

Thanks be to Thee, my Lord Jesus Christ
For all the benefits Thou hast given me,
For all the pains and insults Thou hast borne for me.
O most merciful Redeemer, friend and brother,
May I know Thee more clearly,
Love Thee more dearly,
Follow Thee more nearly.

—St. Richard of Chichester

CATHOLIC RESOURCES

These listings are by no means all inclusive. They are the ones I have found most helpful, especially as a new Catholic. (Note: all podcasts can be found on iTunes although their links go to their home pages.)

THE BASICS

THE VATICAN

The home office. The place for the Pope's latest homilies, encyclicals, and suchlike. I like that they have a tab for "Vatican Secret Archives." (www.vatican.va/)

UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS (USCCB)

Daily readings, New American Bible online, Prayer resources, news and issues, and more. (usccb.org)

THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Next to the Bible, probably the most indispensable book for Catholics.

BULLETIN

Tons of good stuff in there.

BIBLE TRANSLATIONS

The New American Bible (NAB) is the only English text approved by the Church for use in U.S. liturgies. However there are many other translations available for devotional reading which confused me considerably until I looked into them more. These all have imprimaturs.

NEW AMERICAN BIBLE (NAB)

A translation first published in 1970 under the liturgical principles and reforms of the Second Vatican Council (1962–1965).

NEW AMERICAN BIBLE REVISED EDITION (NABRE)

The first major update to the New American Bible text in over 20 years. They've been working at revising it in pieces since the late 1970s and finally finished up in 2012.

REVISED STANDARD VERSION (RSV)

Based upon a revision of the standard King James Version.

REVISED STANDARD VERSION CATHOLIC EDITION (RSV-CE)

An adaptation of the RSV for use by Roman Catholics.

NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION (NRSV)

An updated translation of the RSV intended for the broadest possible range of religious adherents. It has inclusive language for human beings. It retains traditional language for God.

DOUAY-RHEIMS (DR)

This is the Catholic equivalent to the “King James” Bible. This is the original Catholic Bible in English. It was translated in 1610 from the Latin Vulgate, the Church’s official Scripture text, by English Catholics in exile on the continent. You may see references to “Challoner’s edition” which is the most common.

CATHOLIC STUDY BIBLES

These Bibles all have special essays, extensive study notes, maps, and the like.

NAVARRE BIBLES

A lot of commentary pulled from Church documents, Fathers of the Church, and contemporary spiritual writers — particularly St. Josemaría Escrivá, who initiated the Navarre Bible project. They are a touch on the intellectual side but they are one of my favorites. Separate books of the Bible for the most part.

IGNATIUS STUDY BIBLES (HAHN, MITCH)

A bit more accessible than the Navarre Bibles. Commentary between the Ignatius and Navarre Bibles does not overlap as much as you might think.

CATHOLIC COMMENTARY ON SACRED SCRIPTURE

My favorites at the moment. Non-technical, accessible but not dumbed-down at all. Excellent for looking at the Bible in context. More narrative than Ignatius and less intellectual than Navarre. However, all three are wonderful in their approaches and complement one another. ([My review here.](#))

THE CATHOLIC STUDY BIBLE (DONALD SENIOR)

Tons of aids and guides in this one-volume Bible. I used this study Bible first and, although it isn’t my favorite, it does a workmanlike job.

ST. IRENAEUS MINISTRIES (PODCAST)

A weekly podcast. Insightful, practical scripture study with helpful connections to daily life. Although from a Catholic point of view, this is a podcast I recommend to non-Catholics.

DEVOTIONALS

Devotionals are books designed for daily use to help you grow closer to God and learn more about Christian life. They are often prayer aids. Devotionals need not contain doctrinal or theological, though they may.

READING GOD’S WORD 2012-2013

(CREATIVE COMMUNICATIONS FOR THE PARISH)

Daily Mass Readings of the Catholic liturgical calendar. E-book only.

VERBUM DOMINI (PODCAST)

Daily Mass Readings of the Catholic liturgical calendar.

PRAY-AS-YOU-GO (PODCAST)

Daily prayer, usually about 10 minutes, designed to be done while commuting. It begins with music, then one of the daily Mass readings. Time is given for contemplation with a series of gently asked questions that invite contemplation. This is a favorite of mine.

THE WORD AMONG US

A Catholic devotional magazine based on the daily Mass readings. Very accessible. (wau.org)

MAGNIFICAT

A Catholic devotional magazine for prayer three times daily. Includes daily Mass readings and meditations from a great variety of sources. Not quite as accessible as Word Among Us but beloved by many. (magnificat.com)

TAKE FIVE: MEDITATIONS WITH ... (AQUILINA)

Designed to take only 5 minutes. Succinct enough to fit into a busy schedule but powerful enough for inspiration. Series so far contains: Pope Benedict, St. Ignatius, and Cardinal Henry Newman. I love these.

