham did, but now you are trying to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did."

WEDNESDAY: ZECHARIAH

John 8:41-45 Jesus and Abraham

Let us be attentive to the Gospel of Life and Salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ as recorded by the apostle John.

The Lord Jesus says:

"You are indeed doing what your father does." They said to him, "We are not illegitimate children; we have one father, God himself." Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and now I am here. I did not come on my own, but he sent me. Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot accept my word. You are from your father the devil, and you choose to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks according to his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies. But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me.

THURSDAY: ZECHARIAH

John 8:46-50 Jesus and Abraham

Let us be attentive to the Gospel of Life and Salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ as recorded by the apostle John.

The Lord Jesus says:

"Which of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me? Whoever is from God hears the words of God. The reason you do not hear them is that you are not from God." The Jews answered him, "Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?" Jesus answered, "I do not have a demon; but I honor my Father, and you dishonor me. Yet I do not seek my own glory; there is one who seeks it and he is the judge."

FRIDAY: ZECHARIAH

John 8:51-55 Jesus and Abraham

Let us be attentive to the Gospel of Life and Salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ as recorded by the apostle John.

The Lord Jesus says:

"Very truly, I tell you, whoever keeps my word will never see death." The Jews said to him, "Now we know that you have a demon. Abraham died, and so did the prophets; yet you say, 'Whoever keeps my word will never taste death.' Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? The prophets also died. Who do you claim to be?" Jesus answered, "If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, he of whom you say, 'He is our God,' though you do not know him. But I know him; if I would say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you. But I do know him and I keep his word.

SATURDAY: ZECHARIAH

John 8:56-59 Jesus and Abraham

Let us be attentive to the Gospel of Life and Salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ as recorded by the apostle John.

The Lord Jesus says:

"Your ancestor Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day; he saw it and was glad." Then the Jews said to him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?" Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, before Abraham was, I am." So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.

WEEK OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT TO THE VIRGIN

SUNDAY

Luke 1:26-38 The Birth of Jesus Foretold

Let us be attentive to the Gospel of Life and Salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ as recorded by the evangelist Luke.

The Evangelist writes:

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David.

The virgin's name was Mary.

And he came to her and said,

"Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you."

But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

The angel said to her,

"Do not be afraid, Mary,

for you have found favor with God.

And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus.

He will be great,

and will be called the Son of the Most High,

and the Lord God will give to him

the throne of his ancestor David.

He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"

The angel said to her,
"The Holy Spirit will come upon you,
and the power of the Most High will overshadow you;
therefore the child to be born will be holy;
he will be called Son of God.
And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age
has also conceived a son;
and this is the sixth month for her
who was said to be barren.
For nothing will be impossible with God."
Then Mary said,
"Here am I, the servant of the Lord;
let it be with me according to your word."
Then the angel departed from her.

MONDAY: Announcement to the Virgin

Luke 11:27-32 True Blessedness

Let us be attentive to the Gospel of Life and Salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ as recorded by the evangelist Luke.

The Evangelist writes:

A woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to Jesus, "Blessed is the womb that bore you and the breasts that nursed you!" But he said, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it!" When the crowds were increasing, he began to say, "This generation is an evil generation; it asks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah. For just as Jonah became a sign to the people of Nineveh, so the Son of Man will be to this generation. The queen of the South will rise at the judgment with the people of this generation and condemn them, because she came from the ends of the earth to listen to the wisdom of Solomon, and see, something greater than Solomon is here! The people of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the proclamation of Jonah, and see, something greater than Jonah is here!

TUESDAY: ANNOUNCEMENT TO THE VIRGIN

Matthew 11:25-30 Jesus Thanks His Father

Let us be attentive to the Gospel of Life and Salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ as recorded by the apostle Matthew.

At that time Jesus said:

"I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

WEDNESDAY: Announcement to the Virgin

Matthew 13:54-58 The Rejection of Jesus at Nazareth

Let us be attentive to the Gospel of Life and Salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ as recorded by the apostle Matthew.

