

## Adult Faith Formation Opportunities for Individual Learning

### Books

If you're someone who likes to read there are many, many good books available to help you learn more about our faith and/or grow your spiritual life. These are just a few.

*Mere Christianity* by C.S. Lewis, various publishers      One of the great basic books on Christianity by one of the most respected writers of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Lewis, although a Protestant, makes such a compelling case for the Christian faith that this book is required reading for all Christians.

*Catholicism: A Journey to the Heart of the Faith* by Bishop Robert Barron, Image Books, 2011      The book version of the great DVD series by the same name.

*Mercy in the City: How to Feed the Hungry, Give Drink to the Thirsty, Visit the Imprisoned, and Keep Your Day Job*, by Kerry Weber, Loyola Press, 2014      A really fine autobiographical story of one woman's attempt to live out the Works of Mercy during Lent 2013.

*7 Keys to Spiritual Wellness* by Joe Paprocki (Brother of Bishop Paprocki, but a great teacher in his own right) Loyola Press, 2012

*A Biblical Walk Through the Mass* by Dr. Edward Sri, Ascension Press, 2011      A very accessible but thorough explanation of what is happening at Mass and where each part of the Mass comes from in the Bible.

*Bible Basics for Catholics* by Dr. John Bergsma, Ave Maria Press, 2012      St. Jerome said "ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ". This book manages to give a good overview of salvation history in fewer than 200 pages. This is an excellent way to get up to speed on the Catholic view of the Bible. It is also excellent preparation for more in depth bible study.

*New Testament Basics for Catholics* by Dr. John Bergsma, Ave Maria Press, 2015      Similar to *Bible Basics for Catholics* but much a more detailed treatment of the New Testament.

*The Catholic Briefcase* by Randy Hain, Liguori Publications, 2011      Laypeople have the unique responsibility to bring Christ to the working world we live in. This is a thought provoking book for us as we sort through what it means to be a Catholic Christian in today's world.

*History of The Catholic Church* by James Hitchcock, Ignatius Press, 2012      A thorough and accessible history of the Catholic Church. More for reading than reference.

*Jesus of Nazareth* series by Pope Benedict XVI, Ignatius Press, 2007-2012      This series of three books by one of the great theologians of our time is an excellent way for any Catholic to get to know the life of Our Lord.

## Reference Books

*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, second edition, USCCB, 2000      The official catechism of the Catholic Church. This “green catechism” is the definitive reference for Catholics.

*United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*, USCCB, 2006, 2010      While the green Catechism of the Catholic Church is the official Catechism, this adaptation by our council of Bishops in the U.S. is much more readable. The green for reference and the red for reading.

*Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church*, USCCB, 2006, 2011      Created in an easy to read question and answer format, the Compendium is an excellent addition to the standard green Catechism. A nice addition found in the Compendium is some famous Christian art at the beginning of each chapter.

*The Essential Guide to Catholic Terms* by Mary Kathleen Glavich, SND, Loyola Press, 2014 Part dictionary and part glossary, this is an excellent reference for many of those Catholic terms we hear and use. At just \$3.50 it is a bargain as well.

## Podcasts

A podcast is a recording of an audio or audio/video event you can listen to or watch at your convenience. You can download and save the information for later listening or stream live from the web site indicated. The podcasts listed are audio only podcasts. Listening to podcasts is a great way to learn about and stay informed about our faith. Think of an audio podcast as a recorded radio show. You can listen to podcasts on your computer, MP3 player, tablet, smartphone, etc.

Here are some excellent Catholic podcasts and the web site that goes with each.

**Discerning Hearts Podcast**      <http://www.discerninghearts.com/>      Kris McGregor has what is probably the most diverse Catholic podcast available. She interviews authors trying to get the word out about their books, she has an ongoing series about the US Catholic Catechism for Adults with Archbishop George Lucas of Omaha, where Kris is based. Kris also has frequent podcasts about a wide variety of topics. Her format is almost always that of an interview with someone else. One excellent series she has is about the Compendium of Catholic Social Teaching with Omar Guitierrez.

**Word on Fire Sermon Podcast**      <http://wordonfire.org/>      Bishop Robert Barron is a favorite New Media personality. He consistently provides some of the most thoughtful and intelligent commentary you will find. He records a homily each week to go with the Sunday readings. You may also know that his web site has a blog and links to his video commentaries on You Tube. Listening to his homily on Saturday afternoon or Sunday morning is a great way to get ready for Mass.

