Stephanie Holden recommends:

**Tattoos of the Heart**, by Father Greg Boyle (or any of his four books)

For 20 years, Father Gregory Boyle has run Homeboy Industries, a gang-intervention program in Los Angeles. In “Tattoos on the Heart”, he distills his experience working in the ghetto into a series of parables inspired by faith. 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.

**Jesus, a Pilgrimage**, by Father James Martin, SJ


**Liturgy of the Ordinary: Sacred Practices in Everyday Life**, by Tish Harrison Warren

In the overlooked moments and routines of our day, we can become aware of God’s presence in surprising ways. How do we embrace the sacred in the ordinary and the ordinary in the sacred? Come and discover the holiness of your every day.

Dawn Knuckles recommends:
Mother Angelica: The Remarkable Story of a Nun, her Nerve and a Network of Miracles, by Raymond Arroyo. (Bonus points if you listen to the audio version with Raymond narrating!)

A New York Times bestseller. In 1981, a simple nun, using her entrepreneurial instincts and $200, launched what would become the world’s largest religious media empire. In the garage of a Birmingham, Ala., monastery, the Eternal Word Television Network grew at a staggering pace under her guidance. Mother Angelica (1923–2016) remains on the air, offering faith-filled advice, hope, and laughter to her audience through rebroadcasts of her original homilies. Raymond Arroyo, through more than five years of exclusive interviews with Mother Angelica, traces her tortuous rise to success and exposes for the first time the fierce opposition she faced, both outside and inside her church.

Denise Jones recommends:

Everybody, Always, by Bob Goff

What if we stopped avoiding the difficult people in our lives and committed to simply loving everybody? What happens when we give away love like we’re made of it? In “Everybody, Always”, Goff’s joyful New York Times bestselling followup to Love Does, you’ll discover the secret to living without fear, constraint or worry.

Susan Harris recommends:

The Holy Longing, by Ronald Rolheiser

Essential reading for anyone seeking to understand what Christian spirituality means and how to apply it to their own lives, “The Holy Longing” translates the universal struggle for love and integration of spirit into a language accessible to all, explaining God and the Church for a world that, more often than not, doubts the credibility of both.
**Dinner with a Perfect Stranger**, by David Gregory

You are invited to a dinner with Jesus of Nazareth. The mysterious envelope arrives on Nick Cominsky’s desk amid a stack of credit card applications and junk mail. The normally confident, cynical Nick soon finds himself thrown off balance, drawn into an intriguing conversation with a baffling man who comfortably discusses everything from world religions to the existence of heaven and hell. And this man who calls himself Jesus also seems to know a disturbing amount about Nick’s personal life.

Jenny Kiehl recommends:

**Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist: Unlocking the Secrets of the Last Supper**, by Dr. Brant Pitre

Jesus and the Jewish Roots shines fresh light on the Last Supper by looking at it through Jewish eyes. Using his in-depth knowledge of the Bible and ancient Judaism, Pitre answers questions such as: What was the Passover like at the time of Jesus? What were the Jewish hopes for the Messiah? What was Jesus’s purpose in instituting the Eucharist during the feast of Passover? And, most important, what did Jesus mean when he said, “This is my body... This is my blood”? Inspiring and informative, Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist is a groundbreaking work that is sure to illuminate one of the greatest mysteries of the Christian faith: the mystery of Jesus’s presence in the breaking of the bread.

Kelly Simpson recommends:

**Walking with Mary: A Biblical Journey from Nazareth to the Cross**, by Dr. Edward Sri

Sri looks at the crucial passages in the Bible concerning Mary and offers insight about the Blessed Mother’s faith and devotion that we can apply in our daily lives. We follow her through the New
Testament account of her life, reflecting on what the Scriptures tell us about how she responded to the dramatic events unfolding around her.

**The Sacred That Surrounds Us: How Everything in a Catholic Church Points to Heaven**, by Andrea Zachman

You'll never see a Catholic church the same way. Each item in a Catholic church is there to point to a larger truth. Every sacred vessel and item is packed with symbolism and meaning, aimed at making each visit to a Catholic church a powerful reminder of God's presence and the truths of our Faith.

“The Sacred That Surrounds Us” helps reveal Catholic churches as shrines of devotion. Sacred tradition and sacred Scripture are made tangible with this book, which explains the symbolism and history behind the items we see in every Catholic church. “The Sacred That Surrounds Us” helps Catholics make every visit to a Catholic church a pilgrimage of faith.

**The Return of the Prodigal Son: A Story of Homecoming**, by Henri Nouwen

With over a million copies sold, this classic work is essential reading for all who ask, “Where has my struggle led me?” A chance encounter with a reproduction of Rembrandt’s The Return of the Prodigal Son catapulted Nouwen on an unforgettable spiritual adventure. Here he shares the deeply personal and resonant meditation that led him to discover the place within where God has chosen to dwell.

As Nouwen reflects on Rembrandt’s painting, he evokes a powerful drama of the classic parable in a way that is sure to reverberate in the hearts of readers. Nouwen probes the several movements of the parable: the younger son’s return, the father’s restoration of sonship,
the elder son’s resentfulness and the father’s compassion. The themes of homecoming, affirmation, and reconciliation will be newly discovered by all who have known loneliness, dejection, jealousy, or anger. The challenge to love as God loves, and to be loved as God’s beloved, will be seen as the ultimate revelation of the parable known to Christians throughout time and is here represented with a vigor and power fresh for our times.

Susyn Ahern recommends:

Life Is Messy, by Matthew Kelly

This book is about putting our lives back together, and allowing ourselves to be put back together, when life doesn't turn out as we expected it to. Based on his own heart-wrenching personal journals, Matthew Kelly shares how the worst three years of his life affected him by exploring this question: Can someone who has been broken be healed and become more beautiful and more lovable than ever before? The answer will fill you with hope.

Imagine Heaven, by John Burke

All of us long to know what life after death will be like. Bestselling author John Burke is no exception. In “Imagine Heaven”, Burke compares over 100 gripping stories of near-death experiences to what Scripture says about our biggest questions of heaven.

Podcasts for when you are on the go:

Christina Hood recommends: WHOA That’s Good Podcast, by Sadie Robertson, and That Sounds Fun, by Annie F. Downs

Jenny Kiehl recommends: Bible in a Year with Father Mike Schmitz

App for your phone:
Hallow: Catholic Meditation