

RISEN CHRIST CATHOLIC CHURCH

65 W. EVERGREEN DRIVE, KALISPELL, MT 59901 - 406-752-4219



E-Mail: rcparish@montanasky.us and My Parish App 

Website: www.risenchristkalispell.org - **Formed:** www.risenchristkalispell.formed.org

Fr. Stanislaw Róg, Pastor/Parish Administrator, Risen Christ & St. Matthew Parish

Fr. Kyle Tannehill, Parochial Vicar, frkyle@stmattsaints.org

Deacon Charlie Harball, 406-752-6788, St. Matthew

Rose Hall, Office Manager

Jelita Mayville & Miranda Eve, Office Assistants

Maryruth Fallon, Music Director ~ Helen Tobiason, Religious Form. Coordinator, K-6

† WELCOME TO RISEN CHRIST PARISH †

WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE TO WORSHIP AND GROW IN FAITH.

MAY TODAY'S MASS BRING PEACE TO YOUR HEART.

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIMESeptember 27, 2026

Sat., Sept. 26, Mass for Collective September Intentions of St. Matthew & Risen Christ. 6:30 pm

Sunday, September 27, Mass for the Parishes, St. Matthew & Risen Christ.....9:00 am

Tuesday, September 29, Mass for the Souls of Alvin & Helen Krejci, rb Rose Hall...8:45 am

Thursday, October 1, Mass for the Soul of Frank Perusich, rb Lee & Dee Hesper....8:45 am

MASSES AT ST. MATTHEW PARISH

Wednesdays 8:30 am and 12:10 pm; Fridays 8:30 am; Saturdays 4:30 pm

Sundays 7:00 am and 11:00 am

† UKRAINIAN-GREEK CATHOLIC PARISH OF STS. PETER & PAUL †

Mass each Sunday at Risen Christ at 11:30 am

Ministry Schedule, October 3rd & 4th, 2026

MINISTRY	Saturday, 10/3 6:30 pm	Sunday, 10/4 9:00 am
Plate Min.	Suzanne Johnson	Connie McCubbins
Cup Min.	Mary Anne Gill	Paul Heath
	Judy Hughes	Pati Heath
Lector	Dixon Rice	Anne Mahoney
	Carol Jellison	TJ Higgins
Server	Don Zimmerman	Charlotte Hattel
Greeter	Mary Jacobs & Rose Hall	Fresa Tobiason & Richard Brester

DATES TO REMEMBER

Sept.	27	TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	
	29	Choir Practice.....	7:30 pm
	30	Faith Formation	4:00-5:00 pm
Oct	02	Pet Blessing, St. Matthew's parking lot.....	2:30 pm
	04	TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	

RISEN CHRIST PARISH OFFICE HOURS ARE:

MONDAY ~ THURSDAY 10:00 AM – 12 NOON ~ 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

IF THE DOOR IS LOCKED, PLEASE RING THE BELL.

PLEASE NOTE: The Sacrament of Baptism is by appointment.

Sacrament of Reconciliation is Saturday, 9:00-10:30 am, or by appointment.

The Knights of Columbus lead the Rosary on the first weekend of each month before Mass: Saturdays beginning @ 6:00pm and Sundays beginning @ 8:30am.



ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT - Sat. 9:00-10:30 am

"Think, then, that Jesus is there in the Tabernacle expressly for you, for you alone; He is burning with the desire to enter your heart." – St. Thérèse of Lisieux



Adoration

Invite a friend

Friday, October 2nd, 2026 6PM
Risen Christ Catholic Church

Enjoy adoration, meaningful conversation and fellowship. It will be a relaxed and welcoming night. Bring your own spirits/smokes.

Plan ahead! This is a recurring event every First Friday.

Music in the Mass Presentation

By Fr. Eric Gilbaugh

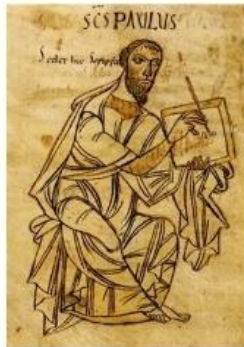
Sept. 28, 7:00 pm

St. John Paul II Parish, Bigfork

Fr. Gilbaugh will share: the Church's ideal, what's allowed, what's forbidden, what Vatican II called for, what different styles of liturgical music throughout history sound like, how the modern world has influenced liturgical music in the last century, and more. All are welcome!

