

# 2024

## Heralds of the Word!

***“He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.”***

(Luke 24:45)

The Miracles of Jesus are chosen for our Parish study for this year’s Word of God. The Miracles are grouped into the following Books of the Bible: Matthew Mark Luke, and John. This document is also on our website and is dynamic. The online version is linked to the bible on the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops website for easy reading.

In 2019 on the Feast of Saint Jerome, who gave the Church an important translation of the Bible used for centuries, Pope Francis declared the Third Sunday of Ordinary Time to be “Sunday of the Word of God.” All of the faithful are invited to reflect on the importance of God’s Word in our lives. The Word of God, Sacred Scripture, is to be celebrated and to be studied. The first Sunday Word of God was celebrated in 2020.

Pope Francis in his Motu Proprio *Aperuit Illis*, for instituting the Sunday of the Word of God, wrote: “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.”

### **THE MIRACLES OF JESUS CHRIST**

Utilizing the Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark, listed below in chronological order are the Miracles of Jesus Christ as proclaimed in the New American Bible. But, as pointed out in John 21:25, all the things Jesus did during His three-year Ministry would not fit in all the books of the world. He did much more than what is listed. As faith filled Christians, we are devoutly aware of Christ’s Resurrection (the ultimate miracle) and His encounter on the road to Emmaus.

### **Benefits of Praying and Studying the Bible with a Humble Heart**

What are the benefits of Praying with the Bible and Studying? For centuries Catholic Church has had a powerful and holy instrument called Indulgence. While often misunderstood, the practice of granting and obtaining indulgences is deeply rooted in Sacred Scripture and Church teaching. In 2006, the English edition of the Holy See’s 1999 revised Manual of Indulgences was published by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. The Church’s longstanding tradition of granting and obtaining indulgences inspires within us a desire to live more virtuously as Christian disciples. In drawing closer to Jesus, we renew our hope for reconciliation, and we bear witness to our trust in our merciful Father.

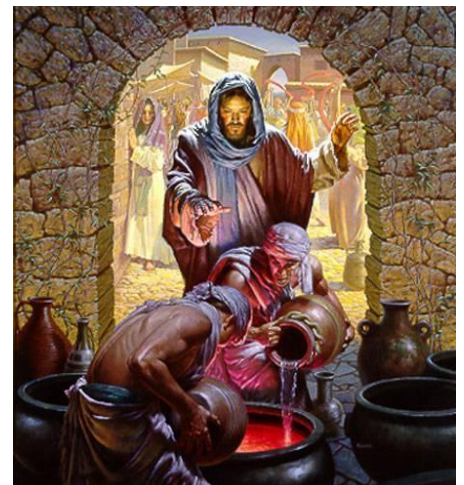
### **INDULGENCES FOR READING THE BIBLE**

*An indulgence of three years* is granted to the faithful who read the Books of the Bible for at least a quarter of an hour, with the reverence due to the Divine Word and as spiritual reading.

*An indulgence of 500 days* is granted to the faithful who piously read at least some verses of the Gospel and in addition, while kissing the Gospel Book, devoutly recite one of the following invocations: “May our sins be blotted out through the words of the Gospel” – “May the reading of the Gospel be our salvation and protection” – “May Christ, the Son of God, teach us the words of the Holy Gospel.”

*A plenary indulgence under usual conditions* is granted to those who for a whole month daily act in the way indicated above;

*A plenary indulgence is granted at the hour of death* to those who often during life have performed this pious exercise, provided they have confessed and received Communion, or at least having sorrow for their sins, they invoke the most holy name of Jesus with their lips, if possible, or at least in their hearts, and humbly accept death from the hand of God as the price of sin.



