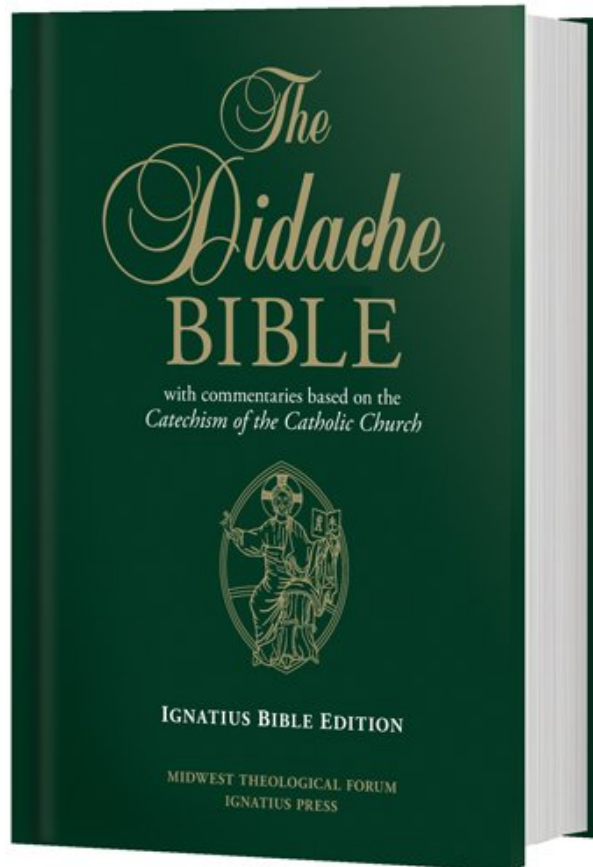
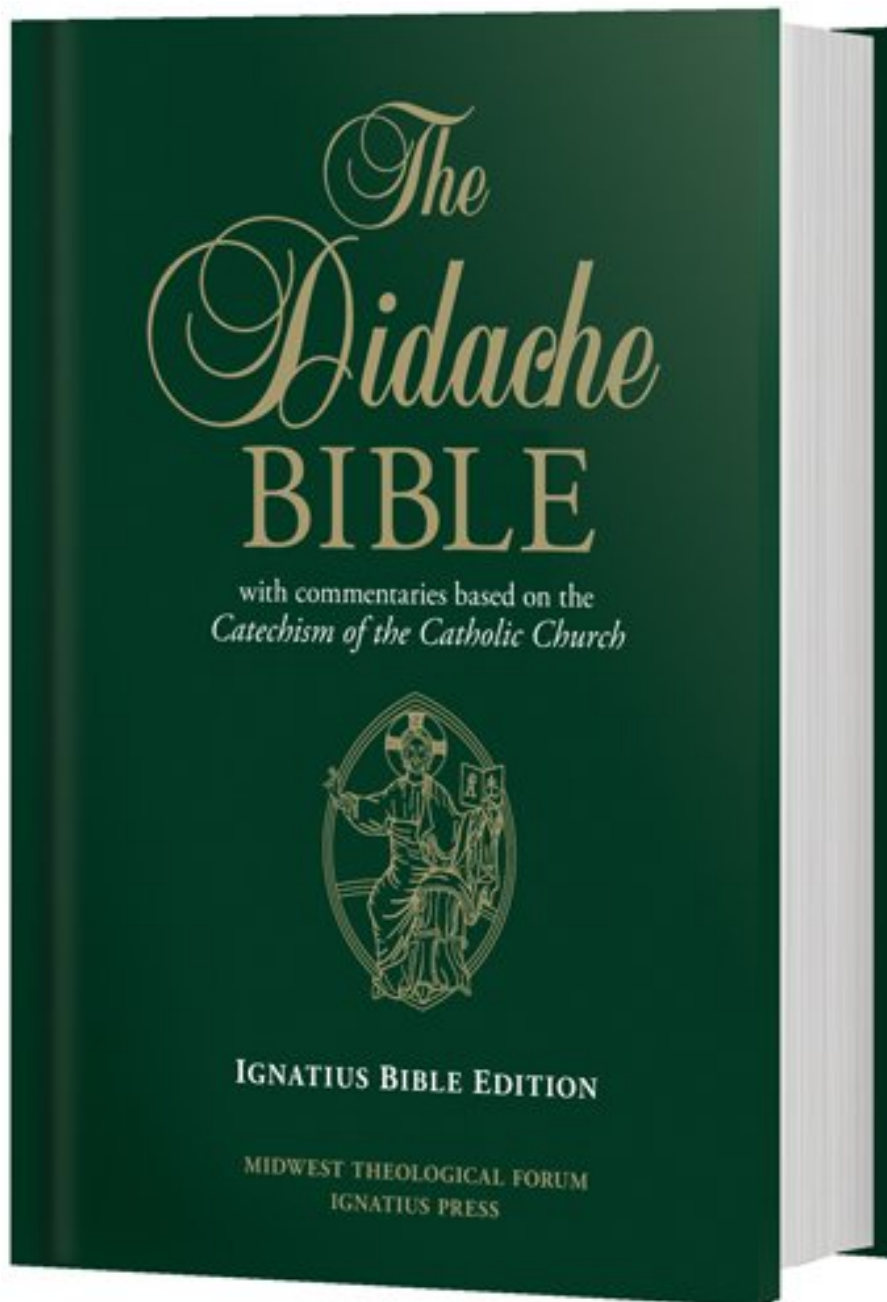