LADIES FALL & WINTER SCRIPTURE STUDIES

Facilitated by Pati Heath



PAUL'S LETTER TO THE ROMANS

Beginning Oct. 14

Wednesdays 10—11:30 AM

Come to a fuller understanding of the life-changing reality of the death and resurrection of Jesus through Paul's writings.

~~~~~PLUS~~~~~

### PARABLES OF THE KINGDOM

**Jan. 27, 2027 through April 2027**

**Wednesdays 10—11:30 AM**

Some of the most memorable teachings of Jesus were delivered as parables and are found in the Gospels.

The parables offer a glimpse into the kingdom of God and invite us to think in new and fresh ways.

Resources: Little Rock Scripture Study, Liturgical Press, Collegeville Minnesota

**Sign Up In the Social Area for one or Both**

## OUR GIFT TO GOD

Because of your contributions, our congregation has been able to support the work of Jesus Christ locally, regionally, and around the world.



September 19th & 20th

Total: \$6,137



## † DID YOU KNOW? †



We now receive monthly shipments of altar wine from Kaufer's Catholic Supply to accommodate our growing parish. Each shipment (one case of wine) costs \$138.29. Your generous donations allow us to offer our Eucharistic Lord to more people and to support Catholic businesses in the process!

## Thank You from Catholic Social Services of Montana!

We were thrilled to receive your generous donation, which will help us continue to build forever families through our adoption program, provide counseling through our mental health program, and offer families with young children essential items through our Baby Boutiques. We are so blessed to have you as a part of our community!

With heartfelt gratitude, Catholic Social Services of Montana

## 40 Days for Life Campaign

The 40 Days for Life Campaign will run Sep. 23 – Oct. 31, with an **Opening Prayer Ceremony** on Sep. 23, 3-5 pm, in front of All Families "Healthcare" at 737 Spokane Ave, Whitefish; a **Kickoff Rally** on Sep. 26, 12:30-2:30 pm, at Central Bible Church, 902 1st Ave E, Kalispell with Keynote Speaker, Tanaia Puchta, founder of Abort Ignorance Montana; and a **Life Chain** on Oct. 4, 2-3 pm, on all four corners of the intersection of HWY 93 (Main St.) and HWY 2 (Idaho St.). Risen Christ is sponsoring prayer vigils in front of All Families "Healthcare" on Oct. 6 & 8, 7 am-7 pm. St. Matthew's is sponsoring Oct. 5, 7, & 9. Our signup sheets can be found in the Social Room. See [40daysforlife.com/Whitefish](http://40daysforlife.com/Whitefish) for more info.

## MY PARISH APP



We have two new "button additions" to My Parish App:

- Monthly video reflections from Chris Stefanick & the team at **Real Life Catholic**.
- Higher Ground podcast by **Elevated Parish Missions**.

Please check these new additions out and don't forget to check the messages weekly! Text App to 88202 to download our parish app. Download myParishApp/Select our Parish after opening. [myparishapp.com/Appstore](http://myparishapp.com/Appstore)

## Mass in Celebration of Marriage Photos with Bishop Vetter

If you attended the Mass in Celebration of Marriage with Bishop Vetter on June 5th, find your photos here: [www.flickr.com/photos/204218284@N04/albums/72177720335093773](http://www.flickr.com/photos/204218284@N04/albums/72177720335093773)

## Adore Him: He Is Here – in Theaters Oct. 4-8



Through cinematic reenactments that span salvation history and intimate modern-day interviews from around the world, ADORE HIM explores the transforming power of meeting the Creator of the Universe face to face. The sequel to the Gabriel Award-winning Jesus Thirsts: The Miracle of the Eucharist, this film builds to a culmination in the Eucharist, and today millions are finding out how much God truly loves them as they adore Him in the Blessed Sacrament. He is here. Will you come?

Find showtimes at [www.cinemark.com](http://www.cinemark.com). Please support Catholic filmmakers!

**COLLECTIVE MASS INTENTIONS  
FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2026**

+++++

**FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED**

Karel & David & Terry & Travis Barrett, rb Ken Barrett  
Carol Trimble, rb Bruce Trimble  
Janet Rodeghiero & Tim Slobojan, rb Diane Slobojan  
Kathleen Ott, rb Janet Rodeghiero  
Jan Ruff-Strait, rb Mary Ruff  
Janet Rodeghiero, rb Mary Ruff  
Vernon Babb, rb John & Connie Babb  
Barbara Culliton, rb Larry & Betty Visocan  
Jerry Bristow, rb Larry & Betty Visocan

**SPECIAL INTENTIONS**

Don & Marty Huber  
Kayla Sawyer, rb Mary Ruff  
Ruff & Falk, & Sawyer Families, rb Mary Ruff  
Fran Cavanagh, rb Karol Witt

**RISEN CHRIST MASS REQUESTS  
FOR THE FOLLOWING SPECIAL INTENTIONS**

