

Blessed Sacrament Parish – April 2, 2023

*We, Blessed Sacrament Parish, Are a Christ-Centered Community,
Committed to Worship the Father, Committed to Respond to the Spirit's Gifts,
Committed to Loving Service to All God's People*

Our parish office is open on Monday and Wednesday-Friday from 9:00am to 3:00pm.

The South entrance doors are unlocked during those hours.

Telephone (Parish Office): 304.744.5523 E-mail: BSCCWV@gmail.com

Web page: www.blessedsacramentwv.org

Pastor: Rev. Paul Wharton E-mail: pjw424@gmail.com Cell Phone for Emergencies: 304-433-7472

Music & Youth Director: Mary Odin E-mail: wmodin@frontier.com 304-767-9479

Office Manager: Natalie Zellers Office E-mail: BSCCWV@gmail.com

Our Pastoral Council: Chip Council, facilitator, Rick Brennan, Pam Council, Jackson Davis, Matt Davis, Anne Dever, Jack Dever, Christine Fernandes, Mike Granata, Molly Linehan-Belcher, Philip Maramba, Terry Mathias, Katie Smithberger, and Charlie Wilson

We stream our Masses on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BSCCWV/>
for anyone who cannot come to Mass in person.

Day	Date	Time		Mass Intention
Saturday	4/1	5:30pm		For the People of the Parish
Palm Sunday	4/2	9:00am	+	Hamilton and Southam Families by Beth Boyd
		11:30am	+	Mary Jo Yackley by Missy Mowrer
Monday	4/3			
Tuesday	4/4			
Wednesday	4/5			We will not have Mass today.
Holy Thursday	4/6	6:00pm	+	For Those Buried in Our Columbarium
Good Friday	4/7	6:00pm	+	Liturgy of the Lord's Passion
Easter Vigil	4/8	8:30pm		Intentions of Our Neophytes
Easter Sunday	4/9	9:00am	+	For the People of the Parish
		11:30am	+	Mike Shawler by Don & Donna Becher

We Remember in Our Prayers

Barbara Baldy, Bo Burdette, Elizabeth Coleman, Matthew Crabtree, Loretta DiGiorgi, Joe Eisel, Marietta Fenton, Rose Finch, Rita Finnell, Skip Finnell, Dante Geronilla, Joe Gregg, Bob & Kathleen Groom, Mary Lou Hammock, John & Arlene Hanna, Gary Hoskins, Rob Hrezo, John & Claire Johnson, John Lordan, Bob Lucas, Louann Lynch-Kelley, Sheila Kerns, Alec Mansfield, Barbara McCormick, Evelyn Miller, Keith Morgan, Bradley Smith, and Sandy Wheeler

Pray He Rests in Peace

Donnie Mathena, son of Joyce (and Jim) Mathena

This Week at Blessed Sacrament

Day	Date	Time	Event	Location
Sat	4/1	9:00am	Men's Bible Sharing Group	Room 5/Library and Zoom
		11:00am	Easter Egg Hunt	Parish Hall
		4:30pm	Reconciliation	Reconciliation Room
		5:30pm	Mass - Vigil	Church & facebook.com/BSCWV/
Sun	4/2	9:00am	Mass	Church & facebook.com/BSCWV/
		10:15am	First Communion Class	Room 2
		10:15am	Youth Faith Formation	Library and Room 5B
		11:30am	Mass	Church & facebook.com/BSCWV/
Mon	4/3	4:00pm	Chrism Mass	Basilica - Sacred Heart
		6:00pm	OCIA	Library
		6:00pm	Handbell Rehearsal	Church
		7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal	Church
Tues	4/4		Our Office is Closed Today	
		Noon	Brown Bag Book Club	Library
Wed	4/5		Bible Study and Lectio Divina will not meet today.	
			We will not have a noon Mass today.	
Thur	4/6	6:00pm	Holy Thursday - Mass	Church
Fri	4/7	11:15am	Scriptural Rosary	Church
		Noon	Stations of the Cross	Church
		6:00pm	Good Friday – Liturgy of the Lord's Passion	Church

