

# RCIA at Saint Sylvester

- Segment 5
- Sacred Scripture – God’s Word  
Among Us





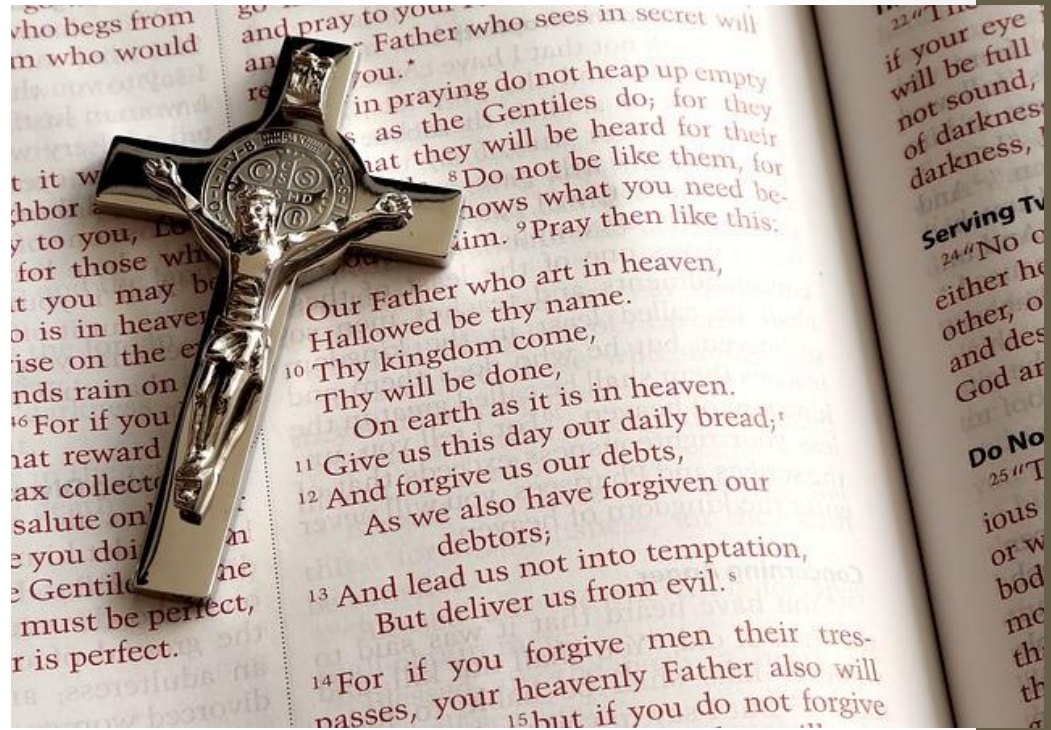
## *Opening Prayer*

Dear Lord, thank You for Your written Word and the mighty Truth it contains. We pray that in the power of Your Holy Spirit, You will open our hearts and minds to approach Your Words with an attitude of faith and prayer.

Amen.

# THE BIBLE

Sacred  
Scripture -  
God's Word  
Among Us



# Did Jesus read the Bible?



- Some written shortly after Christ's resurrection, but **New Testament books were not finished until about 100 AD.**
- **No established Bible until 382 AD** (Council of Rome, under Pope Damascus)
- Many early writings were rejected by the Church and left out of the Bible.

- Those books **eventually included in the Bible**:
  - originally written in several languages
  - no spaces between words
  - not separated into Chapters or Verses
  - originally hand-written on papyrus or parchment
  - not read by most people; many were illiterate or could not afford a copy
  - extremely rare due to difficulty of hand-copying; much more prevalent after Gutenberg's printing press in 1455.
  
- **So, no, Jesus didn't read the Bible, but he would have 😊**

# The Early Bible

- **The Septuagint** - ancient translation into Greek of the original Hebrew Torah (3<sup>rd</sup> Century, BC); eventually, all 46 Books of O.T.
  - 72 elders – 6 from each of the 12 Tribes – chosen to translate
    - Latin for 70; LXX
- The Catholic Church decided on the *Canon* for the Bible – the list of Sacred Books accepted as genuine
  - St. Athanasius, a Catholic Bishop - 367 AD
  - His list included *46 Books of the Old Testament and 27 Books in the New Testament = total of 73 Books*
  - BIBLE - *ta biblia* (Greek - plural, “many books”)

