

Dear Padre,

The Bible is critical to our Christian lives, but why is it so hard to understand?

The Bible is a unique piece of literature—perhaps the most distinctive in the world. In fact, it is not just one publication. The word *Bible* derives from a word meaning “library.” The Bible is a library of books—seventy-two books, to be exact—dating from antiquity, written and edited by authors known and unknown. It contains, as any library would, a vast array of literary forms and expressions. It covers more than 3,000 years of history. Reading and understanding the Bible, and living up to its precepts, is indeed a formidable task and will take us all a lifetime to do.

The first key to the Bible is noting that this isn’t just the work of human authors; it is the word of God. We acknowledge the human element of the Bible, the authors’ lived experience, the historical circumstances that form the background of the revelation. But we believe unequivocally that the truth and meaning of the Bible is the inspiration of God. The Catholic view is that God was able to reveal truth through the work of sacred writers.

The Scriptures are layered accounts. They begin with historical facts, followed by years of oral tradition, and ending with the author’s final version.

The best way to familiarize yourself with Scripture is to find a good Bible-study program or group. This will acquaint you with the history of Israel, the times and culture in which the Bible was written, and its rich variety of literary forms. Enjoy your biblical journey.

—Fr. Joseph Morin, CSSR
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



A WORD FROM Pope Francis

We must ensure that in the usual activities of every Christian community, in parishes, in associations, and movements, there actually be at heart the personal encounter with Christ who communicates himself to us in his word, because, as St. Jerome teaches us, “ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ.”

—ADDRESS TO CATHOLIC BIBLICAL FEDERATION, JUNE 19, 2015



Calendar

Monday
AUGUST 10
St. Lawrence,
Deacon and Martyr
2 Cor 9:6–10
Jn 12:24–26

Tuesday
AUGUST 11
St. Clare, Virgin
Ez 2:8—3:4
Mt 18:1–5, 10, 12–14

Wednesday
AUGUST 12
Weekday
Ez 9:1–7; 10:18–22
Mt 18:15–20

Thursday
AUGUST 13
Weekday
Ez 12:1–12
Mt 18:21–19:1

Friday
AUGUST 14
St. Maximilian Kolbe,
Priest and Martyr
Ez 16:1–15, 60, 63
or 16:59–63
Mt 19:3–12

Saturday
AUGUST 15
The Assumption of the
Blessed Virgin Mary
Rv 11:19a;
12:1–6a, 10ab
1 Cor 15:20–27
Lk 1:39–56

Sunday
AUGUST 16
Twentieth Sunday
in Ordinary Time
Is 56:1, 6–7
Rom 11:13–15, 29–32
Mt 15:21–28

Our Parish COMMUNITY

August 9, 2020

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

1 Kgs 19:9a, 11–13a

Rom 9:1–5

Mt 14:22–33

Who Are the People of God?

This is still an unresolved theological issue. For so long the resolute answer of many was: the Roman Catholic Church is the people of God. However, the Second Vatican Council’s Decree on Ecumenism (*Unitatis Redintegratio*) opened the Church’s understanding to include all Christian denominations, paraphrasing Ephesians 4:4–5: “There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one Baptism” (*UR* 2). The council went even further in the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (*Lumen Gentium*), “calling together a people made up of Jew and Gentile, making them one, not according to the flesh but in the Spirit. This was to be the new People of God” (*LG* 9).

To be united with Protestants is one thing; to be united with Jews is quite another. For centuries, many interpreted the New Testament to say that the Jews lost favor with God. Such thinking supported—even caused—various forms of anti-Semitism, ethnic and religious persecution, and killings. We realized how wrong this thinking was. Vatican II quotes