Sat	4/8	9:00am	Men's Bible Sharing Group	Room 5/Library and Zoom
		8:30pm	Mass – Easter Vigil	Church & facebook.com/BSCWV/
Sun	4/9	9:00am	Mass – Easter	Church & facebook.com/BSCWV/
		10:15am	First Communion Class	Room 2
		10:15am	Youth Music Ensemble	Church
		11:30am	Mass – Easter	Church & facebook.com/BSCWV/

Holy Week 2023 at Blessed Sacrament

Holy Week is the most important time of the year for the Catholic Church. The entire reason for Lent is to prepare us to celebrate Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil as a community of faith. We celebrate the Paschal Mystery – the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ – in word and sacrament, in voice and silence, and in actions and symbols. Here is something of what to expect.

Holy Thursday (April 6 at 6:00 pm) is a commemoration of the Last Supper. We remember with awe the humility of Jesus in washing the feet of the apostles and His generosity in giving us the Sacrament of his Body and Blood that we call the Eucharist. The parish will be presented with holy oils blessed by Bishop Mark Brennan. These oils will be used in the sacrament of Baptism, Confirmation, & Anointing in the coming year.

The Liturgy on this night includes two other special ceremonies. The entirely optional ritual of Foot-washing has been done in a variety of ways through the years. This year (unless he is called in at the last minute to substitute somewhere else) Fr. John will wash the feet of 12 parishioners as did Jesus at the Last Supper. After communion and prayer, the priest, servers and choir will process through the church to the Chapel of Repose (which will be in the Hallway to the Parish Hall) and the Eucharist will be placed in a tabernacle. Everyone is invited to stop by and visit our Lord Jesus present in the Eucharist, to stay with him as did the disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane. Be sure to sign up for a time to be present and pray.

Good Friday is so named because it is not the funeral of Jesus. We believe and know that Jesus rose from the dead. Here are two opportunities for us to gather in faith. In the Stations of the Cross, we follow Jesus as he walks the Way of the Cross. In the Good Friday Liturgy, we listen to God's Word, pray solemn intercessions, venerate the Cross, and receive Holy Communion that was consecrated the night before. Stations begin at 3pm; Good Friday Liturgy at 6pm on April 7, 2023.

THE EASTER VIGIL is the Church's most solemn, beautiful, and grace-filled liturgical celebration. In the 4th and 5th centuries this was the one night when adults were initiated into the sacramental life of the Church. What we now know as Lent began as a time of intense spiritual preparation for those adults who would be baptized, confirmed, and receive communion. While adults can be baptized any time, it is best done at the Easter Vigil. It is a celebration of the presence of God in people gathered, the symbols used, the Word proclaimed, the story of salvation told, faith professed, promises renewed, and the Eucharist celebrated and shared. It consists of four parts.

The Liturgy of Light: The church is in darkness; people are gathered inside with unlit candles. Outside the ministers, those to be initiated, and their sponsors stand next to a small fire, bless and light the Paschal Candle, the flame shared and slowly brightens this holy night, and the Exsultet (proclamation of what we celebrate) is sung.

The Liturgy of the Word: On this night, the story of salvation is told from the creation of the world to this very night. We hear of creation, covenants, grace, prophets, and God's purpose and plan for people. Yes, it is longer than usual, but like made from scratch meals, the time and energy is well-worth it. The Gloria and Alleluia is joyfully sung and the words of the Holy Gospel fill the church.

The Liturgy of Initiation: Just as the Hebrews were saved from the Pharaoh when they passed through the waters of the sea, and just as Jesus passed over and through death to save us from the power of sin and death, on this night of all nights it is the most fitting time for baptism. Even when there are no baptisms, water is blessed, baptismal promises are renewed, and holy water sprinkled upon God's people. Sometimes adults, previously baptized, make their profession of faith, are able to be confirmed and receive communion with us on this holiest of nights.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist: "The celebration of the Eucharist forms the fourth part of the Vigil and marks its high point, for it is in the fullest sense the Easter Sacrament, that is to say, the commemoration of the sacrifice of the cross and the presence of the risen Christ, the completion of Christian initiation, and the foretaste of the eternal pasch" (heavenly banquet). [Paschalis Solemnitatis, #90, 1988]

The Easter Vigil begins on April 8 at 8:30 pm. A RECEPTION will follow.



