



JANUARY 25, 2026
THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH
7717 RIVER ROAD - TOWNSEND, TN 37882
865 - 448 - 6070

WEBSITE: STFRANCISTOWNSEND.ORG
E-MAIL: STFRANCISTOWNSEND7717@GMAIL.COM

MASS & CONFESSION SCHEDULE

WEEKDAY MASS: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday at 8:30 AM (NO MASS ON WEDNESDAYS)
WEEKEND MASS: Saturday 4:00PM (Vigil Mass) Sunday 9:00AM
HOLY DAYS: Vigil Mass 6:00 PM (evening before); Holy Day Mass 9:00 AM (day of)
CONFESSION: Saturday before Mass: 3:00 - 3:40 PM (Church confessional)
Sunday before Mass: 8:15 - 8:40 AM (Church confessional)
By Appointment: 865-448-6070

PARISH MINISTRY TEAM

PASTOR.....Fr. Antonio Giraldo
DEACON.....Dc. Jim Schmall
OFFICE MANAGERS.....Katrina Allocco & Lesa Schmall
BOOKKEEPER.....Kathleen Halligan
LITURGY/MUSIC DIRECTOR.....JoAnne Romer-Aylward
DIR. OF RELIGIOUS ED.....Julie Dew
OCIA.....Dc. Jim Schmall
ART & ENVIRONMENT.....Michele Girard & Norene O'Donnell
GARDENS & GROUNDS.....Ilene Rainwater
FACILITIES.....David Girard
SOCIAL MEDIA/WEBSITE.....JoAnne Romer-Aylward
PASTORAL CARE.....Suzie Fay
ST. CLARE GIFT SHOP.....Camilla Sorrell
COLUMBARIUM.....Bob Eberhardt
WELCOMING, EVENTS &.....All Parishioners
SOCIALS TEAM (WEST)
PARISH ASSOCIATIONS:
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY: Debbie Eberhardt
COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN: Ilene Rainwater

NEW PARISHIONERS: Please contact the pastor or ask an usher for a registration form, and then place the completed form in the offertory basket or mail it to the church office. For more information call the church office at 865-448-6070.
PARISHIONERS: Please report any change of contact information to the parish office via e-mail, mail or phone.
BAPTISM: Parents are required to attend the Baptismal Prep Class. Your family must be registered in the parish.
MARRIAGE: Contact the office a minimum of six months prior to the wedding for planning and preparation.
ANOINTING OF THE SICK: Anyone entering the hospital or in serious ill health is encouraged to be anointed.
BULLETIN DEADLINE: Please email Microsoft Word articles to sfbulletin7717@gmail.com with the subject of "Bulletin Announcement" by Tuesday 12:00PM. All submissions are subject to further editing.



How can St. Francis of Assisi be of assistance/service to you & your loved ones?
Please contact Suzie Fay with our Pastoral Care Ministry at 423-829-5466 or the Parish office at 865-448-6070.

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon 1/26 8:30 AM Communion Service (CS)
Tue 1/27 8:30 AM (CS)
Wed 1/28 NO MORNING MASS/Communion Service
Thu 1/29 8:30 AM (CS)
Fri 1/30 8:30 AM (CS) Ada Fendley †
Sat 1/31 4:00 PM Loretta,† Ron & Bob Eberhardt
Sun 2/1 9:00 AM Dang Thi Sihh,† Isave Elizabeth †

To schedule a Mass intention, please contact the Parish Office via phone or email or in person during office hours. Mass cards are available at the church office. Please specify whether the Mass Intention is for a living or deceased loved one. The usual requested donation for a Mass intention is \$10.00 in the Diocese of Knoxville.

Fr. Antonio will be out of town January 19 through February 4, 2026.
Dc. Jim will offer communion services (CS) on
Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays during this time.



PRAYER REQUESTS: (Homebound, sick or recovering parishioners, friends and relatives): Amy Frink, Pat Sanders, Doreen Mancuso, Claire Cheadle, Elise Martin, Paul Fain, Joyce Fain, Julie Schirack, Marcus Bolte, Stephanie Romer, John & Maria Bermudes, Michael Slater, Marion McCaughey, Sue Corsini, Bill Irby, Teresa Williams, Jeffrey Garrison, Ann Day, Ed Welsh, Dale DuRussel, Robert Schumacher, German Giraldo, Jean Claude Augustin, Connor Dietrich, Sofia Graziano, Mark Reddan,

Terry Keran

SANCTUARY CANDLE: The lit sanctuary candle is in memory of Grace Harth given by Camilla Sorrel. If you would like to donate to the sanctuary candle fund in memory of or in honor of someone, please contact the Parish Office via phone or email. The cost is \$15 for 1 week. Thank You!



