The Bible Page

What's this? We at SEAS involved in Bible study know the importance of studying Scripture to improve our Catholic faith and spirituality. We have three ongoing studies and six different groups that meet. Call the parish office for more information. Also, March 8-10 is our Parish Mission and we strongly encourage your participation. Yet we understand that, except for Sunday Mass, not all in the parish are able to commit large amounts of extra time to going to discussion groups or meetings. We think there may be many of you that might be interested in improving your understanding of the Bible if you could **read Scripture at home and have some guidance** as to how to start, how to interpret, and how to help your spiritual life in many ways.

So we are starting this *Bible Page*. It's an attempt to promote home Bible reading by encouraging you to read one or two chapters a week in the Bible on a more consistent basis and then get some guidance from this page on what was important in those chapters and how you can get your faith life jump started by this reading. We also want to give you an opportunity to ask questions of us when there is a need.

We want to avoid extra printing costs so you will not see the *Bible Page* in the Bulletin after next week. **If you wish to start receiving this by either email or by picking up a copy in the SEAS library please fill out the form below and drop it off or send it in to the parish office.** We need to know how many copies to make. We'll take care of the rest. It's as simple as that! For a **Lenten program** we are going to cover the four Passion and Resurrection narratives in the four Gospels. **We will start with Mark, chapters 14-15, on the Passion of Jesus. Read these chapters for next week.** This week let's just touch a little on the importance of reading Scripture.

You might ask: why should Catholics read the Bible? Perhaps one of your teachers way back even said you shouldn't read it because you won't know how to interpret it. Years ago we didn't have the readily available helps that we now have and reading on one's own was more challenging. Nowadays there are all kinds of excellent Catholic commentaries available to us that improve our knowledge of the sense of a Scripture passage. We'll try to summarize these for you each week.

St. Paul says that "all scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for refutation, for correction, and for training in righteousness" (2 Timothy 3:16-17). St. Jerome, who translated the Bible into Latin in A.D. 400, said that "Ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ." Encyclicals by many Popes through the years have emphasized its importance. The Second Vatican Council's document on *Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation* (1965) is quoted in the present *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (no. 131) when it says "access to Sacred Scripture ought to be open wide to the Christian faithful." The key is to get help and proper guidance. So we are doing this page each week. Sign up today to get it!

On a personal note, I look forward to trying to aid you in learning more about the Bible. I have been a part of Bible studies for 20 years, and a group leader for 8 years. I completed a four-year course at the Diocesan School of Biblical Studies in La Crosse and am facilitating two Bible studies at SEAS. If you have questions I'll get the answers from somewhere or someone. I hope to guide you into a better appreciation for the Scriptures and a richer fulfillment of them in your life.

Phil Chenier

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Yes, sign me up to receive the *Bible Page* by (please print, return to parish office):

Email: Name ______________________________________
Email Address________________________________
(or send an email with this information to info@seasparish.org)

SEAS library pickup: Name______________________________________