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The Didache Bible (RSV-2CE) presents extensive commentaries, based on the Catechism of the Catholic Church, for each of the books of the Holy Bible. The Didache Bible also includes numerous apologetical inserts to assist the reader in understanding the Church's teachings on current issues. After publishing the books of The Didache Series, Midwest Theological Forum set out to fill a need for a Catholic edition of Sacred Scripture with explanatory and apologetical commentaries based on the Catechism of the Catholic Church. The publication of the Didache Bible, based on these principles, fulfills the desire of Pope St. John Paul II as expressed in his Apostolic Constitution *Fidei Depositum: The Catechism of the Catholic Church...* is a statement of the Church's faith and of catholic doctrine, attested to or illumined by Sacred Scripture, the Apostolic Tradition and the Church's Magisterium. I declare it to be a sure norm for teaching the faith. (no. IV) The Didache Bible (RSV-2CE) is a valuable resource for students and those participating in Scripture studies. Ideal for anyone seeking a deeper understanding of the Catholic faith and intended to be accessible by all Catholics in its level of scriptural scholarship. Available in the Ignatius Bible Edition (Revised Standard Version, Second Catholic Edition). Features 27 full-color biblical maps, including the journeys of Jesus Christ. More than 100 apologetical explanations that help to answer common questions about the faith. Includes a comprehensive, 43-page glossary and a topical index. The font size for the text of Scripture is 9.5 points which is comparable to the font size used in most business letters. The font size for the text of commentary is 8.5 points.

- Sales Rank: #40218 in Books
- Published on: 2015-11-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 1.90" h x 6.20" w x 9.20" l, 3.10 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 1960 pages

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157 of 160 people found the following review helpful.

Ideal Catholic Bible for those Learning the Faith

By Jeffrey A. Mirus

This Bible uses the Second Edition of the Catholic Edition of the Revised Standard Version, widely regarded as the best translation available today. This means it was last revised according to the principles promulgated in *Liturgiam Authenticam* in 2001. The printing is well done—clean, clear and easy to read—and the accompanying commentary and additional resources are superb. However, the prospective reader needs to realize that this edition's resources are primarily devoted to highlighting and clarifying the teachings and practices of the Church as found in the Word of God and as more fully articulated in the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

This purpose was inspired by the Midwest Theological Forum's Didache Series of religious education textbooks, and it makes this edition of the Bible the best one to use in connection with religious education, or by readers who want to understand both the teachings of the Church and their foundations in Sacred

Scripture. It would not be the best edition for those who know Catholic doctrine very well and are now interested in exploring the origins and development of the Biblical books, the surrounding history with which the texts interact, or the full range of perspectives on the meaning of difficult passages.

The Didache Bible includes the following preparatory resources as front-matter:

- * Foreword by Cardinal Francis George on the general relationships among the Catechism, Vatican II's Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation, and Sacred Scripture.
- * Preface by Fr. James Socias of the Midwest Theological Forum on the fundamental purposes of this edition.
- * Introduction on Biblical inspiration and the various senses of Scripture.
- * A brief guide on how to read the Bible.
- * A brief summary of the major themes of all the books of the Old and New Testaments.
- * A chronology of the Old Testament.
- * A chronology of the New Testament.
- * A thematically-organized list of Scripture passages for personal meditation.

