



## ARCHDIOCESE OF BALTIMORE

320 CATHEDRAL STREET • BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21201 • 410-547-5437 • FAX: 410-547-8234

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

January 12, 2021

Dear Monsignor/Father,

I pray you had a blessed Christmas Season and have found some respite as Ash Wednesday rapidly approaches. Today, I draw your attention to Sunday of the Word of God, which was instituted with the issuance of Pope Francis' Motu Proprio, *Aperuit Illis*. It is to be celebrated on the Third Sunday of Ordinary Time, which this year falls on January 24.

As our Liturgical Year becomes increasingly crowded with different emphases, I well know that one can easily overlook some such Sundays. Please do not let this be the case with Sunday of the Word of God. Let me explain why this is important.

It is reported that the top podcast in the world, out of nearly a million, is a Catholic priest speaking about the Bible. I find this fact simply astonishing. What is more, it bespeaks a *profound* and *universal* hunger to know the Lord through the Scriptures. As Pope Francis reminds us, "The Bible cannot be just the heritage of some, much less a collection of books for the benefit of a privileged few. It belongs above all to those called to hear its message and to recognize themselves in its words." (*Aperuit Illis* 4)

Further, as many of you know, we are laying the groundwork for a Year of the Eucharist here in the Archdiocese of Baltimore. Sunday of the Word of God is an important opportunity to invite parishioners to again encounter the Lord through Sacred Scripture. This invitation can be as simple as offering an explanation of how to pray with Sacred Scripture through *Lectio Divina* or something more robust. But, simply put, it is an occasion to remind parishioners that the Lord is in fact speaking to each of us through His Word.

Included in this communication are a number of resources attached for Word of God Sunday. I urge you to prayerfully consider how you might invite your parishioners to deepen their relationship with the Lord through Sacred Scripture on this Word of God Sunday, January 24, 2021.

Please be assured of my prayers and I humbly request yours.

With kindest personal regards, I remain

Faithfully in Christ,

Most Reverend William E. Lori  
Archbishop of Baltimore