

St. Peter's, Holy Guardian Angels, and St. John the Baptist Parishes
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February 1, 2026

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass Readings

The **First Reading** is taken from the *Book of the Prophet Zephaniah* (one of the twelve minor prophets) 2: 3; 3: 12-13. It introduces the poor as those who are repressed by the inequities of the powerful and by injustice, those who never lose hope, who seek the Lord with trust and rely only on Him.

The **Second Reading**, taken from the *First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians* 1:26-31. St. Paul highlights that God's choices don't follow human reckoning. God does not single out the strong but chooses the small ones, the poor. God chooses the weakest and those who have no value or power in the eyes of the world. St Paul says 'that no human being might boast before God' (1 Cor 1:29) and it seems clear, therefore, that one's material goods and talents do not come from power or human virtues but only and exclusively from the Lord. The world is permanently scandalized, and yet called to conversion, by the apparent illogicality of Divine logic. The mystery and drama of the Word made flesh, is the scandal that is the stumbling block that some Christians have not yet fully comprehended.

The **Gospel** reading is taken from the *Gospel of St. Matthew* 5:1-12a. At the end of the Gospel of the Beatitudes, the poor appear as the privileged ones in the discourse, the definitive, true protagonists in the story.

The first recipients of the Beatitudes are, in fact, the 'poor in spirit', an expression that indicates those who have their hearts and consciences directed intimately to Our Lord. They are the expression of the just who are tried by moments of suffering and difficulties. However, they are called 'blessed' and 'happy' because God's merciful and compassionate gaze rests on them. These are the poor that the Bible text really refers to. The poor in the Bible are the humbled, the 'anawîm', who bear a burden on their shoulders. They are given God's favor and because of this the Word identifies them as just, meek and humble. All kinds of attitudes are included in the eight beatitudes. This way the true significance of the 'just poor' is revealed; the ones who don't confide mainly in themselves but in God. The poor are those who detach themselves concretely and interiorly from the possession of persons and things and above all of themselves. The poor don't find security in the gods of this world like success, power or pride but the true Lord God in Heaven.

Thus, the poor, meek and humble become a scandal before the world because they witness that one can found our lives on God, with the same certainty of His constant presence and so they confirm the existence and works of God. Each one of us is invited to verify where our certainty rests and if our daily life and actions proclaim God's efficacious presence in the world.

—From the Dicastery for the Clergy

Schedule of Mass Intentions

Tuesday, February 3, 2026

SJB

4:00 PM

**For the people*

Wednesday, February 4, 2026

SP

9:00 AM

**For the people*

Friday, February 6, 2026

HGA

11:00 AM

+ Lena Bona

Saturday, February 7, 2026

SJB	4:00 PM
+ Warren Burke	
SP	5:30 PM
For the living	
*Martena England	

Sunday, February 8, 2026

SH	9:00 AM
HGA	11:00 AM
+ Fred Sampson	

Receipts

St. John the Baptist
January 24, 2026

Envelopes & Loose	\$	635.00
<u>Total</u>	\$	<u>635.00</u>

St. Peter's
January 24, 2026

Envelopes & Loose	\$	535.00
Candles		20.00
Initial Offering		25.00
<u>Total</u>	\$	<u>560.00</u>

Holy Guardian Angels
January 25, 2026

Envelopes & Loose	\$	765.00
Candles		26.20
<u>Total</u>	\$	<u>791.20</u>

Community News

L'Ardoise Acadian Festival meeting will be held on Sunday, February 8 @12:15. This year's festival dates are July 23 - 26. All are welcome to join our committee.

All parishes: Please note the item in last week's bulletin that presented the *Decree of the Apostolic Penitentiary on the occasion of the Eighth Centenary of the death of Saint Francis of Assisi, by which a special Jubilee Year is proclaimed with associated Plenary Indulgences.* The year extends from January 10, 2026 to January 10, 2027.