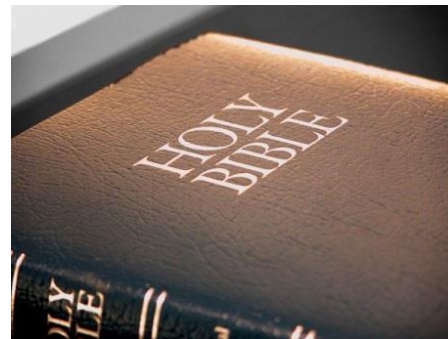
# The Early Bible

- **Deuterocanonical Books (“Deutero”)** – 7 Books included in the 46 Books of the O.T. in the Catholic Bible, but *not in the Protestant Bible* (39 Books in O.T.+ 27 in N.T. = total 66)
  - *1 and 2 Maccabees*
  - *Sirach*
  - *Wisdom*
  - *Baruch*
  - *Tobit*
  - *Judith*
  - *Parts of Daniel and Esther*
- **Apocrypha** – term given by Protestants to these 7 Books – “hidden”



# The Early Bible

- The list compiled by St. Athanasius was accepted, ratified and approved -- from the Council of Rome in 382 AD to the Council of Trent in 1546.
- **Latin Vulgate** – St. Jerome’s translation of the Old Testament into Latin (about 390 AD)
  - Used the Septuagint for his translation
- All Christians accepted the 73 Books approved by the Catholic Church *for over 1000 years...*





# Along came change...

- In 1517 – just 500 years ago, Martin Luther published his infamous 95 Theses
  - His heretical opinions and complaints about the Catholic Church
    - Papal authority, Indulgences, Purgatory
    - Later entire Sacramental system
  - “*sola scriptura*” – scripture alone; “*sola fide*” – faith alone
    - Protestantism is said to be founded on *Scripture alone* (as opposed to religious Tradition). *Sola fide*, the idea that salvation is by faith alone (apart from good works or Grace) is the primary doctrinal teaching to come out of *sola scriptura*.