We Need You!

To be able to offer Communion from the Cup, beginning Holy Thursday, at every Mass, we need more volunteers to be Ministers of the Cup.

Please consider participating in this important ministry.

Are you too shy? Remember, we're family.

You've never done this before? You'll receive training.

Who are you to be offering the sacred cup to anyone? We are all sinners and imperfect, so why not you?

Last Weekend

Return Unused Blessed Palms

We will have a large basket in our gathering space where you can return unused blessed palms. Those palm crosses and palm flowers you have tucked around? Bring them here and add them to the basket. Please bring your palm contributions by April 2, Palm Sunday.

Tommy Ross, one of our deacon candidates, and our youth group will take the unused blessed palms and burn them for next year's ashes for our Ash Wednesday Mass.



Rice Bowls

This collection will benefit Catholic Relief Services

Please return your Rice Bowls this weekend (Palm Sunday) and next weekend (Easter Sunday).

Suggestion Box News

One of the suggestions we received requested we re-paint the lines for the parking spots on the north side of our building.

The parking spots on the north side of our building are owned by the City of South Charleston. We will send a note over the their public works department letting them know about this need. Given how well our city is maintained, they probably are just waiting for warm weather to take care of this task.

Please feel free to offer your suggestions – on any topic – in the suggestion box in our gathering area. Of course, you are also always welcome to offer your suggestions directly to Fr. Paul.

Thank you for sharing your ideas for gardens – keep those coming! And for the expressions of gratitude for our warm, welcoming parish! (Keep those coming too!)

Prayers for Our Elect

Our parish has held OCIA Elect in our thoughts and prayers for several months. If you would like to send your well wishes, prayers, or greetings to our elect, here are their addresses:

Liz James – 238 Sutherland Dr., So. Charleston, WV 25303

Pam Steelhammer – 5326 Sunrise Lane, Charleston, WV 25313

Marla Weiner – 4908 Washington Ave., SE, Charleston, WV 25304

Joey Thornton – 2002 Laurel Ridge Rd., Culloden, WV 25510

The Gardens Project

A very rough description of our Gardens Project:

We will create a series of different gardens on our property along 4th Avenue.

The gardens will serve different purposes but will all tie together into something beautiful.

The idea has been brewing for a year or so among several parishioners and our staff. After a member of our parish gave us \$5,000 in “seed” money, we felt the time to get started was now. Our Pastoral Council and Finance Committee recently learned of the idea and expressed their support.

So – share your thoughts with us about what you would like to see in these gardens.

An outdoor classroom/meeting space? A community vegetable garden? A house for bats?

Benches named for deceased loved ones? Lots of butterflies? A place to play yard games?

You can write your ideas on “Suggestions” cards and drop them in the suggestions box in the gathering area. Or follow this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CQCW6SX>

How will it be funded?

With parishioner donations specifically directed to our Gardens Project. We will also apply for grants that support garden projects like ours.

Won't that take a long time? That depends. This project is really special and is not something that should be rushed through. We believe we will have the funding needed as we work through the various stages of this project. (Feeling doubtful? Ask us about the solar panel project.)

Spring Cleaning – Saturday, April 15th

There will be tasks for all abilities, including: wiping shelves, repotting plants, hanging pictures, dusting furniture, carrying stuff from here to there, and more. Students can earn service hours.

We will also have many things to be delivered to the ReStore and Heart & Hand. (They will be able to sell these items and use the proceeds to fund their community service projects.)

If you might be able to help us with tasks or with delivery, please sign up in the gathering area. Or sign up using this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/B8L7WJG>

Choosing a Logo for Our Parish

Please stop by the super secret ballot box in our gathering area and tell us about your choice of logo for our parish.