The Apostle writes:

Jesus came to his hometown and began to teach the people in their synagogue, so that they were astounded and said, "Where did this man get this wisdom and these deeds of power? Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary? And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? And are not all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all this?" And they took offense at him. But Jesus said to them, "Prophets are not without honor except in their own country and in their own house." And he did not do many deeds of power there, because of their unbelief.

THURSDAY: Announcement to the Virgin

Matthew 12:46-50 The True Kindred of Jesus

Let us be attentive to the Gospel of Life and Salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ as recorded by the apostle Matthew.

The Apostle writes:

While Jesus was still speaking to the crowds, his mother and his brothers were standing outside, wanting to speak to him. Someone told him, "Look, your mother and your brothers are standing outside, wanting to speak to you." But to the one who had told him this, Jesus replied, "Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?" And pointing to his disciples, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother."

FRIDAY: Announcement to the Virgin

John 6:40-44 The Bread from Heaven

Let us be attentive to the Gospel of Life and Salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ as recorded by the apostle John.

The Lord Jesus says:

This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day." Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." They were saying, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I have come down from heaven'?" Jesus answered them, "Do not complain among yourselves. No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the last day.

SATURDAY: ANNOUNCEMENT TO THE VIRGIN

Luke 10:21-24 Jesus Rejoices

Let us be attentive to the Gospel of Life and Salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ as recorded by the evangelist Luke.

The Evangelist writes:

At that same hour Jesus rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All thingshave been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, or who the Father is except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him." Then turning to the disciples, Jesus said to them privately, "Blessed are the eyes that see what you see! For I tell you that many prophets and kings desired to see what you see, but did not see it, and to hear what you hear, but did not hear it."

WEEK OF THE VISITATION OF THE VIRGIN TO ELIZABETH

SUNDAY

Luke 1:39-45 The Visitation

Let us be attentive to the Gospel of Life and Salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ as recorded by the evangelist Luke.

The Evangelist writes:

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

MONDAY: VISITATION

Luke 1:46-56 The Magnificat

Let us be attentive to the Gospel of Life and Salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ as recorded by the evangelist Luke.

Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever." And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

TUESDAY: VISITATION

Luke 10:38-42 Martha and Mary

Let us be attentive to the Gospel of Life and Salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ as recorded by the evangelist Luke.

The Evangelist writes:

Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

WEDNESDAY: VISITATION

Luke 19:1-10 Zacchaeus

Let us be attentive to the Gospel of Life and Salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ as recorded by the evangelist Luke.

The Evangelist writes:

Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through it. A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today." So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. All who saw it began to grumble and said, "He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner." Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much." Then Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost."

THURSDAY: VISITATION

John 4:39-42 Jesus among the Samaritans

Let us be attentive to the Gospel of Life and Salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ as recorded by the evangelist Luke.

The Apostle writes:

Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

FRIDAY: VISITATION

Mark 7:24-30 The daughter of the Syro-Phoenician woman healed

Let us be attentive to the Gospel of Life and Salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ as recorded by the evangelist Mark.

The Evangelist writes:

From there Jesus set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophoenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go — the demon has left your daughter." So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

SATURDAY: VISITATION

Luke 5:27-32 The Call of Levi/ Eating with sinners in Levi's house

Let us be attentive to the Gospel of Life and Salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ as recorded by the evangelist Luke.

The Evangelist writes:

After this Jesus went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up, left everything, and followed him. Then Levi gave a great banquet for him in his house; and there was a large crowd of tax collectors and others sitting at the table with them. The Pharisees and their scribes were complaining to his disciples, saying, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?" Jesus answered, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick; I have come to call not the righteous but sinners to repentance."

WEEK OF THE THE BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

SUNDAY

Luke 1:57-66 The Birth of John the Baptist

Let us be attentive to the Gospel of Life and Salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ as recorded by the evangelist Luke.

The Evangelist writes:

Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son.

Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.

On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father.

But his mother said,

"No; he is to be called John."

They said to her,

"None of your relatives has this name."

Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him.

He asked for a writing tablet and wrote,

"His name is John."

And all of them were amazed. Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God.

Fear came over all their neighbors, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea.
All who heard them pondered them and said,
"What then will this child become?"
For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him.

