

**FR. MIKE'S BOOK CLUB SELECTIONS
FALL 2017- SPRING 2018**

September 21, 2017 *Hillbilly Elegy* by J. D. Vance

Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis is a memoir by J. D. Vance about the Appalachian values of his upbringing and their relation to the social problems of his hometown.

October 19, 2017 *The Rent Collector* by Cameron Wright

The Rent Collector is the story of a young mother, Sang Ly, struggling to survive by picking through garbage in Cambodia's largest municipal dump.

November 16, 2017 *Anything is Possible* by Elizabeth Strout

An unforgettable cast of small-town characters copes with love and loss in this new work of fiction by #1 bestselling author and Pulitzer Prize winner Elizabeth Strout. Recalling *Olive Kitteridge* in its richness, structure, and complexity, *Anything Is Possible* explores the entire range of human emotion through the intimate dramas of people struggling to understand themselves and others.

January 18, 2018 *Northanger Abbey* by Jane Austen

Northanger Abbey was the first of Jane Austen's novels to be completed for publication, in 1803, but published after her death, at the end of 1817. The novel is a satire of the Gothic novels popular at the time of its first writing in 1798–99. The heroine, Catherine, thinks life is like a Gothic novel, but her real experiences bring her down to earth as an ordinary young woman

February 15, 2018 *The Invisible Thread* by Laura Schroff

An Invisible Thread tells of the life-long friendship between a busy sales executive and a disadvantaged young boy, and how both of their lives were changed by what began as one small gesture of kindness.

March 15, 2018 *The Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah

The Nightingale tells the stories of two sisters, separated by years and experience, by ideals, passion and circumstance, each embarking on her own dangerous path toward survival, love, and freedom in German-occupied, war-torn WW2 France--a heartbreakingly beautiful novel that celebrates the resilience of the human spirit and the durability of women. It is a novel for everyone, a novel for a lifetime.

April 19, 2018 ***Small Great Things by Jodi Picoult***

With incredible empathy, intelligence, and candor, Jodi Picoult tackles race, privilege, prejudice, justice, and compassion—and doesn't offer easy answers. *Small Great Things* is a remarkable achievement from a writer at the top of her game.

May 17, 2018 ***State of Wonder by Ann Patchett***

State of Wonder is a 2011 novel by American author Ann Patchett. It is the story of pharmacologist Marina Singh, who journeys to Brazil to bring back information about seemingly miraculous drug research being conducted there by her former teacher, Dr. Annick Swenson.