SANCTUARY FLOWERS: If you would like to donate to the altar flowers fund in memory of or in honor of someone, contact the Parish Office via phone or email. The cost is \$40.00 for 1 week. Thank You!



INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES TO PROMOTE DEVOTION TO JESUS IN THE EUCHARIST

*Cardinal Jaime Sin
1928 - 2005*

*“Harness the fire
hidden in the Eucharist
to bring about
a true brotherhood
and unity.”*



ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Mon	1/26	9:00 AM	Church and Hall Cleaning
Tue	1/27	6:00 PM	OCIA - PRC
Wed	1/28		
Thu	1/29		
Fri	1/30		
Sat	1/31	4:00 PM	Vigil Mass
Sun	2/1	9:00 AM	Sunday Mass



WORKING TOGETHER TO BUILD GOD'S KINGDOM

Today's Gospel describes Jesus selecting his first apostles, who were simple fishermen from Galilee rather than highly educated or powerful individuals. He entrusted these ordinary people with the remarkable mission of welcoming others into the community of faith.

At that time, many Jews expected the Messiah to reveal himself in Jerusalem among the religious elite. Instead, God's plan was unexpected—He sent His only son to live among the humble and poor.

The call of the first apostles marks the beginning of a new faith community, which has since expanded to encompass billions of people worldwide. Currently, this period is characterized by anticipation for the Lord's return, with opportunities to encounter Him both in daily life and, ultimately, at the time of death and judgment.

Just as Jonah and the first disciples were called, we are also called each day. Even if we've missed chances before, now is the time to listen for God's voice—in scripture, sacraments, our hearts, others, and creation—and respond.

We are invited by God to contribute to building God's kingdom. Alone, our efforts are limited, but by working together with God, we can achieve much more than we ever thought possible. Saint Therese of Lisieux even remarked, "God wills to do nothing without us."



"Seeking God's will is not something that's done once or twice in a lifetime. Seeking and responding to the Lord's voice is something we have the opportunity to do every day."

GARY ZIMACK
Faith, Hope, and Clarity

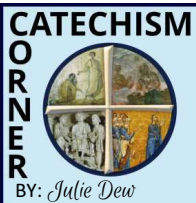


DynamicCatholic.com



OCIA AT ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

If you or anyone you know are interested in exploring the Catholic Church as your church home or you have been sitting in the pew next to your Catholic spouse for years wondering what you have to do to become Catholic, or you are a practicing Catholic just wanting to learn more about your faith, please join us! Classes are held every Tuesday in the PRC at 6:00 PM. For more information please contact Deacon Jim: 901-493-2123 or sfadeacon7717@gmail.com.



THE NINE CHOIRS OF ANGELS

Hello St. Francis and welcome to the Catechism Corner! In this "Corner" I'm going to try to explain a little further on the hierarchies and choirs of angels.

The three hierarchies and nine choirs of angels are a traditional Catholic teaching about the organization of the angelic beings who serve God. According to the Church's tradition, angels are divided into three hierarchies, each containing three choirs, making nine choirs in total. The three hierarchies are:

1.) **The First Hierarchy:**

Seraphim, Cherubim, Thrones — these are closest to God, attending His throne and worshiping Him directly.

2.) **The Second Hierarchy:** Dominions, Virtues, Powers — these govern the cosmos and oversee the duties of lower angels.

3.) **The Third Hierarchy:** Principalities, Archangels, Angels — these are concerned with the affairs of humanity and deliver God's messages.

This hierarchy reflects the order and perfection of God's creation, with angels ministering to Him and to us. The nine choirs are not explicitly detailed in Scripture but are part of the Church's sacred Tradition, helping us understand the angelic ministry in the divine plan. There are many, many, many Bible references attributed to angels from Genesis to St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians. And we profess in The Nicene Creed (formulated in 325 at the Council of Nicaea), "I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible." This statement encompasses the belief in angels as part of the created order, specifically as invisible spiritual beings.

The following passage - from one of St. Gregory the Great's numerous homilies - gives us a clear idea of the view of the Church's doctors on the point: "We know on the authority of Scripture that there are nine orders of angels, namely: Angels, Archangels, Virtues, Powers, Principalities, Dominations, Thrones, Cherubim, and Seraphim.