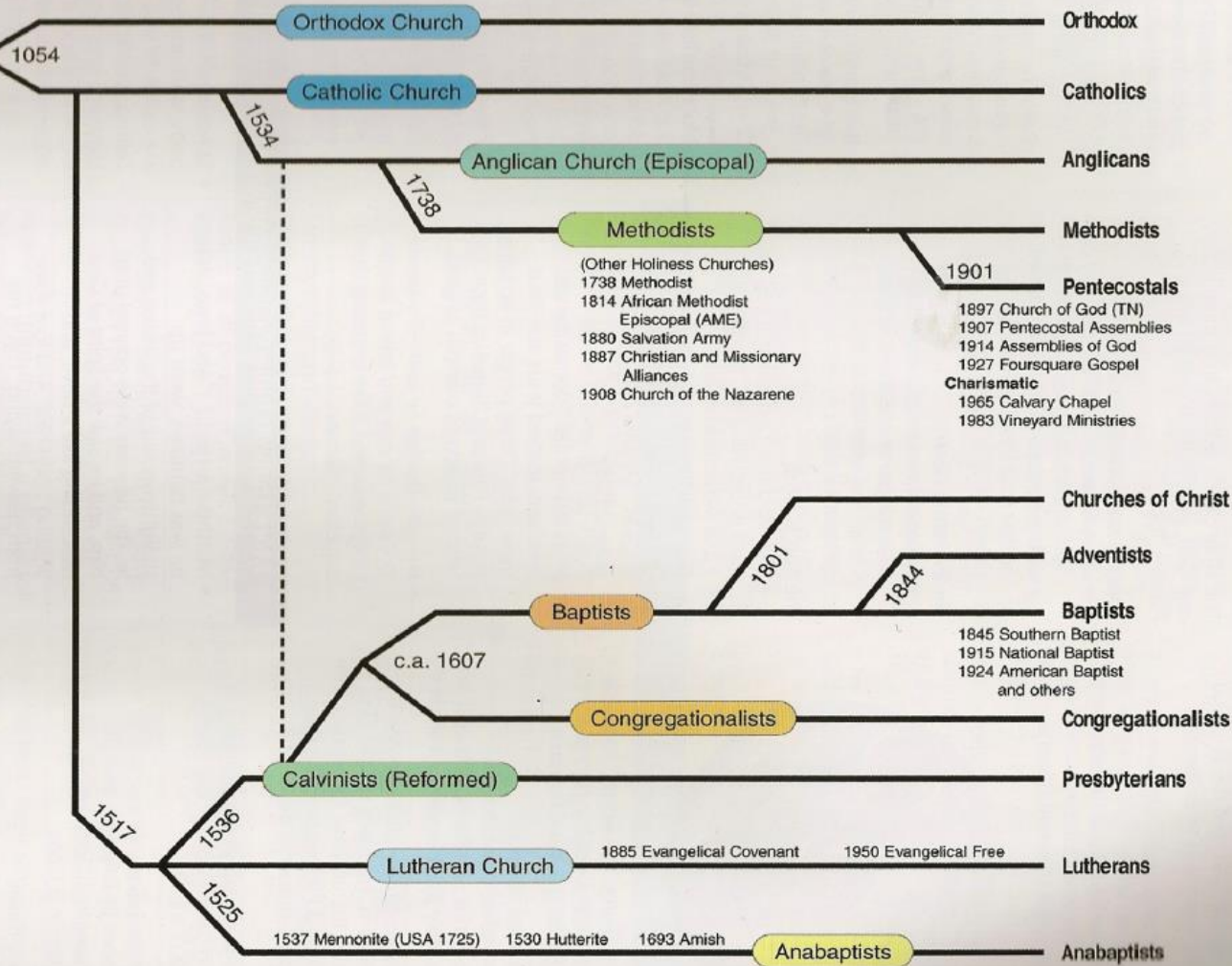


# Luther's Changes

- Luther decided that the 7 books of the Deutero (Apocrypha) *were not divinely inspired*. He thought the same of Hebrews, James, Jude and Revelation...
  - James - “an epistle of straw” because James 2:14–26 conflicted with his personal theology on faith/works
    - James 2:24 is the only verse in the Bible that uses the phrase “faith alone”—and it says that people are **“justified by works and not by faith alone.”**
  - 1522 - New Testament translated from Greek to German; entire Bible, from Hebrew, including the Apocrypha, into German - 1534
  - Council of Trent, 1546 – Catholic Church condemned Luther’s canon and declared the Biblical Canon to be closed
  - **Instead of a *Reformation*, Luther brought about a *Revolution***

# Family Tree of Denominations

The Undivided Church  
Great Schism occurs  
between East (Orthodox)  
and West (Catholic)



Due to space limitations,  
this chart shows only a  
few major groups and  
offshoots.

# The Early Bible

- Besides the Catholic Bible, other versions included the Deutero:
  - first King James Version (1611)
  - Gutenberg Bible, 1455 (a century before the Council of Trent)
  - almost every Bible until the Edinburgh Committee of the British Foreign Bible Society excised them in 1825



# The **three divisions** of the Old Testament?

## The Law

“**T**orah” (Teaching) or  
“Pentateuch” (5 Books of Moses)

## The Prophets

“**N**evi’ium”

## The Writings

“**K**etuvim”

**T+N+K** = TNK “**Tanakh**”  
(Hebrew Bible)

New Testament: **Gospels, Acts,**  
**Letters, Revelation**

# Three Divisions – Old Testament

- **The Law (Pentateuch):** Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy
- **The Prophets:** Joshua, Judges, Samuel, Kings, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel & the Twelve Minor Prophets
- **The Writings:** Psalms, Proverbs, Job, Song of Solomon, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, Esther, Daniel, Ezra, Nehemiah, Chronicles

# Our Catholic Bible

## Books of the Bible in Canonical Order

### Old Testament

- [Genesis](#)
- [Exodus](#)
- [Leviticus](#)
- [Numbers](#)
- [Deuteronomy](#)
- [Joshua](#)
- [Judges](#)
- [Ruth](#)
- [1 Samuel](#)
- [2 Samuel](#)
- [1 Kings](#)
- [2 Kings](#)
- [1 Chronicles](#)
- [2 Chronicles](#)
- [Ezra](#)
- [Nehemiah](#)
- [Tobit](#)
- [Judith](#)
- [Esther](#)
- [1 Maccabees](#)
- [2 Maccabees](#)
- [Job](#)
- [Psalms](#)
- [Proverbs](#)
- [Ecclesiastes](#)
- [Song of Songs](#)
- [Wisdom](#)
- [Sirach](#)
- [Isaiah](#)
- [Jeremiah](#)
- [Lamentations](#)
- [Baruch](#)
- [Ezekiel](#)
- [Daniel](#)
- [Hosea](#)
- [Joel](#)
- [Amos](#)
- [Obadiah](#)
- [Jonah](#)
- [Micah](#)
- [Nahum](#)
- [Habakkuk](#)
- [Zephaniah](#)
- [Haggai](#)
- [Zechariah](#)
- [Malachi](#)

