

## ENGAGE WITH SCRIPTURE!

### Join the Biblical Institute of the Diocese of Joliet to...

- **LEARN** - Study the Bible as a whole and in its parts - from a Catholic point of view, and within a Catholic learning and faith community.
- **LIVE** - Develop your relationship with Jesus Christ and apply the Word of God to your life.
- **SHARE** - Enrich your ability to share and teach from the Bible.

### What Our Students Say...

- We are learning Scripture from a Catholic understanding according to Church documents. The hundreds of connections between the Old Testament and New Testament make the Mass come alive as never before.  
*-David F., Plainfield*
- The lectures keep us all spellbound. [Our instructors] teach the class in such a way that understanding dawns.  
*-Kitty V., New Lenox*
- When I listen to the readings in Mass, I am more attentive and understand it more...this is life changing.  
*-Mary F., Naperville*

## Tuition and Costs

Tuition is \$525 a year.

Book costs vary by year of the program, typically ranging from \$50-\$100 a year.

## Locations, Days, Times

In 2020 - 2021

**Year 1: Our Lady of Mercy Parish,**  
Aurora, Saturdays, 9-11 am

**Year 2: The Cathedral of St. Raymond,**  
Joliet, Wednesdays, 7 - 9 pm

**Year 3: St. Thomas The Apostle Parish,**  
Naperville, Mondays, 7-9 pm

**Year 4: Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish,**  
Darien, Wednesdays, 7-9 pm

*New students may join Years 3 and 4 only with previous advanced Biblical studies.*

## Join Now and Invite Others!



Office of  
Adult  
Formation

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Web site  
<http://www.dioceseofjoliet.org/bidj>

# BIBLICAL INSTITUTE OF THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET

## Catholic Bible Study for Adults



A program of the  
Office of Adult Formation  
Diocese of Joliet

## Our Students

The Biblical Institute of the Diocese of Joliet (BIDJ) serves everyone who wants in-depth study of the Bible and prayerful reflection on Scripture within a Catholic faith community.

- **Parish Bible study facilitators** lead groups more confidently as they learn a holistic approach to Scripture and how to use Bible study resources.
- **Parish catechetical leaders and pastoral ministers** integrate Scripture more effectively into their ministries as they build on the Bible study from their ministry formation programs.
- **Deacons** find it helpful in the preparation of homilies as they expand their knowledge of the Old Testament and their understanding of its relationship with the New Testament.
- **Catechists of children, youth, and adults** gain skill in using Scripture in their teaching and answering questions about how Catholics approach the Bible.
- **Lectors and Ministers of Care** deepen their proclamation of scripture and prayer with God's Word.
- **Any adult** seeking to deepen their relationship with Christ or bring Scripture into family or personal life.

## Our Program

In BIDJ, we cover the entire Bible in four years. The program is composed of two phases. *New students are asked to commit to the first two years.*

### Basic Biblical Studies: Years 1 & 2

In this phase, we focus on methods of study and praying with the Bible, the basics of the Catholic approach to Scripture, and systematic study of the major books of the Old and New Testaments.

**Year 1:** Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings

**Year 2:** Mark, Luke, Acts, Pauline Letters, John, Letters of John, Revelation

### Advanced Biblical Studies: Years 3 & 4

In this phase, we cover all remaining books of the Bible and delve deeper into the themes studied in the first two years.

**Year 3:** The Prophets, Psalms and other books of the Old Testament

**Year 4:** The Wisdom books and other books of the Old Testament, Matthew, New Testament letters, Hebrews

Participation in BIDJ can be applied to catechist formation requirements. Students who complete each phase of BIDJ receive certificates in basic/advanced biblical studies from the Diocese of Joliet.

**Anyone can join!** No specific Bible study background is needed and non-Catholics are most welcome to participate.

## Our Approach

BIDJ equally emphasizes academic learning *and* holistic, personal formation.

- Lectures and readings give students the basic biblical scholarship they need to understand the Bible as contemporary Catholics.
- Homework, small group discussions, community prayer, and instructor guidance promote the deepening of each student's faith experience.

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*Classes meet weekly for two hours, September-May.*

## Our Instructors

**All our instructors** have graduate-level Catholic education in the Bible, as well as a solid understanding of Church guidance on how Catholics read and interpret the Bible.

Each instructor also has extensive experience teaching Scripture and other faith-related subjects to Catholic adults.

Our instructors share a passion for helping adults experience the power of God's Word.

The goal of this ministry is to deepen the understanding, faith and practice of all who participate in the Biblical Institute.