Blessed Sacrament Parish

Weekly Email — August 22, 2025

It must have been about 20 years ago, I received an invitation for a wedding on September 18th at a Church in Columbus, OH. It was for two people and from two sets of parents whose names I did not recognize, in a Church whose religion I didn't know anyone who belonged. I dutifully sent back my regrets. People who organize parties and receptions say that more and more people don't bother to respond as to whether or not they will attend. And so the planners are left guessing. Unfortunately, they sometimes guess wrong and run out of food.

In the gospel this weekend, Jesus speaks about people who either came late or were ill prepared for a party and they weren't allowed in. Someone once said there are three kinds of Christians: tugboat Christians, sailboat Christians, and raft Christians.

- ***Tugboat Christians*** are people who follow Jesus not only in good weather but also in stormy weather. Whatever happens in their lives, they follow Jesus day by day. They are people who go to Mass not because they have to but because Jesus said at the Last Supper, "*Do this in remembrance of me*." They are the kind of people who help others because Jesus said, "*Love one another as I loved you*."
- ***Sailboat Christians***, on the other hand, are people who follow Jesus when the wind and the tide serve them. But when the wind and the tide oppose them, they tend to go in the direction they are blown. They are people who go to Mass when family and friends go. But left to themselves they often miss. They are people who ask, "How far can I go before I sin?" rather than, "How much more can I do because I love?" They are people who tend to follow the crowd more than they follow the gospel.
- Finally, there are ***raft Christians***. They are Christian in name only. They don't really follow Jesus, even when the wind and tide serve them. If they go in Jesus' direction, its only because someone pushes or pulls them. They are people who do Christians things not because they want to, but because they have to. They usually only think of God when some kind of emergency arises

There are many invitations that people ignore or don't bother to respond to. Don't ignore God's invitation**.** ***Become*** and ***be*** a ***true*** disciple.

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Email	pjw424@gmail.com
Parish website	https://www.blessedsacramentwv.org
Faith in West Virginia	https://faithinwv.org/latest-bulletin/
This Sunday's Readings	https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/082425.cfm

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Noteworthy News

LEARNING ABOUT and/or **BECOMING CATHOLIC**: A group is being formed for anybody who may be interested in learning more about the Catholic Church with the *possibility* of becoming Catholic. It will meet on Sunday mornings beginning in the church at 9am on September 7. Following the scripture readings, the group will be dismissed to Room 5 for discussion and sharing, breakfast, a teaching, and prayer. Spread the news. Invite family or friends to come and see.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Sept. 07 — OCIA Begins at 9:00 am in the church
- Sept. 08 — 6-7:30 pm Grief Share Group begins in Room 5
- Sept. 14 — 10:15-11:15 am Orientation: Faith Formation & Confirmation groups
  — 10:15-11:15 am Opening the Holy Door Book Study/Discussion Rm 2
- Sept. 21 — Faith Formation Classes & Confirmation Group begins 10:15-11:15.
- Sept. 21 — History of the Church: Video & Discussion begins 10:15-11:15 in Hall.

PRAYER A Prayer for Mercy by Saint Grigor Nerekatsi (c. 950-1010)

Before I was, you created me.
Before I could wish, you shaped me.
Before I glimpsed the world's light, you saw me.
Before I emerged, you took pity on me.
Before I called, you heard me.
Before I raised a hand, you looked over me.
Before I asked, you dispensed mercy on me.
Before I uttered a sound, you turned your ear to me.
Before I sighed, you attended me.
Knowing in advance my current trials,
you did not thrust me from your sight.
No, even foreseeing my misdeeds, you fashioned me.

And now, do not let me whom you
made, saved and took into your care,
be lost to sin and
the Troublemaker's deceptions.
Do not let the fog of my willfulness prevail
over the light of your forgiveness,
nor the hardness of my heart
over your long-suffering goodness,
nor my mortal flaws
over your perfect wholeness,
nor my weak flesh
over your invincible strength.
— Saint Gregory of Narek (c. 950-1010)

MYSTIC MORSELS Mother Gabrielle Marie (1927-2017)

- It is not what we say, but what we live. It is not what we do, but what we are.
- Some of the sailors on a ship may quarrel and fight each other, but the ship sails on and reaches its destination. The same is true of the Church, because Christ Himself is at the helm.
- If we don't stumble, we don't progress. We should thank God that we don't break an arm or a leg into the bargain.
- Changes, great changes, inner journeys must continue. Woe betide him who stays still like stagnant water.

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WIT, WHIMSY, and **WHATEVER**

Sharon Lipchitz, a middle-aged woman, is walking down the street one day when she suddenly has a heart attack. She is quickly taken to the hospital, where it was determined she must undergo emergency surgery. While on the operating table, she has a near death experience, where she finds herself standing next to her unconscious body. Suddenly, she sees the Angel of Death standing next to her. "That's it? I'm dead?" She asks him. "NOT YET," says the Grim Reaper. "You will live another 20 years at least." He then disappears and Sharon wakes up in her own body.

Upon her recovery, Sharon is told that she was close to death, but miraculously made a full recovery. Sharon decides that she is going to really live in the 20 years she has left. Since she's got another 20 years, she might as well make the most of it. She decides to stay at the hospital and get a boob job, a nose surgery, liposuction - the works. She walks out of the hospital looking 20 years younger. Her body looks great and she has a huge smile on her face.

She takes two steps and is immediately hit by a passing ambulance, which kills her on the spot. She stands next to her body, and suddenly sees the Angel of Death. "Hey you!" she says angrily, "What gives? You said I had 20 more years!" The Angel of Death looks at her, surprised. "Sharon," he leans closer, "is that YOU? I didn't even recognize you!"

Moral of the story: There's nothing wrong with making yourself look good, but if you want to live your life properly, live them as you are and not as anyone else!