

Sacred Scripture – God’s Word Among Us

# Overview

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- Sacred Scripture
  - What is it
  - Interpreting Sacred Scripture (Catholic View)
- The Bible
  - Origins, Early Years, Canonization
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- Conclusion
- Closing Prayer

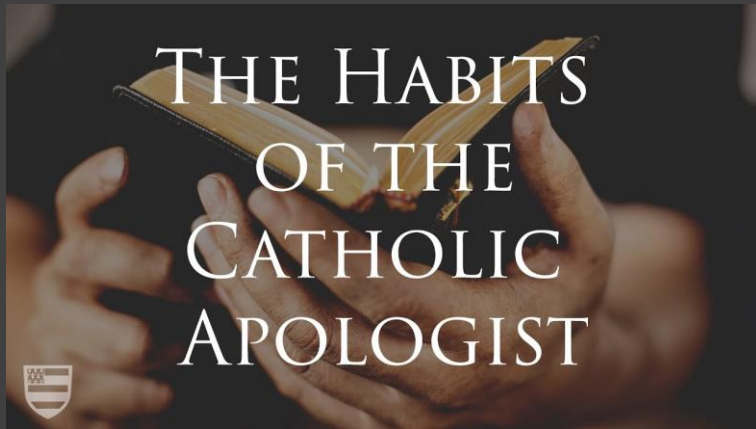
# Opening Prayer



In 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.

# Apologia (Greek) – a speech in defense



Congratulations! You're defending your Master's Degree thesis on Sacred Scripture. Will you get your degree? Here are

- yo
- was used?
- Testament?
- If asked, "Where's the response?"
- Why do Catholics call priests "Father" when father?"
- What is the Pillar and Foundation of the t



Trent Horn

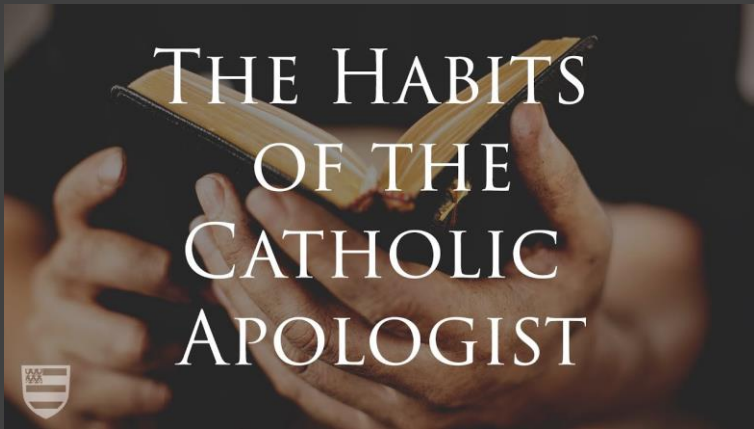


Scott Hahn



Jimmy Akin

# Apologia (Greek) – a speech in defense

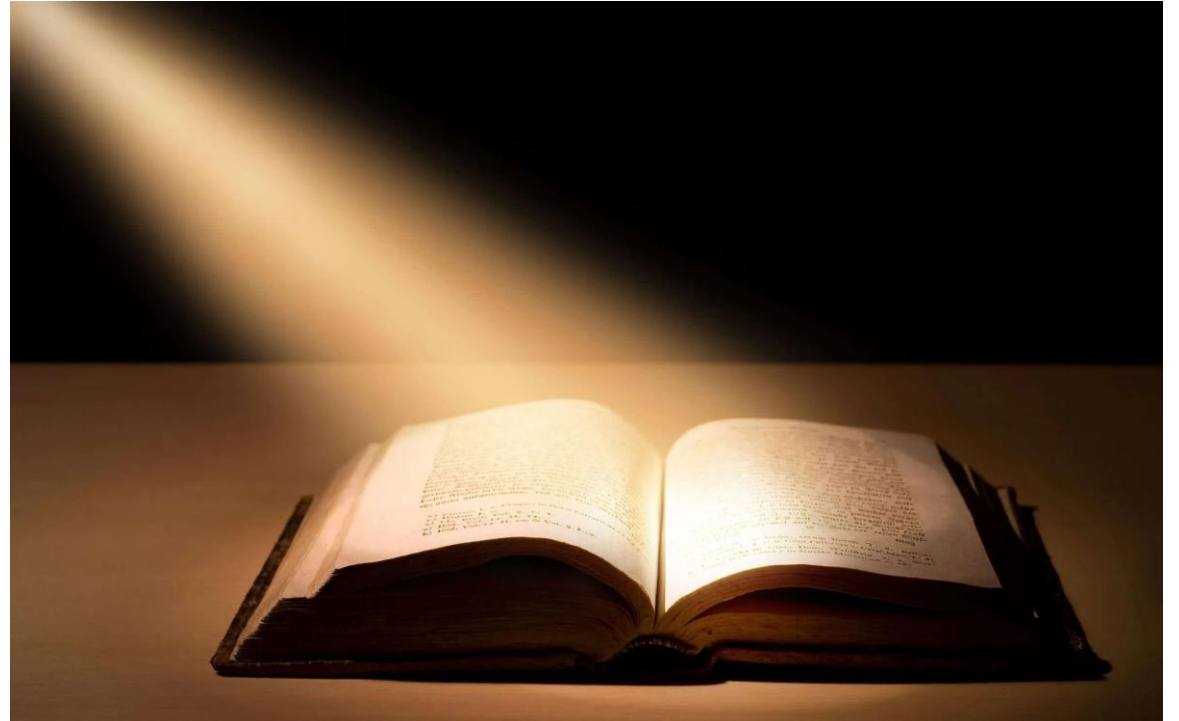


## Bonus Question

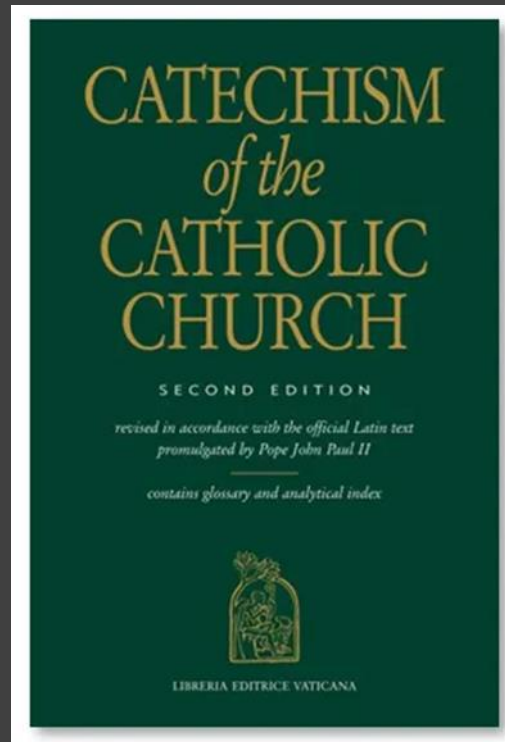
- Catholics absolutely agree with this scripture verse. Which book and chapter of the Bible can it be found?

