

St. Peter's, Holy Guardian Angels, and St. John the Baptist Parishes
(902) 535-2053

Rev. John Yake, I. V. Dei

Bulletin email: bulletinsjbsp@gmail.com

January 25, 2026

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sunday of the Word of God

Sunday of the Word of God

From the Ordo:

In the Apostolic Letter *Aperuit illis*, Pope Francis instituted the Sunday of the Word of God, celebrated on the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time.

"Devoting a specific Sunday of the liturgical year to the word of God can enable the Church to experience anew how the risen Lord opens up for us the treasury of his word and enables us to proclaim its unfathomable riches before the world."

Mass Readings

The **First Reading** is taken from the *Book of the Prophet Isaiah 9:1-4*. This reading is another prophecy, concerning the messianic days, given by Isaiah in the eighth century B.C. It describes the new era of liberty and joy, which the future Messiah will usher in.

The **Second Reading** is from the *First Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians 1:10-13, 17*. St. Paul corrects the Corinthians for the pride that was causing them to form factions and divisions.

The **Gospel** is from *St. Matthew 4:12-23*. The prophet Isaiah announced a future of liberation and great joy for all of Galilee, through the image of light that dispels the darkness in which the people walk. The Gospel, quoting verbatim the same passage of the prophet Isaiah, presents Jesus as the Light thus fulfilling Isaiah's prophecy. He is the light that was promised to dispel the darkness of sin and to free man from the obscurity in which he is enclosed.

The light becomes an efficacious means to express God's involvement in human history. God manifests Himself as 'The Light' that disperses the darkness. The light illuminates, encircles, defines things, emphasizes the colours and gives depth to space. The light heartens and comforts: to be in an enlightened place helps us to accept reality for what it is and makes one feel happier, more certain and protected.

God's initiative with regard to men permits them to have a renewed relationship with reality. In God's light everything assumes a new significance, its authentic and definitive meaning. A light which illuminates gives strength and permits the disclosure of the universe and man. This is why, after saying, 'on those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone' (Is 9:1), the text adds, 'you have brought them abundant joy and great rejoicing' (Is 9:2).

A joy and happiness that became real in Jesus' presence. He is the promised light that has come into our midst, His physical presence that expresses the definitive arrival of the Light. The light that shines brightly marks God's initiative performing His first merciful and free step towards a wounded humanity.

This dynamic is expressed through Jesus call of the first Apostles. He chooses them with an unequivocal call, 'Follow Me'. Faced with God's sudden interruption in their lives He invited them to abandon the nets and trust themselves totally to the Lord for a new 'catch', a new definitive horizon. At the Last Supper, the end of His earthly life, Jesus reminds His disciples 'you did not choose me, no, I chose you' (Jn 15:16).

This Sunday's Gospel invites us to remember that our personal vocation is founded on God's original and absolutely free choice. His invitation towards us, therefore, is an invitation to make a final decision to let Him conquer or re-conquer us to mark a turning point in our lives.

Let us ask the Lord, for us and the whole Church, for the gift of a true conversion of our hearts enabling us to receive Christ as the only Light to follow. Christ is the only one that really dispels the darkness within and around us.

—From the Dicastery for the Clergy

Schedule of Mass Intentions

Tuesday, January 27, 2026

SJB 4:00 PM
+ **Warren Burke**

Wednesday, January 28, 2026

SP 9:00 AM
***For the people**

Friday, January 30, 2026

HGA 11:00 AM
+ **David Pottie**

Saturday, January 31, 2026

SJB 4:00 PM
+ **Warren Burke**
SP 5:30 PM
***For the people**

Sunday, February 1, 2026

SH 9:00 AM
+ **Elaine MacNeil**
HGA 11:00 AM
+ **David Kemp**

Receipts

St. John the Baptist
January 17, 2026

Envelopes & Loose	\$	997.00
Cemetery		20.00
<u>Total</u>	\$	<u>1,017.00</u>

St. Peter's
January 17, 2026

Envelopes & Loose	\$	600.00
Candles		24.00
Initial Offering		20.00
<u>Total</u>	\$	<u>644.00</u>

