

## Daily Bible Reading

Catholics have always been encouraged to read the Bible, *with the proper guidance*. Since the Second Vatican Council many good Catholic commentaries on Sacred Scripture are available. Some of these references I have already given to you in a previous *Bible Page* (“Bibles and References”). Each week I am taking many good interpretive comments from them. As we have done in *Acts of the Apostles* it is very instructive to go through a book of the Bible in its entirety as it was handed down to us by the Church.

Another good way of studying the Bible is to get in the habit of engaging short daily readings of Scripture combined with a brief commentary of the readings, followed by a few minutes of private meditation and how they apply to us in our everyday lives. The Church, again especially since Vatican II, has expanded the amount of Scripture available to us through the Sunday and daily Mass readings. Some of you may not be familiar with how they are arranged, so here is a brief summary.

The Sunday Mass readings have a three-year cycle (Year A, B, and C). There is a First Reading usually from the Old Testament, a Second Reading from a book other than a Gospel in the New Testament, and then the Gospel. In “Ordinary Time” most Sunday Gospels are from Matthew (Year A), Mark (B), or Luke (C). During the special seasons of Advent-Christmas and Lent-Easter the Gospel of John is featured more, though special readings pertinent to the season from Mt, Mk, and Lk are included. The Old Testament and New Testament readings are cycled over a three-year period covering the most important parts of the Bible. This three-year cycle works so well that many mainline Protestant denominations have adopted these same readings for their Sunday worship gatherings.

Added to that are the weekday Mass readings. There are generally two parts, the Reading and the Gospel. On special feast days or solemnities, there may be two readings before the Gospel. The Reading cycles in Ordinary Time over a two-year period (Years 1 and 2). The weekday Gospel readings are the same each year but cover nearly all parts of the four Gospels each year. So there you have it. All important parts of the Bible can be read over a three-year period by using the Mass readings of the day!

But can I do this on my own and not get too confused? Fortunately there are many helpful study aids that give us that *proper guidance* so necessary for Catholic Bible study. Given below is information on three of them. Some of you may be familiar with one or more of these already. I would encourage you to look at their web sites or call for more information or to obtain a sample copy. The references for the daily readings are also available in *The Catholic Spirit* (and other diocesan newspapers). In addition, the daily readings themselves can be read at the National Conference of Catholic Bishops web site at [www.nccbuscc.org/nab/](http://www.nccbuscc.org/nab/). Our SEAS parish home page at [www.seasparish.org](http://www.seasparish.org) also has excellent links to the daily readings and a link to *One Bread, One Body* so you can read its free commentary (go to the bottom right of the SEAS home page under Daily Bread). A web site at [www.scborromeo.org/bible.htm](http://www.scborromeo.org/bible.htm) has the Sunday readings and an excellent commentary on each. I do strongly encourage you to subscribe to one of these paper editions of commentaries and use them for your daily Bible meditations. Keep it right with your Bible so it's handy when you have 15 minutes to spare.

Next week we will introduce the four Gospels to you and how they are related, in preparation for our up-coming study of the Gospel of Luke.

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[www.wau.org](http://www.wau.org)

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References to the daily readings and a one-page meditation on one of them.

*One Bread, One Body*

513-662-JESU

[www.presentationministries.com](http://www.presentationministries.com)

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3230 McHenry Ave.  
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Cost: a donation

References to the daily readings and a short meditation. These are also online at the web site.

*Magnificat*

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