



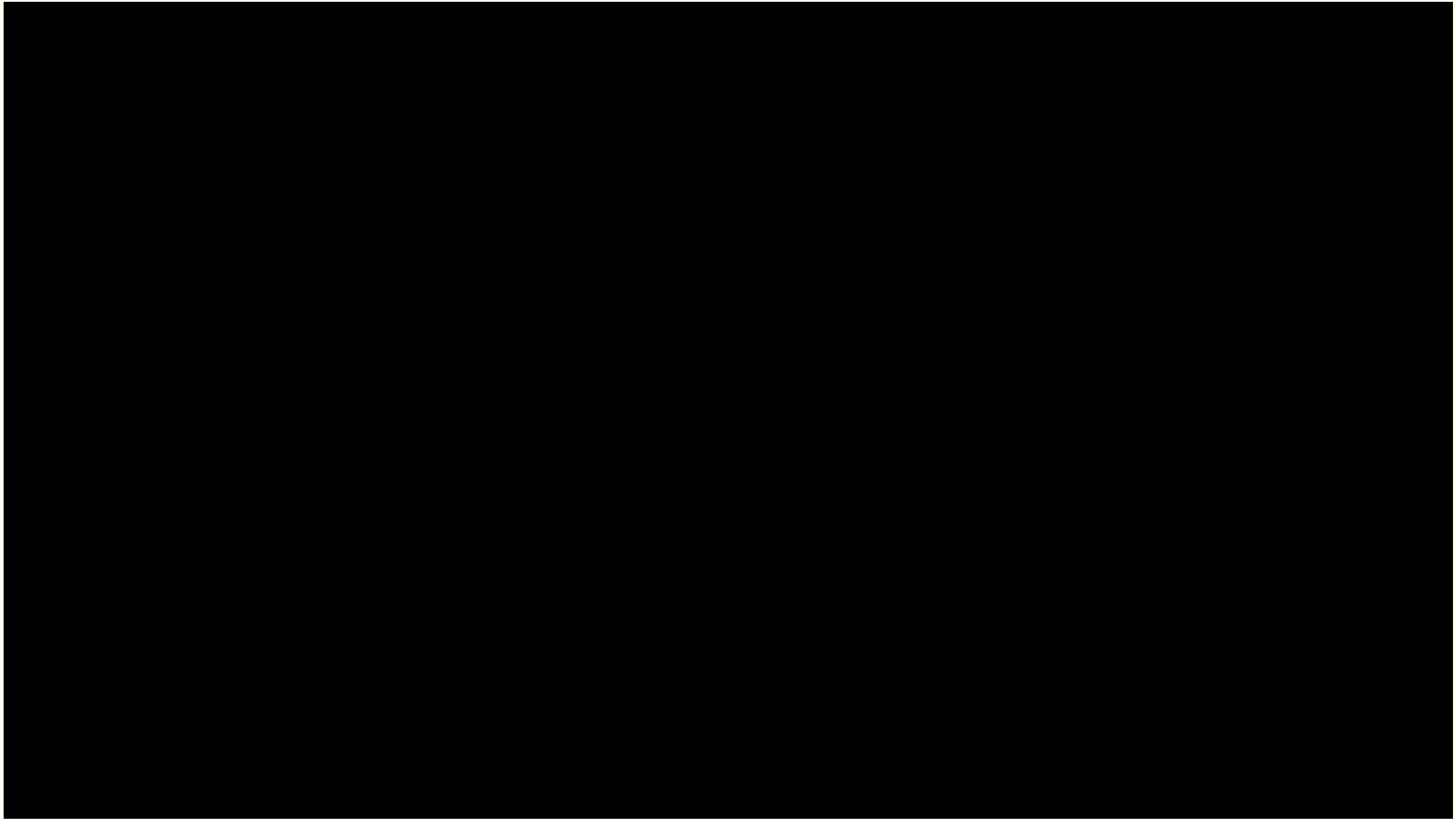
THE BIBLE – SCRIPTURE AND TRADITION

OCIA 2026-2027

The Cathedral of St. Jude the Apostle

By: Alec De Dios





Prayer When Gathering to Meet or Study

If the purpose of the meeting is the study of Scripture, the following prayer is appropriate:

