

## Homily Summary – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

**Overview:** Today's readings focus on the Word of God and its transformative power in our lives. In Nehemiah, the priest Ezra reads and explains God's Word to the people, bringing them joy. In the Gospel, Jesus reads from Scripture in the synagogue, proclaiming its fulfillment in Himself. This theme of Scripture calls us to reflect: What is our relationship with the Bible?

**The Bible is for all:** Often, we treat the Bible as a decorative item, sitting on a shelf gathering dust. But the Word of God isn't just for scholars or theologians—it's meant for everyone. Here are three simple steps to deepen your relationship with Scripture:

1. **Start with the New Testament:** It's easier to understand and introduces the life and teachings of Jesus.
2. **Use helpful resources:** Explore tools like Fr. Michael Schmitz's *Bible in a Year Podcast*, Dr. John Bergsma's *Bible Basics*, or our parish's subscription to [formed.org](https://www.formed.org).
3. **Pray and commit time to it:** Set aside just 10 minutes a day to read Scripture and ask God to guide your understanding.

It's great to have a Catholic Bible with all the books, and to use a good translation (E.g. NRSVCE). Even small efforts can lead to significant growth. Imagine going from a Bible beginner to a Scripture pro in just one year! God's Word is our daily spiritual bread, essential for our spiritual life. Jesus reminds us, "No one lives by bread alone but by every word that comes from the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4).

As we embrace this journey, let's turn to Mary, who pondered God's Word in her heart, to help us grow in peace, warmth, and direction through Scripture.

**Challenge:** How will you grow closer to God's Word this week?

### **Rhyme Summary:**

The Bible's our guide, it gives our spirit light.  
God's Word will sustain us, by day and by night.  
Ezra read to the people; joy filled their way,  
Jesus fulfilled God's Word in the synagogue that day.

Spend 10 minutes with God's Word every day,  
And soon you'll find you've got more peace on your way.  
Start with the New Testament, take it in slow,  
Pray for guidance; let your understanding of God's Word grow.

## **Reasons to come to Mass each weekend**

**Hebrews 10:24-25** - "And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

**Exodus 20:8** - "Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy."

**Luke 22:19** - "Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'"

**Acts 2:42** - "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."

**John 6:53-54** - "So Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day.'"

**Psalms 122:1** - "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!'"

**Matthew 18:20** - "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

**Colossians 3:16** - "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God."

## **Additional resources to learn more about God and the Catholic faith**

- Check out the resource list available on [www.frmerkley.com](http://www.frmerkley.com)
- Catholic Answers: <https://www.catholic.com/>
- Word on Fire: <https://www.wordonfire.org/>
- Formed: <https://formed.org/>
- The Coming Home Network: <https://chnetwork.org/>
- Catholic Exchange: <https://catholicexchange.com/>
- Dynamic Catholic: <https://dynamiccatholic.com/>
- The Augustine Institute: <https://augustineinstitute.org/>
- Ascension Press: <https://ascensionpress.com/>
- EWTN: <https://www.ewtn.com/>
- The Catholic Company: <https://www.catholiccompany.com/>
- Busted Halo: <https://bustedhalo.com/>
- CatholicCulture.org: <https://www.catholicculture.org/>
- The Thomistic Institute: <https://thomisticinstitute.org/>
- Ignatius Press: <https://www.ignatius.com/>
- Catholic Education Resource Center (CERC): <https://www.catholiceducation.org/>