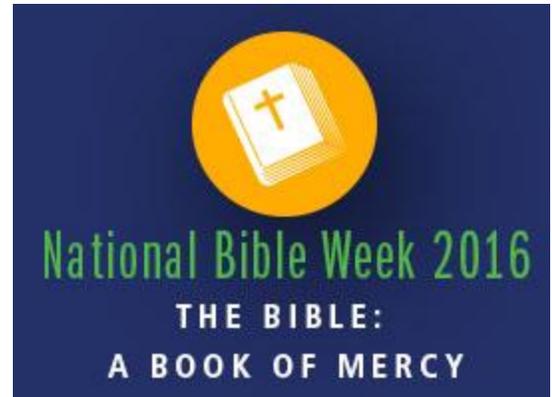


NATIONAL BIBLE WEEK 2016

From November 13–19, 2016, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops invites families, parishes, schools, and other Catholic groups to participate in National Bible Week in celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Second Vatican Council Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation, *Dei Verbum*. This year's theme, "The Bible: A Book for the Family," builds on this year's Synod of Bishops on the Family and Pope Francis's visit to Philadelphia for the World Meeting of Families.



Ideas for Celebrating National Bible Week:

1. **First, focus on yourself.** The first rule of making the Word of God a central part of the home is to first make it a priority in one's own life. Parents cannot pass on to children what is not firmly rooted in their own lives. Take a few moments each day to read God's Word.
2. **Invite your family.** Suggest reading a brief Bible verse or Bible story together each day. This can be done at the conclusion of a meal, as part of a bedtime ritual, or prior to school and work as a blessing for the day.
3. **Link parish and home.** Don't let what happens in church stay in church. Make connections between the liturgy and the home. Read the weekly Scriptures before Sunday Mass (find the daily liturgical readings, both in text and as a podcast, at www.usccb.org). Promote active listening at weekly Mass by asking children what they heard in the homily and discussing how it applies to the family.
4. **Attend special programs.** Look over your parish's offerings for a special catechetical program the family could attend. At home, designate one night as family Bible night. Together, watch a DVD on the life of Jesus (or an animated Bible story, if children are younger), look up information on Jesus and the Bible on Catholic sites on the Internet, play a Bible game, or work on a puzzle or a craft that promotes familiarity with the Bible.
5. **Practice Lectio Divina.** The ancient practice of Lectio Divina, which means "holy reading" of the Scriptures, is a method of scriptural prayer. This process involves reading biblical passages slowly and reflectively, allowing them to shape and transform our lives. This method can be prayed individually or be learned by the entire family and made part of the life of the home.
6. **Display your Bible.** Decorate the area with candles, flowers, or whatever your family wishes. A prayer ceremony for dedicating your display arrangement can be found at: <http://www.usccb.org/bible/national-bible-week/upload/enthroning.pdf> .

What is the best translation of the Bible?

Everyone (unless you know ancient Hebrew or Greek) reads the Bible in translation. The best translation for YOU is one that YOU can read and understand. That being said, some translations are more readable than others, and some translations are closer to the original text. The **New American Bible (NAB)** is the translation we use at mass & was translated under the direction of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). It is a very readable translation and uses modern American English.

The **Revised Standard Version (RSV)** was translated around the middle of the last century by a group of ecumenical scholars. It is known for being the most accurate translation but is more difficult to read than the NAB because of word choices. Look for a Catholic Edition or your Bible will be missing books.

The **New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)** is an updated version of the RSV with inclusive language and a more readable style. Again, look for a Catholic Edition.

How do I look up passages in the Bible?

Looking up scriptures can be daunting unless you know what the numbers and letters mean. Let's use Luke 10:38-42 to break the code.

In this reference, "Luke" is the name of the book within the Bible. The Bible is actually a small library containing many different books. The name in a scripture reference is always the name of the book for which you are looking.

The first number is the chapter number within the book. In this reference, you are looking for chapter 10.

The numbers after the colon refer to the verse numbers. The first number is your starting place. The last number is your ending place. Numbers separated by a hyphen mean start at the first verse listed and read through until you finish the last verse listed. (In our example, read verses 38 through 42.) If the numbers are separated by a comma, that means read just the verses listed. (If we write our example like this: Luke 10:38, 42 then we just read verse 38 and verse 42.)

If a reference is written like this: Luke 10:38-11:4, that means you will start at Luke, chapter 10, verse 38 and read through to Luke, chapter 11, verse 4.

References for this week's daily readings can be found on the first page of our bulletin.

How do I practice Lectio Divina?

Lectio divina is a form of meditation rooted in liturgical celebration that dates back to early monastic communities. The practice is resurfacing today as a wonderful way to meditate on God's Word. The Latin phrase "lectio divina" may be translated as "divine reading." As one reads and invites the Word to become a transforming lens that brings the events of daily living into focus, one can come to live more deeply and find the presence of God more readily in the events of each day. The method of lectio divina follows four steps: reading, meditation, contemplation, and prayer.

1. Read a short Scripture passage, pausing on a single word or phrase that resonates with the mind and heart.
2. Reflect upon what was read, especially words which seem to jump out at you.
3. Open your heart to experience God and discover the insights God is giving you through this Scripture passage.
4. Pray about what was read, heard, or experienced or about the questions that have arisen in the depths of your being.