Remember what the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC 328-330) stated from last week? Here's a refresher: the CCC teaches that angels are purely spiritual, personal, immortal beings who serve as messengers and servants of God. St. Augustine explains that "angel" is the name of their office, not their nature, which is spirit.

During the week, please reflect on this Scripture from Psalm 8:5: "Thou hast made him (man) a little less than the angels" (KJV) or this translation from the NAB: "What is man that you are mindful of him, and a son of man that you care for him? Yet you have made him little less than a god, crowned him with glory and honor." This verse reflects God's creation of humanity as a little lower than the angels, emphasizing our unique status and purpose in creation. St. Paul also references this Psalm in Hebrews 2:7, where it is applied to Jesus Christ, emphasizing His humanity and divine nature.

I pray, brothers and sisters, for you to have a most blessed week sharing the joy of our Savior's birth and salvation every day of this year!

SERAPHIM



CHERUBIM



THRONES



DOMINIONS



VIRTUES



POWERS



PRINCIPALITIES



ARCHANGELS



ANGELS



ADDING ARTWORK TO OUR SANCTUARY

The parish has received an anonymous, directed-donation offer to add four paintings to the sanctuary. The idea is to have a painting of each of the four Gospel writers on each side of the sanctuary next to each stained glass window. St. Matthew and St. Mark would be on the side with the Baptism stained glass window and St. Luke and St. John on the Nativity stained glass window side. The paintings would be the same size as the stained glass windows and would have similar looking framing as the stained glass windows to almost make it appear like we have six stained glass windows in the sanctuary.

While we would like to take advantage of this offer, we would like some feedback on whether parishioners would support the idea or not. The paintings would be at no cost to the parish and they would be painted by professional artist Michael Corsini, son of Mike and Sue Corsini of our parish. Michael has provided a rough sketch of the sanctuary and descriptions of the theology behind each painting, giving them deeper spiritual meaning. The paintings would be completed around June and hung shortly after that.

We have asked David Quinn to gather the feedback and consolidate the feedback to report out to the parish. Please email him at dquinn@sensibleprocess.com by the end of January with your feedback or any questions about this project.



Stress in Your Marriage?

Retrouvaille is a program for married couples that feel bored, disillusioned, frustrated, or angry in their marriage. Some experience coldness. Others experience conflict in their relationship. Most don't know how to change the situation or even communicate with their spouse about it. Join us during our next weekend to learn the tools that have helped many other couples. For confidential information about or to register for the next program beginning with a weekend on March 6-8, 2026 call 931-820-2115 or email: 3043@helpourmarriage.org or visit the web site at www.HelpOurMarriage.com.

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Daily CATHOLIC WISDOM



We have been called to heal wounds, to unite what has fallen apart, and to bring home those who have lost their way.



- St. Francis of Assisi
1181 - 1226



KNOXVILLE ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

Registration is now open for parishes, ministries, and businesses to participate in the Knoxville St. Patrick's Day Parade on Saturday,

March 14, 2026, at 1 p.m. The annual parade raises money for Catholic Charities of East Tennessee.



ST. CLARE GIFT SHOP

OPEN
after weekend Masses
and by request/appointment
after daily Mass



THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

In this Sunday's Gospel, we find that Jesus "... went around all of Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and curing every disease and illness among the people." This month, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to proclaim the good news of the kingdom to the poor, by assisting local families, providing them with food and monetary assistance for utility and rent bills.

Have you considered answering the call to serve the poor by joining the Society of St. Vincent de Paul? Contact Debbie Eberhardt at 865-312-0141 for more information.

SVDP meets the 1st and 3rd
Wednesdays of the month at 5:00 PM
in the PRC. All are welcome!

Thank You
for your continued support of SVDP!

SVDP JANUARY "PRODUCT OF THE MONTH" SOUP



Some general reminders and guidelines about donating to SVdP:

- For those who use preprinted church contribution envelopes, the SVdP envelope (which is marked for the beginning of the month) can be placed in the collection basket **ANY** time of the month. If you are not using preprinted church contribution envelopes and want to place your donation in a weekend Mass collection basket, please put your donation in an envelope (of any kind) marked SVdP to make sure it gets into the SVdP account.
- Please make any checks out to: **St. Vincent de Paul** (not St. Francis of Assisi).
- Donations can also be placed in the St. Vincent de Paul Poor Box, located in the Narthex, to the right of the exit doors (just above the holy water station). Ushers can show you the location.
- Feel free to reach out to us with any questions.