Of even greater interest are the resources which accompany each of the books. There is a one-page introduction to each book which covers authorship, dating, audience and main themes. Then, page by page as the the Biblical text unfolds, we find:

- * Extensive commentary, verse by verse, on the meaning of the text and its significance for understanding Catholic teaching and practice.
- * Call-out boxes which briefly highlight key Biblical and theological concepts to aid the reader in understanding the full significance of the text.
- * Lists of related Biblical passages (these cross references visually separate the text from the commentary).
- * Periodic full-page apologetical explanations of important Catholic concepts, teachings and practices, placed at appropriate points along the way. There are over 100 of these longer explanations.

Finally, following the last book of the Bible, the back-matter includes:

- * 24 full-color maps providing geographical orientations for both the Old and New Testaments.
- * A 44-page glossary of Biblical names and terms.
- * Index to the maps.
- * Index of apologetical explanations by title.
- * Index of apologetical explanations by subject.
- * A 23-page index of subjects, including Biblical names, which leads to the Biblical passages in which they appear.

The Didache Bible is currently available in a sturdy hardbound edition with two ribbons. I give this Bible my highest recommendation for all those who wish to understand both Sacred Scripture and Catholic teaching more fully, including the deep links between the two. I would say it is the best edition to give as a first Bible to Catholics who have not yet made an extensive study of their Faith. It is the ideal Bible for them to have when they go off to college or out into the world, where they will eventually be challenged—not least about the relationship between Sacred Scripture and the Catholic Church.

75 of 75 people found the following review helpful.

Outstanding Catholic Study Bible

By Amazon Customer

As an RCIA director I am always looking for faithful, simple to use materials for my candidates. To this point easy to use Bible studies are difficult to come by. Most are limited to either New Testament or single book volumes. The Catholic Answer Bible and the African Bible from the USCCB were okay, but I wanted the RSV, not the NAB for their use in class and study. Until now, we have given out the Ignatius Press RSV-CE without notes in absence of anything better.

That finally changes with the Didache Study Bible which complements the high school series by Midwest Theological Forum (and jointly published here with Ignatius Press). This beautiful, sturdy, two ribbon volume is perfect for Catholic families and those new to the Catholic faith. Everything is here that you would want in a study Bible from short introductions to the books of the Bible, apologetic inserts, maps, and solid commentary showing the connection between scripture and the Catholic faith with references to the Catechism of the Catholic Church. The CCC is saturated in Scripture and we see that connection more fully in this Bible.

Until Ignatius releases the full Catholic Study Bible next year, I highly recommend the Didache Bible for study groups, RCIA, religious education classes, and individual faith formation. I will also be recommending it for our Street Ministry Teams through St. Paul Street Evangelization as they share the Bible in the streets.

58 of 59 people found the following review helpful.

Easily the best study bible in existence.

By Joel L. Watts

There are study bibles, devotional bibles, and special edition niche bibles — then, there is a bible that brings to life what a bible should be. This, frankly, is it. While there is the Reformation Study Bible, the Wesleyan Study Bible, and the Orthodox Study Bible, none of them rises to the level of doctrinal and apologetic material found in The Didache Bible. I seriously doubt that there will be one to top it.

Using the Second Edition of the Catholic Edition of the Revised Standard Version as the translation, the editors (James Socias and Jeffrey Cole) have decided to put to rest all notions that the Catholic Faith and Tradition is not biblical. I write this review as an Anglo-Catholic, with heavy leanings to the Catholic side of that hyphen. Even then, I am amazed at the depth of Catholic doctrine's connection to Holy Scripture. This is not an apologetic bible, refusing to "prove" anything. It simply states the Catholic position, showing you how the doctrine is derived from and connected to Scripture. Equally so, The Didache Bible is the most theological bible I have yet to put my hands on and I doubt I will ever see another one match it.

Unlike other study bibles, The Didache Bible is built around doctrine via the Catechism of the Catholic Church. The editors draw this inspiration from Pope Benedict XVI's opening to the "Year of Faith," where he said urged Catholics to reach to a "systematic knowledge of the context of the faith" which is found in the Catechism. I know more than a few Catholics, (practicing, lapsed, and separated) who know very little of the richness of the Catholic life. Perhaps it is because they have failed to pay heed to the Pope's suggestion. Because if they had — if you and I and the other separated Christians — would give just another glance to the Catechism, we would see the intensity of what Catholics believe. This is why to have Holy Scripture merged so seamlessly with Catechism (surely, something representative of Holy Tradition) is a great benefit to us all. Simply, because such a union births well an understanding of the Scriptural foundation for the Catechism, and thus Catholic doctrine.

