

## What is the best Bible to use?

The one you'll read!

It may be nice to have a big family Bible on the coffee table for display purposes, but the purpose of having a Bible is to allow God's Word to penetrate our hearts and minds through our prayerful *reading* of the sacred page. It does no good having a really fancy version of the Bible if for some reason you're not drawn to using it.

Nonetheless, not all versions are equal. First, you want a Catholic Bible, not only because of the notes and other features, but also because most Protestant Bibles either remove or marginalize as "apocryphal" certain Old Testament books.

Even among Catholic versions, there are some translations that are better and/or more readable than others. And you don't want a paraphrased edition that takes substantial liberties in its attempt to use "contemporary" language.

Our first recommendation would be the Revised Standard Version-Catholic Edition. The [Ignatius Bible](#) published by Ignatius Press uses that translation. It's the version used in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and by many of the most reliable Catholic Bible studies.

Our second recommendation would be the [New American Bible](#), which is quite readable and very close to the version used at Mass. The main difficulty is that the notes to that Bible are not reliably helpful, in our estimation. So if you use that Bible, you might want to get a good commentary (e.g., the Navarre Study Bible or the Ignatius Catholic Study Bible) to help with your understanding.

And third, if the idea is to meditate daily on Scripture, the publication [Magnificat](#) has all the daily and Sunday Mass readings along with other helpful features and meditation.