

Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish  
Religious Education Office  
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## **Bible Study, March 3, 2021**

**REMINDER: To keep in mind while studying Sacred Scripture...**

**Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. Thomas the Apostle Church,**

**After a lengthy break due to the outbreak of the world – wide pandemic of COVID – 19, I am so happy to offer you the next series of our Bible Study; this time we will discuss the Acts of the Apostles. Before we jump in into the Book of Acts of the Apostles, I think it could be very beneficial for us to remind ourselves of just a few important “ RULES” or a ‘ BLUEPRINT” as we study the Sacred Scripture.**

- **Acts of The Apostles Session of our Bible Study would take approximately 4 classes.**
- **As far as materials/miscellaneous for our session I encourage everyone to bring with you your own copy of the Bible, a notebook and pen/pencil if you would find yourself in a desire to take any notes. Along with instruction, I will provide participants with handouts that would serve as a supplemental reading material to our session. Coffee and..., will be provided.**
- **Please, feel free to ask any questions you find relevant to our topic at any time. I strongly encourage every participant to write or type a JOURNAL/NOTES after each class. In my own studies of the Holy Scriptures, I find it very helpful to store such writings in my library, because, eventually, they become a very intimate, spiritual journey for me with God through His Love Letter to all of us.**
- **If you, for any reason, will not be able to participate in some of the classes, don’t get discouraged. Minutes and all necessary material from our meetings will be available to you at any time.**
- **Please, try to pray to the Holy Spirit before and after each class for an increase in His Holy Gift of Understanding, Wisdom, Wonder, and Awe. Ultimately, our Bible Study is a perfect way of**

**prayer with the Holy Scripture, as we deepen our love and zest for the Bible. God Bless you all and I hope this will be the beginning of a fascinating journey!:-)**

- **Now, all the handouts, workshop materials and necessary notes will be posted on our parish web page at [www.stthomasnorwalk.org](http://www.stthomasnorwalk.org) under: Fr. Mirek's Corner – Bible Study: <https://stthomasnorwalk.org/bible-study> . All classes will also be live – streamed through the YOUTUBE channel at: St. Thomas Parish Center Norwalk, CT: [www.youtube.com/channel/UCo80Thlzc74YYeKrqUgZNUw](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCo80Thlzc74YYeKrqUgZNUw) .**

**After our introductory class, hopefully we will realize that the Bible as the Old and New Testament could be approached from many perspectives. Just to give you a handful of examples how the Bible Study could unfold, covering a variety of Books and Topics:**

- An introduction to the geographical and political context of Biblical History, and an overview of Critical Problems of studying the Bible.
- Genesis and the Documentary Hypothesis (The J, E, P, D – Hypothesis)
- Study of Biblical Types – Types/Typology Exegesis
- The Exodus and Biblical Law – Was Moses a real person? Bible and the numbers. DeKa – Logoi?
- Early Israel, Judges, and Traditions of “Conquest”. What Israelites under Joshua really conquer? Fascinating research by Dr. Kenyon.
- The Monarchy and the Problem of Warfare in Ancient Israel
- Early Prophets
- The Exile and Exilic Prophets
- The Exile and Persian Period; Psalms; Daniel 1-6; Esther and Apocalyptic, Wisdom, & Deutero-Canonical Books - Hellenistic Period - Daniel 7-12; Proverbs 1-12; Ecclesiastes; 1 Maccabees, Wisdom, Tobit, and Judith.
- On the Problems of Old Testament Theology for Christians, and more contemporary topics... (like oppression of women, minorities, indigenous peoples, Fundamentalism, and other abuses of the Old Testament, is gender an anthropological structure or just a social construct?...)
- New Testament fulfills Old Testament
- Fascinating APOCRYPHA – i.e.: Gospel of Judas, or Gospel of Bartholomew (Acts of Pilate)
- Dead Sea Scrolls