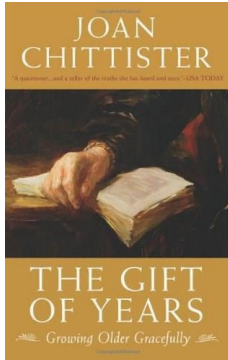
Three easy steps:

- 1) Pick a ballot with the logo of your choice.
- 2) Tell us what the logo says to you.
- 3) Tell us what you think the logo would say to a stranger/someone new to our parish.

Or vote online: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YCRM33T>. In late April we'll share the results and some of the comments we've received.

Coming Soon

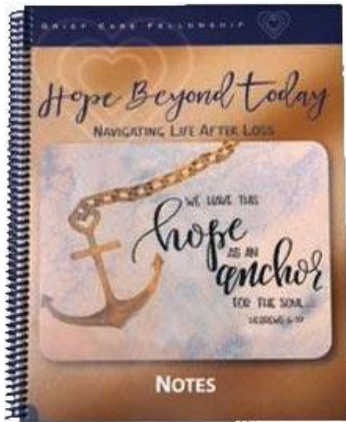
Food Drive for Good Shepherd Food Pantry, Coalburg: April 15th – April 23rd



The Gift of Years Book Club, led by Kathy Lester will hold its inaugural meeting on **April 16** from 10:15am-11:15am in the Community Room adjacent to the Parish Hall.

The Gift of Years: Growing older Gracefully by Joan Chittester will be the first book read and discussed. Meetings will be bi-weekly on the 1st and 3rd weekend of the month. If you are interested in adding your name to our list of registered participants please email BSCCWV@gmail.com.

A New Grief Ministry Program to Start! *Hope Beyond Today*



Hope Beyond Today is a six-week program designed by those who have lost loved ones, and have navigated through the maze of hurt, sorrow, and heartache caused by grief. The program is designed to help those who have lost loved ones to find hope during their personal grief journey.

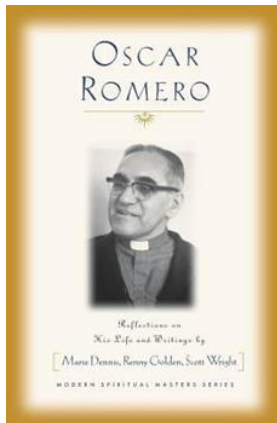
Each session begins with a 30-minute DVD, which is followed by discussion time for the group to share their own thoughts, words of encouragement and comfort. The Grief Ministry Team encourages you to give prayerful thought to participating in the upcoming *Hope Beyond Today* program.

Upcoming *Hope Beyond Today* Schedule:

Six Consecutive Monday Evenings **April 17, 24, May 1, 8, 15, 22**

7:00-8:30pm Room 5—Library

Please contact the church office to register @ 304-744-5523 or
bsccwv@gmail.com



On Sunday, April 23, between the Masses, we will begin a study of Oscar Romero: His Life and Writings.

Let us know if you will be able to join us so we can have enough books. BSCCWV@gmail.com

Coming Soon

PARISH FAITH IN FILM SERIES – APRIL PRESENTATION

Fr. Stu: Reborn Rated PG-13 Length 2 hr. 4 min.

When: Sunday, April 23, 2023 at 2:00pm Where: Blessed Sacrament Parish Hall


When the original movie Fr. Stu was released, it received high critical acclaim, but an R rating because of a lot of profane language, including about 40 instances of the “F_ word”. Many Bishops and Cardinals were willing to overlook that, due to the power of the story, but it was problematic for many Catholics. This “sanitized” version, title Fr. Stu: Reborn, was released in theaters last December, and is just available on DVD as of March 28. The same movie, characters, and story are now available in this PG-13 format. This is an amazing story of where God directs his vocations, and the influences He offers to initiate that Call in unsuspecting places.

