

How to turn your Apple iPhone or iPod into a prayer book. July, 2009

The Apple iPhone and the related iPod Touch have become very popular in today's culture. Along with the size/form of the iPhone, the next big factor driving the success of these two devices are the abundance of applications that can be purchased and loaded on these devices. The sheer number and the different types of applications are staggering. However, most of these applications are of questionable value. For instance: who really needs to pay \$10 to watch a movie on a 3.5 inch screen?

If you are serious about your prayer life, there are quite a few applications that can turn your iPhone into a customizable prayer book.

The Bible: Three translations are available: The New American Bible. \$24 (This translation is expensive because of royalty issues.) The Revised Standard Version - Catholic Edition is \$5. The Douay-Rheims (a translation from 1600-1899) is \$2 to \$3.

The Liturgy of the Hours: Available from two publishers, this application works fantastic on the iPhone. The two publishers take a very different approach to the application, resulting in two very different prices. The first is called iBreviary, created by a priest, Fr. Paolo Padrini. This application loads only one day's prayers on the iPhone, so a connection must be made every day to load the new day's prayers. This application also includes the daily Bible readings used at Mass, and a small prayer section. It costs \$1. The other application is called Universalis. This application loads the complete Liturgy of the Hours on your iPhone so there is no need to load the daily prayers. This is especially helpful if you have the iPod touch and can not connect to the internet easily.

The iMissal application cost \$5 and contains five features: Order of the Mass, Mass Readings, Liturgical Calendar, a daily bible verse, and a over 50 prayers. All the information is stored on your iPhone /iTouch so no internet connection is needed.

Rosary: There are some 10 different applications ranging from \$1 to \$5. Also available are Rosary pod casts. Take a look in the iTunes store to find one that meets your needs.

iConfess: A guide to the Sacrament of Reconciliation, \$1. This application includes three areas: about confession, examination of conscience, and the prayers for confession.

Noter2: Manage and synchronize your notes, \$7. I use this app as a custom prayer book. The notes are typed online and then synchronized with the iPhone. This is a great way to take your personal prayer list with you where ever you go.

It is important to note that I this article does not list all the religious applications available. That would be an impossible task. There are new applications released every day and updates and changes modify the capabilities of existing applications. The information the reader should learn from this article is that some fine religious applications do exist for the Apple iPhone / iPod touch device and by adding just a few of them, your device can be turned into a prayer book

All the mentioned applications are available in the Apple iTunes store.