

**WAYS TO CELEBRATE
THE SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD
ON THE SUNDAY AFTER THE THEOPHANY
JANUARY 11, 2026 in the Ukrainian Catholic Church**

The Sunday of the Word of God is an opportunity for parishes and communities to rediscover the Holy Scriptures as the living Word of God, which speaks to everyone, forms faith and inspires action. To help you experience this day more deeply and involve the faithful of all ages — children, youth, families and adults — we offer a selection of ten simple, yet meaningful initiatives. They can be adapted to the capabilities of a particular parish or community and are aimed at ensuring that the Word of God is not only heard, but also accepted by the heart and embodied in daily life.

1. Solemn reading of the Gospel of Matthew in the parish

On the Sunday of the Word of God in the church, you can display the Holy Scriptures in a place of honour as a visible sign of the presence of the Word of God among the community and encourage the faithful to come and read fragments of the Gospel of Matthew. After reading each passage, it is appropriate to take a short pause for reflection or sing prayer songs to create a prayerful atmosphere and help to more deeply accept the Word of God with the heart.

2. Catechetical teaching «The Bible in the Family»: how to read the Holy Scriptures at home

After the service, we propose to conduct a short catechetical teaching for the faithful on the topic «The Bible in the Family», dedicated to practical ways of reading the Holy Scriptures at home - in the family circle, with children and in personal prayer.

The purpose of this study is to explain that reading the Bible at home is accessible to everyone, does not require much time, and is based primarily on openness of heart, regularity, and the desire to listen to God, who speaks to man through His Word.

During the study, we propose to encourage the faithful to use the practical and simple method of triple reading of the Holy Scripture as a form of prayerful listening to the Word of God. It involves slow, attentive reading of a short biblical passage with moments of silence that help not only to understand the text, but also to allow it to touch personal life.

Briefly about the method of triple reading of the Holy Scripture:

The first stage focuses on the question: «What struck me the most?» The text of the Holy Scripture is read slowly and attentively, after which there is a short silence for personal reflection. During the first reading, attention is focused on the word or phrase that resonates most in the heart.

The second stage is aimed at deeper listening to the Word of God and is formulated by the question: «What does God want to tell me?» The second reading helps to understand what God wants to tell me through this text in specific life circumstances.

The third reading encourages us to answer the question: «What do I want to say to God in response?» - my prayer of thanksgiving, request or inner decision to live by the Word heard.

Special attention in this teaching should focus on ***reading the Holy Scriptures in the family with children***, offering a variant of the triple reading method adapted to their age. After reading a short fragment of the biblical text together, it is advisable to take a short

pause so that the child can reflect on what he heard. Then you can offer a discussion using simple questions: «What is this text about?» - to help the child understand the meaning of the event; «what does God want to teach us with these words» - to draw attention to the spiritual and moral meaning; «and how can we respond to God?» - through prayer, thanksgiving, a good deed or a specific change in behaviour. This form of reading helps children perceive the Bible not as a complex book, but as the Word of God, addressed directly to them.

It is important to emphasize that in family reading of the Holy Scripture, the main thing is not the amount of reading and the correctness of the answers, but the atmosphere of trust, joint listening and the example of adults. Even a few minutes of regular reading help to form in children respect for the Word of God, teach them to listen to each other and gradually discover God's presence in everyday life.

Concluding the lesson, it is worth encouraging the faithful to make reading the Bible a permanent practice in their home - both personally and in the family circle. Regular prayerful reading of the Holy Scripture forms the family as a domestic Church, strengthens relationships, deepens faith and opens the heart to serving others. This is how the Word of God becomes a source of life, peace and love in everyday reality.

3. Social initiative «WORD IN ACTION»: a day of service to our neighbour on the occasion of the Sunday of the Word of God

The social initiative «*Word in Action*» is designed to show that the Word of God not only speaks to us at the level of listening or reflection, but also encourages us to put it into practice in concrete acts of love and mercy. On the occasion of the Sunday of the Word of God, we propose to organize a day (or week) of service to our neighbour, during which the parish community will be able to respond to the heard Gospel through practical help to those in need. This may be support for those who can't be with their families, single people, the elderly, the sick, internally refugees, immigrants or other needy people in the community.

The initiative encourages the faithful — children, youth and adults — to reflect on how the Word of God inspires concrete actions, and to realize that service to one's neighbour is a natural extension of prayer and listening to the Holy Scriptures. Such a day of service helps to see that the love spoken of in the Gospel takes on real forms in gestures of attention, care and sacrifice, and the parish itself becomes a living testimony that the Word of God is truly at work among people.

4. Meeting-Communication «BIBLE OVER TEA»: Testimonies of the Faithful «How the Word of God Changed My Life»

We offer the meeting-communication «Bible over Tea» as a warm and informal form of parish meeting, designed to create a space for a lively sharing of the experience of faith. At the heart of this initiative are the testimonies of the faithful on the topic: «How the Word of God Changed My Life». These testimonies help us to see that the Holy Scriptures are not only a text to read, but a source of light, support and hope in concrete life circumstances. This form of communication promotes openness, mutual listening and the strengthening of the parish community, and also encourages other faithful to open the Bible more boldly and allow the Word of God to act in their own lives.

