



VATICAN II



Proclaiming the Joy and Hope of Christ to the Modern World

A PARISH VIDEO STUDY WITH PROF. LUCAS POLLICE, MTS

PARTICIPANT STUDY GUIDE

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Vatican II: Proclaiming the Joy and Hope of Christ to the Modern World!

For nine sessions, we will rediscover the true teaching and vision of Vatican II - and rediscover the New Evangelization for our world today.

Vatican II provides a pastoral vision and renewal that is the foundation for the New Evangelization. The documents of Vatican II reveal a renewal of the mission of the Church to bring Christ to the modern world. The Council shows how every Catholic is called through their Baptism and Confirmation to continue the saving mission of Christ in the world today.

The Council took place from 1962-1965 - but the “event” of Vatican II lasted until the end of Benedict XVI’s papacy, who was the last pope to be present at the Council itself. This means that the Church is still unpacking and implementing the Council. This also means that it’s important for Catholics to understand what the Council really was. While there have been many “spirits” of the Council that claim authority apart from the actual teachings of the Council documents, it’s important to understand the true teaching and vision of the Council.

If you look at any of the previous 20 ecumenical councils, it always takes at least 50-100 years for the dust to settle in the life of the Church after the council. Popes from St. John Paul II to Francis have insisted that there needs to be a rediscovery of the true spirit of the Council by the reading of the documents themselves, as interpreted and implemented in the life of the Church by the Magisterium.

This course is intended to help you do just that!

EPISODE LIST



Session 1 - What is the Real Vatican II?

Scan to access videos!



Session 2 - The Missionary Renewal of Vatican II

Session 3 - The Documents and Themes of the Council

Session 4 - *Lumen Gentium*: The Church Renewed for Mission

Session 5 - *Dei Verbum*: The Word of God in the Life of the Church

Session 6 - *Sacrosanctum Concilium*: The Source and Summit of the Christian Life
(TO BE RELEASED SEPTEMBER 17, 2025)

Session 7 - *Gaudium et Spes*: Joy and Hope for the Modern World
(TO BE RELEASED OCTOBER 29, 2025)

Session 8 - The Implementation of the Council in the Life of the Church
(TO BE RELEASED NOVEMBER 19, 2025)

Session 9 - The New Evangelization: The Extraordinary Mission of Our Time
(TO BE RELEASED DECEMBER 17, 2025)

WHAT TO EXPECT FOR EACH SESSION

Opening Prayer: Each session begins with the opening prayer that was used to commence Vatican II.

Class Outline: The outline gives you a brief high-level overview of the session.

Video: Each 45 minute video provides a teaching on a different topic or aspect of Vatican II.

Discussion Questions: These questions will help spark further discussion for a small group - or inspire deeper reflection if you're taking the class on your own!

Closing Prayer

Living It Out: This section provides a starting point for some practical ways to live out the teachings of Vatican II.

Going Deeper: Further reading recommendations to help you learn more about the topics being covered.



DEI VERBUM: THE WORD OF GOD IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH



OPENING PRAYER

Prayer of Vatican II

We stand before you, Holy Spirit,
conscious of our sinfulness,
but aware that we gather in your name.
Come to us, remain with us,
and enlighten our hearts.
Give us light and strength
to know your will,
to make it our own,
and to live it in our lives.
Guide us by your wisdom,
support us by your power,
for you are God, sharing the glory of Father and
Son.

You desire justice for all;
enable us to uphold the rights of others;
do not allow us to be misled by ignorance
or corrupted by fear or favor.
Unite us to yourself in the bond of love
and keep us faithful to all that is true.
As we gather in your name, may we temper
justice with love,
so that all our discussions and reflections
may be pleasing to you, and earn the reward
promised to good and faithful servants.
We ask this of You who live and reign with the
Father and the Son, God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

CLASS OUTLINE

I. Role of Scripture in the Life and Mission of the Church

- Message of Divine Revelation leads to faith, hope, and love
- *Ad intra* and *ad extra* focus of *Dei Verbum*
- Dialogue as God's revelation of himself and our response of faith
- God desires friendship with us
- God's plan for salvation revealed in Scripture
- Interpersonal nature of Divine Revelation and the obedience of faith

II. Interpretation and Importance of Scripture

- Fullness of Divine Revelation is entrusted by Christ to the Church, and includes both Sacred Tradition and Sacred Scripture
- Magisterium is the authoritative guardian and interpreter of Scripture
- Scripture is divinely inspired and must be interpreted by keeping in mind the entirety of Sacred Scripture, the Church's tradition, the authority of the Magisterium, and the different senses of Scripture
- Scripture and the Liturgy



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How does being attentive to the Word of God renew the Church internally? What role does Scripture play in the work of evangelization? How does our reception of the Word lead to faith, hope, and love?

2. How is Sacred Scripture the revelation of God's love for us? Why is it important to know the story of salvation? How does Sacred Scripture help us grow in friendship with the Lord?

3. Why does faith involve the complete submission of our intellect, heart, and will to God? What does it mean to listen to God? How does hearing the Word of God help us integrate our faith into the fabric of our daily lives?

4. Why is it so important to interpret Sacred Scripture correctly? Why must it be interpreted in light of the whole of Scripture as well as Catholic tradition? What role does the Magisterium play in the correct interpretation of Sacred Scripture?

5. What is the relationship between Sacred Scripture and the Eucharist in the Mass? How does the Word prepare us to be fed by the Eucharist?

CLOSING PRAYER

Prayer for Faith

Lord, I believe:

I wish to believe in Thee.

Lord, let my faith be full and unreserved,
and let it penetrate my thought,
my way of judging Divine things and human things.

Lord, let my faith be joyful
and give peace and gladness to my spirit,
and dispose it for prayer with God
and conversation with men,
so that the inner bliss of its fortunate possession
may shine forth in sacred and secular conversation.
Lord, let my faith be humble and not presume
to be based on the experience of my thought and of
my feeling; but let it surrender to the testimony of the
Holy Spirit, and not have any better guarantee than
in docility to Tradition and to the authority of the
Magisterium of the Holy Church.

Amen.

Source: <https://www.catholic.org/prayers/prayer.php?p=688>



Annunciation - Fra Angelico
(c. 1426, Madrid, Spain)

LIVING IT OUT

St. Jerome said that ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ. Consider your relationship with Sacred Scripture and your knowledge of Christ through the Scriptures. How often do you encounter Christ in the Bible? This week, consider reading the Sunday readings and meditating on them to prepare for Sunday Mass. Reflect on how this practice affects your experience at Mass.

GOING DEEPER

- *Dei Verbum* - Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation
- *Catechism of the Catholic Church* - 109-119
- Fr. Blake Britton, *Reclaiming Vatican II: What It (Really) Said, What It Means, and How It Calls Us to Renew the Church* - Chapter 5
- George Weigel, *To Sanctify the World: The Vital Legacy of Vatican II* - Chapter 10

FOR THE NEXT CLASS

- *Sacrosanctum Concilium* - Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy