

FALL 2014 AND SPRING 2015
FR. MIKE'S BOOK CLUB SELECTIONS

Thursdays at 7:30 PM in the church hall on these dates.

FALL 2014

Sept. 18 *THE GOLDFINCH*, Donna Tarrt

A thirteen-year-old boy in New York City, Theodore "Theo" Decker, survives a terrorist bombing attack in an art museum that takes the life of his mother (and dozens of other art-loving citizens). His father was not there, having deserted the family some time prior to these events. Theo adored his energetic, beautiful mother - as did many other people in Manhattan - and thinks of his father as an alcoholic, occasionally abusive, and as a thief.

Oct. 16 *SOMEONE*, Alice McDermott

A fully realized portrait of one woman's life in all its complexity, an ordinary life—its sharp pains and unexpected joys, its bursts of clarity and moments of confusion—lived by an ordinary woman: this is the subject of *Someone*, Alice McDermott's extraordinary return, seven years after the publication of *After This*. Scattered recollections—of childhood, adolescence, motherhood, old age—come together in this transformative

Nov. 20 *THE WORDY SHIPMATES*, Sarah Vowell

This is the fifth book by the American social commentator Sarah Vowell, published in October 2008. The book chronicles the 17th and 18th century history of Puritan colonists in Massachusetts. The book delineates a dichotomy between the puritans of the Massachusetts Bay Colony and those who settled in Plymouth, Massachusetts, by analyzing several key historical events, like the Pequot War and the banishment of Roger Williams and Anne Hutchinson.

SPRING 2015

Jan. 15 *ART OF HEARING HEARTBEATS*, Jan Phillip Sendker

Sendker tells the story of an incorruptible love, forged by two kindred spirits, set against the rustic yet lushly exotic backdrop of Southeast Asia. Other Press has made it available in English, in an expert translation by Kevin Wiliarty.

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Feb. 19 *CITY OF WOMEN*, David Gillham

It is 1943, the height of the Second World War. With the men away at the front, Berlin has become a city of women. On the surface, Sigrid Schroder is the model German soldier's wife: She goes to work every day, does as much with her rations as she can, and dutifully cares for her meddling mother-in-law, all the while ignoring the horrific immoralities of the regime.

March 19 *QUIET: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking*, Susan Cain

In *Quiet*, Susan Cain argues that we dramatically undervalue introverts and shows how much we lose in doing so. She charts the rise of the Extrovert Ideal throughout the twentieth century and explores how deeply it has come to permeate our culture. She also introduces us to successful introverts—from a witty, high-octane public speaker who recharges in solitude after his talks, to a record-breaking salesman who quietly taps into the power of questions. Passionately argued, superbly researched, and filled with indelible stories of real people, *Quiet* has the power to permanently change how we see introverts and, equally important, how they see themselves.

April 16 *THE SUN AND OTHER STARS*, Brigid Pasulka

San Benedetto, the fictional Ligurian hub of Brigid Pasulka's second novel, "The Sun and Other Stars," was a cloistered fishing village before an Italian-American Hollywood director fell for a local Venus, posed for the paparazzi and provided the photo's caption: San Benedetto, a hundred kilometers from Genoa, is "the last spot on earth that is simple and pure." Here "the light is brought down from on high by angels, and those Italian fishermen, well, they really know how to, you know, *live*." *Benvenuti, turisti!*

May 21 *ALL THE LIGHT WE CANNOT SEE*, Anthony Doerr

This National Book Award finalist is about a blind French girl and a German boy whose paths collide in occupied France as both try to survive the devastation of World War II. When the Nazis occupy Paris the blind Marie-Laure and her father flee to the walled citadel of Saint-Malo. In a mining town in Germany, the orphan Werner becomes an expert at building and fixing radios, a talent that gets him a special assignment to track the resistance. In Saint-Malo his story and Marie-Laure's converge.