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:”

# SACRED SCRIPTURE



# Primary Source of Information



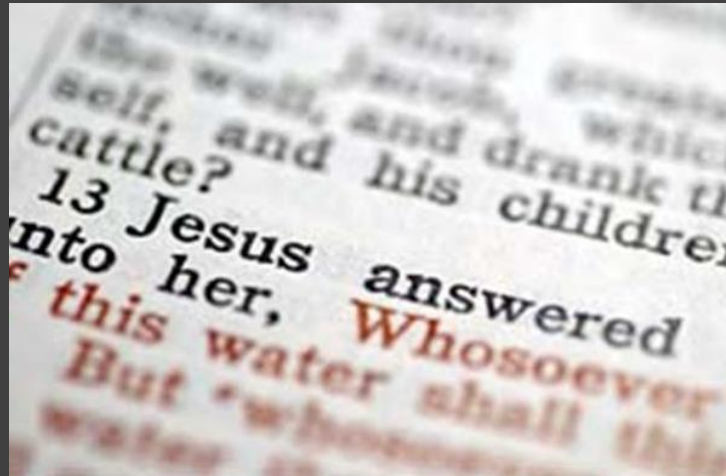
## Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC)

- Part 1: The Profession of Faith
- Section 1: I Believe – We Believe
- Article 3: Sacred Scripture
- Paragraphs: 101-141

St. Jerome, a Father and Doctor of the Catholic Church: “Ignorance of Scriptures is ignorance of Christ”

(Saint Jerome, c.342 – c.420)

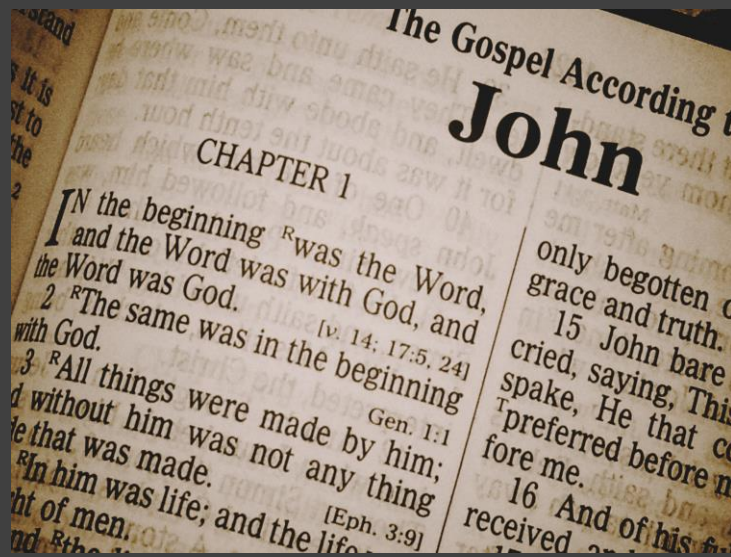
# What Is Scripture?



- Collection of *holy* and *inspired writings* written through the *instrument of human hands* (fallible people) but *authored by God* (infallible source)
- One part of sacred scripture will never contradict another part
  - James 2:24, “See how a person is *justified by works* and *not by faith alone*.”
  - Romans 3:28, “For we consider that a person is *justified by faith apart from works of the law*.”
- Read within the living *Apostolic Tradition (T)*, not human tradition (t) – *The Catholic church will not contradict Sacred Scripture*



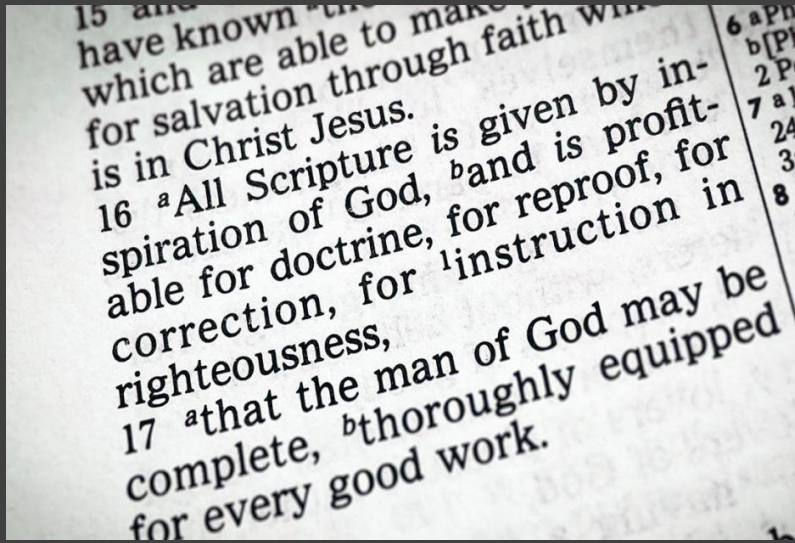
# What Is Scripture?



The Christian faith is not a “religion of the Book,” but the religion of the *Word of God (Oral and Written)*

- 2 Thessalonians 2:15, “Therefore, brothers, stand firm and hold fast to the *Traditions* that you were taught, either by an *oral statement* or by a *letter* of ours.”
- 1 Corinthians 11:2, “I praise you because you remember me in everything and hold fast to the *Traditions*, just as I handed them on to you.”
- 2 Timothy 2:2, “And what *you heard* from me through many witnesses *entrust to faithful people* who will have the ability to *teach others* as well.”

# Interpreting Sacred Scripture



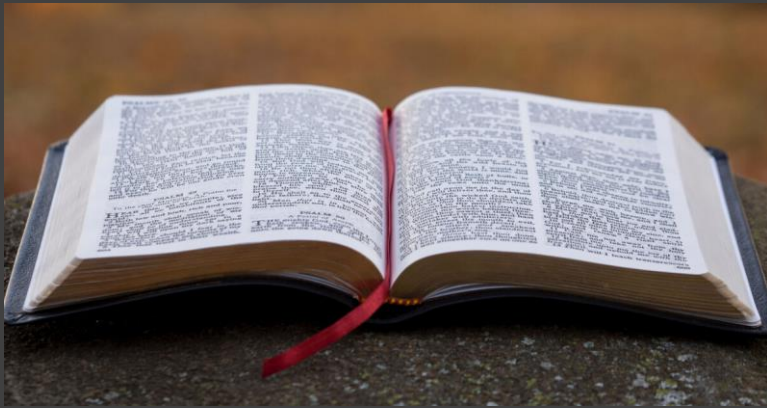
**Exegesis** – critical analysis of text

**Eisegesis** – the practice of interpreting text according to one’s preconceived ideas Ref (2 Tim 3:16-17)

**Compendium of the CCC:** Sacred Scripture must be read and interpreted with the help of the *Holy Spirit* and under the guidance of the *Magisterium of the Church*

- 1 Timothy 3:15, “But if I should be delayed, you should know how to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of truth.”

