

Catholic Biblical School of Michigan Books 2017-18

Year A: From Eden to Exile



Following the tradition of Catholic Scripture scholarship, CBSM utilizes material from a variety of sources for our curriculum. We use Catholic authors when we can. When we use books authored by our Protestant brethren, we always ensure that their teaching does not contradict Catholic theology, and if we find a place of potential confusion, we address it in class.

Bibles:

You will need a bible, and we highly recommend a study bible to aid your Old Testament studies. 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 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.

This Study Bible uses the RSV translation and 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 this bible 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 understand 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 understand 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 for Year A:

The Bible Compass: A Catholic's Guide to Navigating the Scriptures by Edward Sri. ISBN 9781934217788.
Our summer reading book for year A lives up to its title: a compass gives you direction to find your way, and this book gives students of the Bible what they need to find their way. Written by the very popular Catholic author and speaker Dr. Edward Sri, this book provides simple explanations of what the Bible is, how it came together, the tools you need to start to interpret it, and much more. It's relatively short, easy to read, and will make you ready and eager to dive into God's word! 174 pages.

Holman QuickSource Bible Atlas by Holman Bible Editorial Staff. ISBN 9780805495645.

If the summer book is your compass, then this book is your essential map. As you will see, understanding WHERE a Biblical story or passage takes place is crucial to understanding what the author is trying to tell us. The Atlas includes maps; colorful illustrations of important buildings, people and places; helpful charts and graphs; and even historical and cultural background. This is a handy reference book you keep next to you while you read, not one you have to read cover to cover. We will use this book all four years. 400 pages.

Exploring the Old Testament, Vol 1: A Guide to the Pentateuch by Gordon Wenham. ISBN 9780830825417.

When you travel to a new place, it is helpful to have a handbook that tells you about the language, the customs, and the "story behind the story." For new students, reading the first five books of the Bible (the Pentateuch) is like visiting a new place. Wenham provides the basics you need to understand the text and the characters. Like a travel handbook, it can "feel" more informational than inspirational, but the information it conveys will help you to discover this new place and time from a scholarly perspective. 223 pages.

The Bible Timeline Chart by Jeff Cavins. ISBN 9781934217818.

This colorful chart shows how the various books and characters of the Bible make up one continuous story of Salvation History. Created by popular Catholic author Jeff Cavins for his *Great Adventure* series, this chart points out where Biblical events fit into God's grand plan of salvation history. This is helpful in all four years of CBSM. Pamphlet.

Optional books for Year A:

We like to suggest optional books for those students who have the time for and interest in doing more reading. Please consider your own schedule and interest in doing extra reading when discerning whether or not to order them. The Bible is our primary textbook, and reading the required books takes priority over the optional books.

Walking with God: A Journey through the Bible by Jeff Cavins and Tim Gray. ISBN 9781934217894.

Jeff Cavins and Tim Gray, two leading American Catholic teachers on Scripture, have written an inspirational and informational book that treats the Bible as a single story, showing how the various books work together. The authors make it easy to understand the background behind important events and figures, provide keys to reading the text, and explore deeper meanings through a Catholic lens. While this does include chapters on the New Testament, about 80% applies to our Year A studies. 298 pages.

Ignatius Catholic Study Bible: Book of Genesis by Scott Hahn and Curtis Mitch. ISBN 9781586174330. Scott Hahn and Curtis Mitch are two popular Catholic authors and teachers of Scripture, and having this book is like having these two scholars with you while you read Genesis. The book includes the RSV translation of Genesis, an introduction to Genesis, notes and commentary from the authors and the Fathers of the Church, catechism references, essays on important themes, and more! 93 pages.

Ignatius Catholic Study Bible: Book of Exodus by Scott Hahn and Curtis Mitch. ISBN 9781586176150. This book is from the same series and has the same features as *ICSB: Genesis* above. 82 pages.

Genesis: The Story We Haven't Heard by Paul Borgman. ISBN 9780830826551. This is a great book for students who are familiar with Genesis but want to take their understanding to the next level. It is also very easy and interesting to read as the author digs into the characters and their psychology. Paul Borgman is a literature professor, so he first helps you see the beauty of the text as a great piece of literature. Then he shows you the deeper reality of what the Lord is saying in His Word. Borgman is not a Catholic, but he provides a good, engaging context for Christians to study Genesis. 252 pages.

Bound for Freedom: The Book of Exodus in Jewish and Christian Traditions by Goran Larsson. ISBN 9780801046841. This book is for the person who wants to dive deeper into more serious scholarship on Exodus. Larsson is a Lutheran author whom scholars from many denominations consult for his expertise on Jewish tradition. In this book, he gives readers a deeper understanding of the stories of Exodus along with some history about how Jewish and Christian communities have reacted to and understood this most important piece of Scripture. This is more informational than inspirational in nature. 368 pages.

Handbook on the Historical Books by Victor P. Hamilton. ISBN 9780801036149. This is a book our faculty members enjoy for its wealth of research and its application of the historical books to our lives today. Due to the length of some chapters, you may not be able to read everything Hamilton has to say for each class. Yet, this book is a solid reference work to have for future study, and it will help you find deeper meaning in some of the most challenging books of the Old Testament. 550 pages.

A History of Israel, 4th Ed by John Bright. ISBN 9780664220686. This history of Israel is written from a perspective of faith, but not primarily as a study of the Biblical text. For over fifty years it was the most respected scholarly treatment of its kind. It is addressed to a broad audience, but perhaps most specifically to an undergraduate theological student. Students will find it enlightening and even fascinating as a complement to the study of Scripture itself. 574 pages.

Catechism of the Catholic Church

The Catechism is the one stop reference shop on what the Church believes. This compilation of Church teaching is centered around four pillars of our faith: the Creed, the Sacraments, Moral Life, and Prayer. Because we are studying Scripture as Catholics, we will often reference the Catechism in class. If you do not yet own a copy of the Catechism, this is an opportunity to add one to your collection of Catholic resources. Multiple versions exist, and we sell the pocket-sized paperback, ISBN 9780385479677.

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

Required Titles	Author	Price	Qty	Extended \$
The Bible Compass	Sri	\$13		
Holman Quicksourc Atlas	Holman	\$15		
Exploring the OT Vol 1: Pentateuch	Wenham	\$30		
Bible Timeline Chart	Cavins	\$5		
Total		\$63		

Optional Titles	Author	Price	Qty	
Ignatius Bible (no study guide)	Ignatius	\$32		
The Didache Bible	Ignatius	\$40		
NABRE Study Bible (Catholic Study Bible)	Oxford	\$50		
Walking with God	Cavins & Gray	\$25		
Genesis	Hahn & Mitch	\$12		
Exodus	Hahn & Mitch	\$12		
Genesis: The Story We Haven't Heard	Borgman	\$22		
Bound for Freedom (Exodus)	Larsson	\$34		
Handbook on the Historical Books	Hamilton	\$38		
A History of Israel	Bright	\$42		
Catechism of the Catholic Church	USCCB	\$10		

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