



**January 2026**

**For prayer with the Word of God**

Let us pray that praying with the Word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us to build a more fraternal and missionary Church.

**Pope's Prayer USA Video:** [popesprayerusa.net](http://popesprayerusa.net)

**Pope Video:** [thepopevideo.org](http://thepopevideo.org)

**Reflection by** *Fr. Joseph Riordan, S.J.*

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"The instruction of the Lord is perfect, renewing life; the precepts of the Lord are enduring, giving wisdom to the simple." (Psalm 19:7)

The psalmist affirms that the instruction or teaching of the Lord (in Hebrew, "torah"), which is preserved in Scripture, provides an inexhaustible source of renewal and sustenance for God's people whenever they turn to its pages.

The psalm also hints that there are basically two ways to go through life. The first is to proceed by trial and error, making mistakes and painfully unlearning those mistakes, and thus slowly groping towards hard-earned wisdom. The second way is simply to do what's right because it's God's will, leaning on the precepts of the Lord as a sure guide to the vagaries and challenges that life throws one's way.

As I look back on my schooling, I count myself blessed to have studied with some brilliant minds that broke open the Word of God for me. Outside of the classroom, I have also sat at the feet of great teachers or witnesses with little formal education that radiated spirituality and imparted "the wisdom entrusted to the simple." As I recall all of these wisdom figures with gratitude, I stand in awe of how Scripture is deeper than all our human striving and knowledge yet at the same time remains near at hand and accessible to humble souls that seek His face.

As we join the Holy Father in prayer this month, let us turn to the Word as our compass and daily bread, which faithfully guides and sustains us along the pilgrim highways that lead to our heavenly home.

**[Leader] Daily offering prayer:**

O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary,

I offer You my prayers, works, joys, and sufferings of this day

in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world.

I offer them for all the intentions of Your Sacred Heart:

the salvation of souls, reparation for sin, and the reunion of all Christians. I offer them for the intentions of our bishops and of all Apostles of Prayer, and in particular for those recommended by our Holy Father this month—

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**Grace:** We pray for the grace to let the Word of God set our hearts on fire. Through this encounter with the Lord, may we be nourished and strengthened, becoming a source of hope within our communities as we help to build the Kingdom of God.

**[Reader 1] Scripture:** Matthew 4:4 - "Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

**[Reader 3] Quote:** " Indeed, the word which we proclaim and accept is the Word made flesh (cf. *Jn* 1:14); it is inseparably linked to Christ's person and the sacramental mode of his continued presence in our midst. Christ does not speak in the past, but in the present, even as he is present in the liturgical action...Knowledge and study of the word of God enable us better to appreciate, celebrate and live the Eucharist. Here too, we can see how true it is that "ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ"- Pope Benedict XVI, Apostolic Exhortation: *Sacramentum Caritatis*, February 22, 2007

**[Leader] Reflection questions:**

How have you encountered God in Scripture, and what did that encounter reveal about who God is or who He is calling you to become?

What helps you stay consistent in praying with Scripture, and what obstacles make it difficult for you to return to the Word regularly?

What concrete actions or attitudes could the Lord be inviting you to embrace so that you can help build a more fraternal and missionary Church?