# Interpreting Sacred Scripture

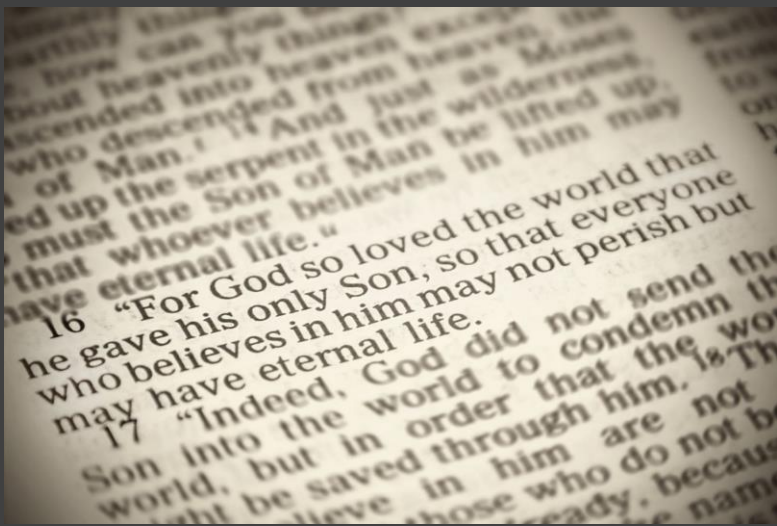


## The Holy Spirit, Interpreter of Scripture

CCC 111 – 114: Three criteria for interpreting scripture

1. Be especially attentive “to the content and unity of the whole Scripture.”
2. Read the Scripture with the “living Tradition of the whole church.”
3. Be attentive to the analogy of faith.
  - This means that Scripture cannot be interpreted in a way that contradicts what is theologically certain.

# Interpreting Sacred Scripture



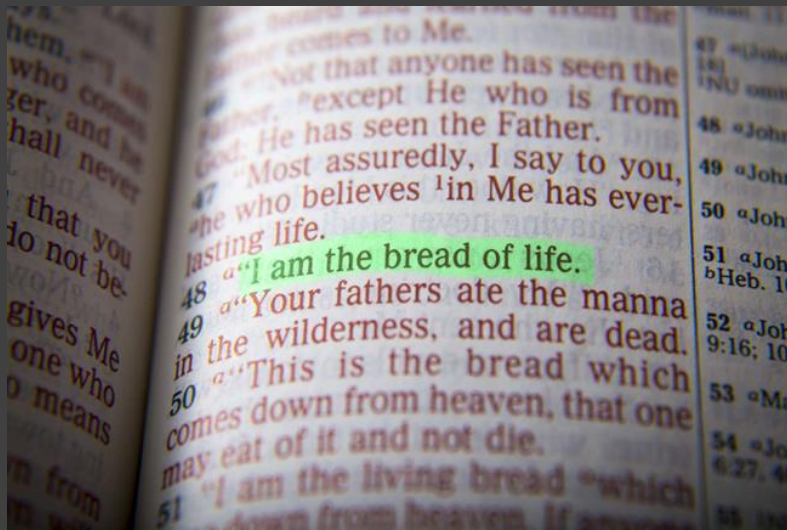
**The Senses of Scripture:** Sacred Scripture speaks its message in various ways, and these various ways correspond to the levels of meaning in a text

## **Four Senses of Scripture:**

- Literal
- Spiritual
  - Allegorical
  - Moral
  - Anagogical



# Interpreting Sacred Scripture



## Spiritual Sense

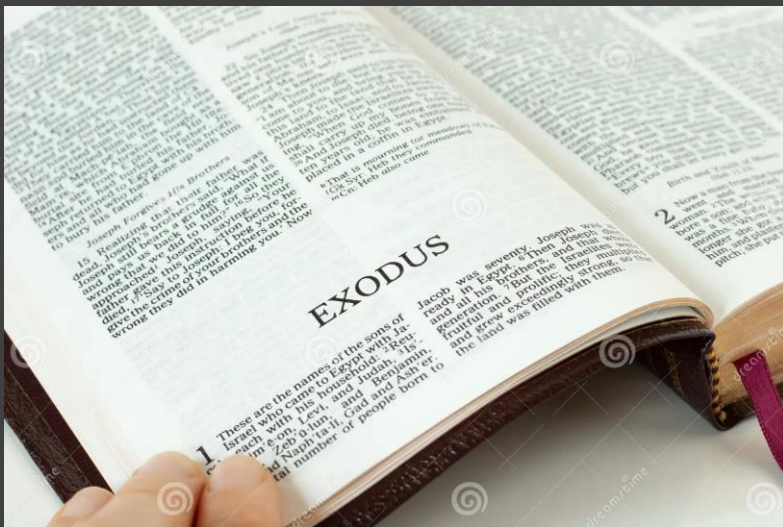
**Allegorical** – the meaning hidden beneath the surface of the text

- Example: Baptism is related (an antitype) to the crossing of the Red Sea or to Noah's ark

**Moral** – how Christ desires his disciples to act

- Example: If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one of your members than to have your whole body thrown in Gehenna (Mt 5:29)

# Interpreting Sacred Scripture



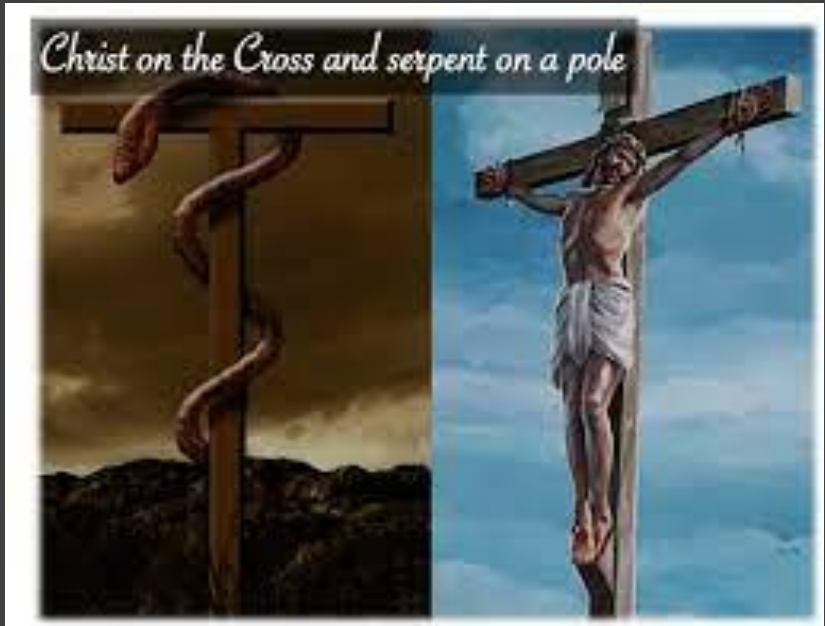
**Anagogical** – views of realities and events in terms of their eternal significance

