Jesus: A Pilgrimage by James Martin, SJ

“This is an invaluable book for anyone desiring to know more about Jesus, and how his life can illumine our own spiritual pilgrimage. James Martin makes familiar Gospel stories fresh, and helps us see how in our ordinary lives we might better answer God’s call to conversation and conversion.” (Kathleen Norris, author of The Cloister Walk)

“Fr. Martin provides those who have stepped away from their faith, or who are not believers, the opportunity to better know who Jesus was. Whether you are one of Jesus’ most fervent disciples or a questioning observer, this book will help you understand Jesus is our brother and friend forever.” (Cardinal Sean O’Malley, archbishop of Boston)

“What is MOSJ?”

- A place where a woman can come who is curious about her faith, who is searching to learn more
- A place where a woman can come to make friends and be connected to the bigger RJ community
- A place where she is supported on her journey as a mother and supports others
- A place to grow in her spiritual journey individually and as part of a larger community (MOSJ and RJ)
- All faiths are welcome
- A place where no one keeps attendance; a woman can feel free to come as often or as infrequent as her schedule permits
- A place where no one will be called upon by name to share; all sharing is freely given/offered and kept to a couple of minutes at a time to allow for responses and interaction
- A woman who is just starting her spiritual journey should feel comfortable in MOSJ, not put off by lingo or phrases or shared insiders’ experiences
- A place where different points of view can be shared, where women can disagree amiably with one another and ask questions for clarification
- We share our experiences with one another, as mother, as sister, as wife (not necessary for all), as daughter, as friend – as a woman
- We use a book to center our conversation. We read a chapter and prepare to share insights, thoughts, questions, disagreements, and related life experiences that the book brings out.
- Each woman, especially those who are returning to MOSJ, makes a conscious effort to reach out to others, to connect to those attending for their first semester/meetings and those returning after an absence. Relationships are created from sharing, listening, connecting.
- A moderator or facilitator will help keep the time and start the discussion. To allow all women to feel like MOSJ is her group, it is possible to have volunteers to facilitate meetings in the late fall and beyond. The group belongs to everyone!
- A group that meets every 1st, 3rd and 5th Wednesday of the school year in the Boys’ Chapel, from 9-10:30am. Our moderator or sponsor of the “club” is officially Fr. Bob Sullivan.
MOSJ is NOT:

- A place to judge or fix what someone shares
- A place to learn about others’ joys or challenges and share them outside of the people who are there that day
- A place where a woman feels inferior or less spiritual because she doesn’t know the lingo others are using or she doesn’t know how to talk in concepts or theology; she just knows her life
- A place where only one opinion or point of view is examined or accepted
- A private therapy session for one person to seek and get advice

FYI:

- Past books we have read in MOSJ that are most meaningful to us as a group: *The Jesuit Guide to (Almost) Everything: A Spirituality for Real Life Surrender to Love* by James Martin, SJ; *Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion* by Gregory Boyle, SJ; *Already There: Letting God Find You* by Mark Mossa, SJ; *Surrender to Love: Discovering the Heart of Christian Spirituality* by David Benner. New RJ moms can read these possibly over the summer or refer to them as the school year goes on. This will help with feeling part of the past shared experiences that we will inevitably reference during the year’s discussions.
- Everyone will be given a copy of our own list of “rules” that will be emailed, printed and read each time we meet:
  - Confidentiality – if you are not there on that particular MOSJ day, then whatever is shared you miss, whether it is insight or someone’s personal sharing
  - No judging, no fixing.
  - We each have a role in the group, dynamic, not static.
  - MOSJ belongs to all who choose to attend.
  - Time is 9-10:30. (Surrender prayer, sharing of Wow and Ow moments, then book time)
  - Ignatian meditation (offered by Laura Cordier) is available after 10:30 to those who wish to learn more about this Ignatian spiritual exercise.
- A list of prayers that MOSJ might use during the school year will be emailed and/or handed out to women:
  - Glory Be
  - Our Father
  - Hail Mary
  - Suscipe (to start our session)
  - Divine Mercy