



Read the Bible in a Year

The Center for Biblical Studies has designed a one year reading schedule to help those who commit as individuals or as members of a church, a church school or a diocese to read successfully through the entire Bible in a year's time. The CBS intentionally focuses on reading the entire Bible, reading the books of the Bible in sequence and ensuring that a psalm and a portion of the New Testament are read each day in order to provide strong spiritual daily content to sustain readers working through the entire Bible.

You can start this schedule on January 1 or any day of the year that you like. This schedule works ideally if you begin on a Monday because we encourage readers to read portions of the Bible Monday through Saturday and assume that on Sunday they will be in church hearing the Scriptures read aloud. The Bible is best understood in the context of a faith community and by persons who are committed to following the teachings of Jesus and obeying the Word of God in their daily life. Merely hearing the Scriptures read aloud on Sunday, however, is not enough to know and to experience the living, life-transforming Word of God.

We encourage you always to put yourself in the presence of God before you begin reading the Scriptures. Read with a desire to understand and follow the teachings of Scripture so that your life might be transformed by the Holy Spirit working within you as the Word of God is revealed to your heart, mind and soul. We wish you every blessing in your faithful daily Bible reading.

We offer this prayer written by Archbishop Thomas Cranmer in 1549 *The Book of Common Prayer* as you begin your spiritual journey and The Bible Challenge.

For more information: <http://thecenterforbiblicalstudies.org/read-the-bible-in-a-year/>

Father Mitch's Notes...



Peace and Grace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and Jesus Christ our Lord!

Note: "Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen"
pg. 236 BCP 1979

The Bible is an amazing library. In it we find stories, histories, music, poetry, prophecy, gospels, and letters. We believe that the Bible was written by human hands through the inspiration of God himself. That is why the Bible is sometimes referred to as the Word of God, or just simply the Word. We believe it is the way God reveals himself to us. We believe it contains all things necessary for salvation.

The Bible consists of 66 "books" with 39 being a part of the Old Testament and 27 being part of the New Testament. These are the books that are considered "canon" or traditionally marked by the church as being sufficient for salvation. The final canon was set in the 4th century A.D. There are many translations of the Bible so that is why different translations use different words. Some translations use contemporary language and others, like the King James version, have a more traditional language. It was not always this way. People used to be put to death for translating the Bible from its original languages.

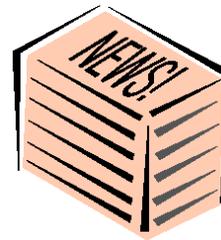
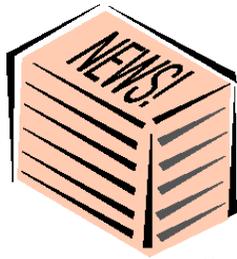
In light of that we must consider ourselves fortunate to be here today, in a country where we have unfettered access to the Bible. And not only that, we are fortunate to be in a tradition that questions what people have to say about what they say the Bible says. We do depend upon traditional interpretations, yet we still find the Bible speaking to us as a community and to us on an individual basis. There is no closed book on truth. Thus we read in the question and answer format of our Catechism in the BCP, page 853:

Q. HOW DO WE UNDERSTAND THE MEANING OF THE BIBLE?

A. WE UNDERSTAND THE MEANING OF THE BIBLE BY THE HELP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, WHO GUIDES THE CHURCH IN THE TRUE INTERPRETATION OF THE SCRIPTURES.

Yet to even begin to understand the Bible we must read it. So GRAB YOUR BIBLES be guided by the Holy Spirit and join me in reading through it in a year. I will post a schedule outside my office. Let's encourage and support each other in reading. I have a sign-up sheet outside my office to affirm your commitment. Then when we gather we can talk about where we are in our reading and if it is having any impact on our lives as Christians. For more information, read the article "Read the Bible in a Year" in this journal.

Peace,
Mitch+



Other News Since the Last Journal:

- Handbell Choir is awesome! (Practice Tuesdays at 5:50pm.)
- Brown Bag Study going strong, Wednesdays at noon.
- Lenten Healing Services and lunches!
- Choir Practice on Wednesdays starting at 7:10pm.
- Lenten Program on Wednesday nights, ROCKED!
- Fr. Bob DeWolfe classes first and third Thursdays at 10:30am to noon.
- Serendipity at the Gagliano's, yum.
- Safeguarding God's Children training.
- Anglican Rosary.
- Men's Breakfast.
- Church Under a Bridge prep and delivery.
- Spring Cleaning.
- Spring Planting.
- Kitchen Cleaning.
- Plus much, much more!

