

Publications

Ascension Press – Study Programs

- These study programs consist of a series of DVD lessons with expert speakers along with a study guide/workbook. Contact info: www.ascensionpress.com or 1-800-376-0520 (Mon-Fri, 8 a.m.-6 p.m. EST)

Programs for Adults

- Joy-filled Marriage
- Belonging: Baptism in the Family of God
- Oremus: A Guide to Catholic Prayer
- Epic: A Journey Through Church History
- Epic: The Early Church
- The Gift: Your Call to Greatness
- Momnipotent – Finding Peace, Balance & Joy in your Vocation as a Mother
- An Introduction to the Theology of the Body
- Intro the Heart: A Journey Through the Theology of the Body
- Freedom to Love
- God’s Plan for a Joy-Filled Marriage
- El Plan de Dios para un Matrimonio Lleno de Alegria
- Living a Joy-Filled Marriage – Life Skills
- Surviving Divorce: Hope and Healing for the Catholic Family
- Pillar I: The Creed
- Pillar II: Sacraments

Loyola Press: Six Weeks with the Bible

Each booklet is designed to cover the topic in six weeks. Each topic has discussion questions. The booklets cost \$7.95 each.

Old Testament

- Genesis 1-11: God makes a start.
- Genesis 12-23: Abraham and Sarah’s Journey
- Genesis 25-33: Jacob’s Blessing
- Genesis 37-50: Joseph the Dreamer
- Exodus: God to the Rescue
- Job: A Good Man Asks Why
- Psalms: An Invitation to Prayer
- Psalms II: Praying with Jesus
- Proverbs: Wisdom for Living
- Isaiah 40-55: Build a Highway for God
- Jonah/Ruth: Love Crosses Boundaries
- Parables: Stories of the Kingdom
- Amos/Hosea/Micah: A Call to Justice

New Testament

- Matthew 1-2/Luke 1-2: Joy to the World
- Matthew 5-7: How to be Happy
- Matthew 10-20: On the Road with Jesus
- Matthew 26-28: Jesus' Life-Giving Death
- Mark: Getting to Know Jesus
- Luke: the Good News of God's Mercy
- John 1-10: I Am the Bread of Life
- John 11-21: My Peace I Give You
- Acts: The Good News of the Holy Spirit
- 1 Corinthians: Living as Christians
- Galatians: Free in Christ
- Philippians: A Letter to Friends
- Colossians/Philemon: New Life in Christ
- 1 and 2 Thessalonians: Stand Firm in Faith
- James: Put Your Faith to Work
- Romans: Amazing Grace
- Revelation: God's Gift of Hope

Other topics

- Jesus: Man of Prayer
- Jesus the Healer
- Mary: Jesus' Mother, and ours
- Finding Christ in Your Marriage
- The Our Father
- On the Way to the Promised Land
- Celebrating the Mass
- Living for a Just Society
- Becoming a Praying Person
- Being Disciples of Jesus

Speakers

Think Tank members: contact for more details about the resources and ideas listed.

- Mark Topp, Coordinator
- Rev. Christopher M. Stanish
- Deacon Tom Gryzbek, Senior VP/COO Post-Acute/Compliance, Franciscan Alliance.
Contact: tom.gryzbek@franciscanalliance.org or 219-662-3742
- Stacia Bolakowski, Campus Minister, Bishop Noll Institute. Director of Religious Education, Sacred Heart, Wanatah. Retreat director with 25+ years experience

throughout the diocese for teens and adults; guest speaker on a variety of topics; has lived in the worlds of parish religious education/administration and Catholic school education/administration for 23+ years. sbolakowski@bishopnoll.org. (219) 363-8216.

- Adela Bonta,
- Joan Crist, Associate Professor of Theology, Calumet College of St. Joseph, jcrist@ccsj.edu .
- Joyce Malecki, Director of Religious Education at St. Martin of Tours in LaCrosse, IN
Contact: jmalecki@scentral.k12.in.us 219-754-2522.

- Doris Stanish

- Theology Program Faculty at Calumet College of St. Joseph (Full bios available at <https://www.ccsj.edu/Theology/#undefined3>)
- Rev. Kevin Scalf, C.P.P.S.
Scripture; moral theology; high school pedagogy and formation; Lay Ministry Formation; Deacon Formation. kscalf@ccsj.edu
- Joan Crist, Ph.D.
doctrine of the Trinity; classical philosophy & theology; Ecumenical and Interreligious Dialogue; Catholic Social Teaching; Latin. jcrist@ccsj.edu
- Kevin Considine, Ph.D.
service-based learning; social justice; racial justice; intercultural theology and communication. kconsidine@ccsj.edu
- Deacon Daniel Lowery, Ph.D.
wide-ranging experience with public policy in the Region; Catholic Social Teaching; Philosophy. dlowery@ccsj.edu
- Elizabeth-Anne Stewart, Ph.D.
spirituality and spiritual direction; Catholic Social Teaching, esp. Laudato Si. estewart@ccsj.edu
- Deacon John Bacon can give the presentation called “World Religions.” It is an overview of the major religious traditions representing the majority of religious believers in the world.
Length: 4 to 6 hours (2 sessions recommended)
Format: lecture/discussion
Recommended Audience: adults
Recommended Audience Size: up to 100
Recommended Season (if any): none
Preparatory Work: none
Presenter: Deacon John Bacon
Contact Information: (219) 613-0591; jabacon3@yahoo.com
Equipment Requirements: none

- Deacon Bob Marben can give the presentation “Gospel of John.” It is a lecture of key topics of John.
Length: four separate sessions, each one hour long