Lord our God, we bless you. As we come together to ponder the Scriptures, we ask you in your kindness to fill us with the knowledge of your will so that, pleasing you in all things, we may grow in every good work. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R/. Amen

Any meeting may conclude with this blessing:

May God, the source of all patience and encouragement, enable us to live in perfect harmony with one another in the spirit of Christ Jesus. With one heart and one voice may we glorify God, now and forever.

R/. Amen

-Taken from <https://www.usccb.org/prayers/prayer-when-gathering-meet-or-study>

Alec's Auto-biography pt1

- Born and raised Catholic in St. Petersburg
- Went to **St. Petersburg High School**
- Attended **Ave Maria University** for freshman year of college
- **Seminary** from 2011-2014, B.A of Philosophy – Many of my former peers are now priests
- Studied Information Technology at **Pinellas Technical College**, 2015-2016
- Went to **SPC** for Cybersecurity 2016-2017
- Master of Arts in Theology from **Ave Maria University** 2023
- Works at Eckerd College, St. Petersburg, FL





Alec's Auto-biography pt 2



- **Hobbies** – Table Tennis, Reading, Dance, Writing, Video Games, Listening to music, learning about technology, building computers, sharing the faith, travel, family time
- **Devotions** – St. John the Baptist is the name I took when I was confirmed. St. John Paul II, Padre Pio, Therese of Lisieux, Mother Teresa, St. Joseph and The Blessed Virgin Mary
- Mention my journey back to assisting the OCIA & Sacramental preparation classes

Bible Statistics: Pew Research Center 2024 Survey

Most evangelicals and members of historically Black Protestant churches say the Bible is extremely or very important to them

% who say the Bible is ___ important in their lives

	Extremely/ Very	Somewhat	Not too/ Not at all
All U.S. adults	44%	19%	37%
Religiously affiliated	59	21	19
Christian	64	21	14
Protestant	72	18	10
Evangelical	82	13	5
Mainline	45	31	23
Historically Black	84	13	2
Catholic	46	30	24
Orthodox Christian	46	24	31
Latter-day Saint (Mormon)	80	13	8
Other religions	17	19	64
Jewish	22	15	62
Muslim	25	22	52
Buddhist	10	25	64
Hindu	19	18	62
Religiously unaffiliated	10	13	77
Atheist	<1	2	97
Agnostic	1	7	92
Nothing in particular	15	18	67