5. A selection of 15 BIBLICAL QUOTES

We offer you a selection of biblical quotes dedicated to the theme of mercy and social service. They can become an important spiritual tool in experiencing the Sunday of the Word of God. They can be used for personal reflection, during common prayer in the parish, in the family circle or as an accompaniment to concrete good deeds within the framework of social initiatives. Such biblical words help us to see that love of neighbour has a clear evangelical basis and is a direct response to the Word of God.

The quotes can be displayed in the church, distributed to the faithful as cards, used during catechetical meetings, youth or adult meetings, and shared through parish social networks. They can be a starting point for conversation, prayer or a personal decision regarding a specific act of mercy.

- «for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me» (Mt 25:35).
- «Love your neighbour as yourself» (Mt 22:39).
- «Be merciful, as your Father is merciful» (Lk 6:36).
- «Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me» (Mt 25:40).
- «So, faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead» (James 2:17).
- «Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ» (Gal 6:2).
- «Little children, let us not love in word or speech but in deed and in truth» (1 John 3:18).
- «So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, and especially to those who are of the household of faith» (Gal 6:10).
- «Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy» (Mt 5:7).
- «But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?» (1 John 3:17).
- «He has showed you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?» (Micah 6:8).
- «share your bread with the hungry, bring the poor and the homeless into your home; if you see the naked, clothe them, and do not hide yourself from your brother» (Is 58:7).
- «Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it?» (James 2:15–16).
- «It is good for the merciful to lend, and the one who conducts his affairs in righteousness» (Ps 112:5).
- «So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets» (Matthew 7:12).

6. Exhibition of children's works «The BIBLE THROUGH THE EYES OF CHILDREN»

We offer the exhibition of children's works «The Bible through the eyes of children» as a creative and at the same time catechetical initiative, which gives children the opportunity to express their perception of the Holy Scriptures through drawings, plasticine crafts, carvings, apps, collages, etc. By inviting children to depict biblical events, figures or individual images, the parish community helps them not only to listen to the Word of God, but also to personally interact with it, rethink what they have heard and discover its content in a way that is accessible to them.

An exhibition of creative works can be organized in a church, parish building or other community space so that the faithful can see the Holy Scriptures through the eyes of the youngest. Children's works can also be published on parish media resources. This initiative will help involve children in the life of the parish, encourage families to talk about the Bible at home, and help adults discover the simplicity and sincerity of children's faith. At the same time, the exhibition becomes a testament to the fact that the Word of God is alive and understandable for everyone, regardless of age.

7. BIBLE QUEST QUOTE. A game for teenagers and youth

The Bible Quest «Quote» is a dynamic, cognitive and at the same time spiritual game for teenagers and youth, which helps to discover the Holy Scriptures as the living and effective Word of God. The inspiration for the game is the example of Jesus Christ himself, who constantly turned to the Holy Scriptures: in communication with his disciples, in preaching, in answering tricky questions, in the fight against temptations, in suffering and in prayer to the Heavenly Father. This is how the Word of God became a source of strength, truth and hope for Him.

The quest aims to show participants that biblical quotes are not just texts from the past, but can nourish faith, strengthen trust in God, support in trials and help find the right solutions in everyday life. Through the game, teenagers learn to navigate the Holy Scriptures, work with biblical references and memorize individual passages.

The Bible quest «Quote» promotes the formation of team spirit, responsibility, attentiveness to the text of the Holy Scriptures and encourages teenagers and young people to open the Bible with interest and joy. Links to the rules of the game and the necessary materials can be found at: <https://ct.ugcc.ua/materialy-dlya-katehyzacziyi/igry/31743> (Ukrainian).

**OR see Appendix A* at the end of this announcement.

8. Biblical board game for children and families «LIFE OF JESUS»

The Biblical board game for children and families «Life of Jesus» is offered as an educational and at the same time unifying initiative that helps to learn about the main events of the earthly life of Jesus Christ in an accessible and interesting way. Through the elements of the game, children and adults can recall together the gospel events, words and deeds of the Savior, as well as see their connection with everyday life.

The game creates a space for spending time together in the family, encourages dialogue between generations and helps to transmit faith in a form that is close and understandable to children. Participation in such a game contributes to the formation of a positive attitude towards the Holy Scriptures, develops interest in biblical stories and helps families experience the Sunday of the Word of God as a joyful encounter with the Gospel in an atmosphere of cooperation, play and mutual attention.

You can purchase the game by clicking on the [Ukrainian] link:

<https://siyach.com.ua/product/zhyttya-isusa-hrysta-2/>.