- Example: the parable about the sheep and goats in Matthew 25:31-45

*A medieval couplet summarizes the significance of the four senses:*

*“The Letter speaks of deed;  
Allegory to faith;  
The Moral how to act;  
Anagogy our destiny”*

# Interpreting Sacred Scripture



## Types and Antitypes (Typology)

- Type – the relationship of the OT to the NT (events in the OT prefigure events in the NT and are fulfilled in the NT)
- Antitype: opposite of Type
- Saint Augustine, c.354-430: “New Testament lies hidden in the Old and the Old Testament is unveiled in the New”
- NT fulfillments are always greater than OT prefigurements
  - Melchizedek’s offering of bread and wine prefigures Jesus’ offering of himself under the appearances of bread and wine in the New Covenant (Gen 14:17-20 prefigures Mt 26:26-28)
  - Isaac carrying the wood in Genesis is a type of Jesus Christ carrying the cross in the Gospels (Genesis 22:6-14 prefigures Mt 27:31-33)
  - Jonah’s three days in the belly of a whale prefigure Jesus’ three days in the tomb (Jonah 2:1 prefigures Mt 12:38-42)



# Interpreting Scripture



## Explicit vs Implicit

- **Explicit Teaching** – the doctrine is specifically taught or is mentioned by name
  - Examples: Baptism, Love is greater than Faith & Hope; Church is the Pillar and Foundation of Truth
- **Implicit Teaching** – the teaching is alluded to but not explicitly mentioned
  - Examples: Trinity, Purgatory, Infant Baptism

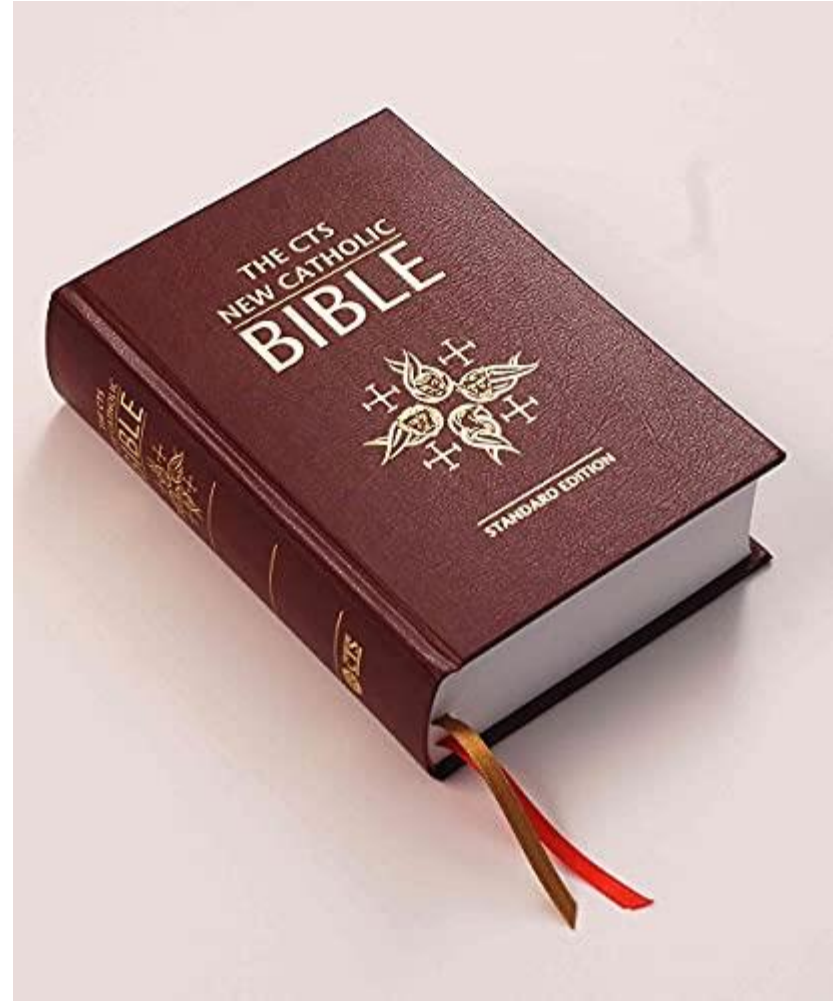
# Interpreting Sacred Scripture



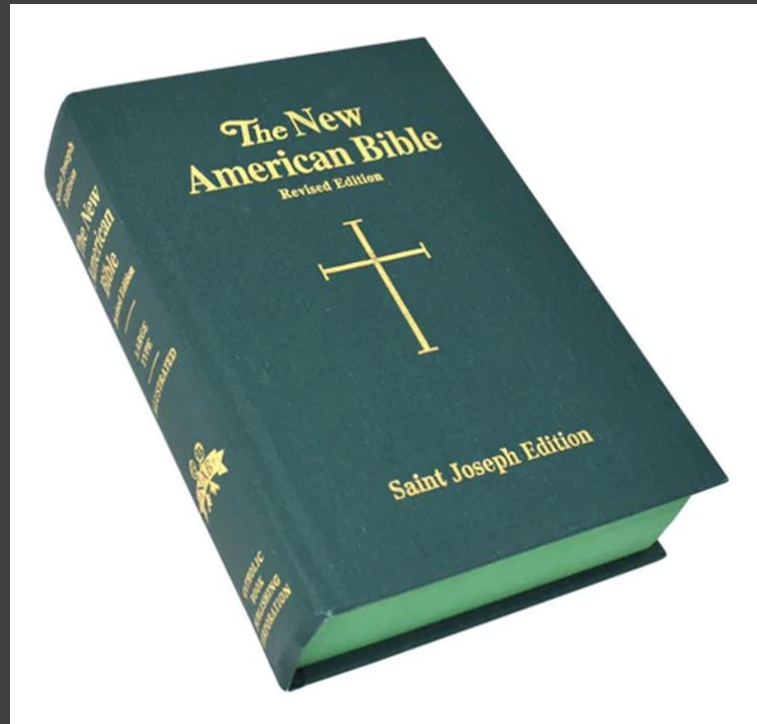
## Formal vs Material Sufficiency

- **Formal** (non-Catholic view): scripture is so perspicuous that anyone reading the bible will understand the author's meaning (Sola Scriptura)
  - The Bible is the sole, inerrant word of God
  - Though shall not worship other gods or though shall not kill
- **Material** (Catholic view): scripture contains all the truths necessary for salvation, but it must be interpreted in cohesion with the Magisterium and Tradition
  - Example: Mark 6:3, a crowd asks of Jesus, "Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are his sisters here with us?"  
*(What's the Formal and Material sufficiency view?)*

# THE BIBLE



# The Bible



What is this thing called the Bible?

