

## Fall 2019 Program and Schedule

You are invited to join other parishioners and visitors and experience firsthand the many benefits of developing adult answers to today's difficult questions and situations. Is 2019 the year you learn what you didn't know?

Your AFF team has organized a range of programs to make it easy for you to grow in your faith, as an adult.

This fall there is a focus on the Bible; short and longer overview of the Bible, and more in-depth studies of individual books of the Bible.

Another place to start is by looking at what we consider Core Programs – Catholicism, The Mass, and the Bible Timeline; they are comprehensive and broad, and a great foundation of faith, whatever your background.

Scheduling is frequently an issue, so programs are offered both at lunchtime and in the evening.

Each program is facilitated by an experienced and educated member of the Adult Faith Formation team. So, examine the program offerings and review your schedule: decide that formation of your adult Catholic faith will be a priority this fall.

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There is no cost for any program; study guides and workbooks are optional and available at our cost. But to plan, we need to know how many expect to attend each program. If there is little interest in any individual program it is subject to cancellation.

Please visit our website for registration details and sign-ups.

Questions: Just email [jack@sjecc.com](mailto:jack@sjecc.com) or call (239) 288-3918 and leave a message. I respond promptly.

Jack Kindsvater, Adult Faith Formation and RCIA Coordinator

# Adult Faith Formation

## “Core” Bible Studies

*“Many Catholics don’t know the Bible very well... We need to understand the great biblical story, beginning with Creation and the Fall, the formation of Israel, the coming of the prophets and patriarchs, and finally the formation of a people that leads to the coming of a savior. It’s only when we get the sweep of that whole story that we understand why the coming of the savior matters, and what the coming of the savior even means...”*

*So, I would recommend to all Catholics, open up your Bible and get deeply immersed in the great biblical story.”*

*Bishop Robert Barron, Advent Reflection, December 3, 2016*

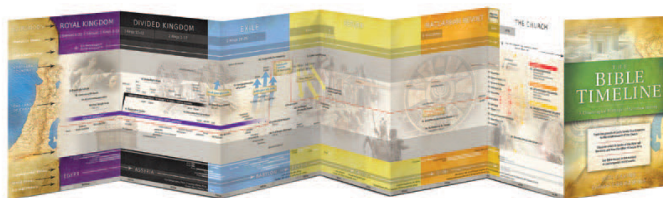
## Have you always wanted to read the Bible?

Maybe you even started in the beginning with Genesis, but then got bogged down around Leviticus. Remember the Bible is not a book, but a 73-volume library.

## Understand the Entire Bible

The key to understanding the Bible is finding the story that ties it all together. As you see the story unfold, you will see the “big picture” of the Bible. The Mass readings will begin to make more sense, and you will see God’s loving plan for your life.

Most Catholics want to read the Bible, but without a guide, they find it hard to begin and easy to give up. This fall, two programs will be offered.



Both programs utilize the same Great Adventure Bible Timeline Learning System that makes the complexity of the Bible simple by helping you uncover the story woven throughout Scripture, so you can make sense of it.



**Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible** is an eight-week quick overview that provides the easiest way to understand the Bible. It makes the complex simple. It helps you uncover the story woven throughout Scripture so that you can get the “big picture” of the Bible and understand what it is all about; it’s like flying over the story at 30,000 feet.

This program begins Wednesday, September 11th, at 6:00 p.m., and continues for 11 weeks until November, 13th. It will be facilitated by Susan Hamilton.

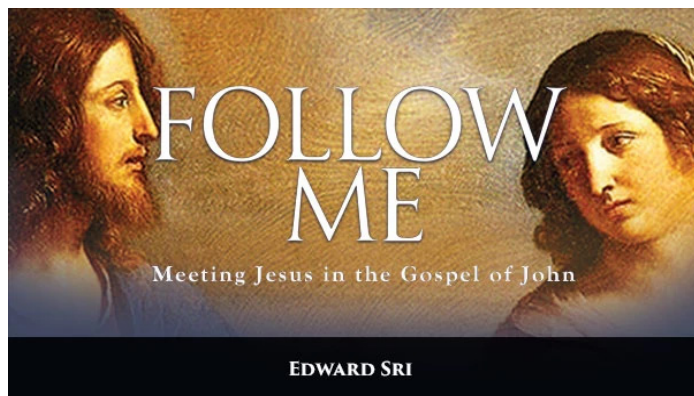


**The Bible Timeline** is a fascinating 24 session study that takes you deep into each period of salvation history. You will learn the major people, places, and events of the Bible and see how they all come together to reveal the remarkable story of our faith.

Beginning Thursday, September 19th, at 6:30 p.m., and continuing until November 21st, the first part of this program will be offered. The second part will begin on January 9th and conclude on April 2nd.