Nancy Battin, Myron Boyle, Malcolm Coote, Peg Gebhardt, Greg Grace  
Mike Hanson, Eileen Kluesner, Maureen Neitzling, Amy Neitzling  
Mike & Linda O'Neil, Adrienne Neneman, Mary Reckin, Joe Riska  
Mary Ruby, Bob Vine, Larry Visocan

**FOR OUR SEMINARIANS**

Carter Anderson, Shae Bills, Carson Gorton, Riley Helgoe, Matt Keck  
Anthony Olmes, James Semling, Jamie Severson, Jake Smith, Liam Aippersbach,  
Ryan Frampton, Peter Fiocchi, Nathan Olmes, John Cooney

**ST. CAMILLUS SOCIETY**

The "Saint Camillus Society" needs more volunteers. Increasingly, many Catholics are unable to come to Mass due to age, infirmity, or prolonged illness. They long for the Mass and the Eucharist. If you can spare an hour a week please volunteer!

Contact Deacon Candidate Mike McNamara at 406-314-1638 or [aconmara733@gmail.com](mailto:aconmara733@gmail.com)

Jesus calls us to help him, *"The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few."*



**St. Camillus de Lellis, pray for the sick, their caregivers, and for us!**

## READINGS FOR THE TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

September 27, 2026

**Ezekiel 18: 25-28    Philippians 2: 1-11    Matthew 21: 28-32**

### **PRACTICE OF HOPE**

Great hope can be found in today's readings, even if the message is not always straightforward. In the second reading, we are reminded how Jesus Christ took on our human form, suffering as humanity does in order to give us new life. Living up to that greatest gift is no easy feat – certainly nothing we can accomplish on our own. The hope that we have, then, is in the trying; we are not always going to “get it right” when it comes to a life of faith.

† Pray today for the grace of humility, as described in the second reading. How are you working to improve in this virtue?

† It is hard to keep our eyes always fixed on the hope that Jesus promises us. Consider a time when you did not believe the promises of Christ. How did you navigate that? How could you do so going forward?

~At Home With the Word 2026

### **RISEN CHRIST GIFT SHOP**



Looking for the perfect gift for baptisms, first communions, confirmations, or everyday spiritual reflection? Stop by the gift shop in the community room! We carry a beautiful selection of rosaries, bibles, holy water fonts, and more.

Every purchase directly supports our parish ministries.

† See Rose Hall or Jelita Mayville in the Parish Office for details.



### **FORMING A COMPASSIONATE COMMUNITY**

If there is a birth, a sickness, or a death in our parish community, or that of someone you know, please call **Mary Sonju**, 406-250-8610. She will be happy to send a card.

### **RISEN CHRIST PRAYER LINE**

Call Helen Tobiason 406-212-0063 or Sherry Miller 406-609-9057 should you or someone you know need prayer. Please leave a message if they are not available; they will return your call.

### **YOUNG ADULT GROUP**

We meet Monday evenings 5:30-9:00 for dinner, faith discussions, games, & fellowship. Ages 19-40 throughout the Flathead are welcome.

Join our WhatsApp group chat for more info:



### **† FAITH FORMATION & MINISTRY NEWS †**

**Faith Formation Classes begin on Wednesday, September 30th at 4pm.**

**We look forward to seeing all of you there!**

† Kids Bulletins and MagnifiKid booklets are FREE and can be found on the table in the community room. Please take advantage of this great resource for your children!

† We will be making cards for our seminarians again this year and would love to use pictures from past Christmases and other occasion cards. Bring them to the social area and place in our “let’s recycle basket”.

† Our youth will be praying the rosary as part of our beginning and closing prayers this year. If you have any extra rosaries you would like to share, please bring them to church. THANK YOU!



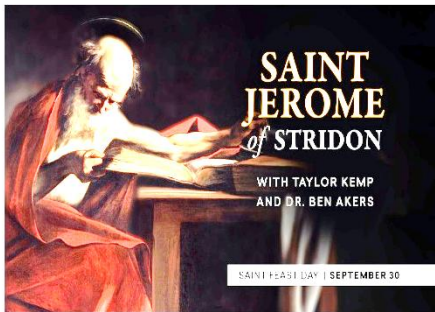
# **FORMING CATHOLICS FOR LIFE - SEPTEMBER 27, 2026**

## **THIS WEEK ON FORMED**



### **St. Therese | Littlest Saints**

Which flower in Jesus's garden is the best? The most beautiful? St. Therese gives us her "little" answer to these questions.



### **St. Jerome | Catholic Saints**

An early Church Father from the 4th century, St. Jerome translated the Bible into Latin with the desire to make Scripture more accessible. St. Jerome is the patron of biblical scholars, translators, and archivists and famously said, "Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ."



### **Who Are the Archangels?**

Dr. Ben Akers and Dr. Elizabeth Klein discuss archangels and what role they have in our lives.