**OR an alterative English* online game can be found here: <https://quizlet.com/307894163/catholic-bible-verses-flash-cards/>

**9. ONLINE MEETING (Zoom, Ukrainian) with Fr. Yevhen Stanishevsky.
«Blessed is the man who... delights in the law of the Lord, and in his law he
meditates day and night» (Ps 1:1-2). Reading the Holy Scriptures at home.**

We offer an online meeting with Fr. Yevhen Stanishevsky on the topic: «Reading the Holy Scriptures at home» as an opportunity for the faithful to deepen their understanding of reading the Bible in everyday life in a convenient format. During the meeting, Fr. Yevhen will draw attention to the importance of personal and family reading of the Holy Scriptures, give practical advice and spiritual guidelines that will help make the Word of God a permanent part of home prayer life.

The online format allows for a wide range of participants to join, regardless of their place of residence, and also creates a space for questions, sharing experiences, and joint reflection on how to read the Bible with benefit for spiritual growth. Such a meeting is a good opportunity to continue the experience of the Sunday of the Word of God and transfer its fruits into the daily reality of family and personal prayer.

You can join the meeting by clicking on the link:

Time: Jan 11, 2026 07:00 PM Kyiv

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83524100500?pwd=bZ5r4zEPAoj7i0w3cbkfxq0bnGsulQ.1>

Meeting ID: 835 2410 0500

Passcode: 108669

**10. Presentation of the Ukrainian JERUSALEM BIBLE on the ZhyveTB
(Living TV) platform**

On January 15 at 11:00 in Kyiv, His Beatitude Sviatoslav (Shevchuk) will present the first full edition of the Ukrainian version of the Jerusalem Bible — one of the most ambitious and famous Catholic biblical projects of the 20th century.

The Ukrainian version of the Jerusalem Bible combines the biblical text translated from the original languages by Fr. Ivan Khomenko, as well as introductions, notes and critical apparatus translated from the third updated edition of 1998. This edition offers the reader the biblical text with professional explanations of difficult passages, theological terms and concepts, the specifics of individual books and biblical authors. A thoughtful scientific and theological commentary helps to avoid superficial or even erroneous perception of the text, especially the so-called difficult passages, and becomes a reliable assistant in independent reading of the Word of God.

Thanks to its rich marginal references to parallel biblical texts and related topics, the Ukrainian translation of the Jerusalem Bible is a valuable tool not only for personal reading, but also for Bible circles, theological studies, and the practice of Lectio Divina.

As His Beatitude Sviatoslav noted in the introduction to the book: «The purpose of this publication is to assist all who seek spiritual enrichment through the word of God, who feel a calling to serve the Word, who seek to know Jesus Christ and his message to us today more deeply. May this edition of the Holy Scriptures with commentaries and notes from the Jerusalem Bible become for us a source of light, spiritual inspiration, and wisdom on our spiritual path, so that we may even better understand our calling and fulfill the tasks that God and the Church set before us».

You can join the presentation by clicking on the link: <https://zhyve.tv>

*Appendix A

The «QUOTE» Game

Jesus Christ often quoted the Holy Scriptures – when he communicated with friends, when he preached, when he answered the cunning questions of his opponents, when he fought temptations, when he suffered and felt abandoned by everyone, when he spoke to his heavenly Father.

Quotes from the Holy Scriptures nourish our faith, strengthen our hope in God, encourage us in trials, give us strength in moments of temptation, and we speak to our heavenly Father with them.

The Holy Scriptures are the Word of God to us. They are like weapons in our hands, instruments of victory. That is why it is so important to navigate in the Holy Scriptures, and to know some texts by heart.

Venue: outdoors or indoors / Large Space

Age: 10 – 15 years

Number: 15 – 40 people

Duration: 20 – 30 minutes

Materials:

For each team: Holy Scripture, 20-30 cards, each of which has one reference to a excerpt of Holy Scripture (book, verse, poem – for example: Mark 6, 8-9). Cards for each team are of a different color.

Game progress:

The same references for all teams.

The leader hides all the cards in a designated area. Some of the cards should be hidden very simply, and some should be hidden more tightly so that they are not easy to find.

All participants are divided into three teams. Each team chooses its captain, comes up with a name and slogan.

The teams present their name and slogan.

The captains play off the right to choose a colour in a «rock-paper-scissors» game.

The leader gives the captains one copy of Holy Scripture.

The game consists of several stages:

Stage 1 – Team members search for cards of only their own color in the territory indicated by the leaders. If they find cards of a different color, they do not touch them and do not show them to others (the leaders monitor this). Each card they find must be placed in the Holy Scriptures according to the reference written on it. The more cards found and placed correctly, the more points they get (One correctly placed card = 10 points).

Stage 2 – Team members must memorize as many Bible quotes as possible listed on the cards (one memorized quote = 20 points). Make sure that several members from one team do not memorize the same quote.

Stage 3 – The entire team must put on a wordless pantomime based on one of the found references that interested them the most and liked them the most (Pantomime = 50 points).

***Stage 4* – Presentation of their work by groups:**

The leaders count the number of cards found and correctly placed in the Holy Scripture.

One participant from each team recites the learned quotes from memory. Quotes can be repeated if they are spoken by a participant from another team.

After that, the teams take turns presenting a pantomime.

The leader counts the total number of points and determines the winning team.