SUPERBOWL SUNDAY

Pregame Potluck Party

Sunday
February 8, 2026
3:00 - 6:00 PM
Shea Hall



More Details
and
Signup sheets
In Shea Hall

SAVE THE DATE !!!!

Image courtesy of Freepik.com



THE BISHOP'S APPEAL FOR MINISTRIES IS UNDERWAY

The Bishop's Appeal for Ministries begins with a mailing that many of our parishioners have received or will soon receive. Your gift not only funds many of the operations of the Diocese of Knoxville, but it also funds services that are of great help to the ministries here in our parish. Each Appeal gift enables the diocese to build up the kingdom of God throughout East Tennessee. God gives us all that we have. Even when we want to believe that our successes are self-made, we know that it is God who has blessed us abundantly with all we have. He is always giving to us. His grace is always there for us. One way that we can show our gratitude is by offering our generous financial support to our parish and to our diocese and to the Church throughout the world.

The schedule for the 2026 Bishop's Annual Appeal Campaign is:

January 24-25	Announcement Weekend
January 31 - February 1	Commitment Weekend (in-pew process)
February 7-8.....	Follow-up Weekend announcement

The gifts that we give enable ministries, education and services that touch thousands of lives. Please make a commitment to the annual appeal. Thank you in advance for your support.

'PRAY WITH THE POPE' INITIATIVE

The Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network and the Dicastery for Communication announced January 7, 2026 the "Pray with the Pope" project. According to a press release, this is a new initiative in which the pope will share his monthly prayer intentions through both video and audio, "inviting the universal Church and all people of goodwill to unite spiritually, using the same prayer that will now be led by the pope himself."

"This initiative aims to increase the visibility of the pope's prayer intentions, using a language suitable for prayer, in new formats, so as to better reach the faithful throughout the world, especially in today's world of digital communication," the press release stated.

In the full video shared on the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network website, Pope Leo recites an original prayer written specifically for this month's prayer intention. Below is the pope's full prayer:

POPE LEO'S PRAYER FOR JANUARY, 2026

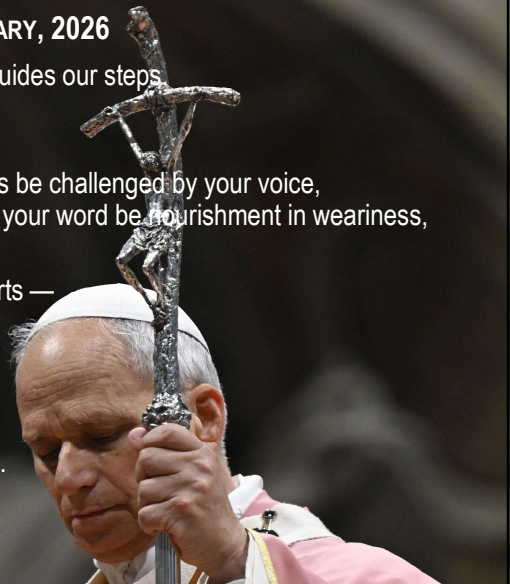
Lord Jesus, living Word of the Father, in you we find the light that guides our steps.
We know that the human heart lives restless, hungry for meaning,
and only your Gospel can give it peace and fullness.

Teach us to listen to you each day in the Scriptures, to let ourselves be challenged by your voice,
and to discern our decisions from the closeness to your heart. May your word be nourishment in weariness,
hope in darkness, and strength in our communities.

Lord, may your word never be absent from our lips or from our hearts —
the word that makes us sons and daughters, brothers and sisters,
disciples and missionaries of your kingdom.

Make us a Church that prays with the word,
that is built upon it and shares it with joy,
so that in every person the hope of a new world may be born again.

May our faith grow in the encounter with you through your word,
moving us from the heart to reach out to others, to serve the most
vulnerable, to forgive, build bridges, and proclaim life. Amen.



