

## FR. MIKE'S BOOK CLUB 2015-2016 SELECTIONS

Sept. 17 *Breakfast with Buddha* Roland Merullo

This is a 2007 spiritual fiction novel by American author Roland Merullo. According to this story, Otto Ringling, an editor of food books who lives in New York and a skeptic, reluctantly goes onto a road trip with Volya Rinpoche, a Siberian monk. This story, narrated in the first person by Otto, describes Otto's thoughts and beliefs, his conversations with the Rinpoche, and how he gains new perspectives on the world as well as his life, as a result of Volya Rinpoche's company.

Oct. 15 *Dead Wake* Erik Larson

From the bestselling author and master of narrative nonfiction comes the enthralling story of the sinking of the Lusitania

Nov. 19 *Panic in a Suitcase* Yelena Akhtiorskaya

In this account of two decades in the life of an immigrant household, the fall of communism and the rise of globalization are artfully reflected in the experience of a single family. Ironies, subtle and glaring, are revealed in the Nasmertovs who left Odessa for Brighton Beach, Brooklyn.

Jan. 21 *The Almond Tree* Michelle Cohen Corasanti

Gifted with a mind that continues to impress the elders in his village, Ichmad Hamid struggles with knowing that he can do nothing to save his friends and family. Living on occupied land, his entire village operates in fear of losing their homes, jobs, and belongings. But more importantly, they fear losing each other. On Ichmad's twelfth birthday, that fear becomes reality.

February 18 *The Ditchdigger's Daughters* Yvonne S. Thornton

Donald Thornton was a ditchdigger who wanted more for his six daughters, saying: "I love you better than I love life," he assured his children. "But I'm not always gonna be around to look after you, and no man's gonna come along and offer to take care of you because you ain't light-skinned."

March 17 *The Leaving of Things* Jay Antani

India comes alive, even for the uninitiated. The daily life, smells, culture of food, and personal relationships flourish while the reader follows a coming of age story ... The richness of this story is in the details of Indian life, the nuances of the culture, the reality of how much easier life is in America. [The book] tells a well-worn story of growing up, rendered beautifully, in a seductive setting.

April 21 *The Sympathizer* Viet Thanh Nguyen

A profound, startling, and beautifully crafted debut novel, *The Sympathizer* is the story of a man of two minds, someone whose political beliefs clash with his individual loyalties. It is April 1975, and Saigon is in chaos.