MONDAY: BIRTH OF JOHN

Luke 1:67-80 The Canticle of Zechariah

Let us be attentive to the Gospel of Life and Salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ as recorded by the evangelist Luke.

The Evangelist writes:

John's father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy: "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them. He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us. Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins. By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace." The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.

TUESDAY: BIRTH OF JOHN

Matthew 11:11-15 Jesus Praises John the Baptist

Let us be attentive to the Gospel of Life and Salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ as recorded by the apostle Matthew.

The Lord Jesus says:

"Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John came; and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. Let anyone with ears listen!"

WEDNESDAY: BIRTH OF JOHN

Matthew 17:9-13 The Transfiguration

Let us be attentive to the Gospel of Life and Salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ as recorded by the apostle Matthew.

The Apostle writes:

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the visionuntil after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead." And the disciples asked him, "Why, then, do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?" He replied, "Elijah is indeed coming and will restore all things; but I tell you that Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him, but they did to him whatever they pleased. So also the Son of Man is about to suffer at their hands." Then the disciples understood that he was speaking to them about John the Baptist.

THURSDAY: BIRTH OF JOHN

Matthew 21:23-27 The Authority of Jesus Questioned

Let us be attentive to the Gospel of Life and Salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ as recorded by the apostle Matthew.

The Apostle writes:

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

FRIDAY: BIRTH OF JOHN

Matthew 11:16-19 Jesus Praises John the Baptist

Let us be attentive to the Gospel of Life and Salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ as recorded by the apostle Matthew.

The Lord Jesus says:

"But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.' For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds."

SATURDAY: BIRTH OF JOHN

John 5:31-36 Witnesses to Jesus

Let us be attentive to the Gospel of Life and Salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ as recorded by the apostle John.

The Lord Jesus says:

"If I testify about myself, my testimony is not true. There is another who testifies on my behalf, and I know that his testimony to me is true. You sent messengers to John, and he testified to the truth. Not that I accept such human testimony, but I say these things so that you may be saved. He was a burning and shining lamp, and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light. But I have a testimony greater than John's. The works that the Father has given me to complete, the very works that I am doing, testify on my behalf that the Father has sent me."

WEEK OF THE REVELATION TO JOSEPH

SUNDAY

Matthew 1:18-25 The Birth of Jesus the Messiah

Let us be attentive to the Gospel of Life and Salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ as recorded by the apostle Matthew.

The Apostle writes:

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep,

he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her and she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

MONDAY: REVELATION TO JOSEPH

John 7:1-10 The Unbelief of Jesus' Brothers

Let us be attentive to the Gospel of Life and Salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ as recorded by the apostle John.

The Apostle writes:

Jesus went about in Galilee. He did not wish to go about in Judea because the Jews were looking for an opportunity to kill him. Now the Jewish festival of Booths was near. So his brothers said to him, "Leave here and go to Judea so that your disciples also may see the works you are doing; for no one who wants to be widely known acts in secret. If you do these things, show yourself to the world." (For not even his brothers believed in him.) Jesus said to them, "My time has not yet come, but your time is always here. The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify against it that its works are evil. Go to the festival yourselves. I am not going to this festival, for my time has not yet fully come." After saying this, he remained in Galilee. But after his brothers had gone to the festival, then he also went, not publicly but as it were in secret.

TUESDAY: REVELATION TO JOSEPH

John 7:11-18 Jesus at the Festival of Booths

Let us be attentive to the Gospel of Life and Salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ as recorded by the apostle John.

The Apostle writes:

The Jews were looking for Jesus at the festival and saying, "Where is he?" And there was considerable complaining about him among the crowds. While some were saying, "He is a good man," others were saying, "No, he is deceiving the crowd." Yet no one would speak openly about him for fear of the Jews. About the middle of the festival Jesus went up into the temple and began to teach. The Jews were astonished at it, saying, "How does this man have such learning, when he has never been taught?" Then Jesus answered them, "My teaching is not mine but his who sent me. Anyone who resolves to do the will of God will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own. Those who speak on their own seek their own glory; but the one who seeks the glory of him who sent him is true, and there is nothing false in him.

WEDNESDAY: REVELATION TO JOSEPH

John 7:25-30 Is This the Christ?