Where did it come from?

Who wrote the Bible?

How many of them are there?

What language was it written in?

Is the Bible inerrant?

Is the Bible alone the supreme authority?

Which Bible is the correct Bible?\*

*\*Visit United States Conference of Catholic Bishops website to learn which Bibles are the approved translations by the Catholic Church*

# The Bible – The Early Years



The Books that were eventually included in the Bible:

- Originally written in several languages, predominantly in Hebrew and Aramaic
- Originally hand-written on papyrus or parchment (time consuming and expensive)
- Not read by majority of 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
- Not separated into Chapters or Verses and had no spaces between words or punctuation marks

# The Bible – The Early Years



The Septuagint (Latin for 70) was an ancient translation into Greek of the original Hebrew Torah (3rd Century, BC); eventually, all 46 Books of OT

- 72 elders (6 each from 12 Tribes of Israel)
- The book used by Jesus

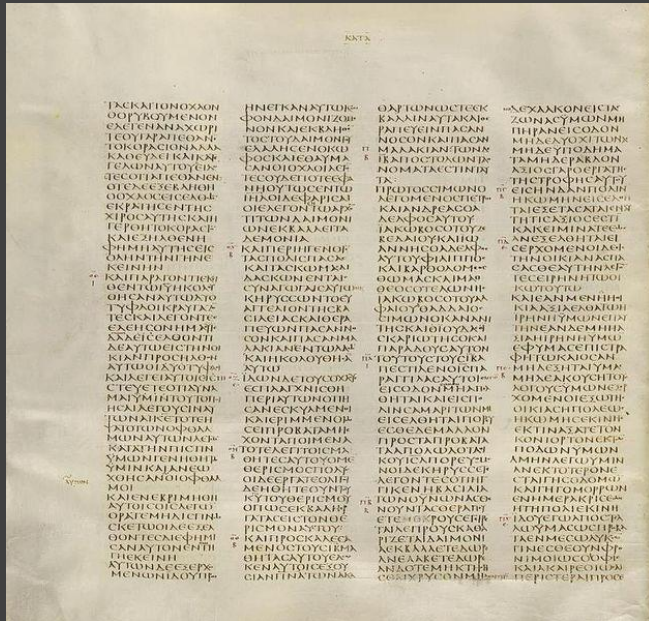
Latin Vulgate – St. Jerome's translation of the Old Testament into Latin (about 390 AD)

- Used the Septuagint for his translation
- Question: why was it written in Latin?

Derived from Greek word Biblia, which means books -- the Bible is a collection of books

# The Bible

- Catholic: 46 OT & 27 NT (73)
- Protestant/Mormon/Jeh. Witness: 39 OT & 27 NT (66)
- Ethiopian Orthodox: 54 OT & 27 NT (81)
- Greek/Russian Orthodox: 52 OT & 27 NT (79)



Codex Sinaiticus, c.330-360 AD

Note: all agree there are 27 books in the NT

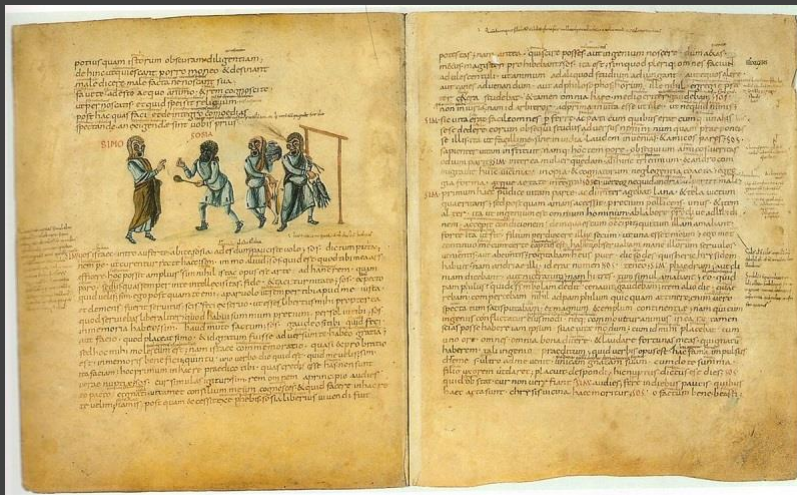
# Canonization

Canonization – process by which the books of the Bible were discovered as authoritative

- Rules Used: Apostolic, Orthodox, Christocentric, Inspiration, Testimony of the Holy Spirit, and Acceptance by the Church

Catholic Councils decided the canon of the Bible

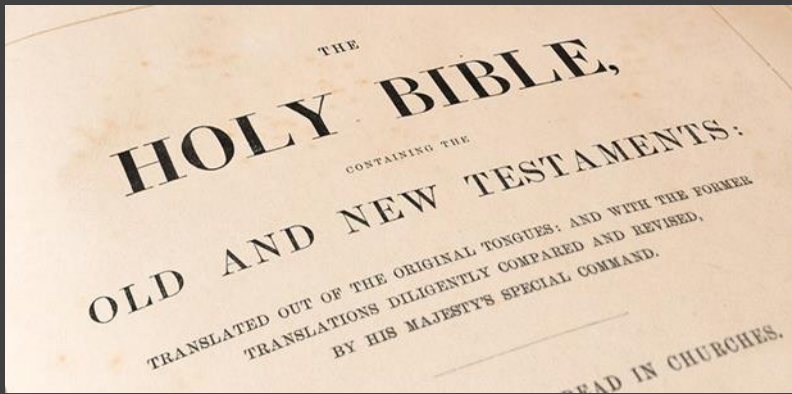
- Established by the Council of Rome (382 AD) under Pope Damasus I
- Ratified by Council of Hippo in Algeria (393 AD) and Council of Carthage in Tunisia (397 AD)



Codex Vaticanus, c.305 AD, oldest known Bible



# Canonization



The question of which books were truly scripture was being addressed before these councils

