

## **Why should someone study the Catholic Bible?**

The Bible is the living Word of God, inspired by the Holy Spirit. It reveals God's plan of salvation for all of mankind and is written by human authors. Its words are relevant to all people of all cultures at all times.

## **Salvation History**

The story of God's self-disclosure, his saving action in history, is known as salvation history. The story of God's generous love began with his creation of our first parents. After their fall, he promised to redeem us and gave hope of eternal life to the human race. A key event in God's plan was the calling of Abraham and the creation of the Jewish people. Through the patriarchs, and later the prophets, God taught this nation to acknowledge him as the one true God and to await the promised savior.

Salvation history reached its high point in the coming of Jesus Christ, the fullness of God's revelation. Jesus is the Word of God made flesh, the Son, who lived among us, taught us in human words and deeds about his Father, and completed the Father's work of salvation. To see Jesus is to see the Father.

The story of salvation history lives on in the Bible and in the tradition of the Christian community. The Bible is the written record of revelation and contains the inspired testimony of people like the prophets and apostles about God's marvelous deeds in human history.

## **The Old Testament**

The Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) record God's teaching to the Jewish people and his interactions in their history. They record how God called the Chosen People out of Egypt into the Promised Land, how they became a nation and a religious community, and how they grew to know and worship the one true God.

## **The New Testament**

The New Testament chronicles the life and teachings of Jesus Christ and announces the Good news of God's plan of salvation for all people everywhere.

## **Our Response**

Our response to God's communication of himself and his plan for us is known as faith. The Epistle to the Hebrews defines faith as the "confident assurance concerning what we hoped for, and conviction about things we do not see." (Heb 11:1, *NAB*) Faith is accepting the Lord and his life both by living it and believing the truths he has revealed. We get the strength to live and believe God's truth and life from God himself.

St. Mark the Evangelist parish offers 10-week Bible study courses guided by Sharon Tenuta [sharontenuta@aol.com](mailto:sharontenuta@aol.com) and Alan Padlock. The courses are based on a part of a New

Adventure series of DVDs by J. Cavins. Each series of classes is offered either on Monday at 6:15 p.m. in the Strenski Center or Sunday after the 9:30 a.m. Mass in Berg Hall.

To grow in the knowledge and understanding of God's Word, join one of these groups.