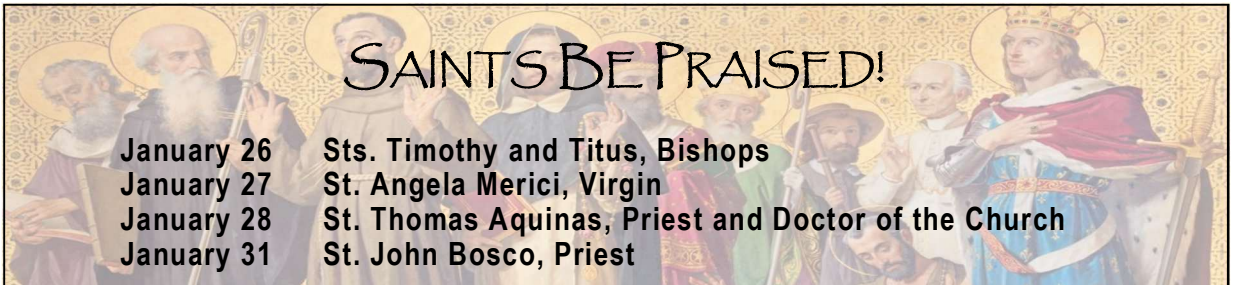
UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS
1/31/26	March For Life Chattanooga, TN	Online: Details Coming Soon E-Mail: N/A Phone: N/A
2/1/26	NFCYM - National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry Louisville, KY	Online: nfcym.org/featured-events/exchange E-Mail: N/A Phone: N/A
2/27/26	SEARCH - Juniors & Seniors St. Therese of Lisieux Cleveland, TN	Online: Scan QR Code on poster in Shea Hall E-Mail: irene.scoggins@gmail.com Phone: 423-596-0053 (Irene Scoggins)
3/6-8/2026	Retrouvaille Retreat - Nashville, TN	Online: HelpOurMarriage.com E-Mail: 3043@helpourmarriage.org Phone: 931-820-2115
3/6-7/2026	Frazzled in the Vinyard Drury Inn & Suites Knoxville West	Online: Scan QR Code on poster in Shea Hall E-Mail: N/A Phone: N/A
3/8-12 and 3/15-19	Serve4 Spring Break Service Week For 7th and 8th graders Johnston Woods - McDonald, TN	Online: More information on poster in Shea Hall E-Mail: djones@dioknox.org E-Mail: ahenderson@dioknox.org
3/14/2026	Knoxville St. Patrick's Day Parade 1:00 PM	Online: https://knoxstpatricksparade.com/ Click on "Registration Is Open" Icon
4/18/2026	CCW Spring Event - 9AM-3PM St. Mary's Church, Athens, TN	Online: N/A E-Mail: ajschaef21@gmail.com Phone: 901-485-1965; OR 423-715-2579 (Brenda Ratcliff)
April, 2026	Catholic Men's Emmaus Retreat St. Augustine Catholic Church Signal Mountain, TN	Online: N/A E-Mail: N/A Phone: 423-414-4532 (Michael Hart)

SAINTS BE PRAISED!

January 26
January 27
January 28
January 31

Sts. Timothy and Titus, Bishops
St. Angela Merici, Virgin
St. Thomas Aquinas, Priest and Doctor of the Church
St. John Bosco, Priest



2026 - Jubilee Year of St. Francis of Assisi!

The Vatican has announced a special Jubilee Year dedicated to Saint Francis of Assisi, marking the eight hundredth anniversary of his death. Issued by the Apostolic Penitentiary on January 16, 2026, the decree establishes a Year of Saint Francis from January 10, 2026, through January 10, 2027, offering the faithful a renewed opportunity for sanctification through prayer, pilgrimage, and works of mercy, accompanied by the gift of plenary indulgences.

This special Jubilee follows closely upon the conclusion of the Ordinary Jubilee of 2025, which called Catholics to become pilgrims of hope rooted in Christ. Rather than standing apart, the Year of Saint Francis is presented as a spiritual continuation of that call, inviting the Church to allow hope to mature into active charity. The anniversary commemorates Saint Francis's passage from earthly life to his heavenly homeland on October 3, 1226, an event that crowned a life conformed ever more closely to Christ crucified.

In recent years, the Church has already reflected deeply on key moments in Franciscan history, including the eight hundredth anniversaries of the Nativity scene at Greccio, the composition of the Canticle of the Creatures, and the reception of the Stigmata on Mount La Verna. The year 2026 brings these commemorations to their fulfillment, presenting Saint Francis not as a distant historical figure, but as a model of evangelical holiness urgently needed in the modern world.

