

List of Annual Parish Books

Chosen by the Faith Formation Team.

2021 – [“Binding Us Together” by Alvin B. Brooks](#)

A heartfelt, inspiring narrative that is inextricably linked to the nation’s past and present, civil rights activist and public servant Alvin Brooks shares engaging, funny, and tragic stories of his life and career of advocacy.

2020 – [“A Pilgrimage to Eternity” by Timothy Egan](#)

A thrilling journey, a family story, and a revealing history, *A Pilgrimage to Eternity* looks for our future in its search for God.

2019 – [“Divine Dance” by Richard Rohr, OFM](#)

Although the word *trinity* isn't found in the New Testament - it wasn't until the third century that it was coined - the idea of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit was present in Jesus' life and teachings. In this book, internationally recognized teacher Richard Rohr circles around this paradoxical idea - and circling around is an apt metaphor: Early Christians applied the Greek verb for *dance* to the mystery of the Trinity, saying whatever is going on in God is a flow - it's like a dance.

2018 – [“Stranger God” by Richard Beck](#)

With his signature combination of biblical reflection, theological reasoning, and psychological insight, Beck shows how God always meets us when we entertain the marginalized, the oppressed, and the refugee. Stories from Beck's own life illustrate this truth -- God comes to him in the poor, the crippled, the smelly.

2017 – [“Wind in the Reeds” by Wendell Pierce](#)

In this powerful and redemptive narrative, Pierce brings together the stories of his family, his city, and his history, why they are all worth saving and the critical importance art played in reuniting and revitalizing this unique American city.

2016 – [“Gilead” by Marilynne Robinson](#)

This is also the tale of another remarkable vision--not a corporeal vision of God but the vision of life as a wondrously strange creation. It tells how wisdom was forged in Ames's soul during his solitary life, and how history lives through generations, pervasively present even when betrayed and forgotten.

2015 – [“The Great Reformer” by Austen Ivereigh](#)

A biography of Pope Francis that describes how this revolutionary thinker will use the power of his position to challenge and redirect one of the world's most formidable religions

2014 – [“Jesus: A Pilgrimage” by James Martin, SJ](#)

Stories about Jesus’ astonishing life and ministry—clever parables that upended everyone’s expectations, incredible healings that convinced even skeptics, nature miracles that dazzled the dumbstruck disciples—can

seem far removed from our own daily lives but in *Jesus* you will come to know him as Father Martin knows him: Messiah and Savior, as well as friend and brother.

2013 – [“Tattoos on the Heart” by Gregory Boyle](#)

These essays about universal kinship and redemption are moving examples of the power of unconditional love and the importance of fighting despair. Gorgeous and uplifting, *Tattoos on the Heart* reminds us that no life is less valuable than another.

2012 – [“My Life with the Saints” by James Martin, SJ](#)

My Life with the Saints is James Martin’s story of how his life has been shaped by some surprising friends—the saints of the Catholic Church.