Holy Guardian Angels
January 18, 2026

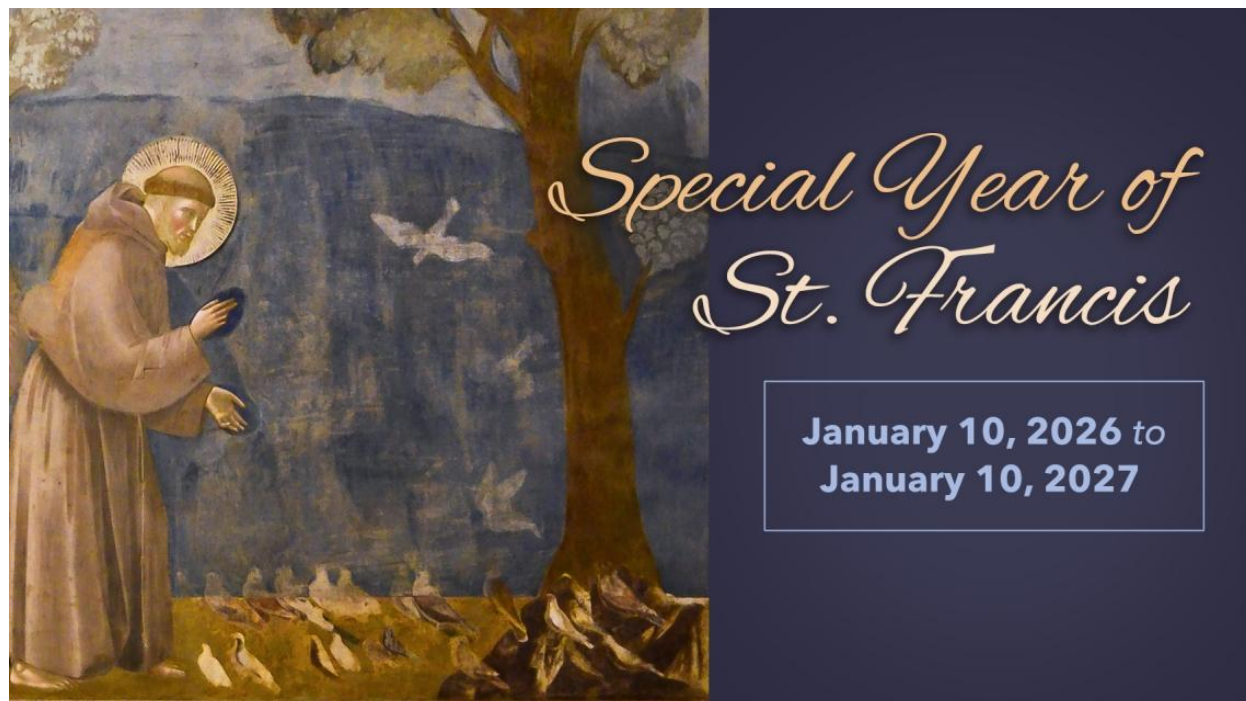
Envelopes & Loose	\$	622.20
Candles		45.25
<u>Total</u>	\$	<u>667.45</u>

Community News

Medjugorje Pilgrimage, April 26 - May 6, 2026 with Fr. Andrew Gillies and Rhonda-Lynn Cormier (group leader). \$2,899. (return flights from Halifax). Single supplement \$350 (if available). Included in price: airfare, ground travel in Europe, two meals a day, professional

Medjugorje guide, two days of excursions to the UNESCO city of Mostar and a local village's Divine Mercy Chapel.
Contact: rhonda_lynn_c@hotmail.com or (902)448-3660

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 , 16.01.2026



“Hold fast to the memory of our father and brother, Francis, for the praise and glory of Him who made him great among us and glorified him in the sight of the angels. Pray for him, as once he asked us, and pray to him that God may make us sharers with him of his holy grace”. [1]

While the fruits of grace of the Ordinary Jubilee of the Year 2025, which has just ended, in which we have all been urged to become pilgrims of that hope that does not disappoint (cf. Rm 5:5), are still present and effective, a new occasion for jubilation and sanctification is added to it as an ideal continuation: the eighth centenary of the happy passing of Saint Francis of Assisi from earthly life to his heavenly homeland (3 October 1226).

In recent years, other important Jubilees have concerned the person and the words of the Saint of Assisi: the eighth centenary of the creation of the first Nativity Scene in Greccio, the composition of the Canticle of the Creatures, hymn to the holy beauty of creation, and the impression of the Holy Stigmata, which took place on Mount Verna, almost a new Calvary, two years before his death. The year 2026 will mark the culmination and fulfilment of all the preceding celebrations: indeed, it will be the Year of Saint Francis and we are all called to become saints in the contemporary world, following the example of the *Seraphic Patriarch*.

