

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SCRIPTURE STUDY

Recommendation by Tim McCormick

One of the great blessings I have in being a teacher at BFC is that I get to share the wisdom of the Bible with my students, since reading Scripture is at the heart of who I am, both spiritually and vocationally. Therefore, it brings me great joy that today there are so many ways Catholics can get involved in Scripture study, both at home and at their local parish. This month, I'd like to let you know about a few of these opportunities.

Many are aware of the popular **Bible in a Year** program led by Fr. Mike Schmitz, which has become one of the most popular Bible apps in the world. Fr. Mike leads you through the entire Bible in small portions, day by day, from the comfort of your home. If you are looking for something with a bit more rigor, there is the **Catholic Biblical School of Michigan**, which offers a four-year program at various locations throughout Michigan, as well as online opportunities. I also lead a Bible study at Guardian Angels in Clawson twice a year. **Our first series will begin on Monday, September 15th at 7 PM**, where we will be exploring the Holy Spirit in Scripture over the course of 7 weeks. This study is open not only to Guardian Angels parishioners, but to you as well. If interested, please contact the GA parish office at 248-588-1222 to register.

As we begin a new academic year, consider finding a space where you can explore the Bible and make it a daily part of your life. I promise that if you do, it will be a life-changing experience and bring you closer to Jesus.

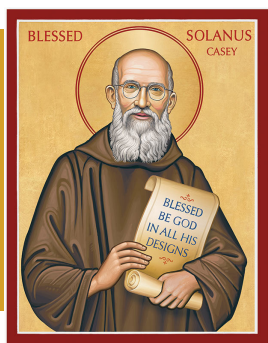
RECOMMENDED VISIT: THE SOLANUS CASEY CENTER

Recommendation by Ken Pullis

Blessed Solanus Casey is a local treasure for the Archdiocese of Detroit. It has been 8 years since he was beatified at Ford Field. Over the long holiday weekend, I had a chance to visit St. Bonaventure Monastery and the Solanus Casey Center in Detroit with my wife and a few friends. What a peaceful place it is! It is always amazing to me to see how **God works through different instruments to bring about blessings in the lives of so many**.

Solanus Casey is a perfect example of God working through him to bring healing to so many people who were in pain. Solanus was a simple man. He was born and raised in rural Wisconsin, part of a large family of 16 kids! At a young age, he answered God's call to serve Him as a priest. Little did he know how difficult it would be. He struggled mightily in his studies, which were primarily in Latin and German. His superiors questioned whether or not God was calling him because of these academic struggles. However, because of his great devotion and his love for the poor, he was eventually ordained a priest. He would be limited to saying Mass without the ability to preach a homily, and he would not be granted the faculties to hear confessions. God softly whispered to him, "Go to Detroit." He showed up at St. Bonaventure Monastery in Detroit one snowy Christmas Eve. After a brief period of priestly ministry in Yonkers, New York, he returned to Detroit as the "porter" at St. Bonaventure's. He would answer the door and speak with so many souls seeking God's comfort and consolation in the midst of their suffering. He would listen to them with patience and love, always offering to pray for them. And then the miracles began. People were healed of cancer, crippleness, alcoholism, and many other ailments. He was fond of saying, **"Blessed by God in all His designs,"** and **"Thank God ahead of time."**

I invite you to explore all that the Solanus Casey Center has to offer. It is part museum, part spiritual retreat, and part spiritual pilgrimage that is not more than a 30-minute drive away. As we start a new academic year with all that it has in store for each of us, let us echo the prayer of Blessed Solanus Casey and raise our hearts in praise and thanksgiving to God, **"Blessed be God in all His designs!"**



LEARN MORE >>

The Solanus Casey Center
1780 Mt Elliott St, Detroit, MI 48207
<https://www.solanuscasey.org/>



THE BEATITUDES: PART I

Reflection by Steve Petty

It is my sincere hope that everyone had a restful and relaxing summer! It's hard to believe that the school year is already upon us. As we begin another school year, I very much look forward to contributing to The Catholic Corner, along with my colleagues, Mr. McCormick and Mr. Pullis. As I was praying about what to write about for this first edition, it was put upon my heart to write about the Beatitudes. The more I thought about it, however, it became very clear that one short article about the Beatitudes is insufficient. That said, I think it's best if we cover the Beatitudes in a series of articles in The Catholic Corner for the 2025/26 school year.

I'd like to begin this journey with one of my favorite quotes in the Sacred Scriptures. The quote I'm referring to is Leviticus 19:1-2: **"The Lord said to Moses, 'Speak to the whole Israelite community and tell them: Be holy, for I, the LORD, your God, am holy.'"**

In Leviticus, God commands us to be "holy." So what exactly does it mean to be holy? The late Pope Francis gave us a very succinct explanation in a short, but powerful document titled, *Gaudete Exsultate (On the Call to Holiness in Today's World)*. In *Gaudete Exsultate*, Pope Francis tells us:

"Jesus explained with great simplicity what it means to be holy when he gave us the Beatitudes. The Beatitudes are like a Christian's identity card. So if someone asks: 'What must one do to be a good Christian?' the answer is clear. We have to do, each in our own way, what Jesus told us in the Sermon on the Mount."

In order to answer God's call to holiness, Christian disciples must consciously devote themselves to living the Beatitudes. That begs the obvious question: What exactly are the Beatitudes? **Simply put, the Beatitudes are spiritual dispositions that foundationally make us happy.** God blesses us with happiness through these spiritual dispositions because when we live the Beatitudes we are being godlike. Human beings are created in the Image and Likeness of God, and the only way we can find happiness is if we completely devote ourselves to the commands of our Creator. Over the course of this school year we will unpack the meaning of each Beatitude as we strive to fulfill God's commandment to be holy as God is holy.