# THE MIRACLES OF JESUS CHRIST

THE MIRACLES OF JESUS CHRIST	MATTHEW	MARK	LUKE	JOHN
Turning Water to Wine at Cana (1st Sign)				2:1-12
Healing the Possessed Man in Capernaum		1:21-28	4:31-37	
Healing of Peter's Mother-in-law	8:14-15	1:29-31	4:38-39	
Healings of Sick/Driving Demons Out	8:16-17	1:32-34	4:40-41	
The First Miraculous Catch of Fish			5:1-11	
Cleansing of a Leper	8:1-4	1:40-45	5:12-16	
Healing of a Paralytic	9:1-8	2:3-12	5:18-26	
Cure of the Man with a Withered Hand	12:9-14	3:1-6	6:6-11	
Cure of the Blind Mute Demoniac	12:22-23		11:14	
Cure of the Royal Official's Son (2nd Sign)				4:46-54
Healing of the Centurion's Servant	8:5-13		7:1-10	
Raising of Widow's Son at Nain			7:11-17	
Calming of the Storm at Sea	8:23-27	4:35-41	8:22-25	
Cure of the Gerasene Demoniac	8:28-34	5:1-20	8:26-39	
Cure of the Paralytic at the Pool (3rd Sign)				5:1-47
Cure of Woman afflicted with Hemorrhage/ Raising of Jairus' daughter	9:18-26	5:21-43	8:40-56	
Healing Two Blind Men	9:27-31			
Healing a Possessed Mute	9:32-34			
Multiplication of the Loaves (4th Sign)	14:13-21	6:34-44	9:10-17	1-15
Walking on Water at the Sea of Galilee (5th Sign)	14:22-33	6:45-52		6:16-21
Healings at Gennesaret	14:34-36	6:53-56		
The Syrophenician Woman's Faith	15:21-28	7:24-30		
Healing of a Deaf-Mute	15:29-31	7:31-37		
Feeding of the Four Thousand	15:32-39	8:1-10		
Restores Sight to Blind Man of Bethsaida		8:22-26		
The Man Born Blind (6th Sign)				9:1-41

<b>THE MIRACLES OF JESUS CHRIST</b>	<b>MATTHEW</b>	<b>MARK</b>	<b>LUKE</b>	<b>JOHN</b>
Healing a Boy with a Demon	17:14-21	9:14-29	9:37-43	
Payment of the Temple Tax/Coin in Mouth of Fish	17:24-27			
Cure of a Crippled Woman on the Sabbath			13:17	
Healing of a Man with Dropsy			14:1-6	
Cleansing of the Ten Lepers			17:11-19	
Healing of Two Blind Men at Jericho	20:29-34	10:46-52	18:35-43	
The Raising of Lazarus (7th Sign)				11:44
Jesus Withers the Barren Fig Tree	21:18-22	11:12-14, 20-26		
Healing of Servant's Ear during Arrest			22:50-52	
The Second Miraculous Catch of Fish				21:4-11

## **WHAT ARE INDULGENCES?**

Indulgences are a part of the Church's teaching on the forgiveness of sins. Through the Sacrament of Baptism, we receive forgiveness for our sins, and all punishment is remitted. Through the Sacrament of Penance, sins are also forgiven, and the eternal penalty that is due to sin—namely, damnation, the eternal loss of the presence of God—is taken away. However, consequences remain that the sinner must bear. This is what is traditionally called the temporal punishment for sin. Those who have received forgiveness for their sins may still have an obligation to undergo a process of purification and to restore these disrupted relationships. The necessary and painful process that brings this reconciliation and purification can take place either in this life or in Purgatory because whatever part of the process remains unfinished at death must be completed in Purgatory.

## **HOW CAN INDULGENCES REMOVE SOME OR ALL OF THE TEMPORAL PUNISHMENT OF SIN?**

Through an indulgence, God grants that through the prayer of the Church, the temporal penalty for sin due to someone is reduced (as in the case of a partial indulgence) or eliminated (as in the case of a plenary indulgence). By God's grace, participation in a prayer or action that has an indulgence attached to it brings about the necessary reconciliation without the suffering that would normally accompany it.

To receive a plenary indulgence, in addition to a good work or act of devotion prescribed by the Church, it is required that we (1) make a sacramental confession, (2) receive Holy Communion, (3) pray for the intentions of the Holy Father, and (4) be completely detached from all sin.

If these conditions are only incompletely fulfilled, the indulgence obtained will be only partial. In receiving indulgences, we should not think that we have earned them. Our efforts express our openness to receiving God's mercy. As a result, we grow closer to Jesus and so are able to reap the benefit of his salvation.

## **HOW DOES ONE GAIN AN INDULGENCE?**

Plenary indulgences are attached to certain prayers and to certain devotional or charitable practices that we undertake with the intention of making the needed reparation. Examples of such practices approved by the Church include Eucharistic adoration that lasts at least one-half hour, devout recitation of the Marian rosary, prayerful reading of Sacred Scripture, the making of the Way of the Cross, participation in a Eucharistic procession on the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ, and participation in a parish mission.

## **Blessing Before and After a Bible Study or Prayer Meeting**

Whenever Christians come together in the name of Christ, he himself is present in their midst. Those taking part in the meeting should wish to offer prayers in praise of Christ and in petition for the divine help needed to achieve the purpose for which they have gathered.

### **BEGINNING OF THE MEETING**

When the participants have gathered, all make the sign of the cross.

The leader introduces the blessing in these or similar words:

*We have gathered today to pray (study) together, that we may grow in our understanding of the mystery of faith and follow God's path ever more closely.*

After a time of silence, the leader prays:

*Pour out on us, O Lord, we pray, a spirit of truth, understanding and peace, that we may know with all our hearts what is pleasing to you and, with one accord, pursue what we have come to know. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

### **END OF THE MEETING**

The leader introduces the prayer in these or similar words:

*Through this meeting Jesus himself has spoken to us. Since our task is to conform our lives to the Word we have heard, let us raise our minds and hearts to God, praying that he may guide us through the Holy Spirit and give us the power always to do what is pleasing to him.*

After a time of silence, all join in prayers of intercession and in the Lord's Prayer.

The leader says the prayer of blessing with hands joined:

*We thank you and bless you, Lord our God. In times past you spoke in many varied ways through the prophets, but in this, the final age, you have spoken through your Son to reveal to all nations the riches of your grace. May we who have met to ponder the Scriptures be filled with the knowledge of your will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding, and, pleasing you as we should in all things, may we bear fruit in every good work. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## **Examples of Prayers to Which Indulgences Are Attached**

### **Prayer After Holy Communion (Anima Christi)**

Soul of Christ, sanctify me. Body of Christ, save me. Blood of Christ, inebriate me. Water from the side of Christ, wash me. Passion of Christ, strengthen me. O good Jesus, hear me. Within thy wounds hide me. Suffer me not to be separated from thee. From the malicious enemy defend me. In the hour of my death call me. And bid me come to thee, that with thy saints I may praise thee forever and ever. Amen.

### **Prayer Before the Blessed Sacrament (O sacrum convivium)**

O sacred banquet, in which Christ is received, the memory of his Passion is renewed, the mind is filled with grace, and a pledge of future glory is given to us.

### **Prayer Before Any Work (Actiones nostras)**

Direct, we beseech thee, O Lord, all our actions by thy holy inspiration, carry them on by thy gracious assistance, that every word and work of ours may always begin from thee and by thee be happily ended. Amen.

### **Prayer to One's Guardian Angel (Angele Dei)**

Angel of God, my guardian dear, to whom his love entrusts me here, enlighten and guard, rule and guide me. Amen.

### **Prayer of Saint Gertrude**

Eternal Father, I offer thee the most precious blood of thy divine son, Jesus, in union with the masses said throughout the world today, for all the holy Souls in Purgatory, for sinners everywhere, for sinners in the universal Church, those in my own home and within my family. Amen.

Saint Gertrude the Great is invoked for Souls in Purgatory and for living sinners. Our Lord told Saint Gertrude that the above prayer would release 1000 souls from Purgatory each time it is said. The prayer was extended to include living sinners as well. "A partial indulgence is granted to the faithful who...raise their mind with humble confidence to God."