

St. Michael Church
Newark, NY



Faith Formation
Navigating the Bible
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Navigating the Bible

Catholic Reputation
For Not Knowing the
Bible



When was the last
time you looked at a
Bible?

Navigating the Bible



When was the last
time you *prayed*
with the Bible?

Navigating the Bible

We can't quote the Bible like
Evangelicals

Navigating the Bible

Why Don't People Read the Bible?

- Early Church
 - Most people couldn't read
 - No printing presses → not readily available
- As time went on, people couldn't read Latin

Navigating the Bible

Why Don't We Read the Bible? cont'd

- Even as more people learned to read and the printing press made Bibles more available, there was a fear that the average person wasn't properly educated to read the Bible.

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Pope Pius XII
Divino Afflante Spiritu
1943

Navigating the Bible

Speaking on the First Sunday of Lent this year,
Pope Francis* said:

- “You forget your mobile phone – oh! I do not have it; I go back to look for it; if you read the messages of God contained in the Bible as we read the messages of the phone...”
- “For this you have to become familiar with the Bible, read it often, meditate on it, assimilate it.”
- “But the Word of God is like a shield against the poisonous arrows of the devil.”

*<http://ewtnnews.com/catholic-news/Vatican.php?id=15159>

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Why Should We Read the Bible?

- Personal Relationship with Jesus

Psalm 42:2-6

“As the deer longs for streams of water, so my soul longs for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, the living God. When can I enter and see the face of God?”

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Why Should We Read the Bible? Cont'd.

- God's Teaching and Guidance

Navigating the Bible

Catechism of the Catholic Church
Paragraph 103

“For this reason, the Church has always venerated the Scriptures as she venerates the Lord’s Body.”

Navigating the Bible

Returning our reputations about the Bible as Catholics:

- Some think we add to the Bible

Deuteronomy 4:1-2

“Now therefore, Israel, hear the statutes and ordinances I am teaching you to observe, that you may live, and may enter in and take possession of the land which the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. In your observance of the commandments of the LORD, your God, which I am commanding you, you shall not add to what I command you nor subtract from it.”

Navigating the Bible



The Bible is read
from at every Mass

Navigating the Bible

The Book of the
Gospels is carried in
Procession

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Prayers at Mass from the Bible

- Greetings – From Paul’s Letters
- Holy, Holy, Holy, ***Lord God of Hosts***
 - 99 times in NABRE
 - www.biblegateway.com

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Prayers at Mass from the Bible (cont’d)

- Eucharistic Prayers
 - “From the rising of the sun to its setting” Psalm 50:1, Psalm 113:3, Isaiah 45:6, Malachi 1:11
- Our Father – Matthew 6:9-13
- “Peace I leave you” – John 14:27
- “Behold the Lamb of God” – John 1:29



Navigating the Bible

Why is the Bible So Important?

- It is our story
 - Fact or fiction
 - History vs. the experiences of the people.



Navigating the Bible

Do you know what books are in the
Catholic Bible but not in the
Protestant Bible?

Navigating the Bible

Catholic Bible vs. Protestant Bible

- Tobit, Judith, Wisdom, Sirach, Baruch, I & 2 Maccabees
- Why the difference?

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Which Translation Should I Use?

- www.biblegateway.com
- Translations vs. paraphrasing (ex. Living Waters)
- How do you know it is a Catholic Bible?
- New American Bible Revised Edition

Navigating the Bible

NABRE Saint Joseph Edition

- Pictures
- Maps
- Dictionary
- Introduction to each book

Navigating the Bible

Footnotes &
References
NABRE,
Page 740
Proverbs
Chapter 11,
Left column

- security lies in many counselors. ¹⁴
- ¹⁵ Harm will come to anyone going surety
for another,¹
but whoever hates giving pledges is
secure.*
- ¹⁶ A gracious woman gains esteem,
and ruthless men gain wealth.*
- ¹⁷ Kindly people benefit themselves,
but the merciless harm themselves.

c. [11:5] Prv 28:18.—d. [11:7] Prv 10:28; Wis 3:18.—e. [11:9] Prv 29:5.—f. [11:10] Prv 28:12; 29:2.—g. [11:13] Prv 20:19.—h. [11:14] Prv 15:22; 20:18; 24:6.—i. [11:15] Prv 6:1-2.—j. [11:18] Prv 10:16.—k. [11:28] Ps 52:9-10.

