



The Church of the Ascension  
Rockville Centre, New York

## Adult Christian Education 2022/2023

### Book Discussions

*All meetings will be hybrid (online + in-person)*

**Dominion** by Tom Holland:

*Thursdays 6:30pm, September 15 and 22*

Much of what we take for granted in our liberal Western democracies has one identifiable source: the Church. Tom Holland's exploration of how the Church has shaped Western society for the better is a *tour de force* that covers a huge amount of ground. While the Church is frequently blamed for many of society's ills (and Holland never shies away from pointing out its shortcomings), this book shows us how so much of what we value about Western society can be traced back to the influence of Christianity. **We are completing our discussions on this book that began in the spring.**

**Seculocity** by David Zahl

*Thursdays 6:30pm, October 6, 13, 20, and 27*

"How Career, Parenting, Technology, Food, Politics, and Romance Became Our New Religion and What to Do about It." *Seculocity* takes a thoughtful yet entertaining tour of American "performancism" and its cousins, highlighting both their ingenuity and mercilessness, all while challenging the conventional narrative of religious decline. Zahl unmaskes the competing pieties around which so much of our lives revolve, and he does so in a way that's at points playful, personal, and incisive. Ultimately he brings us to a fresh appreciation for the grace of God in all its counter-cultural wonder.

**The Life of Christ** by *Fulton Sheen*: **Thursdays 6:30pm December 1, 8, 15, and 22**

Widely proclaimed a classic work of Christian faith, Life of Christ has been hailed as the most eloquent of Fulton J. Sheen's many books. The fruit of many years of reflection, prayer, and research, it is a dramatic and moving recounting of the birth, life, Crucifixion, and Resurrection of Christ, and a passionate portrait of the God-Man, the teacher, the healer, and, most of all, the Savior, whose promise has sustained humanity for two millenia.

**The Man in White** by *Johnny Cash*: **Sundays 9am January 15, 22, and 29**

Yes, THAT Johnny Cash! In this historical novel about the life of Paul before and after his conversion, discover the passionate, fiery, and destructive man once known as Saul of Tarsus. Paul's encounter with Jesus, the Man in White, knocked him to the ground and struck him blind. It also turned him into one of the most influential men in history. See the apostle Paul as you've never seen him before—through the creative imagination of one of the greatest singer-songwriters America has ever known. You'll also see Johnny Cash, the man in Black, as you've never seen him before—a passionate novelist consumed with the Man in White.

**God and the Pandemic** by *N. T. Wright*: **Sundays 9am May 7, 14, and 21**

What are we supposed to think about the coronavirus crisis? Some people think they know: "This is a sign of the End," they say. "It's all predicted in the book of Revelation." Others disagree but are equally clear: "This is a call to repent. God is judging the world and through this disease he's telling us to change." Some join in the chorus of blame and condemnation: "It's the fault of the Chinese, the government, the World Health Organization...." N. T. Wright examines these reactions to the virus and finds them wanting. Instead, he shows that a careful reading of the Bible and Christian history offers simple though profound answers to our many questions

## **Lenten Bible Study** **Wednesday Evenings 6:30pm to 8:00pm.**

**The Book of Revelation** *March 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29*

Our soup and scripture series will return this year with an exploration of the Book of Revelation. One of the most mystical and mysterious of all the biblical books. We will be using N. T. Wright's "Revelation for Everyone" as a study guide.