Features

Beyond having this union present, The Didache Bible includes an Introduction explaining Scripture in the Catholic Church. Growing up post-Protestant (i.e., fundamentalist and anti-Catholic), I was convinced

Catholics had little to no regard for Scripture. Yet, if you take seriously the Introduction, you will see that those in communion with the Bishop of Rome are called to have a high view of Scripture. Further, Scripture is not merely an individual enterprise where one sifts randomly through its pages to find something pertinent. Rather, Scripture is the inspired word of God, with its principal author (God) moving through human witnesses to insure the message is delivered rightly. Further, Scripture is a Revelation in and of itself (along with Holy Tradition). Proper understanding is restricted, of course, to insure an orderly transfer of that message. Imagine, if you will, if everyone was allowed an interpretation and in that interpretation, regardless of how unfounded and wild it is, one finds equality. Finally, the Introduction gives a brief synopsis of the proper way to find meaning in Scripture (i.e., Allegorical, Moral, and Anagogical). Following this is a section on how to read the bible (and thusly named).

What may be surprising to some are the Documents of the Magisterium included in this bible. These are referred to at various times throughout the notes (because of their use in the Catechism). Also included is a Brief Summary of Sacred Scripture, a Chronology of both the Old and the New Testaments, and Scriptural passages for personal meditation. These passages will include notable Catholic views, such as Passages About the Life of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Throughout the Canon are small (on page) apologetic treatises designed to give a better account of particular Catholic doctrines. You can find a listing of this in the back of the bible (1784—95). These include such topics as “Catholics’ Belief in the Bible,” “The Deposit of Faith,” “Just War,” Mary, the Mother of God,” and “Speaking in Tongues.” Each of these begin with a passage from Scripture, followed by a brief exegetical explanation drawn from both Scripture and Tradition, ending with a reference to the Catechism. They are not arranged according to Scripture, or any order I can see, only inserted periodically. In all, they provide for nearly any question one has about particular Catholic doctrines.

Each book has an introduction. This includes author, date, audience, and main themes. A brief survey of the author section includes a union between Tradition and Scholarship. For instance, in reading the Pastorals, The Didache Bible notes what Tradition has said as well as the challenges by scholars. In reading the Catholic epistles (James, 1-2 Peter, etc...), the editors give great care in walking the line between the Church and the Academy. For example, they rightly note that 2 Peter has long been suspect, not simply from the 19th century. The same goes for the dating and the audience. The Didache Bible does not hide Scripture from historical criticism, but simply presents both answers — Church and Academy.

The notes, the primary feature, of the bible are found on nearly every page of Holy Writ. While some are not summaries of the Catechism, more are. For instance, the first note on the “Wisdom of Solomon” is in regards to authorship and theme. The second note summarizes 1.1–16. However, the note to Wisdom 1.4 is based on ¶365 of the Catechism while the note to Wisdom 1.7 comes from the Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Catholic Church. The goal throughout is to connect Catholic teaching found primarily in the Catechism to Scripture and vice versa. The notes are not merely a commentary, but the way Catholics read Scripture, form doctrine, and shape their moral lives.

Finally, The Didache Bible includes a glossary, maps, and an index of subjects. Unlike the glossary, this index includes scriptural passages supportive of various subjects. For instance, if someone is interested in Penance and Reconciliation in Scripture, they can turn to a various of passages such as Matthew 16.19, Matthew 3.8, or Luke 3.8. Or, if they want to see what verses relate to “Saint” they will get the usual verses where we are all saints (Romans 1.7) but also the passages used to support the intercession of saints (Mark 8.38; Luke 9.26 and 24.5). Each section, to be sure, had different topics within it.

Summary

I have numerous study bibles, but none so important as The Didache Bible. This is not merely a Catholic bible, but a Christian bible. While Protestants may protest still, they can find something deep in this – something that simply states that Catholicism is a biblical Christianity (if not the biblical Christianity). I am more than impressed — impressed beyond words — at the manner in which this bible has been put together. This provides answers to the question of whether or not Catholicism is biblical — are intercessory prayers biblical? The Trinity? Mary? The Pope? Not only are we given a proper way to read Scripture, but we are given eyes to see the great union between Scripture and Tradition. I am unsure if The Didache Bible could ever be surpassed.

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