The decree recalls that Francis lived in an age marked by conflict, moral confusion, and distorted religious zeal. His response was not withdrawal or bitterness, but radical conversion, humility, and joyful obedience to the Gospel. As the son of a wealthy merchant who freely embraced poverty, he became a living image of Christ, demonstrating that authentic Christian renewal begins with repentance, mercy, and love of neighbor. The Church proposes that the challenges of the present age are not unlike those Francis faced, making his witness particularly relevant for today.

Central to the Jubilee Year is the Franciscan understanding of mercy, rooted in forgiveness and reconciliation. The decree highlights the spiritual heritage of the Pardon of Assisi, the indulgence associated with the Portiuncula, granted to Francis by Pope Honorius III. This emphasis underscores the Church's enduring mission to open wide the treasury of grace to all who sincerely seek conversion of heart.

During the Year of Saint Francis, plenary indulgences are made available under the usual conditions of sacramental confession, Eucharistic communion, and prayer for the intentions of the Holy Father. These indulgences may be obtained by members of the Franciscan family and by all the faithful who, detached from sin, participate in the Jubilee through pilgrimage to Franciscan churches or places associated with the saint, or by devout prayer and meditation. The indulgence may also be applied for the souls in Purgatory.

The decree makes special provision for the elderly, the sick, and those unable to travel, who may obtain the indulgence by uniting themselves spiritually to the Jubilee and offering their sufferings to God. Priests are urged to make themselves readily available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, ensuring that the faithful can fully receive the spiritual fruits offered during this holy year.

Through this Jubilee, the Church invites Catholics to rediscover Saint Francis not merely as a symbol of peace, but as a teacher of holiness, charity, and fidelity to Christ, calling the faithful to live the Gospel with renewed zeal in the world today.

Article information courtesy of RelevantRadio.com



2026 - JUBILEE YEAR OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI!

The Jubilee Year of St. Francis is an extraordinary Holy Year proclaimed by Pope Leo XIV from January 10, 2026, to January 10, 2027, marking the 800th anniversary of St. Francis of Assisi's death, inviting the faithful to spiritual renewal through pilgrimage, prayer, and embracing Franciscan values like peace, simplicity, and care for creation, with opportunities to gain plenary indulgences.

Key Aspects of the Jubilee Year:

- **Commemoration:** Honors the 800th anniversary of the death (*transitus*) of St. Francis of Assisi.
- **Duration:** Runs from January 10, 2026, to January 10, 2027.
- **Theme:** A call to peace, conversion, and joyful discipleship, following the example of St. Francis, especially in a world facing conflict and division.
- **Spiritual Benefits:** Offers the faithful the chance to receive a plenary indulgence (forgiveness of temporal punishment for sins) under specific conditions.

How to Participate:

- **Pilgrimage:** Visiting Franciscan churches or sites dedicated to St. Francis, especially Assisi.
- **Sacraments & Prayer:** Participation in the sacraments and dedicated prayer.
- **Acts of Charity:** Daily acts of humility, charity, and service.

Significance:

- **A Call to Action:** Pope Leo XIV emphasizes St. Francis's message of peace as a vital response to contemporary challenges.
- **Renewal:** Encourages deeper conversion, hope, and commitment to living the Gospel.

Events:

- Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio, is a designated pilgrimage site, hosting events and a major conference.
- Major celebrations are expected in Assisi, Italy, the saint's hometown

Additional Online Information:

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/vatican-city/news/2026-01/year-saint-francis-indulgence-assisi.html>

<https://franciscan.edu/franciscan-university-serves-as-pilgrimage-destination-in-extraordinary-jubilee-year-honoring-st-francis-of-assisi/>

<https://www.ofmcap.org/en/anno-giubilare-di-san-francesco/>

<https://www.ncregister.com/cna/pope-leo-xiv-proclaims-franciscan-jubilee-year>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uGaTC8X1oXg> (YouTube video)

<https://ewtn.co.uk/chpop-12-fascinating-facts-about-saint-francis-of-assisi-in-honor-of-the-2026-franciscan-jubilee-year/>

<https://catholic-link.org/special-year-of-st-francis-of-assisi-indulgence-catholic-guide-catholic-resources/>

<https://relevantradio.com/2026/01/vatican-proclaims-special-jubilee-year-honoring-saint-francis-of-assisi/>



ST. FRANCIS WORDS OF WISDOM - JUBILEE YEAR 2026



We have been called to heal wounds, to unite what has fallen apart,
and to bring home those who have lost their way.



- *St. Francis of Assisi*
1181 - 1226