

Church of the Holy Family - Suggested Reading List

Sections: [Aging](#)
[Catholicism](#)
[Church History](#)
[Evangelization](#)
[Faith and Spirituality](#)
[Prayer](#)
[Reference](#)
[Scripture](#)
[Spiritual Fiction](#)

Aging

The Gift of Years

Joan Chittister, OSB

BlueBridge; Fourth Printing edition 2010

ISBN: 1933346337

This book reflects on many aspects of aging, the purposes and concerns, the struggles and surprises, the potential and joys. She invites us to embrace older age as a natural part of life that is active and contemplative, productive and reflective, and deeply rewarding. She encourages us to cherish the blessings of aging and to overcome its challenges, and shows us that this is a special period of life – maybe the most special of them all.

Catholicism

The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic

Matthew Kelly

Beacon Publishing, 2nd edition Jan 2013

ISBN: 1937509664

Kelly identified four signs - Prayer, Study, Generosity and Evangelization that his research shows are key in the lives of engaged Catholics. He urges parishes to challenge parishioners to look at their current activity and incrementally increase it year by year to see the awesome results.

Rediscover Catholicism

Matthew Kelly

Beacon Publishing, 2nd edition revised & expanded Jan 2011

ISBN: 1937509672

The author asserts that Catholicism is not a lifeless set of rules and regulations, but a way of life designed by God to help each of us reach our full potential. He dispels dozens of myths that

Church of the Holy Family - Suggested Reading List

surround the rejection of Catholicism today and provides a profound and practical vision of what will lead the Catholic Church to thrive again in the future.

Rome Sweet Home

Scott Hahn & Kathleen Hahn

Ignatius Press 1993

ISBN: 0898704782

The Hahns use their own journey to show how their commitment to Jesus Christ and the Bible is what ultimately led them down an entirely unplanned path towards Catholicism and Rome.

What Makes Us Catholic: Eight Gifts for Life

Thomas Groome

Harper 2003

ISBN: 0060633999

Groome's vision of Catholicism seeks to reveal a more palatable side of the church as an advocate of such social values as inclusiveness and concern for the poor. He also downplays the hierarchy's teaching role by saying this function requires the participation of everyone, "not a small group doing all the teaching."

Why Be Catholic?: Understanding our Experiences & Tradition

Richard Rohr with Joseph Martos

St. Anthony Messenger Press; 1st Edition 1989

ISBN: 0867161019

This book looks honestly at both the positive aspects of being Catholic and the "shadow" side. It explains the direct lineage from the Church founded by Jesus, and is honest about both the great things the Church has been and done, and the times when the Catholic Church and its hierarchy have made mistakes.

Why Do Catholics Do That?

Kevin O Johnson

Ballantine Books 1995

ISBN: 0345397266

The book is a light, humorous approach to answering basic questions on a variety of topics – the rosary, candles, the Mass, etc.

Church History

The Catholic Church: A Short History

Hans Kung

Modern Library 2003

ISBN: 0812967623

Kung, a theological consultant for the Second Vatican Council, presents a chronicle of the Roman Catholic Church's role as a world power. He also offers an assessment of how the Church will seek reform and confront challenges proposed by the new millennium.

Church of the Holy Family - Suggested Reading List

Christianity: Essence, History, and Future

Hans Kung

Continuum International Publishing Group 1996

ISBN: 0826408842

Anyone looking to find Jesus Christ in their Christian faith, to work toward returning the "Christ" to Christianity, and who is willing to think, ponder, re-consider and weigh issues will be challenged in reading this book. Pope John XXIII chose Kung to participate in Vatican II even though he was outside the curia.

Triumph: The Power and Glory of the Catholic Church

H.W. Crocker III

Prima Lifestyles 2001

ISBN: 0761529241

Crocker tells the 2,000 year story of the Church concentrating on the most heroic and adventurous chapters of its history. The author is biased to depict the church in a positive light so there is not much probing into the complexities or controversies in the past or present.

Evangelization

Catholics Can Come Home: A Guide for the Journey of Reconciliation with Inactive Catholics

Carrie Kemp

Paulist Press 2001

ISBN: 0809139553

Carrie Kemp was called to develop a ministry at her parish to welcome back Catholics alienated from the church for a variety of reasons. This book shares the insights and systematic process they developed to reach out and reconcile those who have been offended in some way by the church.

Rebuilt: Awakening the Faithful, Reaching the Lost, and Making Church Matter

Michael White and Tom Corcoran

Ave Maria Press Feb 2013

ISBN: 1594713863

U.S. Catholic stated: "A must read for anyone serious about parish engagement, membership, and financial and spiritual growth. It should be required reading for pastors, new priests, and parish councils."

