

Make sure that you and your Catholic parish celebrate the first-ever "Sunday of the Word of God" on January 26, 2020. Pope Francis suggests that parishes undertake "initiatives to make the sacred Scripture more accessible to believers, to increase their gratitude for so great a gift, and to help them to strive daily to embody and bear witness to its teaching."

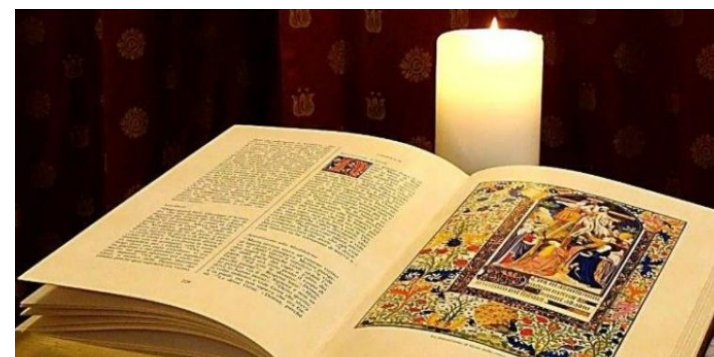
Pope Francis has issued an apostolic letter entitled "Aperuit Illis," Instituting the "Sunday of the Word of God" for all dioceses and churches throughout the world.

"I hereby declare that the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time is to be devoted to the celebration, study and dissemination of the word of God."



Here are two two such initiatives that may be used by every parish:

- 1. Parishioners bring their personal or family Bible to Mass with them on this Sunday so that the celebrant can offer a prayer of commitment and blessing over the people as they hold their own Bibles.**
- 2. Parishioners bring their Bibles home to be enthroned in their homes, using the enthronement service I have provided. Please click on the links below for these two initiatives.**



Enthroned the Bible in Your Home

Click below to access a prayer service for enthroning the Bible. You may make as many copies as you wish for your family or the families of your parish. Print on both sides to create a four-page booklet. It is available in English and Spanish. Thanks to the American Bible Society - Catholic Initiatives.



Blessing of Bibles at Sunday Mass

Click below to access a blessing prayer over the Sunday Mass congregation for Sunday of the Word of God. Instruct the people to bring their personal or family Bibles to Mass, then offer this prayer of commitment and blessing.

[CLICK HERE FOR ENTHRONEMENT SERVICE - ENGLISH](#)

[CLICK HERE FOR ENTHRONEMENT SERVICE - SPANISH](#)

[CLICK HERE FOR BLESSING OF BIBLES AT MASS](#)

NEWS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcement for pulpit, bulletin, newsletters, and social media

Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, has instituted the Sunday of the Word of God, to be celebrated annually on the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time. For the Sunday Masses of January 25-26, we ask you to bring your personal or family Bible to Mass with you. We want to emphasize the importance of the Bible in Catholic life and encourage one another to read and study it as a regular part of our lives as disciples of Jesus. During the Mass we will have a commitment and blessing prayer as you hold your Bibles. After Mass we will provide you with a service to enthrone and honor the Bible in your homes.

More information about "Sunday of the Word of God" with links to "Enthroned the Bible in Your Home" and "Blessing of Bibles at Sunday Mass" may be found here: <https://www.bridge-b.com/>



I hope that this new universal celebration of the **Sunday of the Word of God** will bring many of God's people to give new emphasis to the sacred Scriptures and learn to listen to God's words as a regular practice in their lives as disciples of Jesus Christ.

I invite you to read the new apostolic letter of Pope Francis, which is a beautiful teaching on the centrality of Scripture for our Catholic life. Click here to read "[Aperuit Illis.](#)"

Stephen J. Binz is a Catholic biblical scholar and award-winning author of over fifty books. As a popular speaker, he offers keynotes, seminars, and workshops at international, national, and regional conferences as well as education for clergy and pastoral leaders. He also offers topical presentations, missions, and retreats in churches internationally. Invite Stephen Binz to address your next conference, education days, retreat, mission, or other event.



[Click Here to See Speaking Topics and Endorsements](#)

Please forward this email to as many people as you can, especially pastors and diocesan and parish staffs. I also invite you to respond to me with comments or questions at sjbinz@aol.com.

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