IN CONVERSATION WITH GOD series (FERNANDEZ-CARVAJAL)

Brief daily meditations following the thread of the liturgical readings. I have been reading this 7-book series almost every day for about 12 years and have yet to find one that is better or more complete. Sensible, down-to-earth writing is enhanced by quotes from saints, popes, related Scripture, Church documents, and ancient and contemporary spiritual writers. (I bought the books one at a time.) ([my review](#))

WHY DO CATHOLICS DO THAT?

THE HOW-TO BOOK OF CATHOLIC DEVOTIONS (AQUILINA, FLAHERTY)

A basic primer on Catholic devotions, everything from praying the rosary to adoration to offering it up.

THE HOW-TO BOOK OF THE MASS (DUBRUIEL)

When you should genuflect and when you should bow; the meaning of words like “Amen,” “Alleluia,” or “Hosanna”; what to do during the sign of peace. Good inspirational commentary in addition to the “how to” part. The Mass language is a bit outdated since the new liturgy was instituted last year.

WHY DO CATHOLICS DO THAT? (JOHNSON)

Honest, inoffensive, and funny catechism companion. Covers familiar subjects including fascinating info about the symbolism of colors, numbers, and more. I keep extra copies on hand to give away.

CATHOLICISM FOR DUMMIES (TRIGLIO, BRIGHENTI)

A casual, down-to-earth introduction for Catholics and non-Catholics. ([excerpts from the book](#))

THE COMPLETE IDIOT'S GUIDE TO THE CATHOLIC CATECHISM (POUST)

Explains the Catechism in easy to understand language. ([my review](#))

CATHOLIC CHRISTIANITY (KREEFT)

Explains the Catholic faith in a systematic, logical way following the Catechism. My favorite catechism companion. Peter Kreeft's clear explanations are what helped me grasp the logic for the Church's position on social issues like abortion and gay marriage. ([my review](#))

IN THE NEWS

For a little more detail than the usual sound-bytes our media gives about the Pope and the Church.

ZENIT

A view of the “world seen from Rome,” with news of the Pope, the Vatican and the Catholic Church. (zenit.org/en)

CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Reporting the news which affects Catholics in their everyday lives. (catholicnews.com)

WHISPERS IN THE LOGGIA (BLOG)

I go here when I want the fastest info: the translation of the Pope’s latest statement, the scoop on the bishop who’s just been assigned to a major city, or some similar news. (whispersintheloggia.blogspot.com/)

GET RELIGION (BLOG)

When there’s a religious story in the news, I go here. Written by religion journalists concerned with media bias in religion stories. Are facts missing? Are the facts twisted? They sort it out. Get Religion is key for me. (patheos.com/blogs/getreligion)

CATHOLIC FAMILY

Where better to integrate faith into daily life than in our homes?

THE CATHOLIC HOME (GOULD)

A great book for ways to bolster your Catholic identity. Catholic customs for the liturgical year and other special celebrations. ([my review](#))

CATHOLICCULTURE.ORG

The “[Liturgical Year](#)” tab is what you want. It comes up with the saint of the day and a link to daily readings. Each saint has a “Things to Do” list at the bottom which have all sorts of different applications to daily life: recipes, crafts, links to more reading, and really good suggestions for ways to relate to the virtues of each saint. I actually use their series of [Liturgical Year ebooks](#) as devotionals. They are inexpensive and you can find them at their site.

CATHOLIC FAMILY FUN (REINHARD)

A guide families can use for having a great time together, often using supplies from around the house or just plain imagination. Each activity has a several variations, starters to help you get going, faith angles, and a way to “make it yours.” ([my review](#))

A CONTINUAL FEAST (VITZ)

Catholic home practices, customs, and food (with recipes) for the liturgical year, beginning with “Sunday” since it is a mini-celebration of Easter.

IN DEPTH

My go-to books about subjects I had questions about after my conversion. Check the [St. Jude Library](#) for books about your questions. They have 6,000 titles, [searchable online](#).

