

Dear Readers,

The **Adult Summer Reading Challenge** list has been posted in the bulletin and online here: [Books and Bagels](#).

Many categories are self explanatory, but we realize not all may be: especially if you are new to the faith or new to studying/reading about it! To that end, we provide the following list. A few disclaimers: we do not get reimbursed in any way for any links contained herein (though if we link to another list, check their policy to see if they received a small percentage of any purchase). This list is not THE list, as a definitive one does not exist. As you'll be quite aware, many classics are written by male authors, such is our history.

If you are reading for an eye to the raffle entries, you'll want to know WHAT TITLES COUNT? Any on this list of course, but it is not limited to this list either. You may select anything that fits the category - if you have questions, call our director Kristi at 239-261-5831. The point, though, is not to trip you up but for all of us to have fun reading. Use the challenge to discover new authors or genres in Catholic influence, and to discuss them with friends or the Books & Bagels meeting in September 2018. And yes, audio books count!

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**Category 1** - Two Old Testament books ([find them online here](#)). We suggest Tobit, Jonah, Esther or even Job: all short narratives that can have spiritual gems without studying their history or authorship (though that would add to the insights of course).

**Category 2-** For G.K. Chesterton, if you like mysteries go for one of the Fr. Brown novels. If you prefer biographies, read either of his on St. Thomas of Aquinas or St. Francis of Assisi. If apologetics is more your taste, try Orthodoxy. For C.S. Lewis, if you like parables you can try The Great Divorce or The Screwtape Letters. There's always the first book from the famous Chronicles of Narnia series: The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe. If you prefer a more challenging and straightforward read, go for Mere Christianity.

**Category 3** – Faith fiction novels can take many forms. There's the always popular Amish inspirational romances and best selling author Jan Karon's Mitford novels. To find new reads, try the "Inspys," a bloggers' award for excellence in faith-driven literature in seven different categories.  
<http://inspys.com/?p=2237>

For specifically Catholic novels, check out this list by a Nebraska priest:

<http://frcoulter.com/books/novels.html> Of course, he leaves out Andrew Greeley, an Irish Chicago priest and prolific fiction writer who was vilified for writing detailed scenes of sin and love in his novels. But did you know bestselling romance novelist Nicholas Sparks was also Catholic?

**Category 4** - Any New Testament book that's \*not a Gospel." ([find them online here](#)) Why not a Gospel? For one, we hear them consistently at Mass. For another, they tell the story of Jesus and his ministry, with which we hope you are already familiar. Finally, by going to Acts of the Apostles or one of the letters (such as Peter, James, etc), you'll get a glimpse of the early Church in a more complete way than with the portions we hear at Mass. Hebrews is an excellent summary of God's action and history with the chosen people, including how Jesus is the culmination.

**Category 5** – Scott Hahn is a famous convert and prolific author. He tells his conversion story in Rome Sweet Rome; many say his book The Lamb's Supper changed the way they attend and pray at Mass; and his recent publications cover topics like evangelization and marriage. Find the complete list at his official website: <http://www.scotthahn.com/scott-hahn-books/> Dynamic Catholic is a company started by Australian layman Matthew Kelly, and they offer many Catholic books at low cost through their website, <https://dynamiccatholic.com/shop/free-resources/books>, or by calling [\(859\) 980-7900](tel:8599807900)

**Category 6:** Read a book you'd recommend to your grandchildren, or to any child, teen or young adult. Yes, it's okay if you don't have grandchildren, or if they're all grown up! Yes, it's okay to read a kid's book for this category! For a list of recommendations, visit this list compiled by parishioner Lisa Wroble.

**Category 7:** The St. William Parish Library is located in the main office building, on the east corner of Seagate & West. It's open M-F, 8:30 am – 3:30 pm, and is primarily Catholic nonfiction books and audiobooks. It includes biographies, current topics such as parenting or grief, and books on spirituality and prayer.

**Category 8:** Here you can read a biography of a female saint (or autobiography such as The Story of a Soul by St. Therese de Lisieux), a spiritual book she wrote (A Simple Path, by Teresa of Calcutta), or even a compilation of a variety of woman saints (such as My Sisters the Saints by Colleen Carroll Campbell).

**Category 9:** You can find sample copies of some magazines on our church campus. Visit the Main office for "Catholic Digest" and "The Word Among Us." Visit the Ministry Center for: "America," "U.S. Catholic," and "St. Anthony Messenger." Reading our local Catholic newspaper, "The Florida Catholic," would also count.

**Category 10:** Re-read a classic or favorite religious book. This can be anything from "Two from Galilee: the story of Mary and Joseph" by Marjorie Holmes, to "Introduction to Devout Life" by St. Francis de Sales. If you don't have a particular favorite, check either of these massive lists for inspiration on Catholic classics:

- Brandon Vogt, content director for Word on Fire and avid reader, compiled his list [here on his blog](#). It's conveniently broken down into categories, and includes links to Amazon.
- The Hank Center for Catholic Intellectual Heritage at Loyola University Chicago has compiled [this list of Classic Catholic Books](#), also broken into categories but without links to buy online.

**Category 11:** Free space! It doesn't have to be religious or faith inspired, or you can add your second choice from one of the other categories.

**Category 12:** A book you'd recommend for our parish book club. If it doesn't have to be directly about the Catholic faith, per se, but can be on a current topic or humanist issue.

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Finally... Don't forget to check our on site Gift Shop for some of these... OR your local library, OR bookstore... OR your usual online site OR even [www.thriftbooks.com](http://www.thriftbooks.com) for sale prices (no affiliate or partnership with them, just a helpful website).

Hope this helps. We look forward to hearing your book recommendations for this year, and category recommendations for the next reading challenge!

Peace, Kristi  
Director of Adult Formation and Enrichment