**Understanding the Scriptures** <http://catholicboard.com/> This series of 30 episodes is a complete Catholic bible study on audio. Based on the Scott Hahn textbook of the same name, this is a recording of a bible study Carson Weber taught at a Texas parish in 2009. If you're interested in a do it yourself bible study this is a good one.

**Catholic Stuff You Should Know Podcast** <http://catholicstuffpodcast.com/wordpress/> A new podcast every Thursday from one of a group of Catholic priests. Lots of variety in topics.

**The Word on Fire Show Podcast** <http://wordonfireshow.com/> A weekly podcast that features Brandon Vogt interviewing Bishop Robert Barron about some topic of interest to Catholics.

## Web Sites

In addition to the web sites referenced for other reasons, here are a few web sites that you can trust to give you good information that is aligned with the teachings of our Church. The @sign and the characters that immediately follow it is the Twitter name of the organization in the event you want to follow that organization on Twitter.

**US Conference of Catholic Bishops**     <http://usccb.org/>     @USCCB

The official site of the Catholic church in the United States.

**Diocese of Springfield in Illinois**     <http://dio.org/>     @diospringfield

The web site of our diocese. Also the online home of Catholic Times.

**The Vatican**     <http://w2.vatican.va/content/vatican/en.html>     @Pontifex

The online home of the Vatican. The best source of official documents issued by the Pope as well as an archive of those documents issued by previous Popes.

**Our Sunday Visitor**     <http://www.osv.com/>     @OSV

An excellent source for information about our faith. Great articles, books for purchase, etc.

**Word on Fire Ministries**     <http://wordonfire.org/>     @WordOnFire

Home of Bishop Robert Barron's New Media ministry, you will find a weekly homily, You Tube video commentaries, and articles by Bishop Barron and his team. This may be the best Catholic web site on the planet.

**National Catholic Register**     <http://www.ncregister.com/>     @NCRegister

An excellent source for news and blogs from respected writers, NCR, now a part of EWTN.

**Catholic News Service**     <http://catholicnews.com/>     @CatholicNewsSvc

Catholic News Service is a professional news organization that focuses on Catholic news. Their material is top quality, particularly their videos.

**Crux**     <http://www.cruxnow.com/>     @Crux

Crux is dedicated to news about the Church for Catholics. John Allen, Jr. heads up the first rate staff at Crux.

**Ascension Presents**     <http://ascensionpresents.com/>     No Twitter

Ascension Presents is the online face of Ascension Press. Lots of good videos. Fr. Mike Schmitz is part of the Ascension Presents team, as is Jeff Cavins commentary on the Sunday readings.

**Loyola Press**     <https://www.loyolapress.com/>     @loyolapress

Loyola Press is an excellent site, particularly for Catholic information for families.

**St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology**     <http://www.salvationhistory.com/>     No Twitter

Scott Hahn and co. are passionate about teaching Catholics about the bible and they put their money where their mouth is. There are many free educational resources and blogs from one of the most trusted names in Catholic bible study, including a commentary on the Sunday readings.

**The Sacred Page**     <http://www.thesacredpage.com/>     No Twitter

This site is dedicated to helping people understand the Bible. It is operated by three Catholic biblical scholars. They post commentary on each week's Sunday readings about the Wednesday prior.

**Vatican Radio**     <http://en.radiovaticana.va/>     @news\_va\_en

Vatican Radio is the best and most reliable source for news about happenings at the Vatican. They have news in text, audio, and video. Vatican Weekend, a 30 minute radio show online, published on Saturday and Sunday, is excellent. The Sunday show features a segment called "There's more to the Sunday Gospel than meets the eye". It's worth listening to just to hear Sean-Patrick Lovett read the Gospel.

**Salt and Light Media**     <http://www.saltandlighttv.org/>     @saltandlighttv

Canada's version of EWTN, SLTV has a lot of recorded segments you can view. Fr. Thomas Rosica's WITNESS interview is a highlight.

**EWTN**     <http://www.ewtn.com/>     @EWTN

Of course, EWTN is a staple of media for U.S. Catholics but their web site is an excellent resource as well.