Blessed Sacrament Parish

Weekly Email — August 29, 2025

Once upon a time two brothers, who lived on adjoining farms, fell into conflict. It was the first serious rift in 40 years of farming side by side, sharing machinery, and trading labor and goods as needed without a conflict. Then the long collaboration fell apart. It began with a small misunderstanding, and it grew into a major difference, and finally it exploded into an exchange of bitter words followed by weeks of silence.

One morning there was a knock-on John's door. He opened it to find a man with a carpenter's toolbox. "I'm looking for a few days' work" he said. "Perhaps you would have a few small jobs here and there I could help with? Could I help you?" "Yes," said the older brother. "I do have a job for you. Look across the creek at that farm. That's my neighbor; in fact, it's my younger brother. Last week there was a meadow between us and he took his bulldozer to the river levee and now there is a creek between us. See that pile of lumber by the barn? I want you to build me a fence –an 8-foot fence — so I won't need to see his place or his face anymore." The carpenter said, "I think I understand the situation. Show me the nails and the post-hole digger and I'll be able to do a job that pleases you."

The older brother had to go to town, so he helped the carpenter get the materials ready, and then he was off for the day. The carpenter worked hard all that day measuring, sawing, nailing. About sunset when the farmer returned, the carpenter had just finished his job. The farmer's eyes opened wide! His jaw dropped! There was no fence there at all. It was a bridge - a bridge stretching from one side of the creek to the other!

A fine piece of work, handrails and all - and the neighbor, his younger brother was coming toward them, his hand outstretched. **"**You are quite a fellow to build this bridge after all I've said and done." The two brothers stood at each end of the bridge, and then they met in the middle, taking each other's hand. They turned to see the carpenter hoist his toolbox onto his shoulder. **"**No, wait! Stay a few days. I've a lot of other projects for you," said the older brother. "I'd love to stay on," the carpenter said, "but I have many more bridges to build."

Jesus is the Bridge-Builder par excellence , for he reconciles humankind to God by bestowing his mercy upon us and forgiving our sins; and he also calls us to do the same – to be bridge-builders by being messengers of his mercy and forgiving love. Here is the very welcoming missionary statement of Saint Brendan Parish in Shalotte, NC. "No matter what your present or past status in the Catholic Church. No matter what your current family or marital situation. No matter what your past or present religious affiliation. No matter what your personal history, age, background, race or color. You are invited, welcomed, accepted, and loved at St. Brendan Catholic Church."

Phone: Office (304) 744-5523 Fr. Paul's Cellphone: (304) 433-7472.
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/083125.cfm
Wednesday Bible Handout https://blessedsacramentwv.org/download/september-3-2025/?wpdmdl=2480&refresh=68b1b8309fc1d1756477488
This Sunday's Bulletin https://blessedsacramentwv.org/download/august-31-2025/?wpdmdl=2481&refresh=68b1b8308b89f1756477488

New News Now

A NEW OCIA GROUP begins on Sunday, September 7 with the 9:00 am Mass in the Church. This group is meant for people who have never been baptized and for those already baptized in another religion. It is an opportunity to explore the *possibility* of becoming Catholic. After the reading of the gospel during the 9am Mass, those wishing to take part will be sent forth to continue as a group of inquirers in room 5. They are invited to listen, share, learn, and grow about what it means to be a member of the Catholic Church. Parishioners who have invited anyone to take part will be invited to come as well.

SIGN-UPS for **YOUTH FAITH FORMATION** and **CONFIRMATION PREPARATION** continue. On September 14, we will begin in the church at 10:15 am with an **ORIENTATION** for students and parents. Consult the bulletin for more information.

Please check out the bulletin for all kinds of **OPPORTUNITIES** to LEARN and **VOLUNTEER** here at Blessed Sacrament and the surrounding community.

GAZA RELIEF. There will be a **SPECIAL COLLECTION** on September 6-7 for Gaza Relief to be distributed by Catholic organizations helping there. Bishop Mark asks these who are able to fast to do so and for everyone to pray for justice and peace.

POEM/PRAYER

We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to end war:
For we know You made the world in a way
That we must find our own path of peace
Within ourselves and with our neighbor.

We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to root out prejudice:
For You have already given us eyes
With which to see the good in all people
If we would only use them rightly.

We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to end starvation:
For You have already given us the resources
With which to feed the entire world
If we would only use them wisely.

We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to end despair:
For You have already given us the power
To clear away slums and to give hope
If we would only use our power justly.

We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to end disease,
For You have already given us great minds
With which to search out cures and healing
If we would only use them constructively.

Therefore we pray to You, instead O God,
For strength, determination, and will power.
To ***do*** instead of just to pray
To ***become*** instead of merely to wish.
— Rabbi Jack Riemer

MYSTIC MORSELS Pope Leo August 24, 2025

Our faith is authentic when it embraces our whole life, when it becomes a criterion for our decisions, when it makes us women and men committed to doing what is right and who take risks out of love, even as Jesus did.

Jesus is the true measure of our faith; he is the gate through which we must pass in order to be saved (cf. Jn 10:9) by experiencing his love and by working, in our daily lives, to promote justice and peace.

Let us ask the Virgin Mary to help us find the courage to pass through the 'narrow gate ' of the Gospel, so that we may open ourselves with joy to the wide embrace of God our loving Father.

WIT, WHIMSY, and **WHATEVER**

When Christian Herter was governor of Massachusetts, he was running hard for a second term in office. One day, after a busy morning chasing votes (without lunch), he arrived at a church barbecue. It was late afternoon and Herter was famished. As Herter moved down the serving line, he held out his plate to the woman serving chicken. She put a piece on his plate and turned to the next person in line. "'Excuse me," Governor Herter said, "do you mind if I have another piece of chicken?" "'Sorry," the woman told him. "I'm supposed to give one piece of chicken to each person because you are going to get other food items also from other servers." "'But I'm starved, and I love chicken," the governor said. "'Sorry," the woman said again. "Only one to a customer." Governor Herter was a modest and unassuming man, but he decided that this time he would throw a little weight around. "'Do you know who I am?" he said. "I am the governor of this state!" "'Do you know who I am?" the woman retorted. "I'm the lady in charge of the chicken. Move along, mister."