



# Growing in FAITH

Discovering **hope** and **joy** in the Catholic faith.

Special Edition

## Catholic Resources and References

*Editor's note: We know from the correspondence we get from readers that today's Catholics are taking active steps to deepen their knowledge of our faith. Knowing where to go for authoritative answers to questions of faith and practice helps to spur spiritual growth.*

*To help, we have compiled a list of books, magazines, newspapers, and websites that our staff has found helpful in answering questions, strengthening faith formation, and overall enriching a Catholic's spiritual journey.*

*This list is not meant to be comprehensive, but simply a place to start in compiling a helpful Catholic library. All sources in this list carry the appropriate approval of the Catholic Church.*

### Books

#### *New American Bible*

Catholic Bibles include a good deal of explanatory material that gives background to books or passages, describe the audience to which the book was addressed, and other notes to assist readers in understanding Scripture. While all the Catholic versions are helpful, the *New American Bible* is the version from which the Scripture selections are read during Mass. Available from your local Catholic bookstore, and most retail outlets.

#### *Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2nd edition*

The first step for every Catholic household library, the Catechism of the Catholic Church is, in the words of Pope John Paul II, "a sure norm for teaching the faith" and an "authentic reference text." This new edition was been revised 1997, and has been organized for quick reference. It includes more than 100 new pages

that feature an analytical index and a very helpful glossary of terms with references back to text. Available in full-text or compact versions. U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, (800)235-8722, [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org).

#### *The International Bible Commentary*

A good resource for interpreting Scripture and putting its themes and lessons into practice is essential for a productive spiritual journey. The International Bible Commentary enables people to read the Bible by helping them to recover the ancient biblical truth in all its warmth and power. It is easy to read and helpful in its interpretations. Organized in order and appearance like the Catholic editions of the Bible, readers will find it a useful reference to uncover the biblical jewels of our faith. Liturgical Press, (800)858-5450, [sales@litpress.org](mailto:sales@litpress.org), [www.litpress.org](http://www.litpress.org).

#### *Butler's Lives of the Saints*

One of the oldest, most well-known and relied-upon reference works about the lives of Catholic saints. It has recently been updated and revised. Several versions are available, from a 12-volume series to a compact edition. Available in print or CD-ROM from Liturgical Press, (800)858-5450, [sales@litpress.org](mailto:sales@litpress.org), [www.litpress.org](http://www.litpress.org).

#### *Catholic Household Prayers and Blessings*

Published by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' publishing arm, this is a comprehensive Catholic prayer book for any Catholic home. It contains prayers that have marked the joys, sorrows, and daily routines of

countless generations, including: prayers and blessings for daily use, days and seasons, times in life, various occasions, and common prayers for any time. U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, (800)235-8722, [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org).

#### *The Essential Advent & Christmas Handbook: A daily companion*

This reader-friendly companion provides everything Catholics need for a richer experience of the Advent and Christmas seasons. Whether readers wish to follow a traditional, contemporary, or family program of devotion and prayer for Advent and Christmas, this all-in-one resource will be a treasured guidebook. Liguori Publications, (800)325-9521, e-mail: [Liguori@liguori.org](mailto:Liguori@liguori.org), website: [www.catholicbooksonline.com](http://www.catholicbooksonline.com).

#### *The Essential Catholic Handbook of the Sacraments*

This is an easy-to-use, clear, and practical presentation of Catholic sacramental tradition and belief. Especially helpful is a dictionary of words, expressions, and key concepts organized for quick reference. The selection of prayers to help focus on sacramental observance is also useful. Liguori Publications, (800)325-9521, e-mail: [Liguori@liguori.org](mailto:Liguori@liguori.org), website: [www.catholicbooksonline.com](http://www.catholicbooksonline.com).

#### *The Essential Catholic Prayer Book*

A treasury of traditional private prayers along with familiar liturgical devotions that cover all aspects of Catholic heritage, The Essential Catholic Prayer Book is an easy-to-use, all-in-one resource for those looking

for a more satisfying and varied prayer life. In one volume, this book collects prayers for holy days, holidays, or special occasions; prayers of blessing and contrition; prayers of rejoicing and thanksgiving; novenas and litanies; prayers from the saints; familiar daily prayers; and a wide variety of other texts for private and communal use. Liguori Publications, (800)325-9521, e-mail: [Liguori@liguori.org](mailto:Liguori@liguori.org), website: [www.catholicbooksonline.com](http://www.catholicbooksonline.com).