If it is admirably true that “there is no other name under heaven given among men” (cf. *Acts* 4:12) except Jesus Christ, Redeemer of humanity, it is equally extraordinarily true that between the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, in an era of so-called holy wars, relaxed morals and misguided religious fervour, “a sun was born into the world”[2]: Francis, who, as the son of a wealthy merchant, became poor and humble, a true *alter Christus* on earth, providing the world with tangible examples of evangelical life and a real image of Christian perfection. Our times are not very different from those in which Francis lived, and precisely in light of this, his teachings are perhaps even more valid and understandable today. When Christian charity languishes, ignorance spreads like bad habits, and those who extol harmony among peoples do so more out of selfishness than out of a sincere Christian spirit; when the virtual takes precedence over the real, social discord and violence are part of everyday life, and peace becomes more uncertain and distant every day; may this Year of Saint Francis urge us all, each according to our own possibilities, to imitate the *Poverello* of Assisi, to mould ourselves as much as possible on the model of Christ, to not let the intentions of the Holy Year just passed be in vain: may the hope that saw us as pilgrims now be transformed into zeal and fervour of active charity.

“And in this I want to know if you love the Lord and love me, his and your servant, if you will do this, namely: that there may never be any friar in the world, who has sinned as much as he could

sin, who, after seeing your eyes, may go away without your merciful forgiveness, if he asks for it”[3].

With these extraordinary words, given in the *Epistola ad quendam ministrum*, Saint Francis at the same time not only dispenses consolation and advices to an anonymous confrère, but above all outlines and emphasizes the fundamental concept of mercy, which is inextricably linked to that of forgiveness and indulgence. And it is precisely forgiveness, the well-known “Pardon of Assisi” or “Indulgence of the Portiuncola”, that Pope Honorius III granted directly to Francis as an exceptional privilege for those who, having confessed and received communion, visited an ancient church near Assisi on 2 August, built 800 years earlier on a “small portion of land” (hence the name “Portiuncola”).

With the same generous enthusiasm and joy that the Saint radiated to the crowd present at the consecration of the Portiuncola when he announced the grace granted, upon seeing his prayer answered by the Vicar of Christ, His Holiness Pope Leo XIV, Minister of our faith and our joy, establishes that, from 10 January 2026, coinciding with the closing of the Ordinary Jubilee, until 10 January 2027, a special Year of Saint Francis shall be proclaimed, in which every faithful Christian, following the example of the Saint of Assisi, shall become a model of holiness of life and a constant witness of peace.

For a more perfect achievement of the intended aims, the Apostolic Penitentiary, through this Decree issued in accordance with the will of the Supreme Pontiff, on the occasion of the Year of Saint Francis, grants a plenary indulgence under the usual conditions (sacramental confession, Eucharistic communion and prayer according to the intentions of the Holy Father), also applicable in the form of suffrage for the souls in Purgatory:

1) to members:

- of the Franciscan Families of the First, Second and Third Orders Regular and Secular;
- of Institutes of Consecrated Life, Societies of Apostolic Life and public or private associations of the faithful, male and female, who observe the Rule of Saint Francis or are inspired by his spirituality or perpetuate his charism in any form;

2) to all the faithful without distinction

who, with a heart detached from sin, participate in the Year of Saint Francis by visiting, in the form of a pilgrimage, any Franciscan conventual church or place of worship anywhere in the world dedicated to Saint Francis or connected to him for any reason, and there devoutly follow the Jubilee rites or spend at least a reasonable period of time in pious meditation and raise prayers to God so that, following the example of Saint Francis, feelings of Christian charity towards their neighbours and authentic vows of harmony and peace among peoples may spring forth in their hearts, concluding with the Our Father, the Creed and invocations to the Blessed Virgin Mary, Saint Francis of Assisi, Saint Clare and all the Saints of the Franciscan Family.

The elderly, the sick and those who take care of them, and all those who are unable to leave their homes for serious reasons may also obtain a Plenary Indulgence, provided they detach themselves from any sin and intend to fulfil the three usual conditions as soon as possible, if they unite themselves spiritually to the jubilee celebrations of the Year of Saint Francis, offering to the Merciful God their prayers, the pains or sufferings of their lives.

In order that this opportunity to obtain divine grace through the Power of the Keys of the Church may be more easily realised, this Penitentiary firmly requests all priests, regular and secular, who have the appropriate faculties, to make themselves available, with a ready, generous and merciful spirit, for the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

This decree is valid for the Year of Saint Francis, notwithstanding any provision to the contrary.

Given in Rome, from the seat of the Apostolic Penitentiary, on 10 January 2026, the eve of the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

Angelo Card. De Donatis
Major Penitentiary

His Reverend Excellency Msgr. Krzysztof Józef Nykiel
Titular Bishop of Velia, Regent

[1] *Encyclical Letter of Brother Elias, to all the Provinces of the Order, on the Transitus of Saint Francis*, 7 (FF 311).

[2] Dante Alighieri, *Divine Comedy, Paradise*, XI, 50.

[3] Francis of Assisi, *Letter to a minister*, 7-8 (FF 235)