

*Heavenly Father,*

*You are the first and primary author of scripture. Send your Holy Spirit upon me to receive what you have revealed through your Word. May my mind, heart and soul be open to encounter, renewal and transformation. I ask these blessings through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Reading the bible is about learning to “be” with God. As you progress there will be many passages in the bible that you will find familiar and will make sense. There will also be passages that will be obscure and still others that will seem downright boring. All of scripture is the inspired word of God, with God as the primary author. Any time spent reading, studying or meditating upon the bible is time spent with God. Even the most mundane sections of the bible reveal to us something about God.

The schedule will allow you to read the whole Catholic bible. The most you will read in any given week is 16 chapters. In general, a bible chapter is about two full pages. The reading will not be onerous and can be done at your pace during the week. If your schedule allows for a few chapters a day, that is the most ideal. At the same time if you know that your week is full as will be your days, you may find it wiser to read the assigned chapters for the week in one sitting. There is no right or wrong here. Time spent with scriptures is time spent with God.

Reading the bible is not like reading normal books where you start on page one and continue through in a linear fashion to the last page. The bible is one book that is comprised of many books. Specifically in a Catholic bible there are 73 books. In reading the bible, we will complete one book at a time (with the exception of the Psalms) and jump around a bit. The first year will contain most of historical elements so as to understand the context and stories of salvation history. The Psalms will be interspersed throughout the two years.

There are two planned breaks in our schedule. Holy week and Christmas week will be considered off weeks. You can get caught up if you are behind or take time to read the scriptures that most pertain to those holiest of times in our Church year.

When you sit down to read the bible, please start with the prayer at the beginning of this introduction. Let your reading of scripture be a time of prayer and learning how to “be” with God.

May you know the strength, courage and inspiration of God to see His work in you brought to completion.