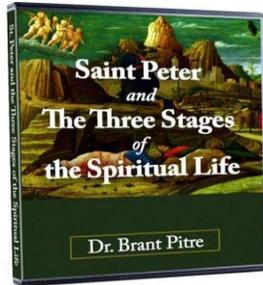


June 2019



St. Peter and the Three Stages of Spiritual life (Dr. Brant Pitre)

Monday, June 10 - 6:45 p.m. (Hall)

Tuesday, June 11 - 1:00 p.m. (Rm A)

Have you ever wondered how to make progress in the spiritual life? Ever feel like your faults and failings have you just going in circles? You're not alone. In this illuminating Bible study, Dr. Brant Pitre looks at the spiritual life of Saint Peter through the lens of the three traditional stages or 'ages' of the spiritual life:

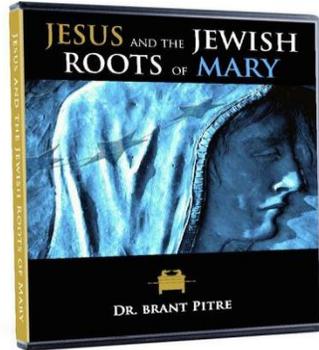
- The Purgative Way
- The Illuminative Way
- The Unitive Way

Dr. Pitre uses this framework to show how in the Gospels and the book of Acts, Simon Peter goes through the common stages of:

- Spiritual Childhood (during Jesus' public ministry)
- Spiritual Adolescence (after the crucifixion and resurrection)
- Spiritual Adulthood (after Pentecost)

Seen in this light, Peter's life reveals to us the progress and the pitfalls encountered by one of the greatest saints of all time. Most people can identify with Peter in the early stages of his discipleship, when he is constantly putting his foot in his mouth! But, as this inspiring Bible study shows, eventually, by means of the grace of God, Peter was transformed from a man who was so afraid of suffering that he betrayed Christ to an apostle of the Holy Spirit, who performed miracles, converted thousands, and laid the foundations of the Church.

July 2019



Jesus and the Jewish Roots of Mary (Dr. Brant Pitre)

Monday, July 8 - 6:45 p.m. (Hall)

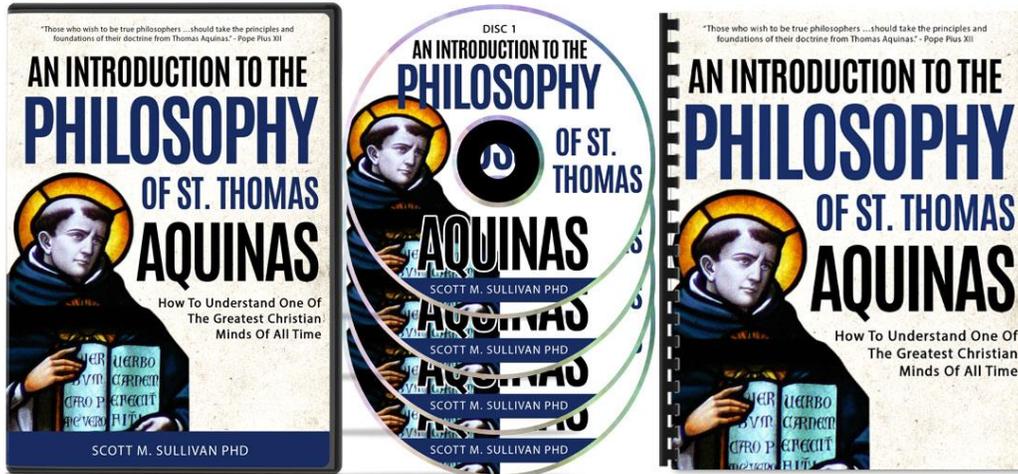
Tuesday, July 9 - 1:00 p.m. (Rm A)

Why do Catholics say that Mary was sinless, when the Bible says that “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”? And how can they believe that Mary was assumed into heaven, when the Bible says nothing about it? Most important of all, why do Catholics give Mary so much honor? Is the Catholic veneration of Mary really “idolatry”?