To register, please go to: [www.risenchristkalispell.formed.org](http://www.risenchristkalispell.formed.org), click on register now to create your account. Be sure to follow the password requirements and check the square that you have read and understood the Terms of Service. After you have created your account, you will have access to FORMED-provided materials (like the one above) purchased for you by our parish. Please take advantage of this beautiful opportunity to learn more about your faith.

~Fr Stan

## OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS IN OUR DIOCESE



Oct. 23-25 – Missoula, MT

Visit [wwme.org](http://wwme.org) or Contact:  
John & Brenda Pankratz  
406-591-5061

Married Couples – Consider doing something great for yourselves and your marriage. A Marriage Encounter weekend gives couples a rare opportunity to look at themselves, at their marriage relationship, and at their relationship to God, the Church and the world.

### Annual Fatima Rosary in the Square

Oct. 10th, 2026

Noon in front of  
St. Matthew's School.

It takes about 30 minutes,  
rain or shine.

Children are welcome.

Please join us to pray for  
America.

We are one of 23,090 rallies  
around the world!

For more information, call  
Ray Leopold: 406-250-  
6272.



### Ukrainian-Greek Catholic Parish of Sts. Peter & Paul

The Catholic Church is comprised of 6 different liturgical rites, within which are 24 particular Churches. These 24 sui iuris (self-governing) Churches all are in communion with one another, are within the Catholic Church, and recognize the primacy of the pope. We in the Western Church belong to the Latin/Roman rite. The other 23 Catholic Churches are all referred to as Eastern Churches and have their own traditions and forms of liturgy, yet retain the same basic liturgical structures and theology as seen in the West.

The Ukrainian-Greek Church, to which the local Parish of Sts. Peter and Paul belongs, is one of these 23 Eastern Churches. The Parish of Sts. Peter and Paul is the only Ukrainian-Greek Church in Montana. They celebrate Mass (or, as they call it, Divine Liturgy) at Risen Christ every Sunday at 11:30 am.



FIRST FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH @  
ST RICHARD'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

11:00 MASS

12:00 SACK LUNCH

12:30 - 2:00 CLUB MEETINGS

- VIRTUE/SAINTS OF THE MONTH
- GAMES/CRAFTS
- FELLOWSHIP

### St. Richard & St. Charles Borromeo Updates

The new weekend Mass schedule is:

St. Richard Parish – Sat. 5:00 pm, Sun. 9:00 am

St. Charles Parish – Sun. 12:00 pm

### St. John Paul II Updates

Mon.-Thurs. Rosary 8:00 am, Mass 8:30 am

Thurs. Confession 9:00-10:00 am

Sat. 3:00-4:30 pm Confession. Mass 5:00 pm



A child prayed, "Dear Lord, my brother has the mumps. Daddy lost his job...So, dear God, please take care of yourself. Because if anything happens to you, we'll all be in the soup."



# BE THERE

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL  
LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

Faith • Friendship • Leadership • Service • Celebration

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2026**

St. Matthew's Catholic Church & Snowline Acres  
Kalispell, Montana

*He is  
there too.*

"For where two or three  
are gathered in my name,  
there am I in the midst of them."  
— Matthew 18:20

## Something New Is Coming for Our Catholic Youth

For the past several weeks, you may have seen the *BE THERE* posters in our bulletin. As October gets closer, we wanted to share a little more about why this event is happening — and what we hope it can become for our Catholic community.

On **Friday, October 16**, St. Matthew's will welcome Catholic high school students from across Northwest Montana for the first *BE THERE* — Catholic High School Leadership Summit. Our vision is simple: give our teenagers a day when they can come together and experience their Catholic faith not only at Mass, but through friendship, conversation, leadership, music, activities, meals, and celebration.

We are preparing for **120+ high school students**, and there is no cost for students to attend.

**We don't want the cost of a ticket to be  
the reason a teenager stays home.**

Instead, our Knights of Columbus, sponsors, families, and community are working together to make this day possible. Our hope is that *BE THERE* will become an annual Catholic youth tradition in Northwest Montana — something our younger children will hear about and look forward to when they reach high school.



### WHY REGISTER EARLY?

Registering early helps us plan and prepare:



Order the correct number and sizes of *BE THERE* T-shirts



Give our food sponsors an accurate count for lunch and dinner



Plan seating, tables, supplies, and event materials



