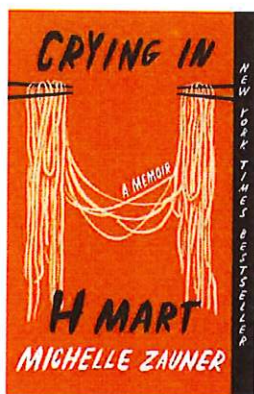


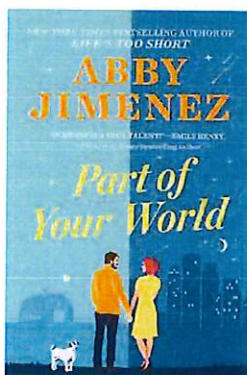


St. Thomas' 2023 Summer Book Club

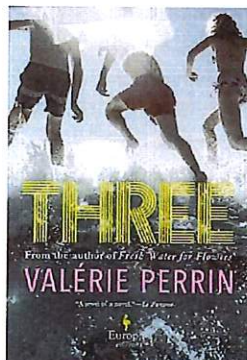
Join your fellow St. Thomas' Parishioners in reading one of these recommended books over the summer. Then, at Supper, Song, and Prayer on August 30, sit with others who read the same book as you and enjoy table book discussion!



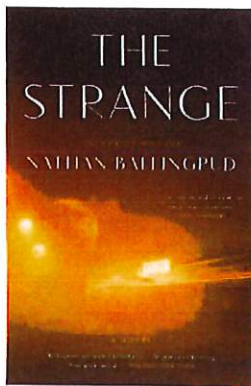
Non-Fiction – Crying in H Mart by Michelle Zauner
#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER In this exquisite story of family, food, grief, and endurance, Michelle Zauner proves herself far more than a dazzling singer, songwriter, and guitarist. With humor and heart, she tells of growing up one of the few Asian American kids at her school in Eugene, Oregon; of struggling with her mother's particular, high expectations of her; of a painful adolescence; of treasured months spent in her grandmother's tiny apartment in Seoul, where she and her mother would bond, late at night, over heaping plates of food. Vivacious and plainspoken, lyrical and honest, Zauner's voice is as radiantly alive on the page as it is onstage. Rich with intimate anecdotes that will resonate widely, and complete with family photos, *Crying in H Mart* is a book to cherish, share, and reread.



Romance – Part of Your World by Abby Jimenez
After a wild bet, gourmet grilled-cheese sandwich, and cuddle with a baby goat, Alexis Montgomery has had her world turned upside down. The cause: Daniel Grant, a ridiculously hot carpenter who's ten years younger than her and as casual as they come—the complete opposite of sophisticated city-girl Alexis. And yet their chemistry is undeniable. With both ultra-wealthy parents and an ER surgeon's career placing huge demands on her, bringing Daniel into her world is impossible, and yet she can't just give up the joy she's found with him either. With so many differences between them, how can Alexis possibly choose between her world and his?

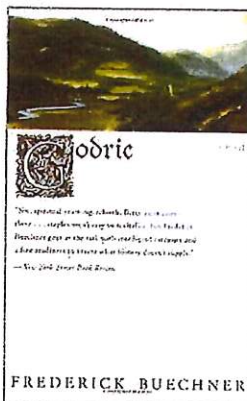


Mystery – Three by Valérie Perrin
1986: Adrien, Etienne and Nina are 10 years old when they meet at school and quickly become inseparable. They promise each other they will one day leave their provincial backwater, move to Paris, and never part.
2017: A car is pulled up from the bottom of the lake, a body inside. Virginie, a local journalist with an enigmatic past reports on the case while also reflecting on the relationship between the three friends, who were unusually close when younger but now no longer speak. As Virginie moves closer to the surprising truth, relationships fray and others are formed.
Valérie Perrin has an unerring gift for delving into life. In *Three*, she brings readers along with her through a sequence of heart-wrenching events and revelations that span three decades. *Three* tells a moving story of love and loss, hope and grief, friendship and adversity, and of time as an ineluctable agent of change.



Sci-Fi - *The Strange* by Nathan Ballingrud

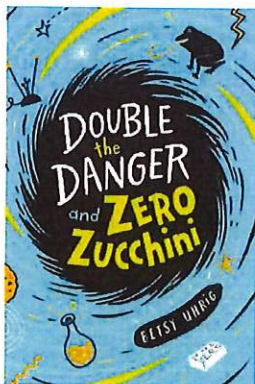
1931, New Galveston, Mars: Fourteen-year-old Anabelle Crisp sets off through the wastelands of the Strange to find Silas Mundt's gang who have stolen her mother's voice, destroyed her father, and left her solely with a need for vengeance. When the Silence came, and communication and shipments from Earth to its colonies on Mars stopped, life seemed stuck in foreboding stasis until the night Silas Mundt and his gang attacked. At once evoking the dreams of an America explored in Ray Bradbury's *The Martian Chronicles* and the harder realities of frontier life in Charles Portis *True Grit*, Ballingrud's novel is haunting in its evocation of Anabelle's quest for revenge amidst a spent and angry world accompanied by a domestic Engine, a drunken space pilot, and the toughest woman on Mars.



Christian Fiction - *Godric* by Frederick Buechner

Godric was a finalist for the 1981 Pulitzer Prize in Fiction. The peace of Godric of Finchdale's hermitage is spoiled by the arrival of Reginald, a young monk sent by the Bishop of Durham to write his biography. What Reginald discovers is a temperamental old man with a distaste for rumours about his own holiness. The tale Godric tells his unwelcome companion is filled with paradox – a life punctuated by miracles and murder, self-sacrifice and robbery, penitence and incest. There by the banks of the Wear, Godric recounts his history, beginning with his near-death experience in the sea as a young man, and his encounter with an apparition of St. Cuthbert on the Isle of Farne. Reginald's delight at these innocent origins is soon dampened, however, as the old hermit remembers his

subsequent career as a peddler of counterfeit relics, and his life of crime as a pirate and defrauder of pilgrims, with his partner Roger Mouse onboard the *Saint Espirit*. Through pilgrimage, repentance, and struggle, Godric acquires the mantle of 'Saint', before finally retreating to his hermitage. There, beset by temptation and uplifted by mystical experiences, the old man discovers the bittersweet truth of the life of faith, and the numbing penitential powers of the icy waters of the river.



Young Readers - *Double the Danger and Zero Zucchini* by Betsy Uhrig

Books aren't supposed to be dangerous. Are they?

Alex Harmon prefers running over sitting still reading. But when his aunt offers to pay him to point out the boring parts in her children's book, he figures it's an easy way to make ten bucks. The problem is that her book is about a grumpy frog and a prize-winning zucchini. It doesn't have only a few boring pages...the whole thing is a lost cause.

Alex gives his aunt some ideas to help her out—like adding danger and suspense. But books can't just be interesting. They also have to be believable. Soon Alex recruits his friends to help him act out scenes so he can describe all the important details. He's even getting plot twists from a mysterious stranger (who might also be a ghost). Too late, Alex discovers that being a real-life stunt double for a fictional character can land you in terrible trouble—even if your friends are laughing their heads off!