In this eye-opening presentation, Dr. Pitre shines the light of the Old Testament on Mary, the mother of Jesus. He shows how three ancient Jewish images help us to understand Catholic beliefs about Mary:

1. The New Eve: If Jesus is the new Adam, then who is the New Eve? What are the implications of Mary’s identity as the New Eve for the dogma of the Immaculate Conception?
2. The New Ark of the Covenant: If Jesus is the new Manna from heaven, then where is the New Ark? Dr. Pitre shows how Jewish beliefs about the lost Ark of the Covenant give profound revelations into who Mary is and her bodily Assumption into heaven.
3. The New Queen Mother: If Jesus is the new Davidic King, then who is the new Queen? In the Old Testament, the Queen wasn’t the king’s wife, but his mother. Dr. Pitre shows how Mary’s identity as “Queen Mother” (Hebrew *gebirah*) is the key for unlocking Catholic devotion to her, and the difference between honoring Mary and worshipping God.

August 2019



Retreat on St. Thomas Aquinas (9am-3pm)
Saturday, August 3 - 9 a.m. Continental breakfast
Noon Lunch
2:30 - 3:00 p.m. Closing questions

What Everyone Needs to Know About Reason, Wisdom and Philosophy
In case you didn't know, St. Thomas Aquinas is one of the most brilliant Christian minds of all time.

For centuries people have gained a ton of wisdom and insights from his works.

And that means you can be wise and enlightened by his thought too.

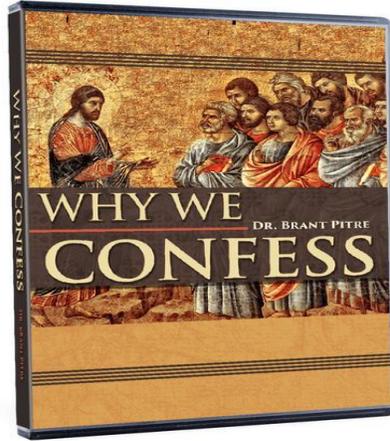
But the problem is that it's really difficult for the average person to just pick up one of his books and understand what he's saying.

And to make matters worse, most modern-day books about Aquinas are really "nerdy" and written at such a high level most people can't even understand them either.

This program is an introductory level course in the thought of St. Thomas Aquinas. What makes this course so important for you is that Aquinas demonstrates how human reason alone can tell us a LOT of important things about the world and how all of that beautifully harmonizes with what we know by faith in God's revelation.

The Quickest, Easiest and Most Practical Way to Understand the Thought of St. Thomas Aquinas Is Right Here

August 2019 Cont.



Why We Confess (Dr. Brant Pitre)

Monday, August 5 - 6:45 p.m. (Hall)

Tuesday, August 6 - 1:00 p.m. (Rm A)

When it comes to the Catholic Church in our time, perhaps the most frequently asked question is: "*Why do I have to confess my sins to a priest?*" It is often followed by two others: "Why can't I just go straight to God? Where is the sacrament of confession in the Bible?"

In *Why We Confess*, Dr. Brant Pitre gives an eye-opening Bible study on the origins and meaning of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, commonly known as "Confession." In this two-part Bible Study, you will learn about:

- The Fall of Adam and Eve and the First "Confession"
- Confession of Sins to a Priest in the Old Testament
- John's Baptism of Repentance and Confession of Sins
- The link between Jesus' Miraculous Healings and the Sacrament of Reconciliation
- The Parable of the Prodigal Son
- When Jesus Gave the Apostles the Power to Absolve and Retain Sins
- The Practice of Confession in the Early Church

Many of us know Catholics who haven't been to Confession in years, even decades. Maybe you are one of them. Whoever you are -- if you've ever wondered about the biblical roots of this sacrament, then *Why We Confess* is the Bible Study for you.

As you'll discover, Jesus was (quite literally) dying to institute the sacrament of Confession as an essential part of God's plan for "reconciling the world to himself" (2 Corinthians 5:19).

AUGUST 12 & 13 PILLAR 2 STARTS

Stay Tuned for Further Details