

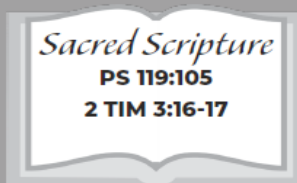
Family Faith Formation  
September

THE BIBLE

**TOPIC:** What is the Bible and where does it come from?

**REFERENCES:**

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH  
NO. 133



CREED	LITURGY	LIFE	PRAYER
nos. 50-143	nos. 1100-02, 1154-55, 1184, 1349	nos. 1785, 1964-1966	nos. 2653-54, 2662

**OPENING PRAYER**

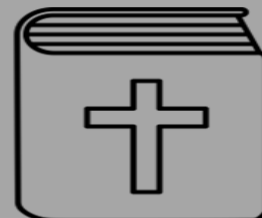
Lord Jesus Christ,

We entrust our family to you and ask for your blessing and protection. We love you Lord Jesus with all our hearts and we ask that you help our family become more like the Holy Family. Help us to be kind, loving, and patient with one another. Give us all the grace we need to become saints and your faithful disciples.



Amen.

Which came first, the Church or the Bible?



If you were on  
a deserted island and had only your  
favorite book with you to read, which  
one would it be?



## Our Topic for this month

We are going to learn about where our faith comes  
from and then about Sacred Scripture and why the  
Bible is important for us.



## Family Conversation

What is your favorite story from the Bible, and why is it your favorite?



## SUPPORTING QUOTES FROM CHURCH DOCUMENTS

**Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium* (2013), no. 174:**

“Not only the homily has to be nourished by the word of God. All evangelization is based on that word, listened to, meditated upon, lived, celebrated and witnessed to. The sacred Scriptures are the very source of evangelization. Consequently, we need to be constantly trained in hearing the word. The Church does not evangelize unless she constantly lets herself be evangelized. It is indispensable that the word of God “be ever more fully at the heart of every ecclesial activity”. God’s word, listened to and celebrated, above all in the Eucharist, nourishes and inwardly strengthens Christians, enabling them to offer an authentic witness to the Gospel in daily life. We have long since moved beyond that old contraposition between word and sacrament. The preaching of the word, living and effective, prepares for the reception of the sacrament, and in the sacrament that word attains its maximum efficacy.”

**Pope Benedict XVI, *Verbum Domini* (2010), no. 1:**

“‘The word of the Lord abides forever.’ This word is the Gospel which was preached to you” (1 Pet 1:25; cf. Is 40:8). With this assertion from the First Letter of Saint Peter, which takes up the words of the Prophet Isaiah, we find ourselves before the mystery of God, who has made himself known through the gift of his word. This word, which abides forever, entered into time. God spoke his eternal Word humanly; his Word “became flesh” (Jn 1:14). This is the good news. This is the proclamation which has come down the centuries to us today.



For Younger Kids

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dv8dHsxjLd8>

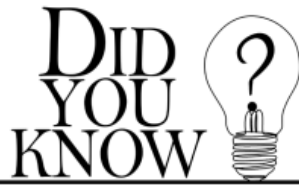
For Older kids and teens

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JONLYMpFy00>

Review: Let's start with a quick review! For those who did Family Faith Formation last year, you may remember that we learned that Jesus, the divine Son of God, came to earth to rescue and save all humanity from sin and death, to teach everyone about God's love for us, and to establish a Church, a people who would spread the word of God throughout the world. Jesus, in His very Person and through His actions and words, revealed who God is, and revealed our destiny as His sons and daughters. Jesus knew He was not going to walk the earth forever, but He promised to be with us always. Therefore, after He ascended into Heaven, Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to the Apostles at Pentecost, and the Church came to life! The Lord planned that His work would continue through His Church. It was a Church that was for everybody, the Catholic Church, and her members were filled with the Holy Spirit. Following Jesus' instructions, the Apostles, who were the Church's first pope (St. Peter) and bishops, traveled to faraway places to introduce people to Jesus and share the Gospel, the Good News of Jesus' saving victory over sin and death. The Apostles taught and shared about their experiences with the Lord, spread the Christian way of worship through the Mass and the example of Christian love (charity), and built up the community of the Church, making, molding, and sending new disciples on mission. As they were traveling and proclaiming the Gospel, some of the Apostles and the disciples who journeyed with them wrote letters and books about Jesus' life that explained His teachings and saving work. The Catholic Church continued to gather these letters and books, with the writings of the ancient Jews, into one book that we know today as the Bible. So which came first, the Church or the Bible? Answer: The Church. (Note the understanding that by "Bible" here we mean the Old Testament and New Testament together.)