Let us be attentive to the Gospel of Life and Salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ as recorded by the apostle John.

The Apostle writes:

Now some of the people of Jerusalem were saying, "Is not this the man whom they are trying to kill? And here he is, speaking openly, but they say nothing to him! Can it be that the authorities really know that this is the Messiah? Yet we know where this man is from; but when the Messiah comes, no one will know where he is from." Then Jesus cried out as he was teaching in the temple, "You know me, and you know where I am from. I have not come on my own. But the one who sent me is true, and you do not know him. I know him, because I am from him, and he sent me." Then they tried to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him, because his hour had not yet come.

THURSDAY: REVELATION TO JOSEPH

John 7:31-36 Officers Are Sent to Arrest Jesus

Let us be attentive to the Gospel of Life and Salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ as recorded by the apostle John.

The Apostle writes:

Many in the crowd believed in him and were saying, "When the Messiah comes, will he do more signs than this man has done?" The Pharisees heard the crowd muttering such things about him, and the chief priests and Pharisees sent temple police to arrest him. Jesus then said, "I will be with you a little while longer, and then I am going to him who sent me. You will search for me, but you will not find me; and where I am, you cannot come." The Jews said to one another, "Where does this man intend to go that we will not find him? Does he intend to go to the Dispersion among the Greeks and teach the Greeks? What does he mean by saying, 'You will search for me and you will not find me' and 'Where I am, you cannot come'?"

FRIDAY: REVELATION TO JOSEPH

John 7:37-44 Rivers of Living Water

Let us be attentive to the Gospel of Life and Salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ as recorded by the apostle John.

The Apostle writes:

On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, 'Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water." Now he said this about the Spirit, which believers in him were to receive; for as yet there was no Spirit, because Jesus was not yet glorified. When they heard these words, some in the crowd said, "This is really the prophet." Others said, "This is the Messiah." But some asked, "Surely the Messiah does not come from Galilee, does he? Has not the scripture said that the Messiah is descended from David and comes from Bethlehem, the village where David lived?" So there was a division in the crowd because of him. Some of them wanted to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him.

SATURDAY: REVELATION TO JOSEPH

John 7:45-53 The Unbelief of Those in Authority

Let us be attentive to the Gospel of Life and Salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ as recorded by the apostle John.

The Apostle writes:

Then the temple police went back to the chief priests and Pharisees, who asked them, "Why did you not arrest him?" The police answered, "Never has anyone spoken like this!" Then the Pharisees replied, "Surely you have not been deceived too, have you? Has any one of the authorities or of the Pharisees believed in him? But this crowd, which does not know the law — they are accursed." Nicodemus, who had gone to Jesus before, and who was one of them, asked, "Our law does not judge people without first giving them a hearing to find out what they are doing, does it?" They replied, "Surely you are not also from Galilee, are you? Search and you will see that no prophet is to arise from Galilee." Then each of them went home.

WEEK OF THE THE GENEALOGY

SUNDAY

Matthew 1:1-17 The Genealogy of Jesus the Messiah

Let us be attentive to the Gospel of Life and Salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ as recorded by the apostle Matthew.

The Apostle writes:

An account of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, and Aram the father of Aminadab, and Aminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of King David.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph, and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham,

and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

And after the deportation to Babylon:
Jechoniah was the father of Salathiel,
and Salathiel the father of Zerubbabel,
and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud,
and Abiud the father of Eliakim,
and Eliakim the father of Azor,
and Azor the father of Zadok,
and Zadok the father of Achim,
and Achim the father of Eliud,
and Eliud the father of Eleazar,
and Eleazar the father of Matthan,
and Matthan the father of Jacob,
and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary,
of whom Jesus was born,
who is called the Messiah.

So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David to the deportation to Babylon, fourteen generations; and from the deportation to Babylon to the Messiah, fourteen generations.

MONDAY: GENEALOGY

John 8:1-11 The Woman Caught in Adultery

Let us be attentive to the Gospel of Life and Salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ as recorded by the apostle John.

