



Friday, **OCTOBER 9, 2026** – 8:30 am – 2:00 pm

Day of Enrichment for Catholic School Teachers

Sponsored by the Catholic School Department and the Diocesan Office of Religious Education
St. Paul Central Catholic Junior-Senior High School
144 Granite St., Worcester 01604



Rev. David Cotter



Rev. Stephen Lundrigan

Choose to Live Wisely: Old Testament Foundations

The Old Testament/Hebrew Bible can seem impenetrably complex. History, traditional tales, commandments...much of this is vaguely familiar (Creation, the Garden of Eden, Plagues, the Exodus) but, honestly pretty off-putting as well, with entire populations being put under “the ban,” whatever that might be, prohibitions placed on things we regard as quite ordinary (shellfish, for instance) and much that’s simply foreign and kind of weird (how to diagnose whether your home has leprosy and how to treat it). And genealogies! Endless genealogies!

So we dip into it, and then shy away from it. And that’s a pity, because whatever else the Old Testament might be, it gives us a way to be led by God to become the person we’re meant to be. It shows us, who have been chosen to be God’s people, the path to become the wise people we’re meant to be.

How We Might Accompany Parents

The parent teacher conference provides a unique and powerful means of strengthening a relationship of accompaniment. With a perspective that is excellence-based, faith-based, and whole-student-growth-based, the conference can facilitate a multi-level partnership between parents, student, and teacher. Such a partnership can be a fruitful ground of growth for all the participants and be part of achieving the overarching goals of the teacher, parents, student, and school community. Insights will be presented to deepen a spirit of accompaniment in the conferences, and experienced teachers will be called upon to share their expertise and experience for the mutual benefit of all.

Fr. David W. Cotter is pastor of St. Denis Parish in Ashburnham. He holds a BA in psychology from McGill University. He studied for the priesthood at St. John’s University in New York City, where he earned a master in divinity degree and a master’s in New Testament studies. He holds a doctorate in Old Testament studies from the Gregorian University in Rome, subsequently teaching at St. Anselm College and St. John’s University School of Theology in Collegeville, MN. Fr. Cotter is the general editor of the *Berit Olam: Studies in Hebrew Narrative and Poetry* series, published by The Liturgical Press and the author of the first volume -- *Genesis* -- in this commentary.

Fr. Steve Lundrigan is pastor of St. Columba Parish in Paxton. He worked for many years with youth and their families conducting psychotherapy and holding positions in residential and public school settings prior to ordination. After ordination he served for six years as pastor of Annunciation Parish where he was very involved in the parish school Holy Family Academy. A product of Catholic primary, secondary, and college education, Fr. Steve respects the unique mission of Catholic schools and is passionate about supporting them. In addition to his M.Div. degree from seminary, Fr. Steve holds a Doctorate in Clinical Psychology and Master’s degrees in Religious Education, Counseling Psychology, and Theology. He is a Licensed Mental Health Counselor, a Licensed School Social Worker/Adjustment Counselor, and continues to work with youth and families in clinical practice.

SCHEDULE

8:15	Arrival
8:30	Mass – Most Rev. Robert J. McManus, D.D., S.T.D. – Bishop of Worcester
9:30	Coffee and . . . in cafeteria
10:15	Session 1 <i>Choose to Live Wisely: Old Testament Foundations</i>
11:15	Break out grade level discussion groups
12:15	Lunch
1:00	Session 2 <i>How We Might Accompany Parents</i>
2:00	Dismissal