Thanks go out to the many volunteers and donors that make these things happen!



Spiritual Gifts Workshop Saturday, April 9th 9am – noon Free Breakfast starting at 8:30am Bring your Bible

A special divine empowerment is bestowed on each believer by the Holy Spirit to accomplish a given ministry. Do you know what your gifts are? Do you know how your gift can best be used at St. Francis to further God's work? Join us to find those ministries where you will feel most fulfilled and most effective.

Discovery

St. Francis Adult Sunday School Formation: Discovery Series

Beginning Sunday February 14 we are going to start a new formation series geared to:

- Exploring Episcopal Worship (Three Classes offered in July)
- Understanding the basics of Christianity (Four Classes offered March - April)
- Becoming Spiritually Mature (Four Classes offered April - May)
- Identifying our Spiritual Gifts (Two Classes offered May)
- How to reach out to others with God's Good News (Three Classes offered May - June)

Due to the length of the courses, 2 – 5 Sunday School Classes each, the entire course will be offered twice before the Bishop's Visit on November 20. This is so that those willing to be Baptized, Confirmed, or Received into the Episcopal Church by the Bishop will have time to take the class. Those seeking Confirmation are those Baptized individuals that are Episcopalian and have not yet been Confirmed or Received already. Being Received is for those baptized in other faith Traditions in the name of the Holy Trinity that desire to be a part of the Episcopal Church. Baptism is for those that have not been baptized before.

Please sign up so that we know how many booklets to make.

I am looking forward to this course and the conversations to be had about God and our faith. Remember this course is not only for those desiring Baptism, Confirmation, and Reception, but also for those that desire to be refreshed, formed, and informed in their journeys as Christians.

Peace,
Fr. Mitch+

(For list of classes, see next page.)

April Birthdays

4/1	Evelyn Gray	4/29	Steve Davis
4/2	Carole Lee	4/29	Marley Johnson
4/12	Maggi Becknell	4/30	Camille Tollett
4/13	Phil Renaker		
4/17	Lacey Brady		
4/17	Selena Cruz		
4/24	Bitsy Wright		
4/26	Max Cabell		
4/28	Jane Johnson		



April Anniversaries

4/13	Keith and Diane Estep
4/17	Tim and Carol Lanthrum
4/22	Jon and Lee Ashwood Stone

Sunday School for Formation	Session 1	Session 2
Episcopal Worship FOCUS: history, traditions and unique practices of the Episcopal Church. Participants will explore who ministers are, the Sacraments, rites and ceremonies of the Church, The Book of Common Prayer and Episcopal Church governance. Participants will also experience an Instructed Eucharist.		
1. The Roots of Ministry	14 Feb	03-Jul
2. Episcopal Worship	21 Feb	10-Jul
3. An Instructed Eucharist	28 Feb	24-Jul
Course One: A Journey of Faith FOCUS: understanding the basics of Christianity - not only what we believe, but why we believe and how we enter the community of faith through Baptism.		
1. Your Spiritual Journey	06 Mar	31-Jul
2. The Great Commandment and The Great Commission	13 Mar	07-Aug
3. What We Believe	20-Mar	14-Aug
4. The Baptismal Covenant	03-Apr	21-Aug
Course Two: A Path to Spiritual Maturity FOCUS: rule of life and explaining how our faith is a living, growing part of us that changes through our experiences.		
1. Spiritual Maturity	10-Apr	28-Aug
2. Prayer	24-Apr	04-Sep
3. Bible Study	01-May	11-Sep
4. Action	08-May	18-Sep
Course Three: Our Spiritual Gifts FOCUS: gaining perspective for how God wants us to live our lives - looking at our God-given talents, our personality and our experiences. How to use our gifts for ministry.		
1. What Does God Want From Me?	15-May	25-Sep
2. Getting in SHAPE for Ministry	22-May	09-Oct
Course Four: The Great Commission FOCUS: learning how we reach others with God's good news. Participants will experience a variety of exercises designed to help recognize, approach and communicate with those seeking a closer relationship with God.		
1. What is Mission?	29-May	16-Oct
2. Spreading the Good News	05-Jun	23-Oct
3. My Life's Mission	12-Jun	30-Oct
Make up	19-Jun	06-Nov
Make up	26-Jun	13-Nov
Bishop's Visit		20-Nov

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