Based on a true story, Father Stu: Reborn is an unflinchingly honest, funny and ultimately uplifting drama about a lost soul who finds his purpose in a most unexpected place. When an injury ends his amateur boxing career, Stuart Long (Mark Wahlberg) moves to L.A. dreaming of stardom. While scraping by as a supermarket clerk, he meets Carmen (Teresa Ruiz), a Catholic Sunday school teacher who seems immune to his bad-boy charm. Determined to win her over, the longtime agnostic starts going to church to impress her. But surviving a terrible motorcycle accident leaves him wondering if he can use his second chance to help others find their way, leading to the surprising realization that he is meant to be a Catholic priest.


31 Club this week

31 Club members commit to praying for vocations one day each month.

Sun	4/2	Kelley Endres
Mon	4/3	John Finnell
Tue	4/4	Bernie Mabe Lucy, Henry, and Katie Smithberger
Wed	4/5	Irene Galloway Therese Cox
Thu	4/6	Jim Scharf Jack Dever Diane Lordan
Fri	4/7	Carla Stricker
Sat	4/8	Mary Gargarella Bev Schissler



Creation Care Recipe of the Month-April



Tortilla Soup

Enjoy this soup with extra avocado slices and tortilla chips.

Ingredients

- 2 Tbsp olive oil
- 3 garlic cloves (minced)
- 1 large onion (chopped)
- 4 carrots (chopped)
- 3 stalks celery (chopped)
- 1 jalapeno pepper (seeded and chopped)
- 3 cups vegetable broth
- 1 Tbsp chili powder
- 2 tsp ground cumin
- 1 tsp paprika
- 1 tsp salt, 1 tsp black pepper
- 1/2 tsp garlic powder

- 1/2 tsp red pepper flakes
- 1/2 tsp oregano
- 10 corn tortillas
- 2 limes, 1-2 avocados

Instructions

- Put olive oil, garlic, and all veggies into a large pot over medium heat; stir constantly for 5 minutes.
- Add vegetable broth and spices. Reduce heat, cover, and simmer until veggies are tender.
- Meanwhile, over medium-high heat, fry corn tortillas in heated oil. Cut into strips and use to top each serving of soup, along with lime wedges and avocado. (serves 8)

Eating “lower on the food chain” is a powerful way to answer Pope Francis’ call to Care for Creation.

Why? It can help reduce the amount of water, land, energy, chemicals, transportation, refrigeration and packaging we use. It can also help reduce stress on our livestock and its handlers, lower grocery bills, improve personal health, and keep us in solidarity with people with less means.

How to do it? Choose ingredients that are in-season, organic, locally grown, with simple or no packaging, and contain no meat and little dairy.

Praise Be to God for His generosity — the soil and water, plants and animals that sustain us, and for the farmers who labor. Bon appétit!

Check <https://nebo.sistersofmercy.org/files/documents/resources/Justice/Mercy-Meatless-Mondays.pdf> for more recipes, reflections and information.

Partners in Community Service

Faith in Action of the Greater Kanawha Valley is a volunteer organization providing free services to older adults in Kanawha and Putnam counties.

Our volunteers assist seniors with transportation to medical appointments, trips to the grocery store, friendly check-in phone calls, and minor home repairs and maintenance projects.

Our volunteers appreciate the flexibility they have in scheduling and the variety of meaningful ways to engage. Our seniors appreciate the reliable and friendly personal attention they receive.

Upcoming Volunteer Trainings (Offered In-person & Online)

Tuesday, April 4 @ 4:30pm

Thursday, April 20 @ 4:30pm

Tuesday, May 9 @ 4:30pm

Tuesday, May 23 @ 4:30pm

For more information on how you can get involved or to RSVP for an upcoming training, visit faithinactiongkv.com or contact 304.881.7253.

MANNA MEAL/KROGER PICK UP SCHEDULE

April 2023 (Revised)

April 5 Don Becher

April 12 Rob Schissler

April 19 Rob Schissler

March 26 Greg Ayers

Literacy Volunteers of the Kanawha Valley

Literacy Volunteers of Kanawha County teaches reading and writing as well as English as a Second Language(ESL) to ADULTS for FREE. Tutoring is one-on-one with flexible hours.

