



# The Matthew Book Club

- What is a Gospel?
- How do I read and interpret a Gospel?
- How do I begin to discover Jesus in the pages of a Gospel?
- How can I relate the words of the Gospel to the rest of my life?

***Beginning on Monday, August 9 at 7:00 PM  
in the St. Alphonsus Rectory Patio***

*For four Mondays in August, we'll set the stage and equip you with basic tools to begin exploring the Gospel of Matthew. We'll gather to discuss what is in the gospel, and the ways that the themes and message intersect with our own lives.*

*As the fall unfolds, you can continue that exploration online with more information and discussions, in person in a study group, or in a combination of the two.*

*There will be a guide available for purchase.*

*For anyone from experienced Bible readers to complete beginners!*

*Inquirers (those looking to join the church) are especially welcome!*

For more details, contact Cathy Crino at [ccrino@aol.com](mailto:ccrino@aol.com) or 773-525-0709, ext. 111.

## READING MATTHEW

**Late in the fall, when Advent begins, we'll begin reading Matthew together as a church. Have you ever thought of reading through a gospel, exploring it to find out who Jesus is - and what that means for us?**

We usually hear the gospels in chunks, sometimes unrelated chunks. Because of that, we don't always get a sense of the whole flow of the gospel. In addition, each gospel has its own 'personality.' They are not all the same, which is why we have four of them. The early church didn't think that any one portrait of Jesus conveyed the complete picture.

Most people read books from beginning to end. (Even if you may peek a bit ahead to see where things are going.) We hardly ever read a book of the Bible that way, even though most of them were written to be read as a narrative, like any other book.

Reading a book of the Bible straight through seems

daunting for people, which must be the major reason it is so rarely done. Lots of people have tried to read the Bible and start full of resolution with Genesis. There is a narrative flow in Genesis, so that moves right along. So does the first part of Exodus. But then, by the second half of Exodus, without some study aids, anyone's enthusiasm is going to wane. (By Leviticus, most everyone has just given up.)

This is the biggest reason to start with the gospels. You know the story, it makes sense, and it isn't a cure for insomnia. Try it! You'll like it!

It helps to have a bit of a road map and companions on the journey, so that is where we come in.