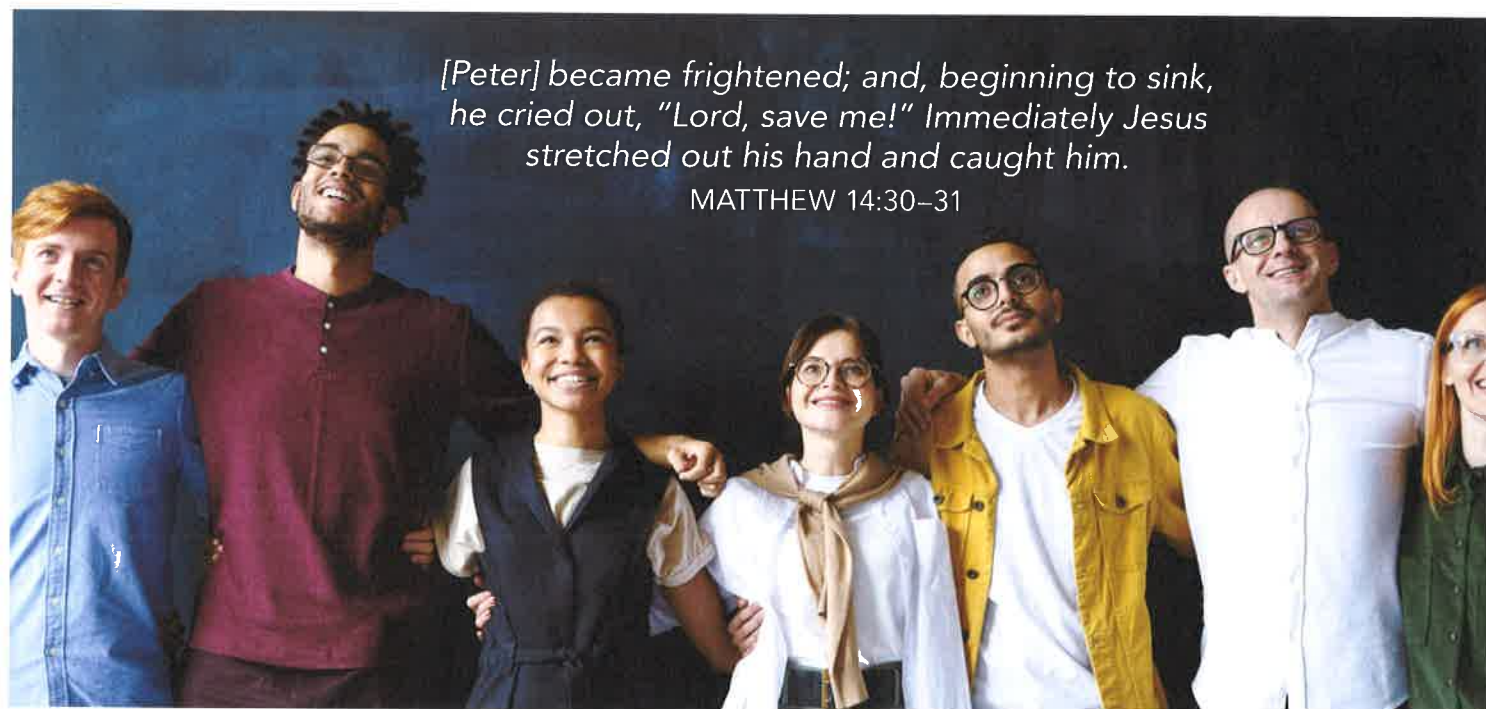
today’s second reading and later states: “This sacred synod wants to foster and recommend...mutual understanding and respect which is the fruit, above all, of biblical and theological studies as well as of fraternal dialogues” (Declaration on the Relationship of the Church to Non-Christian Religions [*Nostra Aetate*], 4).

We may have corrected some grievous errors in this matter, but we have not gotten much further than Paul did in resolving the issue. However, he experienced “great sorrow and constant anguish in my heart” (Romans 9:2) because of the separation. Do we?

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR Reflection

- ★ The original followers of Jesus were simply different kinds of Jews.
- ★ Much of our Christian religious tradition is grounded in the Old Testament.



[Peter] became frightened; and, beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me!” Immediately Jesus stretched out his hand and caught him.

MATTHEW 14:30–31



St. Mary's Church
Dalton, NE 69131



All Souls' Church
Bridgeport, NE 69336



Sacred Heart Church
Bayard, NE 69334

Pastor: Rev. Dr. C.P. Varghese
Address: 701 P Street, Bridgeport, NE 69336

Parish Office & Fax: (308)262-0709. Rectory: (308)262-1332 Email: allsoulsbridgeport@gmail.com Website: www.smassh Catholics.org

Dear Sisters, Brothers and Children in Jesus Christ,

There is no passage in the New Testament in which Peter's character is more fully revealed than in today's gospel (Matthew 14:22-33). It tells us three things about him.