Where do Catholics get our faith? Our faith comes first from God, who revealed Himself to us in various ways throughout history and most fully in Jesus. We know what God has said and done because those truths have been shared through the Church's Sacred Tradition and Sacred Scripture. Tradition and Scripture (the Bible) are closely connected. In fact, the Bible tells us to hold fast to Tradition, and Tradition tells us to hold fast to the Bible. Some people may wonder: Why, if we already have the Bible, do we need Sacred Tradition? The Bible is the written account or story of God's words and actions. It is God's Word in written form, but God's Word is bigger than the written words of Sacred Scripture alone. Jesus taught so many important truths when He walked the earth that no one could keep up with all of them. In fact, St. John was one of Jesus' best and beloved friends, and he wrote at the end of his Gospel, a story he wrote about the life of Christ, that "Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written" (John 21:25). John is saying to us that there are many important teachings and truths about our faith that were never written down in Scripture but were taught by word of mouth or in other ways. Spoken teachings or other truths shared outside of Scripture make up part of "Sacred Tradition" with a capital "T" (Tradition not only includes the Church's doctrine but also her worship and life, including the witness of the saints). Can you think of an example of a Catholic Tradition (big "T") that is not explicitly written in the Bible? Explain: One example of a Sacred Tradition would be the prayer, the Apostles Creed. We pray it at the beginning of the Rosary and sometimes at Mass. It is a prayer from the first few centuries of the early Church, reflecting the faith of the Apostles. It's a major prayer because it states what we believe as Christians (creed is a statement of faith). You will not find the prayer itself in the Bible, because it's a Tradition that was developed alongside Scripture and handed on by word of mouth and eventually in written form, serving as a rule of faith that helped guide the early Church and her interpretation of Sacred Scripture. Another example is the word "Trinity." The mystery of God as Three Divine Persons is present throughout Scripture in various ways, but you'll never see the word "Trinity." St. Paul tells us these traditions (or Traditions) are crucial and that we should hold onto them, no matter

what. He wrote in his letter to Christian friends in Thessalonica, “So then, brethren, stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught by us, either by word of mouth or by letter” (2 Thess. 2:15).



What is the “job” of the Catholic Church? From the very beginning of the Catholic Church, Jesus gave the Church a very special job, to teach people about who He is—to hand on the Good News of God’s saving love for us revealed fully in Jesus. This is what we call the mission of evangelization— sharing the Gospel (the Good News) about Jesus and inviting others to relationship with Him and to become His disciples. When we come to know who God is and what He has done (and continues to do) for us, we know who we are too, because the family of God is our family and we are made in God’s image and likeness! As the divine Son of God, Jesus revealed that God is our loving Father. By the Holy Spirit, we call on God as our Father (“Abba, Father!” See Romans 8:15). All of the baptized have the job or mission of handing on the Gospel, teaching people about Jesus and loving others as He loved. In order to make sure that the Church would always hand on the truth about God’s Revelation and His rescue plan for us, Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to be with the Church, and He gave the Church a special teaching authority through the pope and bishops. This is what is called the teaching office of the Church, or the Magisterium. The Magisterium teaches faithfully, and with authority by the power of the Holy Spirit, the various truths of our Catholic faith found in Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition. Scripture and Tradition show what God has revealed about Himself (Divine Revelation) and about us, but we need the help of the Magisterium to make sure we are understanding God’s word correctly. Without the Mass, we wouldn’t have the New Testament, or the Bible as we know it... The early letters and books of the New Testament initially were often shared with communities liturgically—that is, through the Mass, the celebration of the Eucharist, during which time, a portion of the Old Testament Scripture would be read along with perhaps a letter from St. Paul and a passage from a Gospel (before the Gospels were written, the stories of Jesus were shared orally and memorized in the earliest Christian communities). The Bible and the Eucharist have been closely tied together from the beginning of the Church (the Mass has always included the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist).




