

Spirit Alive!

What to expect in the second season **Nurturing Our Relationship with Jesus Through the Word**

Bishop Clark has asked that parishes/faith communities employ three strategies to implement this year.

The Blessing of Bibles.

1. On the first Sunday of Advent, November 30, everyone will be invited to bring their Bibles to church for blessing. The blessing will include an opportunity to commit to ongoing knowledge of the Word of God.
2. In preparation for this event, all parishes will receive information about how to order the New American Bible. We have negotiated a discount with the American Bible Society that will offer steep discounts on hard cover, soft cover, Spanish edition and children's bibles. Parishes will have a code to guarantee the discount, and we will provide copies of the order forms. In order to receive the discount, you must order in bulk. There will be materials to provide you with a format for individuals and families to place the order. Orders will be shipped directly to your parish.
3. All these materials will be available by the end of August 2008.

The Mark Project

1. The *Spirit Alive!* Bible subcommittee has developed a format for reading the entire Gospel of Mark, including weekly reflection questions. The intent is to invite all Catholics to read one book of the Bible together and at the same time to expand people's familiarity with the Gospel of Cycle B.
2. **The Mark Project** will take place between the first Sunday of Advent and end with the last Sunday of Lent.
3. Reflection questions for each chapter of Mark will be available.
4. All materials including various models for implementing **The Mark Project** and supporting resources will be available by the end of August, 2008.

Regular Parish Based Bible Study

1. The Holy Father has declared June 28, 2008 through June 29, 2009 as the Year of Paul. Parishes are asked to sponsor a study of the Pauline letters especially during the fall and spring. Little Rock Scripture study offers several courses on Paul's writings. **A workshop presented by Little Rock will be offered on November 8.** More information to follow.
2. Resource lists of video and DVD based materials for Bible study are being developed. Other resources are also being identified.
3. SBSTM is offering a certificate course for volunteer Bible study leaders.
4. All materials will be available by the end of August, 2008.