# Adult Faith Formation

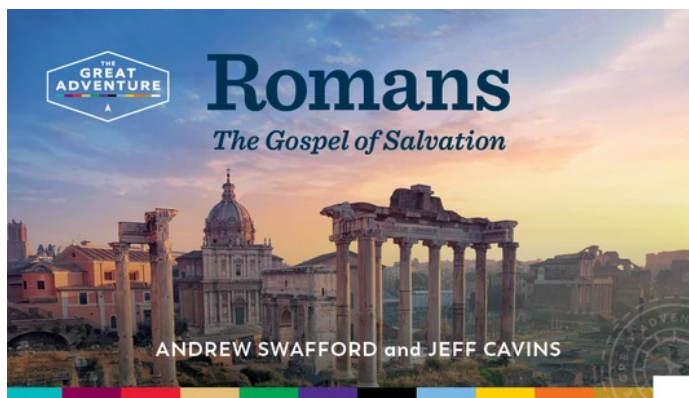
## New Testament Bible Studies



*Follow Me: Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John* invites you to experience the joy of a renewed friendship with Christ. It shows us that God became like us; He became a man so that we could become like Him and grow closer to Him.

Dr. Edward Sri will guide you through the Gospel of John. He will explain how Christ's encounters with His disciples, the Samaritan woman, the man born blind, and others, are examples of how He lovingly and persistently calls each of us to a more intimate and life-changing relationship with Him.

This program begins Monday, September 23rd, at 6:00 p.m. and continues for eight weeks until November 11th. It will be facilitated by Nancy Bouchard.



From the very beginning, Paul's letter to the Romans has been at the center of reflection, conversion, and controversy. *Romans: The Gospel of Salvation* provides a Catholic, comprehensive, and simple way to understand the overarching theme of Romans—salvation. It explores the ways in which Jesus is the fulfillment of Israel's prophecies, which leads to the universal, "Catholic" family of God.

In this program, theology professor Dr. Andrew Swafford and Jeff Cavins examine Paul's letter to the Romans, provide historical context and highlight the connections to Jesus and Christianity Paul makes with the Old Testament.

This program begins Tuesday, September 24th, at 12 noon and continues for eight weeks until November 12th. It will be facilitated by Dee Schwartz.

## The Bible and the Virgin Mary



This program unveils the mystery of Our Lady that is woven into the fabric of Sacred Scripture. The visually stunning lessons convey the beauty of the doctrine and devotions surrounding Mary, bringing them to life in a powerful, new way.

*The Bible and the Virgin Mary* is based on *Hail, Holy Queen*, the work of Scott Hahn.

Matthew Leonard, the presenter, is an internationally known speaker, and author. This study has something for everyone from the newly confirmed to the fully engaged cradle Catholic.

This program begins Thursday, October 10th at 12:00 noon and continues for six weeks until November 14th. It will be facilitated by Liz Koplitz.

# Adult Faith Formation

## EPIC

A JOURNEY THROUGH CHURCH HISTORY

One word best describes Catholic history: *Epic*. In *Epic*, history is not only an interesting subject; it becomes a living reality. This “journey through Church history” is the story of God’s family on Earth. Knowledge of our Catholic story helps provide meaning to the present, and the present determines the future. Many in our society misunderstand and even attack the Church for its’ supposed past misdeeds. Topics such as the Crusades, the Inquisition, and Galileo are used in an attempt to discredit the Church and its role in the world. What is the truth concerning these events and persons? How can you answer the objections?

Teachers and historians Steve Weidenkopf and Dr. Alan Schreck developed *Epic* to help Catholics learn their family story and answer common objections about the Church. This exciting 20-part DVD series takes you through the major people, places, and events that make up the history of the Catholic Church. Utilizing the same structure as *The Bible Timeline*, *Epic* divides the two thousand years of Church history into twelve time periods.

Beginning Wednesday, September 18th, at 12:00 noon, and continuing for 10 weeks until November 20th, the first part of this program will be offered. After a break for the holidays, the second part will begin on January 22nd and the program will conclude on March 25th. It will be facilitated by Sue Hamilton.

### Two More “Core” Programs



#### *The Catholic Faith as You’ve Never Seen It Before (Catholicism 101)*

"**Catholicism** leads us to explore our Catholic Faith through stories, biographies, and images.

The truth, goodness, and beauty of Catholicism are illustrated in breathtaking and high-definition cinematography. Journey with Bishop Robert Barron to more than 50 locations throughout 16 countries.

This 10-part, award-winning series was a hit on PBS when it debuted 10 years ago and continues to “make me look at common concepts in our religion from an entirely different perspective,” according to one parishioner.

**Catholicism** is offered on Sunday at 9:30 a.m. beginning September 8th, and continuing for 10 weeks. There is no requirement to attend all sessions, just come when you can.

If you have not really studied our Catholic faith since way back when you were in Catechism class; if you are not Catholic but are interested in learning about our beautiful Catholic faith; or if you simply want to more fully appreciate your Catholic faith, do not miss this opportunity. It is well worth your time!



#### *Why do I go to Mass?*

We generally agree on the importance of going to Mass, but can we clearly articulate why? Walk through the Liturgy of the Mass with Bishop Barron, and you’ll be transformed through insights on this most privileged and intimate encounter with our Lord Jesus Christ. **The Mass** will help you understand how to fully, consciously, and actively participate in the source and summit of the Christian life.

This program was debuted last September and was added to the CORE, based on the fantastic parishioner reaction. Some quotes: “It’s not just an obligation, it’s an opportunity for a personal encounter with Jesus.” And “It helped me understand WHY I go to Mass and WHAT I’m doing during Mass.”

This six-session program begins October 13, at 6:15 p.m. and will continue on October 27, November 17, December 8 & 15, and end on January 12. These are the evenings that youth Confirmation program meets so this schedule is especially convenient for parents with youth preparing for Confirmation.