**HELPFUL RESOURCES FOR PREACHERS**

**Excellent scholarly commentary series if you have access to a library:**

*Anchor Bible*

*Berit Olam*

*Sacra Pagina*

# Solid homiletics reference books

Bartlett, David L. and Barbara Brown Taylor, eds. *Feasting on the Word****.*** Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2010-2017. ISBN 978-0664237134

The twelve volumes cover all of the Sundays in the three-year common lectionary cycle, along with moveable occasions. The page layout is truly unique. For each lectionary text, preachers will find brief essays--one each on the exegetical, theological, pastoral, and homiletical challenges of the text. Each volume also contains an index of biblical passages so that non-lectionary preachers may make use of it.

Brown, Raymond, *et al*., eds. *The New Jerome Biblical Commentary*. Ingelwood Cliffs NH: Prentice Hall, 1990. ISBN 0138598363.

This is perhaps the most well-known and used one-volume historical-critical commentary for Catholic preachers. It presents moderately detailed line-by-line commentary on each biblical book and also contains good introductory articles to each book and overview articles on many historical and theological topics. While providing good, concise historical-critical information, pastoral applications are limited.

Farmer, William R., Ed. *The International Bible Commentary: A Catholic and Ecumenical Commentary for the Twenty-first Century.* Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 1998. ISBN 0814624545.

In Spanish: [*Comentario Biblico Internacional: Comentario Catolico y Ecumenico Para*](http://search.barnesandnoble.com/booksearch/isbnInquiry.asp?userid=6AKNYDVSGP&amp;isbn=0814625614) [*El Siglo XXI*](http://search.barnesandnoble.com/booksearch/isbnInquiry.asp?userid=6AKNYDVSGP&amp;isbn=0814625614)*.* Navarra: Editorial Verbo Divino, 1999. ISBN 0814625614.

Taking its inspiration from the Second Vatican Council, this commentary seeks to be ecumenical and culturally diverse in scope while remaining faithful to the scriptural teachings of the Catholic Church. It seeks to provide a resource useful to the universal Church. An international group of scholars contributed a selection of general and personal articles in addition to Old and New Testament commentaries.

Lohfink, Gerhard. *Jesus of Nazareth: What He Wanted; Who He Was.* Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 2015. ISBN 9780814683088.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. *The Our Father*. Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 2021. ISBN 9780814664490

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. *The Forty Parables of Jesus*. Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 2021. ISBN 9780814685105

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. *All My Springs Are in You*. Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 2024. ISBN 9798400801112

Fr. Lohfink was a prolific German theologian and scriptural exegete who passed away in 2024. His works began to be translated into English only a few years ago and quickly became favorites among many preachers. I’ve included only a few of my favorites of his here that I turn to all the time in preaching. All are available through the Liturgical Press website: [www.litpress.org](http://www.litpress.org)

Malina, Bruce J., and Richard Rohrbaugh. *Social Science Commentary on the Gospel of John.* Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1998. ISBN 0800629922.

 . *Social Science Commentary on the Synoptic Gospels.* Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1994. ISBN 0800625625.

When readers are separated from the social world of the author, miscommunication occurs. Historical methods of Biblical interpretation have been helpful in narrowing the gap between the modern reader and ancient authors but have concentrated only on distinctive events and ideas. The social-scientific approach employed in this commentary focuses on social phenomena that have persisted for centuries.

Reid, Barbara E. *Parables for Preachers: The Gospel of Matthew, Year A.* Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 2001. ISBN 0814625509.

 . *Parables for Preachers: The Gospel of Mark, Year B.* Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 1999. ISBN 0814625517.

 . *Parables for Preachers: The Gospel of Luke, Year C.* Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 2000. ISBN 0814625525.

Reid looks at the parables for the Gospel of each year in the order in which they appear in the lectionary, looking at the literary context and structure and then analyzing the narrative scenes of the texts. Each parable concludes with a section on preaching possibilities.

