Religious Themes In Film: Christian

Getting started with a Research Paper
The Motion Pictures/Christianity section, located on Level 1 in the PN1995 area, is the best place to start looking for research tools. If you are interested in Christian themes in plays or television, those resources are all in the same area as well.

Choosing a Theme
There are a vast number of books that have been written dealing with Christian themes in Cinema, so one of the easiest way to go about finding exactly what you are looking for is to FIRST choose a theme: Jesus/Savior parallels, Heaven and Hell, Sin and Redemption, particular Saints, Mary Magdalene figures, Satan, and Apostles are all common themes with a good amount of literature written about them.

Choosing Commentaries
Once you choose a theme and have researched it theologically and textually, the next step is turning to commentary. If you already have a specific film or director in mind, great! If not, these are some places to look for ideas:

Journals:
The Journal of Religion and Film
http://digitalcommons.unomaha.edu/jrf/

General
These resources deal with theory and are not necessarily limited to Christianity. They may be useful no matter what the theme of your research. They can all be found in the GTU Library.

Christians In The Movies: A Century of Saints and Sinners
PN 1995.9 C49 D36 2009

Cinéma Divinité: Religion, Theology, and the Bible in Film
PN 1995.9 R4 C56 2005

The Continuum Companion to Religion and Film
PN 1995.9 R4 C66 2009

Reframing Theology and Film
PN1995.5 R43 2007

The Routledge Companion to Religion and Film
PN 1995.5 R68 2009

Sacred Profanity: Spirituality at the Movies
PN 1995.9 C49 D55 2010

Salvation in Celluloid
PN 1995.9 J4 P67 2007
Title misleading, this is a general work

Screening the Sacred: Religion, Myth, and Ideology in Popular American Film
PN 1995.5 S36 1995

Theology and Film: Challenging the Sacred/Secular Divide
PN 1995.5 D44 2008

Excerpts from most of the above books and many more can be found in:
The Religion and Film Reader
PN 1995.5 R457 2007

Classic Film
Image and Likeness: Religious Visions in American Film Classics
PN 1995.5 I46 1991

Screening America: Reflections on Five Classic Films
PN 1995 B49735 1991

There are also books in this section dealing with specific filmmakers, including Ingmar Bergman, Walt Disney, and George Lucas.

Jesus/Savior Figures in Film

Jesus at the Movies: A Guide to the First Hundred Years
PN 1995.9 J4 T37 1997

Savior on the Silver Screen
PN 1995.9 J4 S74 1999

Screen Christologies
PN 1995.5 D43 2001

Other Themes
Apocalypse:
Reel Revelations: Apocalypse and Film
PN 1995.9 A 62 R44 2010

Saints:
Celluloid Saints: Images of Sanctity in Film
PN 1995.9 R4 S345 2002

Finding St. Paul In Film
PN 1995.5 W297 2005
Finding a Movie
The GTU Library has a select but rapidly growing collection of movies (both DVD and VHS), available to check out or to view onsite. The majority of the GTU collection, other than liturgy and ministry materials, is made up of movies that deal explicitly with the life of Jesus and of particular saints. For more blockbuster type mainstream films as well as for somewhat rare films, the Moffitt Library on the UC Berkeley campus is the place to go. The Moffitt 1st Floor Media Resource Center has a vast collection and is open to GTU students with a current UCB library card. For very obscure films, especially silent films, early 1900s films, foreign films, check the BAM/PFA. Many of these are available for viewing but not for check out.

Moffitt Media Resources Center Searchable Movie Database:
http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/MRC/moviedb.html

Berkeley Art Museum/Pacific Film Archive (BAM/PFA)
http://www.bampfa.berkeley.edu/

GTU DVD and VHS collection can be easily searched by using the links found on GRACE at http://grace.gtu.edu

Further Resources
If you are still in need of further ideas, the Internet is full of resources. A few websites worth a look are:

Religion and Film
http://www.theologyandfilm.com/

Movie Theology (extensive list of Religion/Film blogs, links to articles, and lots more)
http://www.cmu.ca/library/faithfilm.html

Partial Listing from GTU Library Film Collection
The GTU Library houses DVDs and VHS tapes on Level 1. If a DVD is housed at SFTS, it can be requested at the Circulation Desk. This is a partial listing:

A Man For All Seasons (1966, Zinnemann) VHS 424
The Apostle (1998, Duvall) DVD 472
Babette's Feast (1987, Axel) SFTS DVD 495
Children of Men (2007, Cuarón) DVD 417
The Exorcism of Emily Rose (2005, Derrickson) DVD 184
Godspell (1973, Greene) SFTS DVD 327
Jesus of Montreal (1989, Arcand) SFTS DVD 254
The Last Temptation of Christ (1988, Scorsese) DVD 52
Life of Brian (1979, Jones) SFTS DVD 96
The Mission (1986, Joffé) SFTS DVD 311
The Passion of Joan of Arc (1928, Dryer) SFTS DVD 9
Romero (1989, Duigan) SFTS DVD 453
Schindler’s List (1994, Spielberg) SFTS VHS 285
Wings of Desire (1987, Wenders) SFTS VHS 596