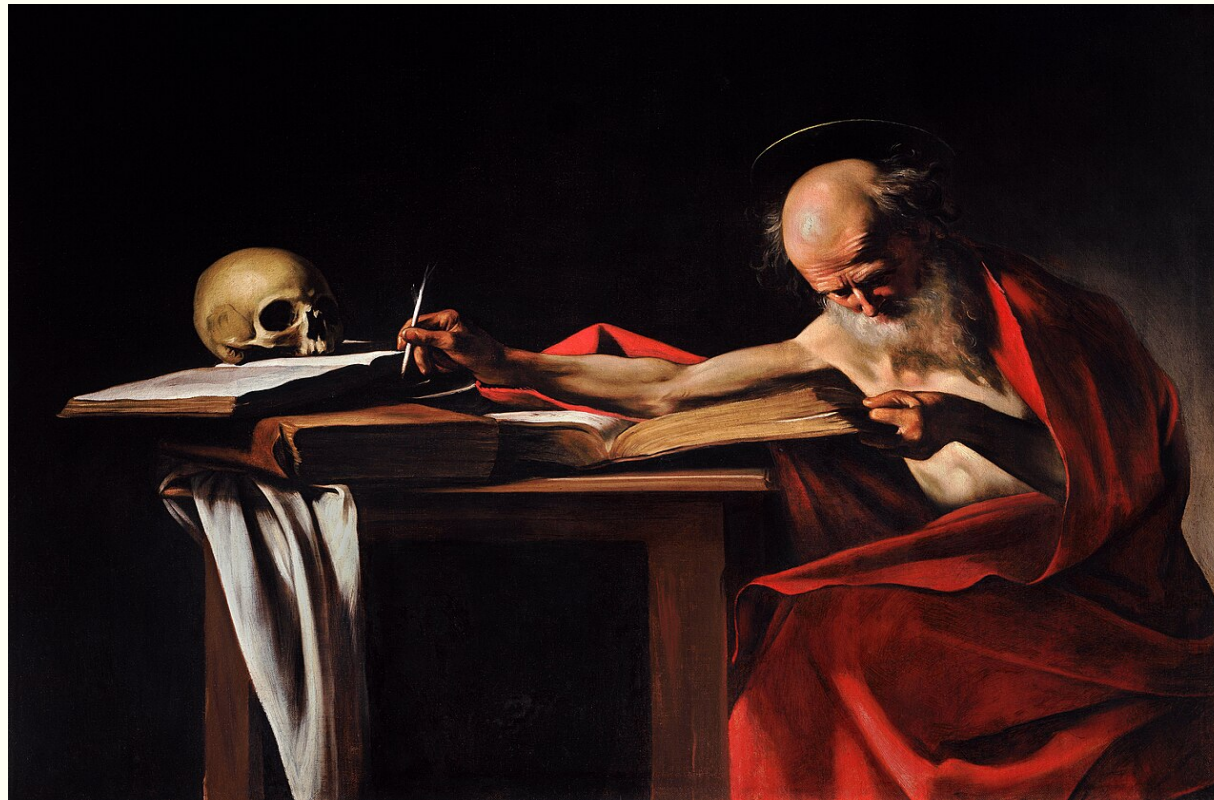
Note: Those who did not answer the question are not shown

Source: Religious Landscape Study of U.S. adults conducted July 17, 2023-March 4, 2024.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

St. Jerome's famous quote

“Ignorance of scripture is ignorance of Christ.”



Art – “St. Jerome Writing” by Caravaggio, done in 1605-1606

How to Read Scripture

- Old Testament: 1 Kings 2:3
 - 1 – First Book
 - Kings – Of Kings
 - 2 – Chapter 2
 - 3 – Verse 3
- A reading from the first book of Kings, chapter 2, verse 3
- Actual text: “Keep the mandate of the Lord, your God, walking in his ways and keeping his statues, commands, ordinances, and decrees as they are written in the law of Moses, that you may succeed in whatever you do, and wherever your turn.”

A little humor reading scripture and why its important to know the basics on how to read scripture. Example: At a wedding

New Testament - 1 John 4:16-18

- 1 – First letter of
- John – St. John
- 4 – Chapter 4
- 16-18 - Verses 16 to 18
- Putting it all together: A reading from the First Letter of St. John, chapter 4, verses 16 to 18
- Actual Text: We have come to know and to believe in the love God has for us. God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God and God in him. In this is love brought to perfection among us, that we have confidence on the day of judgment because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear because fear has to do with punishment, and so one who fears is not yet perfect in love.
- Very different than John 4:16-18!! – Notice there is no “1” before John
 - A reading from the Gospel of John, chapter 4, verses 16-18
 - Jesus said to her, “Go call your husband and come back.” The woman answered and said to him, “I do not have a husband.” Jesus answered her, “You are right in saying, ‘I do not have a husband.’ For you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true.”

Senses of Scripture

■ Literal

- What the text says, in context
- Remember that Scripture is trying to convey a message, that is connected to the rest of the Bible as a whole
- The bible is a library, not just a “single book.”