**Websites with solid scripture commentary:**

<https://leftbehindandlovingit.blogspot.com/> - best translation of the Greek text with commentary

<https://www.sefaria.org/texts/Tanakh> - excellent resource for Jewish commentary on Hebrew scripture texts

<http://www.textweek.com/> - wonderful, though sometimes outdated (i.e. dead links) ecumenical website with solid commentary as well as sample preachings based on the Revised Common Lectionary

<https://cepreaching.org/> - weekly commentary on lectionary texts available in English, Spanish, and Korean

**Websites with sample preaching worth listening to:**

<https://www.americamagazine.org/preach-podcast-catholic-homilies> - amazing podcast series being funded by the Lilly Endowment through America Media. Interviews an excellent Catholic preacher each week and invites them to share how they wrote their preaching. Lots of great tips.

<https://www.wordonfire.org/videos/> - weekly sermons by Bishop Robert Barron

<https://word.op.org/> - A daily preaching podcast put out by the global Dominican Order

<https://www.catholicwomenpreach.org/> - weekly video preaching from Catholic women around the world ( a printed three volume series is currently coming out from Orbis Press)

<https://podcast.gospelinlife.com/> - sermons by Timothy Keller, founder of Redeemer Presbyterian Church in New York City

<https://www.churchnativity.com/watch/messages/#/> - Nativity Church in Timonium, MD online, can watch previous messages or livestream current ones, by Fr. Michael White and Tom Corcoran of the Rebuilt series, more evangelical Catholic outreach

<https://www.washucsc.org/homilies> - longtime site of outstanding campus ministry preaching with Fr. Gary Braun

<https://bulldogcatholic.org/homilies-archive/> - site for listening to Fr. Mike Schmitz homilies, also very effective with the campus ministry crowd

<https://www.preacherexchange.com/> - Dominican website that is a collaboration of both friars and sisters with a plethora of resources available in both English and Spanish

**Books comprised of sermons worth reading –**

***Anything by Fred Craddock, Barbara Brown Taylor, Alyce McKenzie – all of their sermon books are wonderful***

*A Year of Vincentian Preaching by Daniel Harris,* CM ed. Gregory Heille and Emmanuel Diaz (Eugene, OR: Resource Publications, 2023)

*Singing for the Kingdom: The Last of the Homilies of Matthew Kelty, OCSO* ed. William O. Pausell (Kalamazoo, MI: Cistercian Publications, 2008)

*The Diary of Jesus Christ*, by Bill Cain SJ (Orbis, 2022)

*Preaching to the Choir* by Ann Garrido (New Priory Press, 2014)

*A Chorus of Witnesses: Model Sermons for Today’s Preacher* ed. Thomas Long and Cornelius Platinga (Eerdmanns, 1994)

**For one’s own personal spiritual growth / spiritual practices for preachers –**

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/the-bible-in-a-year-with-fr-mike-schmitz/id1539568321-> Fr. Mike Schmitz Bible in a Year

<https://pray-as-you-go.org/> - available also as an app; daily meditations on the Word in the Ignatian tradition from the Jesuits of Great Britain

<https://www.ignatianspirituality.com/reimagining-examen-app/> - app also available as a book – thirty different ways of doing the Ignatian examen on a daily basis; great for paying attention to where God is and is not showing up in the world.

**For ongoing preaching education –**

<https://theology.nd.edu/graduate-programs/initiatives/marten-program/> - endowed resource from University of Notre Dame with recorded webinars and talks from live conferences on various areas of preaching – i.e. lots of lectures and sample sermon videos for free

<https://ctu.edu/preaching-with-the-sciences/> - a site funded by the Templeton Foundation to promote better integration of (and more truthful appropriation of) the sciences into preaching. Includes talks by five scientists who were paired with 11 preachers to come up with sermon outlines integrating science in lectionary-based preaching.