The Apostle writes:

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him and he sat down and began to teach them. The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery; and making her stand before all of them, they said to him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" They said this to test him, so that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground. When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders; and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus straightened up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" She said, "No one, sir." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again."

TUESDAY: GENEALOGY

John 8:12-20 Jesus the Light of the World

Let us be attentive to the Gospel of Life and Salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ as recorded by the apostle John.

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying:

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." Then the Pharisees said to him, "You are testifying on your own behalf; your testimony is not valid." Jesus answered, "Even if I testify on my own behalf, my testimony is valid because I know where I have come from and where I am going, but you do not know where I come from or where I am going. You judge by human standards; I judge no one. Yet even if I do judge, my judgment is valid; for it is not I alone who judge, but I and the Father who sent me. In your law it is written that the testimony of two witnesses is valid. I testify on my own behalf, and the Father who sent me testifies on my behalf." Then they said to him, "Where is your Father?" Jesus answered, "You know neither me nor my Father. If you knew me, you would know my Father also." He spoke these words while he was teaching in the treasury of the temple, but no one arrested him, because his hour had not yet come.

WEDNESDAY: GENEALOGY

John 8:21-24 Jesus Foretells His Death

Let us be attentive to the Gospel of Life and Salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ as recorded by the apostle John.

Again Jesus said to them:

"I am going away, and you will search for me, but you will die in your sin. Where I am going, you cannot come." Then the Jews said, "Is he going to kill himself? Is that what he means by saying, 'Where I am going, you cannot come'?" He said to them, "You are from below, I am from above; you are of this world, I am not of this world. I told you that you would die in your sins, for you will die in your sins unless you believe that I am he."

THURSDAY: GENEALOGY

John 8:25-30 Jesus Foretells His Death

Let us be attentive to the Gospel of Life and Salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ as recorded by the apostle John.

The Apostle writes:

They said to Jesus, "Who are you?" Jesus said to them, "Why do I speak to you at all? I have much to say about you and much to condemn; but the one who sent me is true, and I declare to the world what I have heard from him." They did not understand that he was speaking to them about the Father. So Jesus said, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will realize that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own, but I speak these things as the Father instructed me. And the one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what is pleasing to him." As he was saying these things, many believed in him.

FRIDAY: GENEALOGY

John 12:44-47 Summary of Jesus' Teaching

Let us be attentive to the Gospel of Life and Salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ as recorded by the apostle John.

Jesus cried aloud:

"Whoever believes in me believes not in me but in him who sent me. And whoever sees me sees him who sent me. I have come as light into the world, so that everyone who believes in me should not remain in the darkness. I do not judge anyone who hears my words and does not keep them, for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world.

SATURDAY: GENEALOGY

John 12:48-50 Summary of Jesus' Teaching

Let us be attentive to the Gospel of Life and Salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ as recorded by the apostle John.

The Lord Jesus says:

The one who rejects me and does not receive my word has a judge; on the last day the word that I have spoken will serve as judge, for I have not spoken on my own, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment about what to say and what to speak. And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I speak, therefore, I speak just as the Father has told me."

BIRTH OF THE LORD TO EPIPHANY

DECEMBER 25 FEAST OF THE GLORIOUS BIRTH

Luke 2:1-20 The Birth of Jesus

Let us be attentive to the Gospel of Life and Salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ as recorded by the evangelist Luke.

The Evangelist writes:

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered.

This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.

All went to their own towns to be registered.

Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended

from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary

He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged

and who was expecting a child.

While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields,

keeping watch over their flock by night.

Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see —

I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

DECEMBER 26TH: PRAISES TO THE MOTHER OF GOD

Luke 1:46-55 Praises to the Virgin Mary

Let us be attentive to the Gospel of Life and Salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ as recorded by the evangelist Luke.

Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

DECEMBER 27TH: MARTYRDOM OF STEPHEN

Matthew 23:29-24:2 Denunciation of the Scribes & Pharisees

Let us be attentive to the Gospel of Life and Salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ as recorded by the apostle Matthew.