Determine how many volunteers and chaperones we will need



Coordinate transportation and logistics



Give our speakers, musicians, and venues a realistic attendance estimate



Most importantly, make sure we are fully prepared to welcome every student who comes

### REGISTER TODAY!

REGISTRATION IS FREE FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS.

## Adults HoCo

**HOMECOMING GALA**  
A NIGHT OF FUN  
A BRIGHTER TOMORROW

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2026**

Snowline Acres Kalispell, Montana

Adults HoCo is more than a party — it is a fundraiser. Proceeds will help support *BE THERE*, the Knights of Columbus Youth Fund, NCYC scholarships, and future Catholic youth programs.

Dinner | Live Music & Dancing | Silent Auction & Raffle  
Catholic Singles Mixer | Beer & Wine Available

### TICKETS:

Single \$150 | Couple \$250 | Table of 10 \$1,100

Purchase tickets at the St. Matthew's Parish Office  
or contact Almaz Yussupov.

*Good Friends. Great Cause.*

### SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

We are still looking for businesses, families and individuals who would like to sponsor *BE THERE* and Adults HoCo. Sponsorship opportunities range from \$500 to \$10,000. We are also accepting donations for our Silent Auction & Raffle, including gift certificates, products, services, experiences and other items.

If you own a business, work for a company that supports youth or community programs, or know someone who might be interested, an introduction would be incredibly helpful.

Early sponsorship commitments allow us to cover deposits and expenses now.

### Questions?

Almaz Yussupov  
Chairman, *BE THERE*

929-382-1493

almaz.yussupov@gmail.com



SCAN TO REGISTER

*The Nazareth Page*  
*A Gospel Meditation for your Home*  
*September 27, 2026 – Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
*Matthew 21:28-32*

Last week we thought about one of the more challenging of Jesus's parables where there seemed to be a mistake made in justly paying workers. Those who worked all day received the same earnings as those who worked just briefly. Today's gospel parable seems to make more sense. Two sons are asked by their father to do some work for him. One said he won't do it and then did the work. The other says he would do it but in the end doesn't. Jesus asks which one was the better son. The answer seems obvious. The one who did the work is the better son.

The phrase that came to my mind was "actions speak louder than words." I looked this up on the sometimes reliable internet and learned that the phrase is first attributed to St. Anthony of Padua in the Twelfth Century, who is more known for finding lost objects. It is also words spoken by Ben Franklin and Abe Lincoln. I vaguely recall my parents using some version of them to me. In other words, there is genuine wisdom there.

And why is it often timely advice? Probably because we are all sometimes guilty of saying we will do one thing, and later we don't. My wife can no doubt offer evidence of this tendency in me. We may excuse our lack of follow through to forgetfulness, but, let's be honest, it's often laziness or simply an unwillingness to do what is requested.

But there is another lesson in this gospel. The importance of what we do, Our actions that contribute to a better life for ourselves and others. Often our actions are pre-determined by jobs, the work we do to earn money to support ourselves and those who depend on our financial support.

But there is also what we do, not for financial gain, but simply to improve life for others. This might be volunteer work to help the less fortunate. Or simply what we do to help an elderly neighbor (like me).

This extra work is often freely chosen so it arises from an interior attitude we might have to simply make the world a better place. Often these extra activities are unnoticed and unrewarded except in the awareness we have that we have tried to do something extra. They flow from a generosity that is at the heart of why you and I exist at all. God created us to know, love and serve God and be happy with God in the next life. An old catechism answer that still contains immense truth.

David M. Thomas, PhD

## *A Jubilee of Renewal* – Walking the Way of St. Francis



In 2026, the Church celebrates a special Jubilee Year in honor of the 800th anniversary of the death of St. Francis of Assisi. Proclaimed by Pope Leo XIV, this Jubilee invites the faithful to rediscover the enduring witness of a saint who transformed the world through humility, simplicity, and love.