- *Morning Star: Christ's Mother and Ours* by Oscar Lukefahr ... where I learned to say the rosary and a lot of info about Mary.
- *The Fathers of the Church* by Mike Aquilina ... where I learned that what those ancient Fathers said matters to me today.
- *A Still, Small Voice: A Practical Guide on Reported Revelations* by Benedict J. Groeschel ... where I learned what Marian appearances are about and why it can be good to have a skeptical attitude. ([excerpt](#))
- *A Father Who Keeps His Promises: God's Covenant Love in Scripture* by Scott Hahn ... the book that taught me Scripture had more than a surface meaning.
- *Pardon and Peace: A Sinner's Guide to Confession* by Francis Randolph ... where I learned that a book about confession can have a lot of other fascinating information to deepen my faith.
- *The Power of Pause: Becoming More by Doing Less* by Terry Hershey ... where I became convinced that I needed to take Sundays off and learned how to begin doing it. ([my review](#))
- *Mystics & Miracles: True Stories of Lives Touched by God* by Bert Ghezzi ... where I began learning about the lives of the saints.
- *Angels and Demons: What Do We Really Know about Them?* by Peter J. Kreeft ... where I began to learn to love and appreciate my guardian angel. ([my review](#))
- *Seven Glorious Days: A Scientist Retells the Genesis Creation Story* by Giberson W. Karl ... where I came across a seamless, inspiring combination of science and faith. Not Catholic but that's ok. ([my review](#))
- *No Wonder They Call It the Real Presence: Lives Changed by Christ In Eucharistic Adoration* by David Pearson ... where I began to figure out what adoration is.
- *How to Get the Most Out of the Eucharist* by Michael Dubruiel ... where I learned that "going to Mass" and "participating in Mass" are two different things. ([my review](#))
- *Caring for the Dying With the Help of Your Catholic Faith* by Elizabeth Scalia ... sensitive and thoughtful spiritual commentary intertwined with the extremely practical information. I know of no other book like it. I keep extra copies on hand to give to people. ([my review](#))

FUN AND INFORMATIVE

WORD ON FIRE (BLOG)

Father Barron's blog which also hosts his YouTube commentaries on movies, culture, the church and more. ([wordonfire.org](#))

THE B-MOVIE CATECHISM (BLOG)

One man's desperate attempt to reconcile his love of his Catholic faith with his passion for cult cinema and really, really bad movies. ([b-moviecat.blogspot.com](#))

IDLE SPECULATIONS (BLOG)

Catholicism, art, and history. The emphasis here usually begins with a piece of art. ([idlespeculations-terryprest.blogspot.com](#))

THE CATHOLIC LABORATORY (PODCAST)

The rich scientific heritage of the Catholic Church and to understanding the Church's stance towards modern science. Also very valuable for keeping up with science news. (catholiclab.net)

CATHOLIC UNDER THE HOOD (PODCAST)

A Franciscan priest podcasting about Catholic history, theology, the Bible, the Pope and suchlike. Always very informative. (catholicunderthehood.com)

THE FLICKS THAT CHURCH FORGOT (PODCAST)

Not Catholic but that's ok. Peter Laws, a Baptist minister in England, looks at a horror film and follows up with a connection to Christianity or living a Christian life. Always respectful to both Christians and nonbelievers. (theflicksthatchurchforgot.com)

CATHOLIC STUFF YOU SHOULD KNOW (PODCAST)

Modeled after the popular podcast Stuff You Should Know, this podcast explains a wide range of topics ... everything from Stylites (standing on pillars in style) to Ethiopian Christianity to Bishop's Wear and beyond. (catholicstuffpodcast.com)

MY STUFF

HAPPY CATHOLIC (BLOG)

Not always happy but always happy to be Catholic. Books, movies, quotes, art, prayer, Bible study ... and all that makes up daily Catholic life. Be sure to check out the tabs for [book reviews](#), [movie reviews](#), and [Bible study notes](#). (happycatholic.blogspot.com)

A GOOD STORY IS HARD TO FIND (PODCAST)

My friend Scott and I talk about the popular books and movies we love and, as Catholics, the traces of the One Reality we find below the surface. (agoodstoryishardtfind.blogspot.com)

HAPPY CATHOLIC'S BOOKSHELF (BLOG)

Some Catholic pals and I share reviews of whatever we happen to pick up and read ... mystery, thrillers, science fiction, and Catholic books too. (patheos.com/blogs/happycatholicbookshelf)

HAPPY CATHOLIC: GLIMPSES OF GOD IN EVERYDAY LIFE (THE BOOK)

"Happy Catholic" is a genuine reflection of what a real, live Catholic thinks and feels. It is accessible, likable, friendly, no-fuss, in places surprisingly challenging, even prickly, laugh-out-loud funny, and thought-provoking.
— Danusha Goska

GOODREADS

Like Facebook for readers ... and I'm addicted. If you love reading, [c'mon](#).