Faith and Spirituality

Against an Infinite Horizon: The Finger of God in Our Everyday Lives

Ronald Rolheiser

Church of the Holy Family - Suggested Reading List

Crossroad Publishing 1995

ISBN: 0824519655

Father Rolheiser shares his insights on the benefits of community, social justice, sexuality, mortality, and rediscovering the deep beauty and poetry of Christian spirituality. The title, "Against an Infinite Horizon," asks us to view our lives against the infinite horizon of God's love and power. Not only does that put our earthly troubles into perspective, but it also unleashes the great power of God's love to change the world. Regardless of whether you tend to liberal, conservative or middle-of-the road, this book will challenge you to live your faith more fully and meaningfully.

Between Heaven and Mirth: Why Joy, Humor, And Laughter are at the Heart of Spirituality

James Martin, SJ

HarperOne 2012

ISBN: 0062024256

Father Martin, New York Times best-selling author, wrote the whole book to explore joy, humor and laughter in spirituality. Some topics: Introduction, Excessive Levity, Why So Gloomy? A Study in Joy: Psalm 65.

Called to Question

Joan Chittister

Sheed & Ward 2004

ISBN: 1580511430

A call to spirituality that pushes one beyond superficial questioning and unexamined faith. Conversations with a variety of spiritual writers evoke her responses looking at questions and dimensions of our daily lives. She explores the heart of faith and the nurturing of spirituality.

The Cup of Our Life: A Guide for Spiritual Growth

Joyce Rupp

Ave Maria Press 1997

ISBN: 0877936250

A book of prayers for everyday that shows how ordinary cups used each day can become sacred vessels to connect us with life and draw us ever closer to God.

Eager to Love

Richard Rohr

Franciscan Media Jul 2014

ISBN: 1616367016

A book about Francis of Assisi and Clare, who, with Francis followed Jesus by an Alternative way that disregarded power and privilege and held fast to the narrow path of the gospel.

And Grace Will Lead Me Home

Fr. John Powers

McCracken Press

Church of the Holy Family - Suggested Reading List

ISBN: 159776350

A moving story through pain, laughter and compassion written by the head of the Hartford diocese radio and TV network. It is a self-reflection in the context of a fictional journey in an allegorical land.

Pope Francis: His Essential Wisdom

Carol Kelly-Gangi

Sterling Nov, 2014

ISBN: 1435158431

Quotes from the beloved pontiff selected by the author. "I am like each one of you; we are all equal, we are brothers and sisters." "The heart of the gospel is about the poor."

The Holy Longing: The Search for Christian Spirituality

Ronald Rolheiser

Doubleday 1999

ISBN: 0385494181

"Spirituality is about what we do with our unrest... [It] is about what we do with that incurable desire, the madness that comes from the gods, within us." Rolheiser develops a Christian spirituality that he believes offers some definite direction for seekers through four essentials: "private prayer and private morality; social justice; mellowness of heart and spirit; and community as a constitutive element of true worship."

In Search of Belief

Joan Chittister

Ligouri/Triumph 1999

ISBN: 0764803379

Chittister sets the Creed on fire with renewed meanings and contemporary analysis which force reflection and even conversion. This is a call to spiritual adulthood.

"

In the Name of Jesus

Henri Nouwen

Crossroad Publishing Company 1996

ISBN: 082450153

Nouwen brings insights into the meaning and significance of Christian ministry enriched by his life among the L'Arche community for the mentally handicapped. He also draws upon his own struggles in living the Christian life fully.

The Inner Voice of Love

Henri J. M. Nouwen

Image Books; Reprint edition Jan 1999

ISBN: 0385483481

A Journey through anguish to freedom. This is Henri Nouwen's "secret journal." It was written during the most difficult period of his life, when he had lost his self-esteem.

Church of the Holy Family - Suggested Reading List

The Jesuit Guide to (Almost) Everything: A Spirituality for Real Life

James Martin, SJ

HarperOne 2010

ISBN: 9780061432682

The Ignatian goal of “finding God in all things” means that every part of our lives can lead us to God. This book shows us how this is possible, with user-friendly examples and humorous stories from the lives of Jesuits of old and of the present.

Joy of the Gospel [Evangelii Gaudium]

Pope Francis

http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco_esortazione-ap_20131124_evangelii-gaudium.html [free]

US Conference of Catholic Bishops Dec 2013

ISBN: 1601374585

Pope Francis has written a powerful call to all Christians reminding us of our common mission and our common faith. To embrace that mission with joy, passion, and love for all. Francis' exhortation overflows with a deep and abiding concern for the marginalized, while revealing that both the political right and left have embraced two varieties of the identical sin: idolatry of self.

My Life with the Saints

James Martin, SJ.

Loyola Press; Reprint edition 2007

ISBN: 0829426442

One of the most engaging, inspiring, and enriching books I have read. Fr. Martin tells of his encounters with eighteen saints, from “The Saint of the Sock Drawer” to Francis of Assisi “Fools for Christ”, to Thomas Merton, to Dorothy Day.

