

## **The Year of Saint Francis — A Short Summary of the Decree**

The Church has declared a special Year of Saint Francis from January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026, to January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2027, to mark the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death. Saint Francis of Assisi is remembered for his deep love of God, his care for the poor, and his desire to live the Gospel simply and faithfully.

This special year invites all Catholics to follow Saint Francis' example by living with humility, mercy, and peace. It is not about doing more activities, but about living our faith more deeply in everyday life.

This year, the Church also offers a plenary indulgence, a special grace from God. It can be received by:

- Going to confession
- Receiving Communion
- Praying for the Pope's intentions, and
- Visiting a Franciscan church or shrine.

Those who are sick or homebound may take part spiritually by offering their prayers and sufferings to God.

The Year of Saint Francis encourages us to become witnesses of peace, charity, and joy in the world today.

### **Prayer Intention**

For the grace to live simply and faithfully, following the example of Saint Francis of Assisi, and to become instruments of peace, mercy, and love in our homes, parishes, and communities.

### **Short Bio of Saint Francis of Assisi**

Saint Francis of Assisi was born in Italy in 1181 into a wealthy family. As a young man, he lived a carefree life, but a powerful encounter with God changed his heart. Francis chose a life of poverty, prayer, and service, following Jesus as closely as he could. He cared deeply for the poor, loved all of God's creation, and worked for peace wherever he went. Francis founded the Franciscan Order, which continues his mission today. He is known for his humility, joy, and deep trust in God. Saint Francis died in 1226 and remains one of the most beloved saints of the Church.

### **One Simple Way to Live the Year of Saint Francis**

Practice simplicity once a month. Choose one small way each month to live more simply, such as:

- Giving to someone in need
- Spending time in quiet prayer
- Letting go of something you don't really need.

Done regularly, these small choices make Saint Francis' example part of everyday life.