
Blessed Sacrament Weekly Email - August 16, 2024

One of the greatest joys of my priesthood is the wonderful staff it is my privilege to work with here at Blessed Sacrament. We have developed a wonderful chemistry and communicate very well. For a reason I entirely understand and support, our D.R.E. Mike Granata has requested a Leave of Absence from his job here. He has agreed to help the Power Company in Puerto Rico deal with some failures in worker safety. Mike specialized in this area working for Appalachian Power. Sometimes when you need the best, you only accept the best. Mike has an opportunity to save lives and improve both morale and operating procedures.

This job in Puerto Rico is temporary which is why Mike has asked for and received a Leave of Absence. During the one plus years he has joined the Staff, he has really made a significant impact at Blessed Sacrament. It seems right to let him make a difference elsewhere.

After discussion with Mike and the Staff, I am appointing Theresa O'Leary Acting D.R.E. Our Sunday Faith Formation for children is ready to go. Materials have arrived, our Catechists and other volunteers are on board, and new flooring will be installed prior to resuming the program. Theresa has had much experience with Catholic education as a student, teacher, and Principal. Continue reading below for more about Theresa and her position as Acting D.R.E..

Mike will be back in West Virginia most weekends. Welcome him with joy, but remember he is on a Leave of Absence. Any concerns and questions you might have about our Sunday morning program are to be addressed to Theresa or me.

Please pray for God's blessings upon Mike and Theresa as they respond to God's will for them.

Father Paul

A Brief Biography of Theresa O'Leary

Theresa O'Leary brings more than 30 years of religious education experience to her role as interim facilitator for the Blessed Sacrament youth formation program. She has a Masters Degree in Theology to complement her many years as a theology teacher at the middle and high school levels and as a principal and teacher at Catholic elementary schools.

Theresa grew up in Beckley attending St. Francis de Sales Church, where her father served as a Permanent Deacon. Upon graduation from Concord College, she began teaching at St. Francis de Sales Grade School and serving as the parish youth minister

while finishing her Masters Degree in Applied Theology with an emphasis in Religious Education from Wheeling Jesuit College.

It was through parish youth ministry events that Theresa met her husband Tony. They moved to Charleston, where she began teaching at Charleston Catholic High School. She has been active in the Teens Encounter Christ and Engaged Encounter Marriage Preparation programs and has been a presenter at retreats in our diocese, as well as in our parish OCIA process.

Theresa and Deacon Tony have three grown children, Patrick (his wife, Shelby), David, and Colleen, and are owned by an Australian Shepherd, Dublin. Their first grandchild is expected in December.

A Note from Theresa:

This spring, I felt a call to step aside from school administration to devote more time to my love of religious education and parish life. I wasn't sure where God would lead me, but prayerful discernment guided me to just get into the boat." I am grateful to answer the call to serve Blessed Sacrament Parish during Mike Granata's call to duty." This parish has given so much to our family through the years, and I look forward to the opportunity to give back to our church community.

We are blessed to have wonderful catechists teaching our young people about God and our faith each Sunday. Sharing faith is such an important mission, for as St. Francis de Sales said, Faith is like a bright ray of sunlight. It enables us to see God in all things as well as all things in God." I will support them and help them in every way possible and will carry on the fabulous work that Mike has begun until his return.

Please pray for me and let us pray together for our catechists and the children that will be inspired and blessed by their presence and teaching. God Bless you all!

Theresa O'Leary

Phone: Office (304) 744-5523
Parish website
Faith in West Virginia
This Sunday's Readings
Wednesday Bible Handout
This Sunday's Bulletin

Cell: (304) 433-7472. Email: pjw424@gmail.com
<https://www.blessedsacramentwv.org>
<https://faithinwv.org/latest-bulletin/>
<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/o81824.cfm>

Headlines and Happenings



Following all Masses on the weekend of August 24-25, there will be a discussion about the disillusion, disappointment, and disapproval with the scandals created by a small number of priests and the coverups undertaken by their bishops. In the Sunday gospel, as many disciples decide to abandon Jesus, he turns to the apostles and asks, “*Do you also want to leave?*” After each Mass this weekend, there will be an opportunity for comments, questions, and discussion. You can read the follow article to help fuel the discussion. Besides Fr. Paul, one of our Deacons, and another person or two will acts as a panel.

◦ [LINK: <https://dwightlongenecker.com/for-those-who-are-angry-with-the-church/>]

POEM

Eat and drink

“Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood
abide in me, and I in them.”

—John 6.56

God is not a god of hearsay,
a virtual god, an outsourced god.
No remote, second hand, copy-of-a-copy god.
This religion isn't about what you believe,
that paper religion, an idea you can think about.
This religion isn't a recipe; it's the meal.
Real food. You digest it.

Jesus is not explaining God. He's feeding us God.
He is the bread of God.
You have to eat it.
It surrenders itself inside you,
becomes part of you.
Don't just think about it;
don't merely believe. Eat it.

Take him in, this Jesus bread.
Savor the aroma of his love, his grace,
the flavor of his trust in God and in you.
Wrap the mouth of your soul around him and eat.
See how he tastes on the tongue of your heart.
Bite off a chunk of that forgiveness,
chew it gratefully, and swallow it all.
Drink in that presence with you in every Gethsemane,
every Golgotha, drink it in and let it fill you.

Take all of who Jesus is into yourself.
Stuff yourself with him.

You are what you eat.
— Steve Garnaas-Holmes Unfolding Light

CARBONATED GRACE

A cat dies and goes to Heaven. God meets him at the gate and says, "You have been a good cat all of these years. Anything you desire is yours, all you have to do is ask." The cat says, "Well, I lived all my life with a poor family on a farm and had to sleep on hardwood floors." God says, "Say no more." And instantly, a fluffy pillow appears.

A few days later, six mice are killed in a tragic accident and they go to Heaven. God meets them at the gate with the same offer that He made the cat. The mice said, "All our lives we've had to run. Cats, dogs and even women with brooms have chased us. If we could only have a pair of roller skates, we wouldn't have to run anymore." God says, "Say no more." And instantly, each mouse is fitted with a beautiful pair of tiny roller skates.

About a week later, God decides to check and see how the cat is doing. The cat is sound asleep on his new pillow. God gently wakes him and asks, "How are you doing? Are you happy here?" The cat yawns and stretches and says, "Oh, I've never been happier in my life. And those Meals on Wheels you've been sending over are the best!"