Format: lecture and interactions

Recommended Audience: post high school

Recommended Audience Size: no more than 50

Recommended Season (if any): n/a

Preparatory Work: read the scripture introduction to the Gospel of John

Presenter: Deacon Bob Marben

Contact Information: (574) 340-4065

Equipment Requirements: n/a

- Deacon Bob Marben can give the presentation “Synoptic Gospels.” It is a lecture about the key points of Matthew/Mark/Luke.
Length: 2 hours
Format: lecture and table discussions and interaction
Recommended Audience: post high school
Recommended Audience Size: no more than 50
Recommended Season (if any): n/a
Preparatory Work: n/a
Presenter: Deacon Bob Marben
Contact Information: (574) 340-4065
Equipment Requirements: n/a

- Deacon Bob Marben can give a presentation called “Footsteps of Saint Paul.” It is about Paul’s life, letters and historical sites he visited.
Length: four separate sessions, each two hours long
Format: PowerPoint with important sites in Greece and Turkey
Recommended Audience: post high school
Recommended Audience Size: maximum 100
Recommended Season (if any): n/a
Preparatory Work: read the scripture introduction to all of St. Paul’s letters
Presenter: Deacon Bob Marben
Contact Information: (574) 340-4065
Equipment Requirements: screen and projector for computer hook-up

- Deacon Bob Marben can give a presentation called “Stewardship of Marriage.” It is a spirituality and marriage workshop.
Length: two hours
Format: PowerPoint and table discussions and interaction
Recommended Audience: married couples
Recommended Audience Size: 50
Recommended Season (if any): n/a
Preparatory Work: n/a
Presenter: Deacon Bob Marben
Contact Information: (574) 340-4065
Equipment Requirements: screen and projector for computer hook-up

- Deacon Bob Marben can present on Rite of Christian Initiation topics, regarding scripture/magisterium/morality/sin/prayer.
Length: each topic takes one hour and is done at separate events
Recommended Audience: RCIA candidates/catechumenates
Recommended Audience Size: 30 or fewer
Recommended Season (if any): n/a
Preparatory Work: n/a
Presenter: Deacon Bob Marben
Contact Information: (574) 340-4065
Equipment Requirements: none

Web-Based Resources

- The Website of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops: www.usccb.org. With an excellent search engine, this official site provides reliable information and resources on a thorough range of topics from liturgy to Catholic Social Teaching.
- The Vatican website: www.vatican.va Locate a wide range of official Church documents and updates from Papal Encyclicals to current news.
- Dynamic Catholic. Internationally known speaker and author Matthew Kelly share a variety of resources and materials (print and social media) to help Catholics become "the best version" of the person God intends them to be. www.dynamiccatholic.com
- Real Life Catholic. www.reallifecatholic.com Nationally known author and speaker Chris Stefanik's online ministry.
Mission: Real Life Catholic's purpose is to ignite a bold, contagious faith in the the heart of every Catholic in America by building a movement of Catholics who share the beauty, power, and truth of the Gospel with a world that has largely forgotten."
- Interfaith Leadership, for college-age youth to adults. Short video clips, learning objectives, suggested readings and activities. This online curriculum introduces learners to the emerging field of interfaith leadership, a new way of understanding the importance of ecumenism and interreligious dialogue.
<https://www.ifyc.org/interfaithleadership>

Successful Programs

- Adult: Understanding the Creed: Using the book, *Faith That Transforms Us: Reflections on the Creed*, by Cardinal Donald Wuerl, a good six-week program can be given explaining the creed using excellent questions for discussion. (Contact Deacon Tom Gryzbek for more details.)

- Youth – Adult: Why Abortion is Wrong from legal, spiritual, moral, and ethical viewpoints. Speaker Deacon Tom Gryzbek. 1 to 1.5 hours. Audiences: Confirmation classes; adult formation programs.

- Adult: End-of-Life Decisions – Advance Directives. A program on making end-of-life decisions consistent with Church teaching. Speakers: Franciscan Alliance Leadership. 1.5 to 2 hours. Contact Deacon Tom Gryzbek.

- Adult: Catholic Ethics and Medical Decision-Making. A program on making medical decisions consistent with Catholic Church teaching and the *Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services* promulgated by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). Speakers: Franciscan Alliance Leadership. 1.5 to 2 hours. Contact Deacon Tom Gryzbek.

- Adult: Creating a Divorce Support Group in the parish. Using the book, *Divorce and Beyond* by James Greteman & Leon Haverkamp, an eight-week program to begin a divorce support group in a parish. (Contact Deacon Tom Gryzbek for more info.)

- Adult: Having Crucial Conversations. Using the program developed by “Vital Smarts,” a 12-hour program designed to develop listening and communication skills when people disagree and emotions handicap needed conversations. (Contact Deacon Tom Gryzbek for more info.)

- Youth to Adult: the “Toxic Tour.” Up to 12 participants can travel to sites in the Region which suffer from toxic pollution and environmental injustice, with narration by Region environmental activist Thomas Frank. Contact Kevin Considine or Joan Crist at Calumet College of St Joseph. Related to Catholic Social Teaching on Stewardship of Creation.

- Youth: “Theology Unscooped” (Contact Doris Stanish for more details.)

- Based on “Theology On Tap” but for teens.
- Combine an ice cream social with speaker about topics pertinent to teens.
- Meet once a month.
- Some topics you could do: Are Ghosts Real? (What does the Church teach about spirit world, occult, Ouiji boards, séances etc.?); What is Your Mission From God? (vocations); Defending our Faith: How to answer questions our friends have about our faith. What does our Church say about sexuality, marriage and family?