To Register: 304-989-9481 or brperrone@aol.com

**Babies born on
March 31 are the
easiest to prank on
April Fools' Day.**

They were literally
born yesterday!



RD

APRIL FOOLS DAY IS OVER!

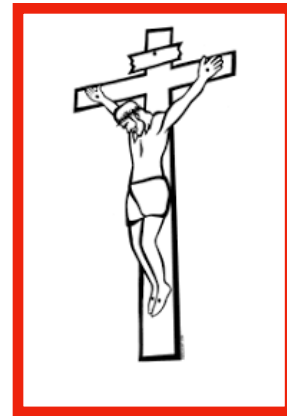


**EVERYTHING ON THE
INTERNET IS TRUE AGAIN!**

Spiritual Icebreakers and Soup Starters 39

Icebreakers give us something to talk about. Soup starters make for a good start. Here is some spiritual kindling to use, think about, and pray with this week.

*Christ Jesus, though of God,
did not cling to equality with God,
but in complete self-emptying
took the place of a slave,
born a human.
And as a human, in profound humility,
Christ became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.
Therefore God also highly exalted Christ
with the name that is above every name....
—Philippians 2.6-9*



*Many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.
—Matthew 19.30*

Jesus invites us to a Lenten discipline of humility.
Humility is not thinking poorly of ourselves,
ranking others higher, or mere self-abasement.
Humility is knowing the whole.
We are all a circle, where the first is last and the last is first.
Each of us is equally important.
Each is gifted, beautiful, wounded, and indispensable.
And none is more vital, honored or deserving than another.
We each sing our note. Humility is blending in perfect harmony.
Humility enables us to take the lowest place,
or the highest, and serve as a vessel of God's grace.
It is usually the lowest place,
free of privilege, power or prestige,
where grace is most clear.
— Steve Garnaas-Holmes @ www.unfoldinglight.net

Mystic Musings

One who is gentle in God's sight is wiser than the wise; and one who is humble in heart is stronger than the strong. For they bear the yoke of Christ with spiritual knowledge.
— Saint Mark the Ascetic (Fifth Century)

Be humble, for you are made of earth.
Be noble, for you are made of stars.
— Serbian Proverb

A Prayer for Holy Week by Father Henri Nouwen

Dear Lord, Judas betrayed, Peter denied you.
Judas hanged himself, Peter became the apostle
whom you made the first among equals.
Lord, give me faith, faith in your endless mercy,
your boundless forgiveness, your unfathomable goodness.
Let me not be tempted to think that my sins are too great to be forgiven,
too abominable to be touched by your mercy.
Let me never run away from you but return to you again and again,
asking you to be my Lord, my Shepherd, my Stronghold, and my Refuge.
Take me under your wing, O Lord, and let me know that
you do not reject me as long as I keep asking you to forgive me.
Perhaps my doubt in your forgiveness is a greater sin
than the sins I consider too great to be forgiven.
Perhaps I make myself too important, too great
when I think that I cannot be embraced by you anymore.
Lord, look at me, accept my prayer as you accepted Peter's prayer,
and let me not run away from you in the night as Judas did.
Bless me, Lord, in this Holy Week, and give me the grace
to know your loving presence more intimately. Amen.

Liturgical Ministers – April 1 & 2

	5:30pm	9:00 am	11:30 am
Lectors	Kathleen Bors Ro DeBias Susan Churchill	Laura Jennings Brian Caldwell Patty Frame	Rory Isaac Rick Brennan Kathy Lester
Altar Servers	Karen Lewia Rick Brennan	Eli Simonton Nathaniel Simonton	Carla Stricker Vince Stricker
Cantors			
Communion Principal	Ron Teufel	Mike Burgess	Carolyn Frye
Communion to the Sick		Mike Burgess Laura Hayes Susan Bowyer	
Greeters/Ushers	Mike & Pat Habenschuss	Rob & Kelly Plutro	Rene Norman Shelley Nason