■ Spiritual

- 1 – Allegorical – Literary reference
- 2 – Moral – What we should or ought to do (or not to do)
- 3 – Anagogical/Eschatological – Pointing to the final end or towards eternity

Sacred Scripture in Catholicism

- The Old Testament -46 Books
 - The Pentateuch
 - The Historical Books
 - The Wisdom Literature
 - The Prophetic Literature
- The New Testament -27 Books
 - The Gospels
 - Acts of the Apostles
 - The Letter(s)
 - Of St. Paul
 - to the Hebrews
 - Of St. Peter
 - Of St. James
 - Of St. John
 - Jude
 - Revelation

The Divisions of the Old Testament in Catholicism

■ The Pentateuch

Name	Number	Famously Known for
Genesis	1	Creation & Covenant
Exodus	2	Freedom from Egypt
Leviticus	3	Laws & instructions
Numbers	4	Wanderings in the desert
Deuteronomy	5	Teachings or “Words” of Moses

The Divisions of the Old Testament in Catholicism

The Historical Books

Name	Famously Known for
Joshua	Joshua, Moses' Successor
Judges	Stories of the judges of Israel
Ruth	Courtship of Ruth and Boaz
1&2 Samuel	The rise of kingship in Israel – Saul and David
1&2 Kings	King Solomon and subsequent kings
1-2 Chronicles	Retelling of the stories of the kings

Name	Famously Known for
Ezra	Ezra the priest-scribe
Nehemiah	Nehemiah's return to Jerusalem
Tobit	Northern Kingdom stories
Judith	Judith, titular heroine
Esther	Queen Esther
1-2 Maccabees	Story of the Maccabees, heroes of Israel

The Divisions of the Old Testament in Catholicism

The Wisdom Books

Name	Famously Known for
Job	Job's story of suffering and then blessing
Psalms	Psalms 23 – The Lord is my shepherd
Proverbs	Sayings of Friendship
Ecclesiastes	Qoheleth – The Preacher

Name	Famously Known for
Song of Solomon	Love song/poetry
Wisdom of Solomon	"Sophia Salomonos," "Liber Sapientiae"
Sirach	All Wisdom comes from the Lord

The Divisions of the Old Testament in Catholicism

The Prophetic Literature

Name	Famously Known for
Isaiah	The suffering servant
Jeremiah	Jeremiah's warning of the destruction of the temple
Lamentations	Sadness over the temple's destruction
Baruch	Repentance of the Babylonian exiles
Ezekiel	Vision of Jerusalem and the new temple
Daniel	The three young men and the fiery furnace
Hosea	Promise of God to restore Israel
Joel	The day of the Lord is coming
Amos	The promise of God to repair Israel

Name	Famously Known for
Obadiah	Israel will triumph
Jonah	Jonah in the belly of the whale – Nineveh repents
Micah	A remnant will be gathered
Nahum	Oracle against Nineveh
Habakkuk	God's Justice – Trust in difficult times
Zephaniah	The Day of The Lord
Haggai	The command to rebuild the temple
Zechariah	“Strike the shepherd, that the sheep may be scattered”
Malachi	The coming messenger

The New Testament in Catholicism

The Gospels	Image	Author	Synoptic?
Matthew	Winged Man	Matthew	Yes
Mark	Lion	Mark the Evangelist	Yes
Luke	Ox	Luke the Evangelist	Yes
John	Eagle	John	No

History of Infant Church	Author
Acts of the Apostles	Luke the Evangelist

Other Books in NT Pt 1	Author	Other books in NT pt 2	Author
Romans	Paul	Titus	Paul
1&2 Corinthians	Paul	Philemon	Paul
Galatians	Paul	Hebrews	Unknown
Ephesians	Paul	James	James
Philippians	Paul	1&2 Peter	Peter (attributed)
Colossians	Paul	1-3 John	John
1&2 Thessalonians	Paul	Jude	Jude
1&2 Timothy	Paul	Revelation	John of Patmos