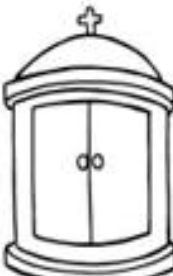


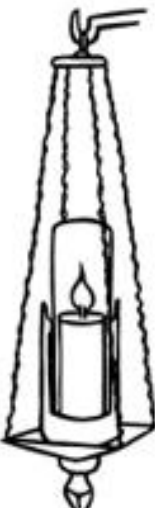



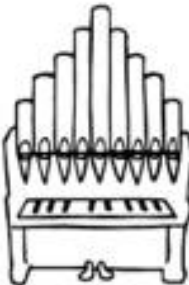




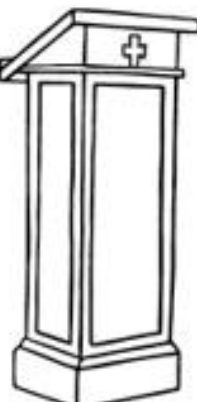
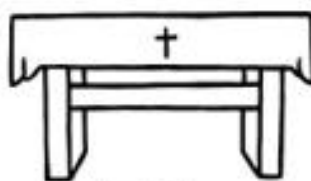

*Lord Jesus, may you bless each of the families that have gathered together today. Help us to grow continually closer to you. This we pray in Your Holy Name. Amen.*



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# My Catholic Church SCAVENGER HUNT

Look around your church for the items below. Color or check the box next to each item you discover.

				
<input type="checkbox"/> Monstrance	<input type="checkbox"/> Tabernacle	<input type="checkbox"/> Crucifix	<input type="checkbox"/> Stations of the Cross	<input type="checkbox"/> Sanctuary Lamp
				
<input type="checkbox"/> Stained Glass Window	<input type="checkbox"/> Presider's Chair	<input type="checkbox"/> Baptismal Font	<input type="checkbox"/> Organ	
				
<input type="checkbox"/> Hymnal	<input type="checkbox"/> Statue	<input type="checkbox"/> Votive	<input type="checkbox"/> Cruets	<input type="checkbox"/> Ambo
				
<input type="checkbox"/> Altar		<input type="checkbox"/> Paschal Candle		

# September 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
	Labor Day	St. Teresa of Calcutta			Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary	St. Peter Claver
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
		Most Holy Name of Mary	St. John Chrysostom	Exaltation of the Holy Cross	Our Lady of Sorrows	St. Cornelius
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
		St. Januarius		St. Matthew		St. Padre Pio
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
			St. Vincent De Paul	St. Wenceslaus	Michaelmas Feast of Archangels	St. Jerome
						

**Our Lady of Sorrows**





## September is dedicated to Our Lady of Sorrows

Sep 1 St. Giles

Sep 2 St. Antonius of Apamea

Sep 3 Pope St. Gregory the Great

Sep 4 St. Rosalia

Sep 5 St. Teresa of Calcutta

Sep 6 St. Elutherius

Sep 7 St. Regina

Sep 8 Nativity of Mary

Sep 9 St. Peter Claver

Sep 10 St. Nicholas of Tolentino

Sep 11 Sts. Protus & Hyacinth

Sep 12 St. Ailbe

Sep 13 St. John Chrysostom

Sep 14 St. Notburga

Sep 15 Our Lady of Sorrows

Sep 16 Pope St. Cornelius

Sep 17 St. Hildegard of Bingen

Sep 18 St. Joseph of Cupertino

Sep 19 St. Januarius

Sep 20 St. Paul Chong Hasang

Sep 21 St. Matthew the Apostle

Sep 22 St. Thomas of Villanova

Sep 23 St. Padre Pio

Sep 24 Our Lady of Ransom

Sep 25 St. Sergius of Radonezh

Sep 26 Sts. Cosmas & Damian

Sep 27 St. Vincent de Paul

Sep 28 St. Wenceslaus

Sep 29 Sts. Michael, Gabriel,

Raphael

Sep 30 St. Jerome