Liturgical Ministers – Holy Thursday and Good Friday

	Holy Thursday 6:00pm	Good Friday 6:00pm
Lectors	Tim DiPiero	Diane Lordan John Priestley
Altar Servers	Chip Counsil Rick Brennan	Carla & Vince Stricker
Cantors		
Communion Principal	Vince Stricker	
Chalice Minister	Susan Churchill	
Greeters/Ushers	Greg & Linda Ayers	Mike Granata David Lewia

Liturgical Ministers – Easter Vigil and Easter - April 8 & 9

	8:30pm	9:00 am	11:30 am
Lectors	Peg Nagem Kathleen Bors Don Becher	Mychal Schulz	
Altar Servers	Karen Lewia Jackson Davis	Maureen Matthias	Bob Danielson
Cantors			
Communion Principal	Todd Witsberger	Terry Matthias Peggy Musilli	Kathy Lester
Chalice Minister	Carolyn Frye John McGarrity	Bob Sherrard Sr. Fran Kirtley John Lordan	Pat Garnett Carolyn Frye
Communion to the Sick		Jackie Lilly Missy Summey Bob Sherrard	
Greeters/Ushers	David Lewia Jeanne Haas	Brian Cornell Susan Churchill Dan & Nancy McLaughlin	Anna Sites Shelley Nason

March 30, 2023

Dear Parishioner,

In an email to all parishioners sent on March 18, I informed you that our new Director of Religious Education was suspended with pay pending the results of an investigation by public and church authorities. The accusations did not involve children, but do have consequences.

Yesterday, I received a copy of an email from Dr. Bob Pennington to the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston that I want to share with you.

“I want to take the opportunity to resign my positions at Charleston Catholic High School and Blessed Sacrament Parish effective Friday, April 7, 2023. I thank you and others at the Diocese for offering me this option. I also want to apologize for the negative light shed on Charleston Catholic High School and Blessed Sacrament Parish due to my actions.

“I am regretful and remorseful and pray for nothing but the best for both institutions and everyone moving forward. I promise to learn from this very difficult experience, which I brought upon myself. May God continue to abundantly bless Charleston Catholic High School and Blessed Sacrament Parish.”

We will continue having Faith Formation and First Communion classes for our children and youth between the two Sunday Masses as usual through the end of April but not on Easter Sunday. At the same time, there are two book study and discussion groups you can read about in the bulletin.

I will be consulting with both the search committee and the Pastoral Council about where we go from here. We can be sure the Spirit of God will be with us. Although his time with us was short, I am grateful for the energy, enthusiasm, and ideas Bob shared with us.

Please be in prayer for Bob, his family, his students, and one another.

Fr. Paul



April 2, 2023

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

Is 50:4-7 | Phil 2:6-11 | Mt 26:14—27:66

GROW AS A DISCIPLE

PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

As we begin Holy Week, we hear Matthew's account of the Passion. We see Jesus' humanity as he experiences *sorrow and distress* in the hours before his death. Three times, he asks the Father to "let this cup pass from me, yet, not as I will, but as you will." In our own human experience, I am guessing many of us have asked the Father to "let this cup pass" – for in addition to life's joys, we will all experience setbacks, struggles, and suffering. By example, Jesus shows us that we can turn to our Father, trusting in his will for us. Let this be a reminder in this holiest of weeks that we can bring our suffering and our doubts to the Father, knowing that the joy of Easter will come.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

The final words of today's Gospel [shorter version] are those of the centurion and the men keeping watch over Jesus: "Truly this was the Son of God!" Let us keep in mind this central proclamation of our faith while attending Triduum services this week. On Holy Thursday, we remember the Last Supper and the institution of the Eucharist and the priesthood, celebrating Christ's outpouring of love for us. On Good Friday we venerate the cross as we solemnly recall the passion and death of Jesus. And of course at the Easter Vigil and on Easter Sunday, we celebrate the story of our salvation, culminating in Jesus' resurrection. As Christians, we know that the cross will give way to the empty tomb and the promise of new life in Christ. Let our voices be strong this week as we echo the centurion's words above, and may Jesus' name be praised forever!

PRAY Praying the Stations of the Cross allows us to walk with Jesus through his passion and death. Make that journey with Jesus this week.