

Catholic Biblical School of Michigan Books 2017-18

Year C: A Future and a Hope



Bible:

We highly recommend a study bible to aid your studies of the Prophets. You will need a Catholic Edition bible or a bible with the Apocrypha in order to have all the books of the Old Testament. We strongly recommend a Bible that specifies that is Catholic for the sake of being easier to use.

There are a variety of translations of the Bible available that our students use:

RSV (Revised Standard Version) is the most common translation for the Biblical School as it is closest to the original Hebrew texts of the Old Testament. This is the translation favored by most Catholic Scripture scholars.

NRSV (New Revised Standard Version) is similar to the RSV but revised so that it is easier to understand.

NABRE (New American Bible, Revised Edition) is the translation closest to what we hear proclaimed at Mass. This Revised Edition translation has updated the NAB Old Testament to be closer to the original Hebrew text. The downside to this translation, however, is that in several books it uses different verse numbers than are found in the RSV/NRSV and most scholarly works on Scripture. This can be a challenge in class.

These are three options of Bibles that are available through CBSM:

Ignatius Bible (RSV), 2nd Ed., without study notes, hardcover. ISBN 9780898708332.

Published by Ignatius Press, this bible provides the RSV translation but does not include study materials.

The Didache Bible, hardcover. ISBN 9781586179731. \$40

This RSV Study Bible is a favorite of catechists for the in-depth references to the Catechism and articles on the Catholic faith as it is found in Scripture. What it lacks, however, are good notes on history, cultural background, and the text itself. Thus, some students have found it to be a useful resource for understanding the faith, but not as beneficial for understanding Scripture itself.

NABRE Study Bible: The Catholic Study Bible, 3rd Ed, hardcover. ISBN 9780199362776.

This is the most recent (2016) edition of the popular Catholic Study Bible by Oxford University Press. This bible is known for its extensive study materials, many of which have been updated for the Old Testament portions of this edition. We recommend this edition over any previous editions since it includes the revised translation, but it does have the challenge of using different verse numbering in several books.

These are two Bible options you may wish to consider that are not sold through CBSM:

NRSV XL Catholic Edition, hardcover. ISBN 9780062061706.

If you are looking for a large print Bible, this is one used by our students. It does not have study notes, however, so it does not provide extra resources to assist in your study.

Catholic Youth Bible, paperback, hardcover. ISBN 9780884897873 (paper), 9780884897880 (hardcover)

Using the easy to read NRSV translation, this Bible does not have extensive verse-by-verse study notes, but it does include articles on Catholic teaching found in Scripture and study notes regarding current issues and Biblical scholarship. This is geared toward a youth, rather than an adult, audience.

Required Books:

Summer Reading: ***Knowing God the Father Through the Old Testament*** by Christopher J. H. Wright. ISBN 9780830825929.

As we return to reading the Old Testament, we need to remember the Old Testament's way of thinking about God. This book engages that view with chapters that review Jewish history, provide insights into the character of God, and explore our covenantal relationship with Him. While only some chapters directly reference the prophets, this book will prepare us to delve into deeper lessons on God the Father as presented by the prophets. Wright is not Catholic, but he is a highly respected Scripture scholar, and this work easily combines his academic knowledge with a spiritual approach that we can embrace in our own lives. You will want to read chapters 1, 3, 4 and 5 over the summer.

Introduction to the Prophets: Their Stories, Sayings, and Scrolls by Thomas L. Leclerc. ISBN 9780809144921.

A favorite introductory text for Catholic students of the prophets! Leclerc follows the Catholic method of studying the Old Testament: First from the Jewish context of the immediate audience, and second, from its later importance for Christianity, including in the Catholic Lectionary. Leclerc reminds of us key people and events studied in Year A, and he organizes his interpretative material around key themes. This book is an excellent companion to the lectures and discussion questions that together provide a well-rounded understanding of each prophet.

Optional Books:

Our reading assignments in the prophets are often 15 chapters/week. Keep your own schedule and interests in mind as you discern whether to purchase optional books.

Be Comforted: Feeling Secure in the Arms of God (on Isaiah) by Warren W. Wiersbe. ISBN 9781434766151.

This 175-page book works through Isaiah, covering 2-3 of Isaiah's chapters in each of the book's chapters. Wiersbe does not invest much space on the Jewish context, but he does provide overviews of key themes and outlines for the text. Each of his chapters ends with a series of questions for further reflection. Although the author is Protestant, we like this work because Wiersbe bring Isaiah to life, especially in how it relates to us today. (Note: We read Isaiah over the course of five weeks.)

Run with the Horses: The Quest for Life at Its Best (on Jeremiah) by Eugene H Peterson. ISBN 9780830837069.

Jeremiah prompts us to reflect on how God works, and each chapter of this book focuses on one theme found in the prophet. Peterson looks at what it meant for Jeremiah and his times as well as what it means for us today in very practical ways. His writing style is meditative rather than outline based, which can be challenging to some readers. Most chapters are about twelve pages long, and the whole book about 200 pages. (Note: We read Jeremiah over the course of three weeks.)

Be Reverent: Bowing before our Awesome God (on Ezekiel) by Warren W. Wiersbe. ISBN 9781434700506.

Another book in Weirsbe's popular "Be" series, this companion to the Isaiah book above is very similar in how Weirsbe organizes the prophecies and visions of Ezekiel into manageable chunks of reading. He helps us see the overall message of God through the images and symbolism presented via the prophet. The easy reading style of Weirsbe prompts us to recommend this book even though we read Ezekiel in just three weeks. The book is 250 pages long.

Catholic Biblical School of Michigan 2017-18 Book Order Form Year C



**You are not required to order books from CBSM.
Any profits from orders placed with CBSM go to our scholarship fund.**

Required Titles	Author	Price	Qty	Extended \$
Knowing God the Father	Wright	\$18		
Introduction to the Prophets	Leclerc	\$30		

Optional Titles	Author	Price	Qty	
Be Comforted	Wiersbe	\$15		
Run with the Horses	Peterson	\$17		
Be Reverent	Wiersbe	\$15		
Ignatius Bible (no study guide)	Ignatius	\$32		
The Didache Bible	Ignatius	\$40		
NABRE Study Bible (Catholic Study Bible)	Oxford	\$50		

Book orders with payment are due at the CBSM offices no later than Friday, May 12th. Total _____
Books will be drop shipped to your home to arrive by the end of May.

Return this section with payment:

Name: _____ Total Amount Due \$ _____

My address has changed since Fall 2016: N Y (If Yes, be sure to include new address with order.)

Class (circle): Lansing Lapeer Livonia Temperance

Quantity of each book:

Knowing God the Father Through the Old Testament _____	Be Reverent _____
Introduction to the Prophets _____	Ignatius Bible (no study guide) _____
Be Comforted _____	The Didache Bible _____
Run with the Horses _____	NABRE Study Bible _____

Payment (due in full w/order – circle): Cash Check (made out to CBSM) Credit Card

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