^{11:5} In Hebrew as in English, "way" means the course of one's life; similarly, "straight" and "crooked" are metaphors for morally straightforward and for bad, deviant, perverted.

^{11:7} An ancient scribe added "wicked" to person in colon A, for the statement that hope ends at death seemed to deny life after death. The saying, however, is not concerned with life after death but with the fact that in the face of death all hopes based on one's own resources are vain. The aphorism is the climax of the preceding six verses; human resources cannot overcome mortality (cf. Ps 49:13).

^{11:9} What the wicked express harms others; what the righteous leave unsaid protects. Verses 9-14 are related in theme: the effect of good and bad people, especially their words, on their community.

^{11:15} Proverbs is opposed to providing surety for another's loan (see note on 6:1-5) and expresses this view throughout the book.

^{11:16} Wealth and esteem are good things in Proverbs, but the means for acquiring them are flawed. As precious gifts, they must be granted, not taken. The esteem of others that depends on beauty is as fleeting as beauty itself (cf. 31:30) and the wealth acquired by aggressive behavior lasts only as long as one has physical strength.



Navigating the Bible

Who wrote the Bible?



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Catechism of the Catholic Church

Paragraph 104 – “God is the author of Sacred Scripture.”

Navigating the Bible

- God's inspiration vs. human influence
- Literal vs. Spiritual

Navigating the Bible

Catechism of the Catholic Church

CCC 110	"In order to discover the sacred authors' intention, the reader must take into account the conditions of their time and culture, the literary genres in use at that time, and the modes of feeling, speaking, and narrating then current."
CCC 111	"Sacred Scripture must be read and interpreted in the light of the same Spirit by whom it was written" DV 12.2 - MC – no proof texting ex. Eye for an eye in recent homily 7 th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A - http://blog.renewaloffaith.org/blog/?p=2043
CCC 112	"Be especially attentive "to the content and unity of the whole Scripture."



Navigating the Bible

History of the Bible Coming Together

- First written down c. 1000 B.C.
- Together as we know it 367 A.D



Navigating the Bible

But that means Moses didn't "write"
the first five books, The Pentateuch

Navigating the Bible

Events in Isaiah span 200 years

Did Paul write all of his letters?

Gospels??

Navigating the Bible

How does one go about reading the Bible?

- Contradictions in the Bible
- CCC 80 “Sacred Tradition and Sacred Scripture, then, are bound closely together and communicate one with the other.”

Navigating the Bible

How does one go about reading the Bible?


- Start to Finish
- Gospels
- Historical books
- Short stories like Esther and Jonah
- Lectionary (Sunday vs. Daily)
- At Mass or at home
- Lectio Divino

Navigating the Bible

The Old Testament vs. New Testament


Catechism of the Catholic Church 129

“Christians therefore read the Old Testament in light of Christ Crucified and Risen.”



Upcoming Presentations/Discussions

- Monday, April 3rd at 7:00 p.m. – “Evangelization and Apologetics” where we will discuss ways of sharing and talking about our faith.



Navigating the Bible

Resources

On my website

- “The Bible” -<http://www.renewaloffaith.org/bible---prayer.html>
- “Talking About the Roman Missal” -
<http://www.renewaloffaith.org/bulletin-articles---missal.html>
- Video Series: *We Profess, We Believe: Knowing What We Believe* - <http://www.renewaloffaith.org/video---bible-and-tradition.html>

Hannah Brockhaus, “Do you read the Bible as often as you check your phone? Francis asks” EWTN News, Mar 5, 2017, <http://ewtnnews.com/catholic-news/Vatican.php?id=15159>

Navigating the Bible

Resources cont'd

Catechism of the Catholic Church. Second Edition. Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 1997.

Compendium: Catechism of the Catholic Church. Libreria Editrice Vaticana. USCCB, 2006.

St. Joseph Edition of The New American Bible Revised Edition. New Jersey, Catholic Book Publishing Corp. 2010.

USCCB, United States Catholic Catechism for Adults. Washington, DC: USCCB, 2006.