Conclusion of Part 1 – Q&A

■ Sources and further reading for Part 1

1. USCCB.org/bible/understanding-the-bible
 - The prayer from the beginning slide is from the USCCB as well.
2. A Catholic Introduction to the Bible – The Old Testament by John Bergsma & Brant Pitre
3. Ignatius Catholic Study Bible – New Testament Second Catholic Edition RSV
4. The Holy Bible – RSV 2nd Catholic Edition

■ FAQ

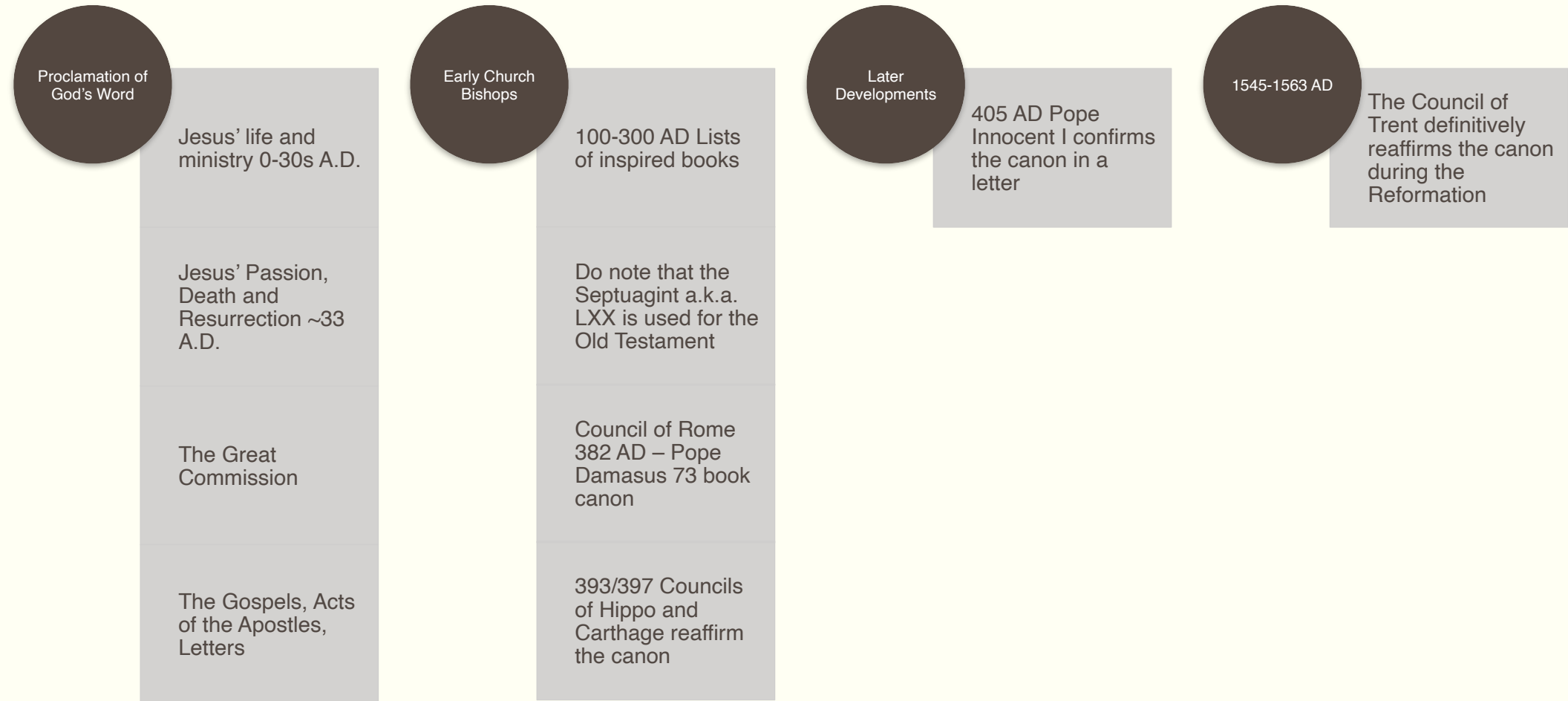
- Q -Who wrote the Bible?
- Q - Did God dictate the scriptures?
- Q - What does it mean for the sacred texts to be inspired, despite not being dictated?
- Q - How did it get from God to manuscript?
- Q - Why 73 books and not 66?
- Q - What about the apocrypha?
- Q - What translation is accurate and why?
- Q - Why is Catholicism not *sola scriptura*?