The Lord Jesus says:

"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you build the tombs of the prophets and decorate the graves of the righteous, and you say, 'If we had lived in the days of our ancestors, we would not have taken part with them in shedding the blood of the prophets.' Thus you testify against yourselves that you are descendants of those who murdered the prophets. Fill up, then, the measure of your ancestors. You snakes, you brood of vipers! How can you escape being sentenced to hell? Therefore I send you prophets, sages, and scribes, some of whom you will kill and crucify, and some you will flog in your synagogues and pursue from town to town, so that upon you may come all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah son of Barachiah, whom you murdered between the sanctuary and the altar. Truly I tell you, all this will come upon this generation. "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you, desolate. For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord." As Jesus came out of the temple and was going away, his disciples came to point out to him the buildings of the temple. Then he asked them, "You see all these, do you not? Truly I tell you, not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down."

DECEMBER 28TH: VISIT OF THE MAGI

Matthew 2:1-12 Visit of the Magi

Let us be attentive to the Gospel of Life and Salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ as recorded by the apostle Matthew.

The Apostle writes:

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel." Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

DECEMBER 29TH: FLIGHT INTO EGYPT / HOLY INNOCENTS

Matthew 2:13-18 Flight into Egypt / Killing of the Infants

Let us be attentive to the Gospel of Life and Salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ as recorded by the apostle Matthew.

The Apostle writes:

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son." When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

DECEMBER 30TH: RETURN FROM EGYPT TO NAZARETH

Matthew 2:19-23 Return from Egypt to Nazareth

Let us be attentive to the Gospel of Life and Salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ as recorded by the apostle Matthew.

The Apostle writes:

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazorean."

DECEMBER 31st: THE WORD BECAME FLESH

John 1:1-18 Prologue / The Word Became Flesh

Let us be attentive to the Gospel of Life and Salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ as recorded by the apostle John.

The Apostle writes:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

FINDING IN THE TEMPLE

SUNDAY

Luke 2:41-52 Finding in the Temple

Let us be attentive to the Gospel of Life and Salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ as recorded by the evangelist Luke.

The Evangelist writes:

Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover.

And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival.

When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it.

Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey.

Then they started to look for him

among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him.

After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers,

listening to them and asking them questions.

And all who heard him

were amazed at his understanding and his answers.

When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him,

"Child, why have you treated us like this?

Look, your father and I have been searching for you

in great anxiety."
He said to them,
"Why were you searching for me?
Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?"
But they did not understand
what he said to them.
Then he went down with them
and came to Nazareth,
and was obedient to them.
His mother treasured all these things in her heart.
And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years,
and in divine and human favor.

JANUARY 1ST: THE CIRCUMCISION OF JESUS

Luke 2:21-24 Circumcision / Presentation

Let us be attentive to the Gospel of Life and Salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ as recorded by the evangelist Luke.

The Evangelist writes:

After eight days had passed,
it was time to circumcise the child;
and he was called Jesus,
the name given by the angel
before he was conceived in the womb.

When the time came for their purification
according to the law of Moses,
they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord
(as it is written in the law of the Lord,
"Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"),
and they offered a sacrifice
according to what is stated in the law of the Lord,
"a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

JANUARY 2ND: WORLD DAY OF PEACE

John 14:27-31 The Advocate

Let us be attentive to the Gospel of Life and Salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ as recorded by the apostle John.

The Lord Jesus says:

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.

I do not give to you as the world gives.

Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

You heard me say to you,

'I am going away, and I am coming to you.'

If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I.

And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe.

I will no longer talk much with you,

for the ruler of this world is coming.

He has no power over me;

but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father.

JANUARY 3RD: PRESENTATION—SIMEON

Luke 2:25-35 Simeon

Let us be attentive to the Gospel of Life and Salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ as recorded by the evangelist Luke.

The Evangelist writes:

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed — and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

JANUARY 4TH: PRESENTATION—PROPHETESS ANNA

Luke 2:36-40 The Prophetess Anna

Let us be attentive to the Gospel of Life and Salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ as recorded by the evangelist Luke.

The Evangelist writes:

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

January 5th

EVE OF EPIPHANY

Luke 3:1-6 The Preaching of John

Let us be attentive to the Gospel of Life and Salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ as recorded by the evangelist Luke.

The Evangelist writes:

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.""