

# APRIL 4, 2025



It was on a Sunday morning, March 17, 2013 that I was driving on my way to Sacred Heart Church in Princeton for the 11:00 am Mass. I turned left onto Seventh Street and came to an intersection with four-way stop signs. Since it was an unusually warm day, I had my window rolled down enjoying the fresh air. Two something women also on my left smiled and waved at me. Since I had done many funerals and weddings, I thought they might have recognized me from one of these. So I waved back.

Now it happened that I was wearing a blue clerical shirt, unbuttoned and without a collar. They walked up to my window and with friendly smiles, asked me a question: "Do you wanna have some fun?" The Sunday gospel told of Jesus's encounter with the woman caught in adultery. Jesus saved her life and sent her on her way, saying, "Go, and from now on do not sin any more." But all I could do was say, "I gotta go to work," and sped away. I was stunned and blushed for the next hour or so!

Many strange things have happened to me in my soon to be 43 years of priesthood. It was more than just a little ironic that I was going to preach on that gospel story but missed the opportunity to testify to my faith in Jesus Christ. The First Letter of Saint Peter declares, "Always be ready to give the reason for your hope." (1 Peter 3:15) I wasn't prepared.

Bishop Mark Brennan has challenged the consecrated religious, deacons, priests, and - in fact - every one of us to share the light of our faith through our words and actions. We are surrounded by countless lapsed Catholics and unchurched people. We are called to be and do more in spreading the Gospel. Become and be ready to give the reason for your hope and faith. You just never know when an opportunity will present itself.

Father Paul

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Phone: Office (304) 744-5523

Email

Parish website

Faith in West Virginia

This Sunday's Readings

Wednesday Bible Handout

This Sunday's Bulletin

Fr. Paul's Cellphone: (304) 433-7472.

[pjw424@gmail.com](mailto:pjw424@gmail.com)

<https://www.blessedsacramentwv.org>

<https://faithinwv.org/latest-bulletin/>

<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/040625-YearC.cfm>

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## Now Hear This

**DON'T FORGET** Stations of the Cross at 5:30 tonight followed by Eucharist Adoration ending with Benediction.

**CANDY** is needed by this Monday noon for the Easter Egg Hunt on Palm Saturday.

The **COMMUNITY GARDEN WORK PROJECT** scheduled for Saturday morning April 5 has been canceled due to all the recent rainfall. We hope to find a new date soon.

Holy Week begins with next weekend with **PALM SUNDAY**. Mass begins in the Parish Hall for those who are easily ambulatory, and will include a procession of parishioners, carrying blessed palms. Those remaining in the church will also receive palms.

**PLEASE SIGN UP** in the Gathering Space for . . .

- ❖ Holy Thursday Adoration following Mass at 6pm.
- ❖ Easter Vigil Reception after the service

### **POEM**

Did he come to temple at dawn  
knowing I d be caught  
in a top ten sin  
dragged alone  
defenseless, half-dressed  
a pawn in the law keeper's game to  
catch the strange teacher?

their one solution  
is stones  
their goal—  
their rightness, not mine  
they demand He choose  
the sinner  
or the stone

as if stones could clean  
my conscience crushed  
by condemnation  
they spread so thick  
unwilling to lift  
even a finger to relieve  
sagging shoulders

stooping below their anger  
He diffuses with a finger  
tracing dirt  
and doesn't take a side  
not theirs  
not mine  
not even neutral middle

He is a whole  
unto himself  
new wine, new wineskins  
*He who is without sin among you,  
let him throw the first stone at her.*"  
the oldest law keeper  
releases first  
thud of rock displacing dirt  
still resounding in my chest  
when the next drops,  
each one releasing me to  
Jesus

alone now, His eyes on me:  
*Woman, where are your accusers? Did no one condemn you?"*  
No one," I reply  
*Neither do I condemn you. Go your way.  
From now on, sin no more.*"  
like it's the simplest thing  
to live unburdened  
a law of love  
seared from the inside  
solving sin without stones  
caught in  
grace  
— Author Unknown

### **CARBONATED GRACE**

What falls, but never needs a bandage? The rain.  
What goes up when the rain comes down? Umbrellas!  
What type of a bow can't be tied or untied? A rainbow.  
I tried to catch the fog, but I mist.  
What do you call it when it rains turkeys and chickens? Fowl weather.  
When you clean a vacuum cleaner, you become a vacuum cleaner.  
What kind of garden does a baker have? A "flour" garden.  
When is it impossible to plant spring flowers? When you haven't botany.