(i) Peter was given to acting upon impulse and without thinking of what he was doing. It was his mistake that again and again he acted without fully facing the situation and without counting the cost. He was to do exactly the same when he affirmed undying and unshakable loyalty to Jesus (Matthew 26:33-35), and then denied his Lord's name. And yet there are worse sins than that, because Peter's whole trouble was that he was ruled by his heart; and, however he might sometimes fail, his heart was always in the right place and the instinct of his heart was always love.

(ii) Because Peter acted on impulse, he often failed and came to grief. It was always Jesus' insistence that a person should look at a situation in all its bleak grimness before acting (Luke 9:57-58; Matthew 16:24-25). Jesus was completely honest with people; he always bade them see how difficult it was to follow him before they set out upon the Christian way. A great deal of Christian failure is due to acting upon an emotional moment without counting the cost.

(iii) But Peter never finally failed, for always in the moment of his failure he clutched at Christ. The wonderful thing about him is that every time he fell, he rose again; and that it must have been true that even his failures brought him closer and closer to Jesus Christ. As has been well said, a saint is not someone who never fails; a saint is someone who gets up and goes on again every time he or she falls. Peter's failures only made him love Jesus Christ the more.

These verses finish with another great and permanent truth. When Jesus got into the boat, the wind sank. The great truth is that, wherever Jesus Christ is, the wildest storm becomes a calm. So when our hearts are distressed and agitated, we should make room for Jesus into its center, to keep it steady! In every time of storm and stress, the presence of Jesus and the love which flows from the Cross bring peace and serenity and calm. (Extracted and adapted from William Barclay).

Yours in Christ Jesus,
Fr. C. P. Varghese
Pastor

SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK

Date	Day	Time	Place	Intention
08/10	Monday	No Mass Today		
08/11	Tuesday	6.00 PM	Bridgeport	Don Loxterkamp
08/12	Wednesday	No Mass Today		
08/13	Thursday			
08/14	Friday	No Mass Today		
08/15	Saturday	5.30 PM	Bayard	Greg
08/16	Sunday	8.00 AM	Dalton	Rosa Devier
08/16	Sunday	10.30 AM	Bridgeport	Oneva Lummel

ALL SOULS
617 P STREET
BRIDGEPORT NE 69336

MAY - AUGUST:
MASS TIME
Tuesday — 6:00 PM
Sunday — 10.30 AM



OUR GIFTS TO GOD & CHURCH

ADULTS	\$757.00
CHILDREN	
PLATE	\$7.00
SUBTOTAL	\$ 764.00
MASS STIPEND	
TOTAL	\$ 764.00
BUILDING FUND	
HEAT/AC	\$20.00

- Prayer line requests may be made to Carolyn-262-0453 or Teresa-262-0439.
- The rosary is prayed ½ hr before Mass, please come and pray.



SACRED HEART
1003 AVE B
BAYARD NE 69334

MAY - AUGUST:
MASS TIME
Friday — 6:00 PM
Saturday — 5.30 PM



OUR GIFTS TO GOD & CHURCH

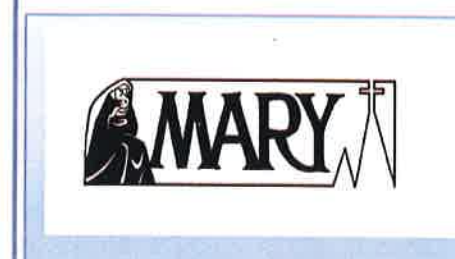
ADULTS	\$820.00
CHILDREN	
PLATE	\$51.00
SUBTOTAL	\$871.00
MASS STIPEND	
TOTAL	\$ 871.00
BUILDING FUND	\$15.00

- Prayer line requests may be made to Paula-586-2992.
- The rosary is prayed ½ hr before Mass, please come and pray.



SAINT MARY'S
718 FRANCIS ST
DALTON NE 69131

MAY - AUGUST:
MASS TIME
Thursday — 6:00 PM
Sunday — 8.00 AM



OUR GIFTS TO GOD & CHURCH

ADULTS	\$993.00
CHILDREN	
PLATE	\$5.00
SUBTOTAL	\$ 998.00
MASS STIPEND	
TOTAL	\$ 998.00
BUILDING FUND	\$30.00

- Prayer line requests may be made to DeAnn-249-1735.