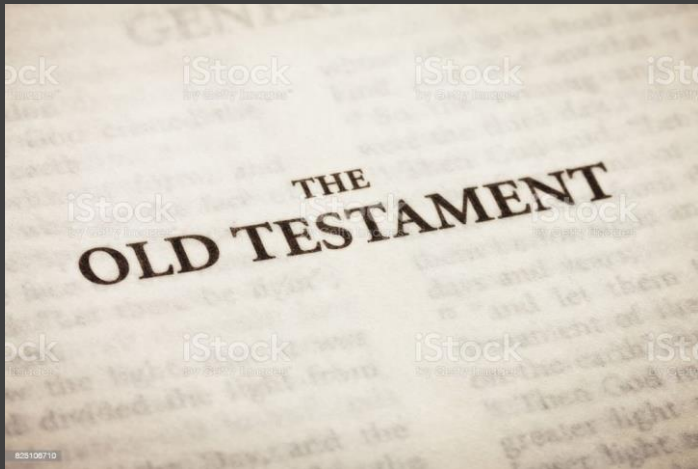
Earliest known list of NT books was written by Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria, in his Festal letter #39 of 367 AD

Many early writings were rejected by the Church

- 1 and 2 Clement, Shepherd of Hermas, Gospel of Thomas

*To Contemplate: if the Bible wasn't officially established until 382 AD, how did the early Christians know sacred scripture?*

# The Old Testament (46 Books)



Written from about 1440 BC to 430 BC

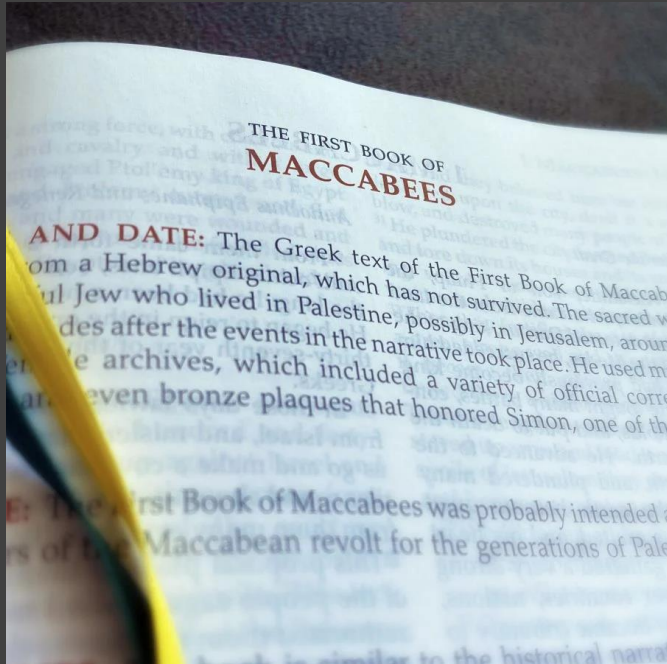
- Starts with the story of creation (4000 BC)

First was Genesis, last was Malachi

Divisions:

- The Law – **T**orah (Hebrew) or Pentateuch (Greek)
  - The five books of Moses (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy)
- The Prophets – “**N**evi’ium”
  - Joshua, Judges, Samuel, Kings, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel & the Twelve Minor Prophets
- The Writings – “**K**etuvim”
  - Psalms, Proverbs, Job, Song of Solomon, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, Esther, Daniel, Ezra, Nehemiah, Chronicles
- **T+N+K** (Tanakh) – not a Hebrew word, but an acronym, T-N-K, with vowels added to aid pronunciation

# The Old Testament – Deuterocanonical Books



Deuterocanonical refers to 7 specific books of the OT:  
1 and 2 Maccabees, Sirach, Wisdom, Baruch, Tobit, Judith  
and parts of Daniel and Esther

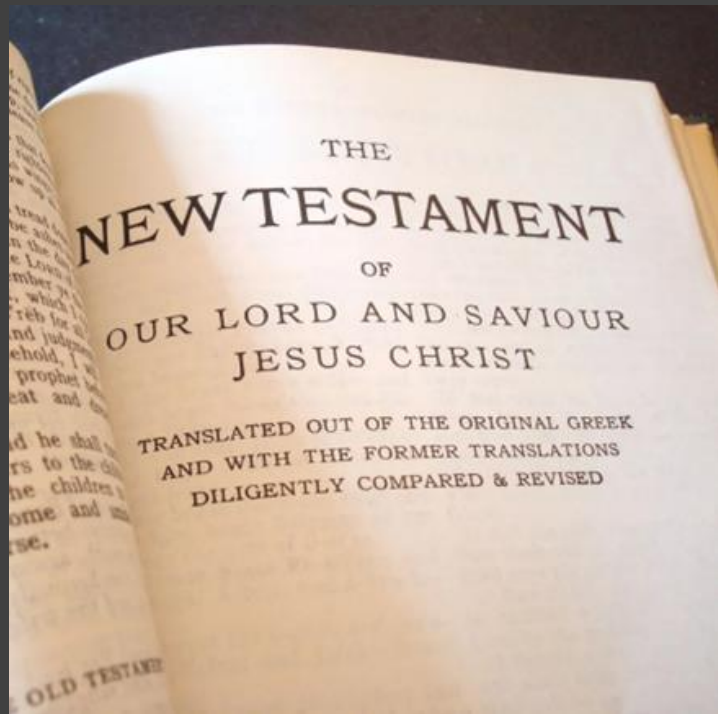
- Their canonicity was established by the Catholic church later than the 39 other books (Protocanonical)
- Protestants used the term Apocrypha (hidden)

The Septuagint included the Deuterocanonical books

Besides the Catholic Bible, other versions included the Deuterocanonical books:

- Gutenberg Bible (1455 - a century before the Council of Trent)
- First King James Version (1611)

# The New Testament (27 Books)



Written from about 45 AD to about 95 AD

First was James; last was Revelation

New Testament Divisions

- Biographies (Gospels)
- History (Acts)
- Epistles (Letters)
- Prophecy (Revelation)

Originally written in Greek and not arranged chronologically

Almost every Bible had 73 books until the Edinburgh Committee of the British Foreign Bible Society excised them in 1825

For over 1100 years all Christians accepted the 73 Books approved by the Catholic Church,



...then, **ALONG** came the

# The Protestant Reformation



1517 – Martin Luther published his infamous 95 Theses - his heretical opinions and complaints about the Catholic Church, Papal authority, Indulgences, Purgatory, Sacramental system

- This German Catholic priest was excommunicated

Formation of Sola Scriptura (scripture alone) and Sola Fide (faith alone)

- Scripture alone is the foundation of Protestantism (as opposed to apostolic Tradition and Magisterium)
- Faith Alone is how to achieve Salvation (apart from good works or Grace)
  - Primary doctrinal teaching to come out of Sola Scriptura

