



## Weekly Email from Father Paul Wharton April 29, 2023

One of my favorite ways of addressing God in prayers is “*God, ever faithful and true.*” The reason for doing so has not so much to do with God as with me. I need to remember and believe that God is always true to God’s Word. How many times have we experienced heartache and disappointment because someone did not do what he or she said they would? Reminding myself of God’s faithfulness helps me pray with confidence.

Here are six promises God makes about being with us always. When we find ourselves experiencing trials or temptations, these verses can keep us steady on the way to God.

- I command you: be strong and steadfast! Do not fear nor be dismayed, for the LORD, your God, is with you wherever you go. (Joshua 1:9)
- The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom should I fear? The LORD is my life’s refuge; of whom should I be afraid? (Psalm 27:1)
- Do not fear: I am with you; do not be anxious: I am your God. I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my right hand. (Isaiah 41:10)
- God is our refuge and our strength, an ever-present help in distress. (Psalm 46:1)
- Know that I am with you always. (Matthew 28:10)

The Church teaches the Eucharistic Liturgy - Mass - is the “source and summit of the Christian life.” This is especially true when there is a special celebration. The Baptism of Luke Walter is scheduled during the May 6 5:30 pm Mass. Madeline Malone will celebrate and receive her First Holy Communion during the 11:30 am Mass on May 7. In the coming weeks there will be more children receiving the Body and Blood of Christ for their first time. Be sure to pray for and congratulate them.

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Parish website <https://www.blessedsacramentwv.org>

This Sunday’s Readings <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/043023.cfm>

Faith in West Virginia <https://faithinwv.org/latest-bulletin/>

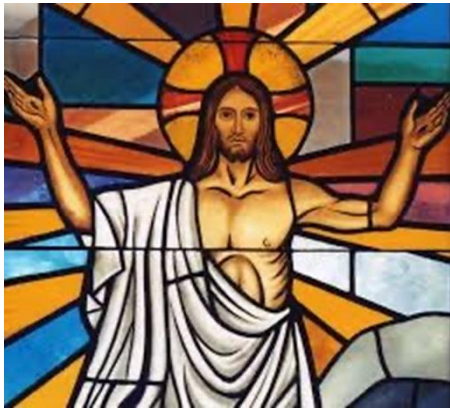
This Sunday’s Bulletin

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## Headlines and Happenings

Sunday Apr. 30      Discussion on The Gift of Years at 10:15 am in Community Room  
 First Communion Rehearsal at 12:30 in the Parish Hall & Sanctuary  
 Monday May 1      Hope Beyond Today (Grief Ministry) at 7pm in the Library  
 Tuesday May 2      Liturgy Committee at 6:00 pm in the Community Room  
 Wednesday May 3   Bible Study at 10:00 am in the Library and on Zoom  
 Group Lectio Divina at 1:00 pm in the Community Room

Fr. Paul and Fr. John will be at the Convocation of Priests Tuesday through Thursday afternoon. **DAILYMASS** this week is at noon on Monday, Tuesday, and Friday.



POEM      Realizing resurrection

Were not our hearts burning within us  
 while he was talking to us on the road?  
 —Luke 24.32

Our deepest grief  
 is not that we have lost what we loved  
 but that in our aloneness  
 our hearts burned within us  
 and we didn't notice.

That as we walked  
 through the shadowed valleys  
 we were accompanied  
 and didn't believe it.

That we were in the presence of the holy  
 and weren't aware.

That we, too,  
 because we are so beloved, are holy,  
 and held in the umbilical arms of life  
 and raised from death

and don't even realize it.

Our deepest grief  
is the burning of our hearts,  
not a hankering back  
but a reaching forward,  
the labor pain of a birth unbirthed,  
a newness we haven't embraced yet,  
a resurrection we haven't yet made real.

As our holiness blossoms within us  
we allow ourselves to be led  
by the burning of our hearts,  
shedding what is expected of us—molting—  
and becoming, always newly becoming  
who were are created to be,  
real-izing resurrection.

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Steve Garnaas-Holmes  
Unfolding Light  
[www.unfoldinglight.net](http://www.unfoldinglight.net)

## **MYSTIC MORSEL**

When gold gets to the point of being twenty-four carats, it can't be purified any more. That's what happens to the soul in the fire of God's love. All of its weaknesses are cast out like dross... Then, stripped of its fragilities, the soul rests in God  
— Saint Catherine of Genoa (1447-1510)

## **CARBONATED GRACE \*\*\***

An angel was feeling rather blue with the uniform sameness of heaven and went to see St. Peter. "All I do," the angel said, "is play the harp endlessly, and I'm getting bored." St. Peter asked, "What would you rather do?" The angel answered, "I like to dance." "We don't allow dancing here in heaven," St. Peter said, "but I can see you need a change so I will allow you to take advantage of a once-in-an-eternal-lifetime offer. I will allow you 24 hours leave to return to earth and dance." "I'm gone," the angel said and in a trice the angel was in California and quickly found a dance hall run by Samuel Frank. Checking the harp and wings, the angel boogied and danced and had a great time until just seconds remained of the leave. The angel grabbed up the wings and immediately was in heaven again. Returning to St. Peter, the angel said, "I'm back and I am so happy. I'll never feel bored again." St. Peter said, "That's wonderful, but where is your musical instrument?" "Oh, no," the angel said, "I left my harp in Sam Frank's Disco."

\*\*\* Anne Lamott calls laughter *carbonated grace*