

Catholic Biblical School of Michigan Books 2017-18

Year D: Wisdom and the Word



Required books for Year D:

Bible: You will need a Catholic Bible or a Bible including the Apocrypha for studying the Psalms and Wisdom Literature. If you want a different option than what you used in Year C, see the information on the last page of this order form.

Ignatius Catholic Study Bible New Testament (from Yr B). This will be used the second half of the year.

Summer reading: Choose one of the following three books on the Psalms. Each provides a meditative approach to thinking about the Psalms, their structure, and their theology.

Reflections on the Psalms by C. S. Lewis. ISBN 9780156762489.

While not Catholic, Lewis is known for being a great defender of the Christian faith and is a favorite of many CBSM students. His mid-20th century British English is challenging for some people, but if you like Lewis or have always wanted to read him, this is a great opportunity to do so as he ruminates on his experiences praying and studying the Psalms. 150 pages.

- OR -

Answering God: The Psalms As Tools For Prayer by Eugene Peterson. ISBN 9780060665128.

If you enjoyed *Run with the Horses* by Peterson in Year C, you will enjoy this book as well. His writing style does not follow a clear outline, which some people find challenging to read. Yet, he packs meaning into his meditations. He is a Presbyterian pastor and Scripture scholar who has a gift for making the text real for our lives today. 140 pages.

- OR -

Becoming the Psalms: A Spirituality of Singing and Praying the Psalms by Kathleen Harmon. ISBN 9780814648599.

Dr. Harmon is known for her academic studies and publications on Catholic liturgy and music in Catholic worship. In this book, she shares her insights to the role of the Psalms in Biblical times and for us today. Her writing style reflects her extensive professional background in liturgical theology, yet she includes a strong personal application for those of us who sing the Psalms at Mass. 93 pages.

Choose one of the following two options for the Gospel of John, which we read in six weeks:

The Gospel of John by Francis Martin and William M. Wright IV in the *Catholic Commentary on Sacred Scripture* series. ISBN 9780801036477.

This duo of authors provides us with a book that is concise yet filled with helpful information for reading John from a Catholic perspective. Typical of the other books in this series, this one has extensive CCC references, looks at each verse, and includes application and reflection at the end of most sections. It includes the NAB translation of John. 368 pages.

- OR -

John by Rodney A. Whitacre, in the *IVP New Testament Commentary Series*. ISBN 9780830840045.

This is a 500-page in-depth study of John's Gospel. While Whitacre is not Catholic, he does not dismiss the Catholic interpretation of John as some Protestant scholars do. We like this book because Whitacre focuses on cultural background and key words, breaks the text down into manageable chunks, and writes in an engaging style. Through this work, he helps us to dive into the world of the Gospel and to apply the Gospel to our lives today.

Choose one of the following two options for the Book of Revelation, which we read in five weeks.

Breaking the Code by Bruce M. Metzger. ISBN 9780687492008.

Metzger offers an engaging overview of Revelation. He does not address every verse, but he hits the key points and themes of each major section of the book. CBSM students have found this book to be a great guide for working through Revelation without getting lost in details. 110 pages.

- OR -

Revelation by Peter Williamson in the *Catholic Commentary on Sacred Scripture* series. ISBN 9780801036507.

Similar to the other books in this series, this one works through the entire text of Revelation by looking at what it says, what it meant at the time it was written in terms of cultural background and language, and what it means for us today. Rather than taking one view of how to interpret Revelation, Williamson integrates the various methods of interpretation while keeping with Catholic teaching. For those who want a more in-depth study of Revelation, this will be a great resource at just under 400 pages.

Optional books for Year D:

Many of our reading assignments in the Old Testament are lengthy (10-20 chapters/week), so consider your own schedule and interests as you discern whether to purchase optional books.

The Gift of the Psalms by Roland E. Murphy. ISBN 9781565634749

Carmelite priest Fr. Murphy brings us an introduction to the Psalms that reveals his interest in studying the text. In the first half of this book, he begins by reminding us of the impact of translations, looks at key interpretive concerns, and then moves into major theological themes of the Psalter. In the second half, he provides a useful half-page commentary for each of the Psalms. (Note: we read the psalms in four weeks.)

Three Philosophies of Life by Peter Kreeft. ISBN 9780898702620.

Kreeft is a popular Catholic apologist and philosophy professor. In this book he analyses the messages of Ecclesiastes, Job, and Song of Songs. This is not a reflection or interpretation so much as a philosophical study of the books and their authors. This is a short 140 pages, but some of the points Kreeft makes take time to think through. Students who stick with the reading tend to appreciate the insights shared within. (Note: We read Ecclesiastes, Job, and Song of Songs in four weeks.)

The Tree of Life: An Exploration of Biblical Wisdom Literature, 2nd Edition, by Roland E. Murphy. ISBN 9780802839657.

Fr. Murphy takes us on a tour of Wisdom Literature excluding Song of Songs. This is an introductory level text book, so it focuses more on language and theology than on application. At the same time, Fr. Murphy's love for the material shines through his writing. The 2nd edition includes 2 supplements that add further insights from scholarship and his own teaching for each of the previous chapters. 300 pages.

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



**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 \$
<i>Choose one of the following:</i>				
Reflections on the Psalms	Lewis	\$14		
Answering God	Peterson	\$14		
Becoming the Psalms	Harmon	\$13		
<i>Choose one of the following:</i>				
Gospel of John	Martin	\$23		
John	Whitacre	\$25		
<i>Choose one of the following:</i>				
Breaking the Code	Metzger	\$12		
Book of Revelation	Williamson	\$23		

Optional Titles	Author	Price	Qty	
The Gift of the Psalms	Murphy	\$18		
Three Philosophies of Life	Kreeft	\$12		
The Tree of Life	Murphy	\$30		

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 \$ _____

Class (circle): Canton Jackson Memphis – AM Memphis-PM Troy

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

Quantity each book:

Reflections on the Psalms _____	Gospel of John (Martin) _____	Gift of the Psalms _____
Answering God _____	John (Whitacre) _____	Three Philosophies of Life _____
Becoming the Psalms _____	Breaking the Code _____	The Tree of Life _____
	Book of Revelation _____	

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

Name on Card: _____ Exp Date: _____

Account Number _____ Security Code: _____

Signature: _____

Mail to: CBSM-Fred Morath, 6466 Evangeline, Dearborn Heights MI 48127.

Bibles:

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.

Some students find it helpful to use non-academic translations such as the Jerusalem Bible or the Good News Bible for a few of the more complicated books (e.g. Job, Ecclesiastes).

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 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 so 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 some other Bible options you may wish to consider which 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 and hardcover. ISBN 9780884897873 (paperback)
ISBN 978-0-88489-788-0 (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.