The Naked Now: Learning to See as the Mystics See

Richard Rohr

Servant Crossroad Publications 2009

ISBN: 978-0824525439

Rohr, a Franciscan priest and spirituality author teaches us how to reconnect with the Christian mystical tradition. Based on continual prayer, always grounded in scripture, he takes us beyond with his view on non-dualistic thinking and prayer.

One Thousand Gifts: A Dare to Live Fully Right Where You Are

Ann Voskamp

Zondervan 2010

ISBN: 9780310321910

A beautiful and practical guide to living each moment with joy. It invites us to wake up to all of God's blessings we are given each and every day. Once we begin to see, our lives can be transformed by giving thanks...Eucharisteo.

Church of the Holy Family - Suggested Reading List

The Restless Heart: Finding Our Spiritual Home in Times of Loneliness

Ronald Rolheiser

Doubleday 20004

ISBN: 9780385511155

Father Rolheiser gives us a thoughtful exploration of loneliness. He identifies the different kinds of loneliness and longing for meaningful connections and shows that they can be transformed into creative and valuable catalyst toward growth.

Scarred by Struggle, Transformed by Hope

Joan Chittister

William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company 2003

ISBN: 0802812163

This is a call to use new insights as we wander through life's pain and sorrow, struggles and sufferings. Chittister calls upon Job's battles and her own disappointments as she explores many modern day topics such as technology, grief and the role of women.

Seeds of Hope: A Henri Nouwen Reader

Robert Durback, Editor

Image Books; New edition 1997

ISBN-10: 0385490496

A definitive collection, Nouwen's legacy to his readers.

Secularity and the Gospel: Being Missionaries to Our Children

Ronald Rolheiser

Crossroad Publishing 2006

ISBN: 9780824524128

In making the statement that secularity 'is not an enemy to be fought, but a child to be loved', Rolheiser sets the tone for this book. This book is highly recommended by the Catholic Press Association for all who are concerned about the conflict of secularity and the Gospel.

The Seven Storey Mountain

Thomas Merton

Harcourt, 50th Anniv Edition 1991

ISBN: 0156010860

In his autobiography, Merton shows the journey of a man who didn't believe in God to a man who would surrender his life to God. The steps and stops in his life show us the many times God tapped him on the shoulder and how he eventually listened.

The Shattered Lantern: Rediscovering a Felt Presence of God

Ronald Rolheiser

Crossroad General Interest 2004

ISBN: 0824522753

Rolheiser explores spiritual resources to combat the three persistent blocks to God: narcissism, pragmatism, and restlessness. He then presents seven spiritual exercises to deepen your faith

Church of the Holy Family - Suggested Reading List

including receptivity and gratitude, self-abandonment and obedience unto death, and centering prayer.

Henri Nouwen: A Spirituality of Imperfection

Wil Hernandez

Paulist Press Sep, 2006

ISBN: 0809144344

Here is a well-prepared, well-studied biography of a spiritual icon, Father Nouwen. The journey to perfection is through the realities of imperfection.

The Way of the Heart: Desert Spirituality and Contemporary Ministry

Henri J.M. Nouwen

HarperSanFrancisco, Reprint edition 1991

ISBN: 0060663308

The author not only encourages us to take some time to turn from the noise to silence, from the busyness to solitude, and from running fast to slowing down to pray; but he shows us how.

Wisdom Distilled From the Daily: Living the Rule of St. Benedict

Joan Chittister OSB

HarperSanFrancisco 1991

ISBN: 0060613998

The book explains St. Benedict's rule in terms moderns and postmoderns can readily understand. It is a good introduction and devotional look at an enduring way of living the Christian life.

Prayer

The Catholic Prayer Book

John O'Connor

Servant Publications 1986

ISBN: 0892832835

Treasury of Catholic worship includes personal, family, and liturgical prayers.

Everything Belongs: The Gift of Contemplative Prayer

Richard Rohr

Crossroad General Interest Rev Update edition 2003

ISBN: 0824519957

A good book to help lead you into prayer. It opens one to become more aware of the bigger picture; to seeing beyond the either/or, the black and white thinking. To move away from a judgmental mindset to embracing what we see.

The Sign of the Cross: Recovering the Power of the Ancient Prayer

Bert Ghezzi

Loyola Press 2004

Church of the Holy Family - Suggested Reading List

ISBN: 0829416196

Ghezzi takes the routine and ordinary motion that so many make without thinking and shows the power and beauty that can be experienced in thoughtful praying of the sign of the cross.

Reference

Catechism of the Catholic Church, Second Edition

US Conference of Catholic Bishops

ISBN: 1574551108

In addition to the complete exposition of Catholic doctrine, the second edition includes several new features: glossary of terms, index of citations from sources and in-brief texts on core teachings.

