

Dear friends in Christ,

This week, I would like to offer for our reflection a homily given by Pope Leo at Vespers on the Solemnity of Mary Mother of God. In it, he reflects on the Jubilee year that just ended and the significance of God's plan for salvation, which came to fruition through the cooperation of the Blessed Mother. Today, in this troubled world, may we all renew our hope in God's plan of salvation for us and for our world:

*The liturgy of the first Vespers of the Mother of God has a unique richness, deriving both from the awe-inspiring mystery it celebrates and its timing at the very end of the calendar year. The antiphons of the Psalms and of the Magnificat insist on the paradoxical event of a God who is born of a virgin, or conversely, Mary's divine motherhood...*

*In the Bible reading, we have listened to one of the Apostle Paul's astonishing summaries: "When the time had fully come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons" (Gal 4:4-5). This way of presenting the mystery of Christ makes us think of a plan, a great plan for human history. A mysterious plan, but with a clear centre, like a high mountain illuminated by the sun in the midst of a dense forest: this centre is the "fullness of time".*

*And it is this very word – "plan" – that is echoed in the canticle of the Letter to the Ephesians: "He has made known to us in all wisdom and insight the mystery of his will, according to his purpose which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth" (Eph 1:9-10).*

*Sisters, brothers, in this time of ours we feel the need for a wise, benevolent, merciful plan. May it be a free and liberating, peaceful, faithful plan, like the one the Virgin Mary proclaimed in her canticle of praise: "His mercy is on those who fear him / from generation to generation" (Lk 1:50).*

*However, other plans, today as yesterday, envelop the world. Rather, they are strategies, which aim to conquer markets, territories, areas of influence. Armed strategies, cloaked in hypocritical discourse, ideological proclamations, and false religious motives. But the Holy Mother of God, the smallest and highest among the creatures, sees things with God's gaze: she sees that, with the power of his arm, the Most High scatters the plots of the proud, overturns the powerful from their thrones and lifts up the humble, fills the hands of the hungry with good things and empties those of the rich (cf. Lk 1:51-53). The Mother*

*of Jesus is the woman with whom God, in the fullness of time, wrote the Word that reveals the mystery. He did not impose it on her: he first proposed it to her heart and, having received her "yes", he wrote it with ineffable love in her flesh. Thus, God's hope was intertwined with the hope of Mary, descendant of Abraham according to the flesh and above all according to faith.*

*God loves to hope with the heart of the small, and he does so by involving them in his plan of salvation. The more beautiful the plan, the greater the hope. And, in effect, the world proceeds in this way, driven by the hope of so many simple people, unknown but not to God, who despite everything believe in a better tomorrow, because they know that the future is in the hands of the One who offers them the greatest hope. One of these people was Simon, a fisherman from Galilee, whom Jesus called Peter. God the Father gave him a faith so sincere and generous that the Lord was able to build his community on it (cf. Mt 16:18). And we are still here today, praying at his tomb, where pilgrims from all over the world come to renew their faith in Jesus Christ, Son of God. This happened in a special way during the Holy Year that is about to come to an end.*

*The Jubilee is a great sign of a new world, renewed and reconciled according to God's plan. And in this plan, Providence has reserved a particular place for this city of Rome. Not for its glories, nor for its power, but because here Peter, Paul and so many other martyrs shed their blood for Christ. This is why Rome is the city of the Jubilee.*

*What can we wish for Rome? That it may live up to its little ones. To children, to lonely and frail elderly people, to families who struggle to get by, to men and women who have come from afar hoping for a dignified life.*

*Today, dear friends, let us thank God for the gift of the Jubilee, which has been a great sign of his plan of hope for humanity and for the world.... May this city, animated by Christian hope, be at the service of God's plan of love for the human family. May the intercession of the Holy Mother of God, Salus Populi Romani, obtain this for us. POPE LEO XIV*

May Mary, the blessed Mother of God, intercede for us!

Blessings on your week!

Fr. Johnson

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

### Monday, February 9

9:00 AM Daily Mass

10:00 AM Women of Faith

**6:00 PM ASCEND Eucharistic Revival  
All Hands Meeting**

7:00PM Baptismal Preparation Class

### Tuesday, February 10

No Daily Mass

5:30 PM Faith Formation

### Wednesday, February 11

**Parish Office Closes Early at 12PM**

8:30 AM Confessions

9:00 AM Daily Mass

7:00 PM House of Prayer

7:00 PM Gospel Choir Rehearsal (11AM Mass)

### Thursday, February 12

9:00 AM Daily Mass

12:15 PM Steps to Freedom

1:00 PM Rosary Cenacle

6:30 PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal  
(9AM Mass)

7:00 PM OCIA

### Friday, February 13

9:00 AM Daily Mass

9:30 AM Adoration until 9PM

10:00 AM Guardians & Angels

### Saturday, February 14

3:30 PM Confessions

**5:00 PM Saturday Vigil Mass:**

**Married Couples' Vow Renewal & Blessing  
6:00 PM Celebration of Marriage Reception  
(Lovett Hall)**

### Sunday, February 15

**Baptism of the Lord**

9:00 AM Sunday Mass

11:00 AM Sunday Mass

Coffee & Donuts after both Masses

6:30 PM Teen Group

## MINISTRY NEWS

### St Vincent de Paul Ministry:

#### It Truly Takes a Village

February 2026

Our St. Vincent de Paul ministry is grateful to serve our neighbors in need, and we do so with the help of many wonderful partners. Along with providing grocery cards, we connect families to community food resources such as Hopelink, Holy Innocents Food Bank, Renewal Food Bank, Open Kitchen, NW Share, and the Salvation Army meal programs.

Housing and utility assistance often requires shared effort. We collaborate with Hopelink, 4Tomorrow, Catholic Community Services, United Way, Overlake Christian Church, the Muslim Community Resource Center, the Salvation Army, and others to prevent eviction and keep the lights on.

For children's essentials, we work closely with KidVantage for younger kids. Our own new SVdP youth ministry helps gather needed items for older children and assist with furniture donations both pick up and deliveries.

We are blessed by other partnerships within the parish—Knights of Columbus and Welcome Circle volunteers that help us move furniture or provide additional assistance when we are working with refugee families or those in our Safe Parking program transitioning into housing.

Together, we make it possible to care for our neighbors with compassion and dignity. It truly takes a village, and we are grateful for every helping hand.



You can donate to St. Vincent de Paul online - be sure to click fund "118—St. Vincent de Paul" in the dropdown menu. If you wish to join our team of Vincen-tians, please contact Diane Murphy via email: [svdp@stjude-redmond.org](mailto:svdp@stjude-redmond.org)

### SCAM Alert Reminder

Once again, we are seeing an uptick in online scams: expect these to increase as we head into Lent - they aim to prey upon those with giving hearts of the season. This is a **reminder to double-check the email address and/or source of any suspicious emails or text that claim to be from Fr. Johnson, Fr. Raphael, or any parish staff.**



**PARTNERS  
IN THE GOSPEL**

WELCOME TO OUR PARISH FAMILY!

St Jude | Holy Innocents  
Mission Church of St. Anthony