

Oremus Lecture Book Recommendations

February 23, 2025, Sts. Anne and Joachim Catholic Church

Here are a number of recommendations for further reading if you are interested in continuing the growth that the Father has begun in you. Many are on Ignatian prayer, while others offer prayer in different traditions, or are a commentary on the author's own personal journey to the Father. The bold books are my immediate recommendation for further reading, but the other texts are excellent, too, and may appeal to you in a different way.

Meditation and Contemplation, An Ignatian Guide to Praying with Scripture by Fr. Timothy Gallagher offers additional resources and examples for praying with the Sacred Scriptures.

The Discernment of Spirits: An Ignatian Guide for Everyday Living by Fr. Timothy Gallagher offers instructions on the fourteen rules of discernment of St. Ignatius of Loyola, we briefly covered steps one and two in the sixth lecture called Discernment in Prayer.

The Examen Prayer: Ignatian Wisdom for Our Lives Today by Fr. Timothy Gallagher offers instruction on the practice of a daily examen, where we contemplate God's presence in the ordinary experiences of everyday life along with His invitations and consideration where we miss the mark.

***An Ignatian Introduction to Prayer: Scriptural Reflections According to the Spiritual Exercises* by Fr. Timothy Gallagher offers 40 different Sacred Scripture passages to pray with along with a guided reflection for each one.**

Struggles in the Spiritual Life: Their Nature and Their Remedies by Fr. Timothy Gallagher discusses non-spiritual desolation in prayer, along with forms of spiritual desolation, distraction, and dryness.

***The Return of the Prodigal Son: A Story of Homecoming* by Fr. Henri Nouwen follows his prayerful experience with the painting "The Return of the Prodigal Son" by Rembrandt, that we saw in the artwork for week seven. It is his own great reflections on Nouwen's progression from being the younger son, to his portrayal of the elder son, ultimately being transformed into the role of the father.**

***Personal Prayer: A Guide for Receiving the Father's Love* by Fr. Boniface Hicks and Fr. Thomas Acklin offers a different perspective on prayer than what we have been seeing in these Ignatian exercises, discussing concepts such as silence, relationship, poverty, and liturgy.**

Deep Conversion, Deep Prayer by Fr. Thomas Dubay discusses our own need for ongoing conversion in the spiritual life, and the many facets by which prayer and conversion are complementary in making that happen.

Abba's Heart: Finding our Way Back to the Father's Delight by Neal Lozano helps us to break free from the many obstacles that get between us and the total reception of the perfect love of the Heavenly Father.