SACRED TRADITION

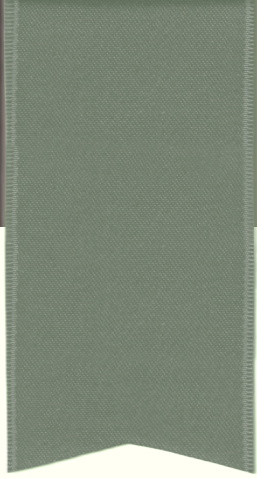
The Authority, Guardians and Teachers of Scripture

Key moments in the history of Tradition of Scripture in Catholicism



Matthew 28:16-20 - With added emphasis

- The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had ordered them. When they saw him, they worshiped, but they doubted. Then Jesus approached and said to them, “All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.”



TRADITION

Magisterium's role in the handing down of the Sacred Scriptures.

The Reality of the Church's Magisterium



Art – “The Dispute of the Eucharist” – Raphael, 1509-1510AD

Who makes up the Magisterium? What is the Magisterium's role regarding the sacred texts?

- 1. The Pope (the bishop of Rome) and the bishops united with him.

- 2. In the ordination of a bishop there is a three-fold mission given to the new bishop.
 - 2a. To Teach – Proclaiming the Gospel and safeguarding doctrine. Handing on the faith to the present and future generations.
 - 2b. To Govern – To oversee, discipline, and give a witness through Christ-like leadership.
 - 2c. To Sanctify – To administer and provide support in the sacramental life in his diocese.

Church Councils' role in the handing down of Sacred Scripture

1. Remember the previous slide of the development of the Church's canon of Sacred Scripture?
2. Council of Rome - 382 AD
3. Council of Hippo and Carthage – 393, A.D. & 397 AD, respectively
4. Council of Trent- 1545-1563 AD
5. Vatican II – 1962-1965 AD – Allowed for Mass to be said in the vernacular – or language of the people. Previously was exclusively Latin.

These are important because you can see that from very early on in the Catholic Church's history, the canon was already accepted. Trent “dogmatically”, or definitively, set the canon.

Dei Verbum

Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation – Vatican II

7. But in order to keep the Gospel forever whole and alive within the Church, the Apostles left bishops as their successors, "handing over" to them "the authority to teach in their own place."⁽³⁾ This sacred tradition, therefore, and Sacred Scripture of both the Old and New Testaments are like a mirror in which the pilgrim Church on earth looks at God, from whom she has received everything, until she is brought finally to see Him as He is, face to face (see 1 John 3:2).

Conclusion of Part 2 – Q&A

■ Sources and further reading for Part 2

1. USCCB.org/bible/understanding-the-bible
2. The Documents of Vatican II – With Notes and Index – Vatican Translation
3. Dei Verbum – https://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_const_19651118_dei-verbum_en.html

■ Questions?

■ Things to remember:

1. The Bible is a library.
2. Context, context, context!
3. “The New is in the Old concealed; the Old is in the New revealed.” – St. Augustine
4. The Magisterium’s authority to teach, govern and sanctify comes from Jesus Christ through Sacred Tradition.
5. Do not be afraid of starting to read and not understanding immediately.
6. Memorization of scripture takes time and hard work.
7. The holy mass in Catholicism is scriptural.
8. The Bible is the Word of God!

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