St. Francis lived in a time of social division and spiritual confusion, yet his response was strikingly simple: to follow Jesus Christ with his whole heart. Renouncing wealth and status, he embraced a life of poverty, trusting completely in God's providence. In doing so, he became a living sign of the Gospel—proclaiming peace, serving the poor, and calling all people to conversion.

Eight centuries later, his message remains urgently relevant. Our world, too, longs for peace, healing, and authentic joy. The Franciscan Jubilee reminds us that renewal does not begin in structures or systems, but in the human heart. Like Francis, we are called to encounter Christ personally and to allow that encounter to reshape every aspect of our lives.

This Jubilee is not simply a commemoration of the past. It is a grace-filled opportunity in the present. Through prayer, penance, and acts of charity, the Church invites us to walk more closely in the footsteps of St. Francis. His love for Christ in the Eucharist, his reverence for creation, and his compassion for the poor offer a path forward for all who seek to live the Gospel more fully.

As we mark 800 years since his passing into eternal life, we are reminded that holiness is always possible. The same Lord who called Francis calls each of us today—to rebuild His Church, to be instruments of peace, and to radiate the joy of the Gospel in a world that needs it more than ever.

### **Who Was St. Francis of Assisi?**

St. Francis of Assisi was born in Italy in 1181/1182. The son of a wealthy merchant, he dreamed of glory and success, until an encounter with Christ after a period of illness and prayer. Francis heard the call of Jesus to “rebuild my Church.” He then renounced his wealth to live a life of radical poverty. He preached repentance, cared for the poor, and lived in joyful trust in God's providence. His witness drew others, and he founded the Franciscan Order. He is also known for his deep love of creation, seeing all creatures as brothers and sisters, and for receiving the stigmata (the wounds of Christ). Since his death in 1226, he remains one of the Church's most beloved saints—a model of humility, peace, and fidelity to the Gospel.

### **What Is the Franciscan Jubilee Year?**

A Jubilee Year is a special period of grace in the Church, marked by prayer, pilgrimage, repentance, and renewed faith. This Jubilee commemorating St. Francis's death honors his enduring spiritual legacy—a life of poverty, humility, and joyful faith which has inspired countless Christians for centuries—and highlights the ongoing mission of the Franciscan Order today. Throughout this Jubilee, Catholics may take part in special liturgies, pilgrimages, parish devotions, and charitable works of the Franciscan tradition. Churches and shrines dedicated to St. Francis will serve as places of prayer and spiritual reflection. By celebrating this Jubilee, the Church invites the faithful to rediscover the beauty of the Gospel lived with simplicity, trust, and love for God.

### **How Can We Receive the Jubilee Graces?**

During the Franciscan Jubilee, the Church offers the faithful a plenary indulgence—a special grace that removes the temporal effects of sin and deepens our communion with God.

To receive the indulgence, Catholics fulfill the usual conditions: sacramental confession, Holy Communion, prayer for the intentions of the Holy Father, and a sincere detachment from sin. In addition, the faithful may participate in Jubilee celebrations or make a pilgrimage—physically or spiritually—to a church or shrine connected with St. Francis of Assisi.

Those unable to travel because of age, illness, or other serious circumstances may unite themselves spiritually to the Jubilee through prayer and the offering of their sufferings to God.

The graces of the Jubilee are meant to lead us to deeper conversion and holiness. By following the example of St. Francis through prayer, charity, and trust in God's providence, we open our hearts more fully to the transforming mercy of Christ.

### **Pope Leo's Prayer to St. Francis of Assisi**

Saint Francis, our brother, you who eight hundred years ago went to meet Sister Death as a man at peace, intercede for us before the Lord. You recognized true peace in the Crucifix of San Damiano, teach us to seek in Him the source of all reconciliation that breaks down every wall. You who, unarmed, crossed the lines of war and misunderstanding, give us the courage to build bridges where the world raises up boundaries. In this time afflicted by conflict and division, intercede for us so that we may become peacemakers: unarmed and disarming witnesses of the peace that comes from Christ. Amen.