

## READING GUIDE

# How to Read the Catechism of the Catholic Church In One Year – *One Day at a Time*

By Michael Ciccocioppo

Member: The Church of the Good Shepherd, Camp Hill, PA

Email: ciccocioppom@yahoo.com

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The topic of reading the Catechism of the Catholic Church came up during weekly small group faith sharing with some of my friends in the Cursillo Movement. Several guys expressed a desire to read the entire Catechism. Most acknowledged that they had only ever used it as a reference book when questions of the teachings of the Church arise.

Those who had tried to read it admitted to frustration at how they had become bogged down in Part I of the four-part volume. Of course, the mere size of the tome just became too overwhelming for some guys, and they never got through it. The fact that some of the sections are very “deep” and need to be read slowly and over and over hampered the progress of others.

Following our faith sharing session, I reflected on all of this and my own unfulfilled desire to read the Catechism. I prayed over it and asked the Holy Spirit to lead me if I am meant to read this holy book. I was led to examine the Catechism and to see if I could figure out a way to break it down and develop a plan for reading it that would overcome some of the hang-ups discussed with my friends.

The reading plan that follows addresses many of the common barriers to reading the Catechism. I want to be clear that the objective here is just to *read* the entire book. It is not an in-depth *study* of it. In-depth study could come later after reading it through at least one time. Let’s face it, if we read the entire Catechism just one time in our entire life, we will be among a very small percentage of Catholics who will have ever read it even one time!

Let’s look at the one-page reading guide. See how the year is broken down into 52 rows for the weeks, and seven columns for the days of the week. So you can begin following it on any day of the week, at any time in the year. And one year later you will be finished. Notice the paragraph numbers to be read each day are listed in each cell of the table. The first three days are devoted to the Prologue. Then on the fourth day we begin reading Part I, day five Part II, day six Part III, and day seven Part IV. So at the end of week one, we will have read a little from all parts of the Catechism. The idea is to keep it interesting and not get bogged down in one part.

Notice that the columns that contain paragraph numbers from Parts I and III are white. The columns that contain paragraph numbers from Parts II and IV are shaded. Scanning down the form we can see that through week 39 we are reading from all parts of the book every week. In fact, we will finish the shortest section, Part IV, in week 39.

On average over the course of the year, we are reading about seven paragraphs a day. When paragraphs are shorter, we read more of them—when they are longer, we read fewer. Most days we stop reading at a natural break point. So now the 2,865 paragraphs in the Catechism just don’t seem so intimidating when we take it *one day at a time!* Won’t you join me?

**CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
**One Year Reading Guide – “One day at a time”**

<b>Prologue</b>	<b>Part I</b>		<b>Part II</b>		<b>Part III</b>		<b>Part IV</b>	
<b>WEEK/DAY</b>	<b>Day 1</b>	<b>Day 2</b>	<b>Day 3</b>	<b>Day 4</b>	<b>Day 5</b>	<b>Day 6</b>	<b>Day 7</b>	
1	1-10	11-17	18-25	26-35	1066-1072	1691-1698	2558-2565	
2	36-43	44-53	1073-1076	1077-1083	1699-1709	1710-1719	2566-2573	
3	54-61	62-73	1084-1090	1091-1098	1720-1729	1730-1738	2574-2580	
4	74-79	80-87	1099-1107	1108-1112	1739-1748	1749-1761	2581-2586	
5	88-95	96-104	1113-1121	1122-1126	1762-1775	1776-1782	2587-2597	
6	105-114	115-120	1127-1134	1135-1144	1783-1789	1790-1802	2598-2606	
7	121-127	128-133	1145-1152	1153-1158	1803-1809	1810-1816	2607-2615	
8	134-143	144-149	1159-1165	1166-1173	1817-1821	1822-1829	2616-2622	
9	150-155	156-162	1174-1181	1182-1193	1830-1845	1846-1851	2623-2628	
10	163-169	170-175	1194-1203	1204-1211	1852-1855	1856-1864	2629-2636	
11	176-184	185-192	1212-1216	1217-1228	1865-1876	1877-1885	2637-2643	
12	193-199	200-209	1229-1236	1237-1245	1886-1896	1897-1904	2644-2651	
13	210-217	218-227	1246-1255	1256-1261	1905-1912	1913-1927	2652-2658	
14	228-237	238-248	1262-1270	1271-1284	1928-1933	1934-1938	2659-2669	
15	249-256	257-267	1285-1292	1293-1296	1939-1948	1949-1953	2670-2675	
16	268-271	272-278	1297-1301	1302-1311	1954-1960	1961-1964	2676-2682	
17	279-282	283-289	1312-1321	1322-1332	1965-1970	1971-1974	2683-2690	
18	290-294	295-301	1333-1340	1341-1347	1975-1986	1987-1995	2691-2696	
19	302-308	309-314	1348-1355	1356-1361	1996-2005	2006-2011	2697-2704	
20	315-324	325-330	1362-1368	1369-1372	2012-2016	2017-2029	2705-2708	
21	331-336	337-343	1373-1377	1378-1383	2030-2040	2041-2043	2709-2719	
22	344-354	355-361	1384-1390	1391-1396	2044-2051	2052-2055	2720-2728	
23	362-368	369-379	1397-1405	1406-1419	2056-2063	2064-2069	2729-2737	
24	380-385	386-395	396-401	1420-1426	2070-2082	2083-2086	2738-2745	
25	402-406	407-412	413-421	1427-1433	2087-2089	2090-2092	2746-2758	
26	422-429	430-435	436-440	1434-1439	2093-2094	2095-2103	2759-2764	
27	441-445	446-455	456-463	1440-1445	2104-2109	2110-2117	2765-2772	
28	464-469	470-478	479-486	1446-1454	2118-2128	2129-2141	2773-2778	
29	487-493	494-501	502-511	1455-1460	2142-2149	2150-2159	2779-2785	
30	512-518	519-526	527-534	1461-1467	2160-2173	2174-2179	2786-2793	
31	535-540	541-546	547-553	1468-1473	2180-2185	2186-2195	2794-2802	
32	554-560	561-570	571-576	1474-1479	2196-2200	2201-2206	2803-2806	
33	557-582	583-591	592-598	1480-1484	2207-2213	2214-2220	2807-2815	
34	599-605	606-612	613-623	1485-1498	2221-2231	2232-2233	2816-2821	
35	624-630	631-637	638-644	1499-1505	2234-2237	2238-2243	2822-2827	
36	645-650	651-658	659-667	1506-1513	2244-2257	2258-2262	2828-2837	
37	668-677	678-686	687-690	1514-1519	2263-2267	2268-2269	2838-2845	
38	691-701	702-708	709-716	1520-1525	2270-2275	2276-2279	2846-2854	
39	717-726	727-736	737-747	1526-1535	2280-2283	2284-2291	2855-2865	
40	748-757	758-762	763-769	1536-1543	2292-2296	2297-2301	2302-2306	
41	770-773	774-780	781-786	1544-1553	2307-2317	2318-2330	2331-2336	
42	787-795	796-810	811-819	1554-1561	2337-2345	2346-2350	2351-2356	
43	820-829	830-838	839-848	1562-1568	2357-2359	2360-2365	2366-2372	
44	849-856	857-865	866-873	1569-1574	2373-2379	2380-2386	2387-2400	
45	874-879	880-887	888-896	1575-1580	2401-2406	2407-2414	2415-2418	
46	897-903	904-913	914-924	1581-1589	2419-2425	2426-2436	2437-2442	
47	925-930	931-945	946-953	1590-1600	1601-1608	2443-2449	2450-2463	
48	954-962	963-970	971-975	1609-1617	1618-1624	2464-2470	2471-2474	
49	976-987	988-996	997-1004	1625-1632	1633-1637	2475-2487	2488-2499	
50	1005-1011	1012-1019	1020-1029	1638-1645	1646-1654	2500-2513	2514-2527	
51	1030-1037	1038-1041	1042-1047	1655-1666	1667-1673	2528-2540	2541-2547	
52	1048-1050	1051-1060	1061-1065	1674-1683	1684-1690	2548-2550	2551-2557	

If you read the paragraphs listed each day you will: (1) read the entire Catechism of the Catholic Church in one year; (2) read from all four parts of the Catechism almost every week; (3) be well versed in the teachings of the Church; and (4) be drawn even closer to God and His Church. For questions or comments contact Michael Ciccocioppo: [ciccocioppo@yahoo.com](mailto:ciccocioppo@yahoo.com)