



# BURLINGTON-LYONS CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

ST. MARY • ST. JOSEPH • ST. CHARLES

6 August 2025

Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord

Where did the bible come from?

- Concept of biblical “canon” from Greek word for “cane” or measuring stick
  - Something by which we could “measure” our teachings.
- Catholic Church proclaimed the canon in AD 382 at the Council of Rome
  - 73 books total: 46 in the Old Testament, 27 in the New Testament
  - Note, this was before any big splits like Eastern Orthodoxy or Protestantism

Why so many versions?

- Translation **is** interpretation: *canis* (Latin) = dog, puppy, canine, etc.
- Ancient Greek versus Hebrew libraries
- Vulgate (Latin) vs. Original Texts (Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek)
- Doctrinal authority of Scripture
  - “Through divine revelation, God chose to show forth and communicate . . . the eternal decisions of His will regarding the salvation of men” (DV 6).
  - 2 Thessalonians 2:15

What versions might I see out there?

- Catholic
  - **New American Bible (NAB or NABRE)**
  - Douay-Rheims / Confraternity Bible
  - Revised Standard Version Catholic Edition (RSVCE or RSV2CE)
    - Bible in a Year version
- Non-Catholic
  - King James Version (KJV) or New King James Version (NKJV)
  - Revised Standard Version (RSV)
  - New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)
  - New Living Translation (NLT)
  - New International Version (NIV)
- Which version is used at Mass?
  - In USA, 1986 or 1991 New American Bible, except for Psalms



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What does the Catholic Church teach about the bible?

- The bible is part of a fuller revelation of God's love for the human race—Salvation History. God comes to meet us through Divine Revelation, by means of Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition.
- To understand Scripture, we have to understand **Divine Revelation** as a whole.
- Vatican II – Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation – ***Dei Verbum*** (The Word of God)
- We don't just read the bible, we live the bible.

Timeline of Recent Biblical Developments

- **1893:** Pope Leo XIII publishes the encyclical *Providentissimus Deus*, opening Catholic biblical scholarship to more critical approaches following advances in the physical sciences (e.g., astronomy, atomic structure, archeology)
- **1943:** Pope Pius XII publishes *Divino Afflante Spiritu*, calling for new translations based on original languages, rather than the Latin Vulgate
- **1946:** Discovery of Dead Sea Scrolls
- **1965:** Pope St. Paul VI approves *Dei Verbum*, calling for “Easy access to Sacred Scripture” for all the faithful, so that they might engage in “frequent reading” (DV 22, 25).
- **1970:** Publication of the New American Bible and the three-year Lectionary for Mass
- **1992:** Publication of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, the first major universal revision since 1566

Where can I learn more?

- Catechism of the Catholic Church: See “Index of Citations” near back.
- St. Paul Center: [www.youtube.com/@StPaulCenter](https://www.youtube.com/@StPaulCenter)
- Podcasts
  - Stunned by Scripture
  - Bible in a Year
  - Catholic Answers
- Catholic book publishers
  - [www.avemariapress.com/](https://www.avemariapress.com/)
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