### New Testament

- [Matthew](#)
  - [Mark](#)
  - [Luke](#)
  - [John](#)
  - [Acts](#)
  - [Romans](#)
  - [1 Corinthians](#)
  - [2 Corinthians](#)
  - [Galatians](#)
  - [Ephesians](#)
  - [Philippians](#)
  - [Colossians](#)
  - [1 Thessalonians](#)
  - [2 Thessalonians](#)
  - [1 Timothy](#)
  - [2 Timothy](#)
  - [Titus](#)
  - [Philemon](#)
  - [Hebrews](#)
  - [James](#)
  - [1 Peter](#)
  - [2 Peter](#)
  - [1 John](#)
  - [2 John](#)
  - [3 John](#)
  - [Jude](#)
  - [Revelation](#)
-

## Authors of the Bible

Book	Author
Genesis Exodus Leviticus Numbers Deuteronomy	Moses
Joshua Judges Ruth 1 & 2 Samuel 1 & 2 Kings	Unknown
1 & 2 Chronicles Ezra	Ezra
Nehemiah	Nehemiah
Esther Job	Unknown
Psalms	<b>Various</b> David: 73 Asaph: 12 Sons of Korah: 11 Solomon: 2 Moses: 1 Ethan: 1 Heman: 1 (with Korah) Unknown: 50
Proverbs	<b>Various</b> Solomon: 29 Agur: 1 Lemuel: 1
Ecclesiastes Song of Solomon	Solomon
Isaiah	Isaiah
Jeremiah Lamentations	Jeremiah
Ezekiel	Ezekiel

## Authors of the Bible

Book	Author
Daniel	Daniel
Hosea	Hosea
Joel	Joel
Amos	Amos
Obadiah	Obadiah
Jonah	Jonah
Micah	Micah
Nahum	Nahum
Habakkuk	Habakkuk
Zephaniah	Zephaniah
Haggai	Haggai
Zechariah	Zechariah
Malachi	Malachi

## Authors of the Bible

Book	Author
Matthew	Matthew
Mark	John Mark
Luke	Luke
John	John
Acts	Luke
Romans 1 Corinthians 2 Corinthians Galatians Ephesians Philippians Colossians 1 Thessalonians 2 Thessalonians 1 Timothy 2 Timothy Titus Philemon	Paul
Hebrews	Unknown
James	James (brother of Jesus)
1 Peter 2 Peter	Peter
1 John 2 John 3 John	John
Jude	Jude
Revelation	John



# Who Wrote the Bible... Really?

God is the Author

Written under inspiration of the Holy Spirit

- “For Holy Mother Church, relying on the faith of the apostolic age, accepts as sacred and canonical the books of the Old and the New Testaments, whole and entire, with all their parts, on the grounds that, written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, they have God as their author, and have been handed on as such to the Church herself.” (CCC105)

Human authorship remains authentic

- “To compose the sacred books, God chose certain men who, all the while he employed them in this task, made full use of their own faculties and powers so that, though he acted in them and by them, it was as true authors that they consigned to writing whatever he wanted written, and no more.” (CCC106)

# Sacred Scripture in Mass

- Two main parts of the Mass: **Liturgy of the Word** and **Liturgy of the Eucharist**
- Often described as “**two tables**” where we are nourished with the **Word of God** at the **table of Holy Scripture** then fed with the **Body of our Lord** at the **table of the Eucharist**.
- **First Reading** – from *Old Testament* (except during Easter, from Acts) – the O.T prepares for the New
- **Responsorial Psalm** – words of praise and Thanksgiving from the book of *Psalms*
- **Second Reading** – from the *New Testament*: one of the Epistles (Letters), Acts, or the book of Revelation – the N.T fulfills the Old
- **Gospel** – *Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John* – our principle source for the life and teachings of Jesus – **the Incarnate Word**

# The Church's 3 Criteria for Interpreting Scripture (CCC112-114)

- **Be especially attentive “to the content and unity of the whole Scripture.”**
  - *What did God want to reveal to us through the human writers?*
- **Read the Scripture within “the living Tradition of the whole Church.”**
  - The Church carries in her Tradition the living memorial of God's Word; the Holy Spirit gives her the spiritual interpretation of the Scripture
- **Be attentive to the “analogy of faith.”**
  - The coherence of the truths of faith among themselves within the whole plan of Revelation
    - *God reveals his Will for our salvation*
- ***Must be interpreted in the light of the same Spirit by which it was written.***

# The Word of God



- Vatican II confirms the importance:
- *“In Sacred Scripture, the Church constantly finds her nourishment and her strength, for she welcomes it not as a human word, “but as what it really is, the word of God.”*
- *“In the sacred books, the Father who is in heaven comes lovingly to meet his children, and talks with them.”*

- Any Questions?



Think, think, think.

# References

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