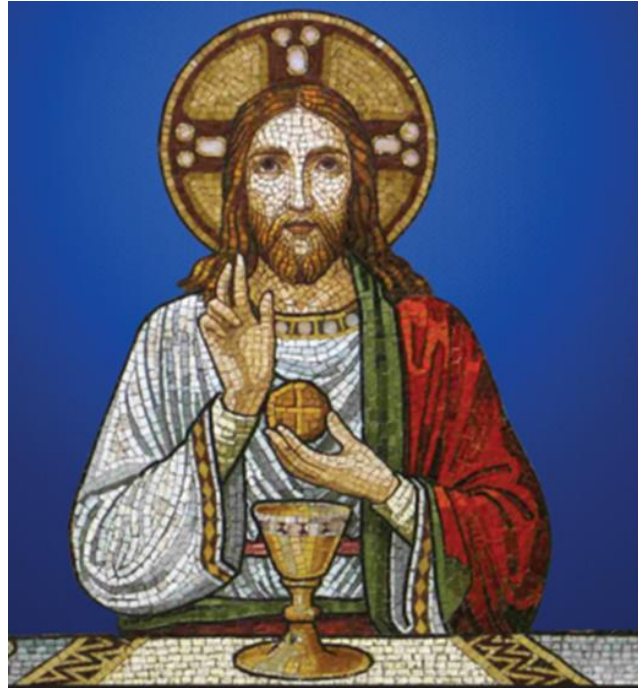
# Protestant Reformation



Luther's changes:

- Deuterocanonical books 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. Specifically...
    - James 2:17, “So also faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead.”
    - James 2:24, “See how a person is justified by works and not by faith alone.”
- Council of Trent (1546) condemned Luther's canon and declared the Biblical Canon to be closed

# THE MASS IN SACRED SCRIPTURE



# THE MASS IN SACRED SCRIPTURE





# The Mass in Sacred Scripture



*The whole Mass is soaked in Scripture.* It's the central rite of Catholicism and is profoundly biblical. It brings the Bible to life in a way not seen anywhere else.

Four parts to the Mass:

- Introductory Rites
- Liturgy of the Word
- Liturgy of the Eucharist
- Concluding Rites

This presentation will focus on the *Liturgy of the Word*

# Liturgy of the Word



Readings from Scripture are part of every Mass

Daily Mass [Monday – Saturday (excluding Saturday Vigil Mass)]: three readings

- First and second readings from OT or NT then Psalms
- Third reading from a Gospel
- Today's readings were: Colossians, Psalm, Luke

# Liturgy of the Word



Sunday (Saturday Vigil) and Solemnity Mass: Four readings – OT, Psalms, NT and Gospel

- First Reading – from the OT (except during Easter, from Acts)
- Responsorial Psalm – words of praise and Thanksgiving from the book of Psalms
- Second Reading – from the NT: one of the Epistles (letters), Acts, or the book of Revelation
- Gospel Acclamation (introduces the Gospel)
- Gospel Reading – Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John

# Liturgy of the Word



## Homily

Profession of Faith (summary of Catholic faith; typically the Nicene Creed)

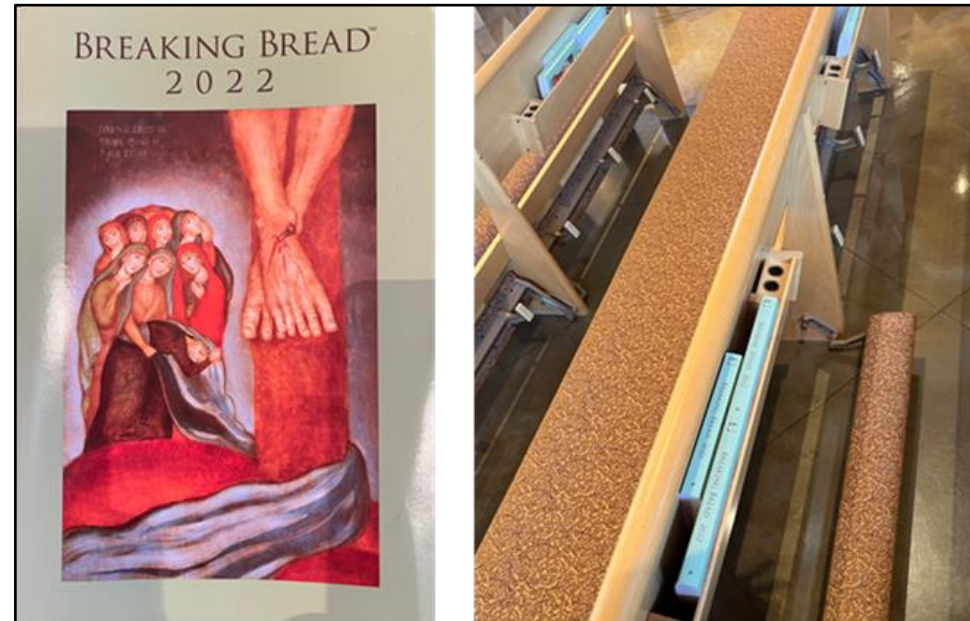
- Father John Kelly and Father Alvaro Gonzales prefer the Apostles' Creed

Universal Prayer (Prayer of The Faithful)

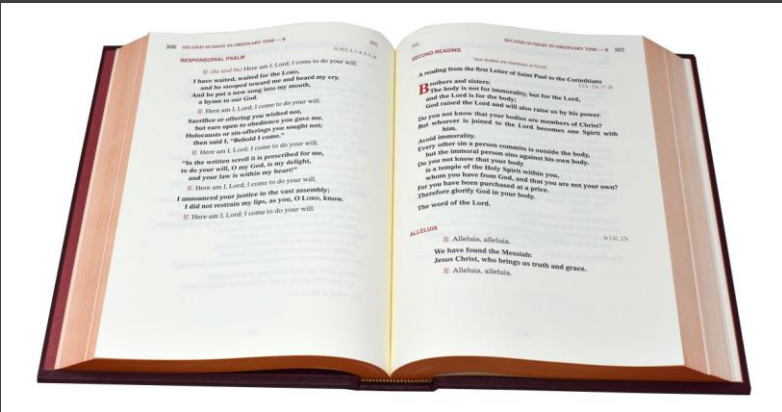
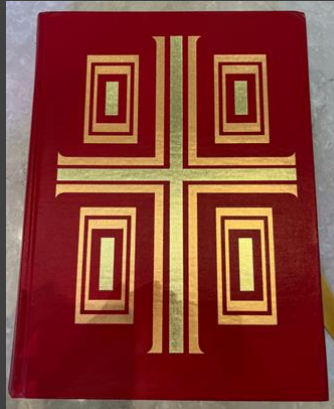
# Books for Mass

Throughout the mass, various books will be used by the priest, deacon and lector

Missalette - a liturgical book containing music, Lectionary readings of Sacred Scripture, Mass settings and the Order of Mass