Doors to the Sacred: A Historical Introduction to Sacraments in the Catholic Church

Joseph Martos

Liguori/Triumph, Revised Edition 2001

ISBN: 0764807188

Revised and expanded in light of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, this book remains a detailed source on the historical and cultural evolution of the sacraments. Martos shows they have changed and adapted while being faithful to their innate religious meanings. He also illustrates the difference between current Protestant and Catholic practices.

The Holy See

Website of the Vatican

<http://w2.vatican.va/content/vatican/en.html>

Site includes: Daily Bulletins, Vatican Documents, Daily Meditations, Prayers, Vatican Library, Vatican Museums, Papal Papers, Charities and much more...

Know, Love, and Live the Catholic Faith

John E. Pollard

Our Sunday Visitor Publishing 2005

ISBN: 159276164X

A clear and concise summary of Catholic faith, life and practice. Each chapter covers once topic with a brief introduction followed by study questions. Intertwined are quotes from scriptures and prayers.

The Oxford Dictionary of Popes

J. N. D. Kelly

Oxford University Press, Reprint edition 2005

ISBN: 0192820850

Chronological listing of popes from Peter (d. c.64) to John Paul II. Entries contain concise biographies followed by select bibliographies. Anti-popes and men who claimed to be pope but

Church of the Holy Family - Suggested Reading List

were not officially recognized, are included. Also includes an appendix on Pope Joan, the legendary female pope.

US Conference of Catholic Bishops

Website: <http://usccb.org/>

Authoritative source on all aspects of the Catholic faith: beliefs and teachings; prayer and worship; issues and action; social justice; the Bible and daily readings; initiatives and strategic plan of the US Bishops.

Scripture

A Father Who Keeps His Promises

Scott Hahn

St. Anthony Messenger Press; First Edition 1998

ISBN: 0892838299

Hahn explores the "covenant love" God reveals to us through the Scriptures and explains how God patiently reaches out to us—despite our faults and shortcomings—to restore us into relationship with his divine family.

The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, John

William Barclay

Westminster John Knox Press 2001

ISBN: 0664224911 - Matthew

ISBN: 0664224881 – Mark

ISBN: 0664224873 – Luke

ISBN: 0664241042 - John

A study of each of their books that expands on the text in a way that enlightens and is enjoyable to read. Each book deepens your understanding of the Word.

Soul Sisters: Women in Scripture Speak to Women Today

Edwina Gately

Orbis Books 2002

ISBN: 1570754438

Encounter the women of the New Testament in a new and powerful way. Soul Sisters will introduce you to the Samaritan woman, the daughter of Jairus, Elizabeth and others through portraits by renowned illustrator Louis Glanzman and through Edwina Gately's insightful poetry. Your spirit will be touched by the strengths and struggles of each of these unique women.

Things Hidden: Scripture as Spirituality

Richard Rohr

St Anthony Messenger Press 2008

ISBN: 9780867166590

Church of the Holy Family - Suggested Reading List

Rohr offers exploring central themes that run throughout the Scriptures. He shares what the Bible says about morality, power, wisdom and the generosity of God in a way that can change the way we relate to others, ourselves and the world.

Spiritual Fiction

Joshua

Joseph Girzone

Touchstone, Reprint edition 1995

ISBN: 0684813467

Written by a retired Catholic priest and rooted in a scrupulously accurate reading of the scriptures, these profoundly moving and deeply inspiring stories about Joshua, a simple woodcarver, are entertaining, engrossing, life-affirming, and deeply spiritual.

Joshua and the Children

Joseph Girzone

Touchstone Reprint edition 1995

ISBN: 0684813459

Set in Northern Ireland; Joshua works through the children to change the hatred in adults.

Joshua and the Shepherd

Joseph Girzone

Touchstone 1996

ISBN: 0 68482504X

Joshua works with a priest who rapidly rises through the ranks of the Church, initiating powerful and long needed changes in an effort to reunite all Christian denominations.

The Parables of Joshua

Joseph Girzone

Touchstone, Reprint edition 1995

ISBN: 0684813459

Updated versions of Parables told by Christ. Believing that the "zing" that Jesus' parables had in the first century has been lost in the 21st, Girzone, a retired priest, has the Christ figure of Joshua presenting New Testament parables in an up-to-date cultural interpretation.

The Shack

William P. Young

Windblown Media; Reprint edition 2011

ISBN: 160941411X

"The Shack" is a one of a kind invitation to journey to the very heart of God. Mack's youngest daughter has been abducted and evidence that she may have been brutally murdered is found in an abandoned shack. Four years later, still grieving, he receives a note from God inviting him back to that shack for a weekend. What he finds there will change his life forever.