

## Summer Mode

If you were to exercise one new habit this summer, I'd HIGHLY suggest the habit of reading. With all the chaos in our world today, the gift of reading can be a source of refreshment you didn't even know was an option. Here is a list of some highly recommended books — covering a wide range of fiction, nonfiction, and Catholic titles —

for both you and your parents!

- [Digital Minimalism](#) by Cal Newport **Genre:** Nonfiction **Recommended Age:** 16+ **Quick Synopsis:** Through engaging anecdotes and well-researched evidence, Cal Newport explores the negatives of our modern digital platforms and offers an effective antidote to curbing the addictive habits of social media consumption. **Why You Should Read It:** It can change your life. It calls for a digital detox and is effective, helpful, and informative as well as incredibly well-written and engaging.
- [Just Mercy](#) by Bryan Stevenson **Genre:** Memoir **Recommended Age:** 17+ **Quick Synopsis:** “Just Mercy” follows Bryan Stevenson throughout his life, his law career, and his incredible non-profit work defending innocent death row inmates in the deep south. **Why You Should Read It:** Bryan tells his story with a clear and admirable magnanimity, and the lessons he shares cut to the heart of what it means to be human. His work is a living, breathing example of God's mercy and compassion lived out in the world today. As an added bonus: There is a YA version of this book available as well as a movie adaptation — which is brilliant.
- [All Along You Were Blooming](#) by Morgan Harper Nicols **Genre:** Poetry **Recommended Age:** 15+ **Quick Synopsis:** Beautifully illustrated poetry that speaks to the struggles and insecurities of life while also looking toward the boundless living that can happen even in the hardest of seasons through the grace of God. **Why You Should Read It:** Everyone needs a good pep talk every once in a while. Morgan Harper Nicols' writing is so transparent and moving, and this short book honestly feels like a warm hug. “All Along You Were Blooming” is a great option for an adult or teen who isn't a big reader but willing to be moved by words, nonetheless. \*\*\* If poetry is a favorite of yours I invite you to check out the works of poet Sr. Miriam of the Holy Spirit (Jessica Powers), our own famous poet from Mauston...and our Parish!
- [Weird Catholic Things](#) by Life Teen **Genre:** Church History **Recommended Age:** 13+ **Quick Synopsis:** The Catholic faith is beautiful. From the magnificent cathedrals to the elaborate celebrations, the many prayer devotions to the lives of the saints, the Church is full of sensible traditions. But there is another realm of the Church that is, well, kind of weird. “Weird Catholic Things” offers insight into elements of the faith that may seem less than logical. From throat blessings to exorcisms, relics to Marian apparitions, this book dives deep into all of the weird Catholic things. **Why You Should Read It:** This book is informational in a fun way! It offers an interactive approach to weird Catholic things. Hence, it is great for individual or group use and can be used as a conversation starter for a small group gathering or a gift for a teen who desires an explanation for everything.
- “The Chronicles of Narnia” by C.S. Lewis **Book Synopsis:** “The Chronicles of Narnia” is a fictional series that follows four siblings when they step through a magical wardrobe into Narnia: a world they could've never dreamed of. **Reasons to Read:** Not only is this series beautifully written and easy to read, it is chalk-full of intrigue and rich with Christian symbolism. This is the perfect series to read along with someone else as there is a bunch of really good concepts to unpack. It is also the perfect summer read as there is loads of time to read through all seven books.

I hope that some of these spark your interest and if ever there is a book that you are interested in reading and want to hold a discussion on let me know! I would LOVE to have a book discussion!

*When we pray we speak to God; but when we read, God speaks to us.*  
- St. Jerome

## Vacation Bible School

Out of everything that I am blessed to be apart of, Vacation Bible School would have to make the Top 10. I am so fortunate to see the generosity from our Parishioners with their time, talent, and treasure. In the last 4 years (yes this August will be our 5th year!!) Parishioners have been so wonderful in keeping this program in your prayers and providing help when needed. If you are looking to help out this year please email me at re@stpatricksmauston.com

I am looking for people to

- Please pray for our program and all involved
- Provide morning snacks (looking for 3 more days for 125 people)
- To donate some supplies from our Amazon Wishlist

[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1DZ6WZ1OS3KTM?ref\\_=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1DZ6WZ1OS3KTM?ref_=wl_share)

We have been so BLEST by what the program has received from so many generous parishioners already! I really can't thank you all enough and I look forward to sharing pictures of this year's VBS!  
~Mrs. Thayer

## July and August Schedule

- Friday July 16th ~ 5:30pm Parish Picnic
- Tuesday July 27th ~ 4pm VBS Counselor, Junior Counselor and Teacher Meeting Reardon Hall
- Tuesday July 27th ~ 6:30pm Frisbee and Fire Night @ Kiwanis Park ~ All are invited!
- August 1st ~ 11am Sundaes for Sunday Enjoy some delicious Sundaes after Mass and help to kick off our Vacation Bible School! (Thank you to our Knights of Columbus!)
- August 2nd-6th ~ Vacation Bible School 8:30am-Noon



Our Frisbee and Fire Nights have always been such a fun family night. Consider coming out and enjoying a (hopefully!) beautiful evening. :) We would love to have you join us just remember to bring a lawn chair and pack the bug spray. Disc golf packs can be rented from the library if you are thinking about trying Disc Golf.

## Calling on Confirmed Catholics.

Catechists are not expert teachers or brilliant theologians.

They are ordinary people who generously volunteer their time to share our Catholic faith, values, and traditions with our youngest generation of Christians. "Catechists are people who keep the memory of God alive; they keep it alive in themselves and are able to revive it in others." Pope Francis  
If you are interested in being a Catechist for this year please email me @ re@stpatricksmauston.com

## Adult Service Opportunities

In the last few months we have received a few phones calls regarding some of our Parishioners in need of lawn work, car rides to appointments ect. If this is an area of ministry that you may be called to please let me know at 608-747-2681 and we will make sure to be in contact!