# Books for Mass



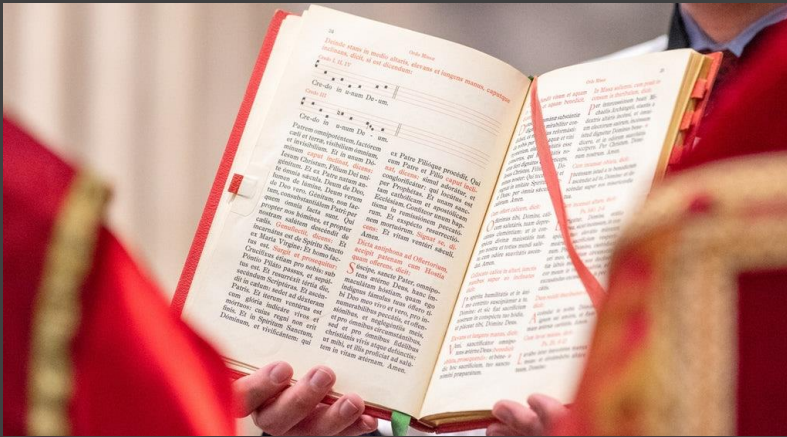
A Lectionary is composed of the readings and the responsorial psalm assigned for each Mass of the year  
Large red book located on the ambo



Readings are called pericopes (snippets from the Bible)

- Pericopes (first reading, psalm, and second reading) are read by a Lector or sung by the choir; the Gospel only by a Priest or Deacon

# Books for Mass



The Lectionary is arranged in two cycles, one for Sundays and one for daily mass.

Sunday cycle divided into 3 years (A, B, C)

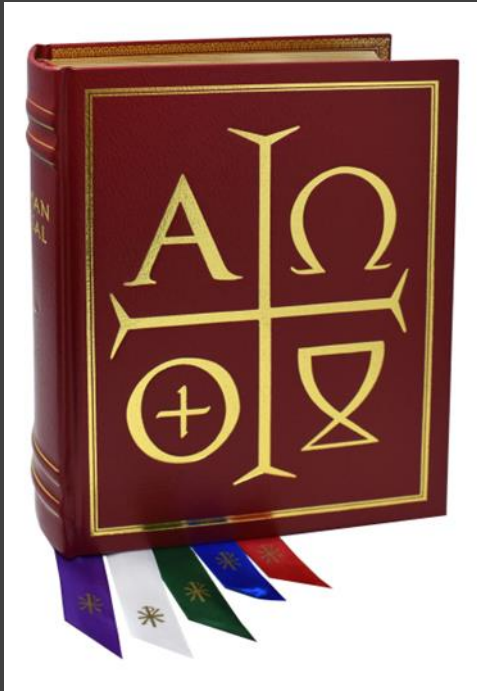
- Currently Year A (Nov 27, 2022 to Nov 26, 2023)
- Cycle year begins on Advent
- $2 + 0 + 2 + 2 = 6$ . Since 6 is divisible by 3, 2022 is “Year C.”
  - Year A, the Gospels are mostly from Matthew
  - Year B is mostly Mark
  - Year C is mostly Luke

Weekday readings based on a two-year cycle (Year I, II)

- Year I odd years; Year II even years
- Readings cover Ordinary Time

Source: U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops website [usccb.org](http://usccb.org),  
Liturgical Calendar For The Dioceses Of The United States of America 2023

# Books for Mass



## Roman Missal

Contains all the words and prayers the priest uses during the mass, except the readings

- Carried by an Altar Server to/from the priest or altar for opening and closing prayers
- Placed on the altar to be used by a Priest for various prayers



Christ



# CONCLUSION

Topics Covered – Sacred Scripture, the Bible, and the Mass in Sacred Scripture

Final Thought – “What role does Sacred Scripture play in the Life of the Church?”

- “Sacred Scripture gives support and vigor to the life of the Church. For the children of the Church, it is a confirmation of the faith, food for the soul and the fount of the spiritual life.” (Compendium CCC, 141-142)

The Church will not let scripture say what it doesn't mean. It has held to this belief for over 2,000 years.

**Catholics read the Bible.  
We are Bible believing Christians!**

# Closing Prayer

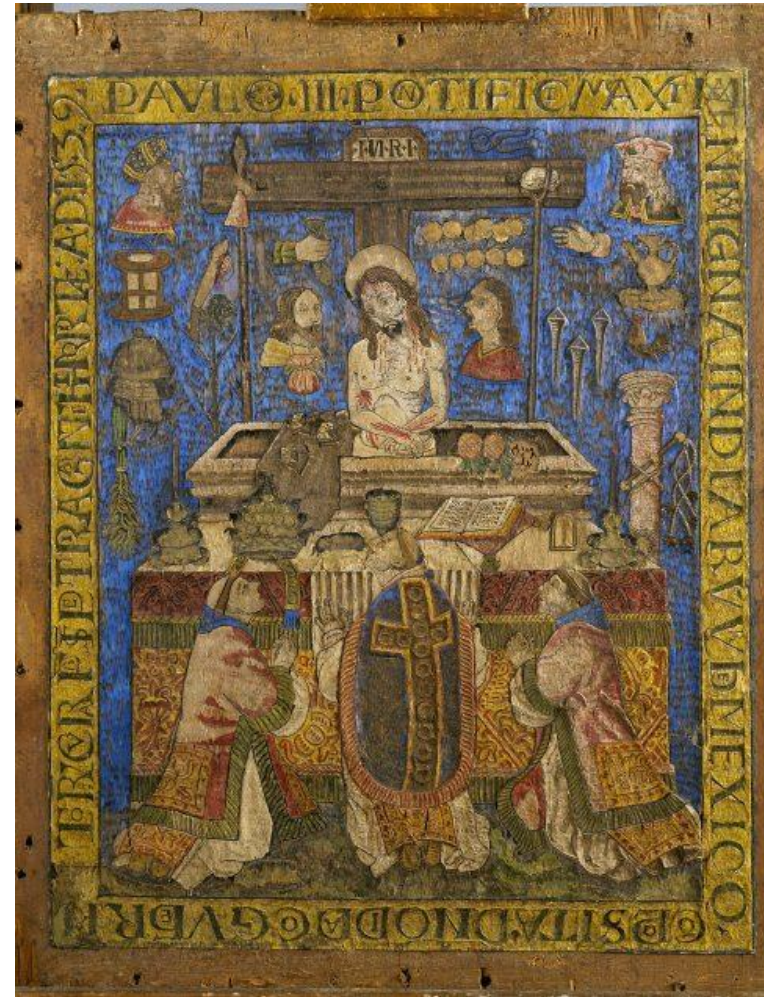


2 Timothy 2:14-17

Remain faithful to what you have learned and believed, because you know from whom you learned it, and that from infancy you have known the sacred scriptures, which are capable of giving you wisdom for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

Amen.

# End of Presentation



Depicts the sixth-century pope Gregory consecrating the Eucharist. Christ's body miraculously appears behind the altar, proving to the doubting congregation the miracle of transubstantiation, the belief that the sanctified Host turns into Christ's flesh.