***The Essential Lenten Handbook:  
A daily companion***

This is an excellent tool for experiencing a richer Lenten season. Whether you want to follow a traditional program of Lenten devotion centered around prayer, a more contemporary approach that focuses on Scripture readings, a family model that brings loved ones together for a shared spiritual journey, or a more informal approach, this resource is an excellent guide to all the basic Catholic Lenten practices. Liguori Publications, (800)325-9521, e-mail: [Liguori@liguori.org](mailto:Liguori@liguori.org), website: [www.catholicbooksonline.com](http://www.catholicbooksonline.com).

***Family Guide for Using Media***

Ten actions or attitudes that affirm Christian values when using electronic media are provided in this pamphlet published by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Parents and others are encouraged to evaluate the use of the Internet, computer networks, and related media and the tools they provide in a Christian context. U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, (800)235-8722, [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org).

***The Handbook for Today's  
Catholic***

One of the best explanations of faith basics, this mass market edition of Handbook for Today's Catholic is now fully indexed to the Catechism where specific topics and subjects are explained in more detail. The Handbook for Today's Catholic is divided into four sections: Beliefs, Practices, Prayers, and Living the Faith. Liguori Publications, (800)325-9521, e-mail: [Liguori@liguori.org](mailto:Liguori@liguori.org), website: [www.catholicbooksonline.com](http://www.catholicbooksonline.com).

***Novena Prayers and Devotions***

The tradition of making a novena -

nine days of prayer - is a long-honored practice in the Catholic Church. This book offers full novenas to the Most Holy Trinity, the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Our Mother of Perpetual Help, Our Lady of Guadalupe, and Saint Joseph. Liguori Publications, (800)325-9521, e-mail: [Liguori@liguori.org](mailto:Liguori@liguori.org), website: [www.catholicbooksonline.com](http://www.catholicbooksonline.com).

## Magazines

***St. Anthony Messenger***

An excellent source of reliable information on the Catholic and Christian faith, St. Anthony Messenger has been published by Franciscan friars since 1893. Now published monthly with the ecclesiastical approval of the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Cincinnati, St. Anthony Messenger magazine features colorful, inspirational and educational information to inform and entertain. St. Anthony Messenger Press, (800)488-0488, website: [www.AmericanCatholic.org](http://www.AmericanCatholic.org).

***Catholic Parent***

Founded in 1993, Catholic Parent is published bimonthly by Our Sunday Visitor. With its colorful format and short articles, it strengthens parents' knowledge of their faith while encouraging them to pass on that faith to their children. Our Sunday Visitor, (800)348-2440, e-mail: [osvsales@osv.com](mailto:osvsales@osv.com), website: [www.osv.com](http://www.osv.com).

***U.S. Catholic***

U.S. Catholic is a monthly forum for lay Catholics, covering issues of concern to Catholics in their everyday lives. U.S. Catholic is not afraid to tackle the controversial topics of our times and celebrates Catholic tradition, yet embraces the spirit of Vatican II reform and rejuvenation. An excellent source of contemporary theological and spiritual discussions that help average Catholics understand their faith better. Published monthly by Claretian Missionaries. U.S. Catholic, (800)328-6515, e-mail: [customerservice@claretianpubs.org](mailto:customerservice@claretianpubs.org), website: [www.uscatholic.org](http://www.uscatholic.org).

***Our Sunday Visitor***

Our Sunday Visitor is an

informative and entertaining Catholic weekly newspaper that was founded by parish priest, Father John Francis Noll, in 1912. Dedicated to helping strengthen the bonds between Catholics and their Church, Our Sunday Visitor helps readers view life around them from a Catholic perspective. Our Sunday Visitor, (800)348-2440, e-mail: [osvsales@osv.com](mailto:osvsales@osv.com), website: [www.osv.com](http://www.osv.com).

## Websites

***U.S. Conference of Catholic  
Bishops, [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)***

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) is an assembly of the hierarchy of the United States and the U.S. Virgin Islands who jointly exercise certain pastoral functions on behalf of the Christian faithful of the United States. The bishops themselves constitute the membership of the Conference and its purposes under civil law are: "To unify, coordinate, encourage, promote and carry on Catholic activities in the United States; to organize and conduct religious, charitable and social welfare work at home and abroad; to aid in education; to care for immigrants; and generally to enter into and promote by education, publication and direction the objects of its being." The website includes searchable Catholic editions of the Bible and the Catechism, as well as the schedule of daily Mass readings and feasts observed by the Church.

***AmericanCatholic.org***

AmericanCatholic.org is the Web site of St. Anthony Messenger Press, a ministry of the Franciscan friars (O.F.M.), St. John the Baptist Province, Cincinnati Ohio. The website was launched in 1996 as an outgrowth of the firm's publishing activities and features reliable information on the Catholic and Christian faith garnered from online editions of St. Anthony Messenger magazine, among other St. Anthony Messenger Press publications.