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## Blessed Sacrament Weekly Email - December 13, 2024

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During a scholarly discussion of the existence of God, the famous psychologist Dr. Erich Fromm told his colleagues that instead of debating the question “Is God dead?” they should be debating the question, “Is man dead?” The psychologist explained: Man has been transformed into a thing ... a producer ... a consumer ... an idolater of other things.

- He sits for hours in front of bad television programs without even knowing that he’s bored.
- He learns that millions of children around the world are literally starving to death without even relating that reality to the teachings of religion.
- He joins the rat race of commerce, where personal worth is measured in terms of market values, and he remains unaware of the anxiety he is enduring.
- All this represents death as Christians understand it. It is not true that physical death is the last enemy. The last enemy to be conquered is hell — which is spiritual death. The name is not important; the essence of it is. It is a separation from God, whether on this side or the other side of physical death.

The Apostle Paul has written, “Be ambitious for the higher gifts. And I am going to show you a way that is better than any of them.” Paul is talking about spiritual life. And so, he says, “If I have the eloquence of men or of angels but speak without love, I am simply a gong booming or a cymbal clashing.” “If I have the gift of prophecy, understanding all the mysteries there are, and knowing everything, and if I have faith in all its fullness, to move mountains, but without love, then I am nothing at all.” “If I give away all that I possess, piece by piece, and even if I let them take my body to burn it, but am without love, it will do me no good whatever.”

The Church needs money and material things, but it does not run on these things. What the Church needs now is “Love.” We are the Church, but if we have not love, we have nothing. If we should have the finest building, the most complete hymnals, the most expensive organ, the most beautiful voices, the most glorious choir, the richest of all treasures, and we have not love, it will do us no good whatever.

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<https://www.blessedsacramentwv.org>

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

<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/121524.cfm>

## Headlines and Happenings

This Sunday is named **GAUDETE**, from the Latin Command **REJOICE!** We rejoice that Christmas Day is nearer than when Advent began. The official color for vestments and the Advent Candle is **ROSE** or **PINK**. You are invited to dress accordingly.

Blessed Sacrament Parish is having a **BLUE CHRISTMAS** Prayer Service this Sunday December 15 at 3:00 pm. This is to primarily for anyone for whom this Christmas may be hard to face this year. It is also for those who wish to show your support and love.

This weekend is also **WARM UP WEEKEND** here.

Gently used coats and blankets can be put in the white truck in the south parking lot. Hat, gloves, and scarf sets are also needed to help women trying to stay clean and sober. People usually come to a recovery center with not much more than the clothes on their backs. These can be placed in a bin in the gathering area.

If you chose a star from the **SHINING STAR** tree in our gathering area, please bring your gifts to the gathering area by Sunday, December 15th. Please do not wrap the gifts. Please attach the star to the bag.

Blessed Sacrament Youth & others will be **CHRISTMAS CAROLING** Sunday Dec. 15 at Hubbard Hospice House beginning at 5:30 pm. All are welcome to join us.

**PRAYER** Lead Us through Trials Mary Beth Royal

Holy and Gracious God  
We give you thanks for the gift of life  
Especially in times like these  
when all lives are being challenged.

Lead us through the trials  
the suffering and sorrow  
the fears and struggles  
the tired times and dark places.

Be with those who weep  
or cannot sleep  
who have no peace  
who seek release  
who are suffering  
who are dying

Lead us  
with grace  
with love  
with peace  
Fill us

with hope  
with patience  
with stamina

Transform us  
in your image  
as the one who  
grieves with us  
and as the one who  
loves deeply

Transform us  
to grow  
to understand  
to see

Transform us  
that we  
can be  
made whole

And in wholeness  
may we  
be Your  
hands and heart in the world. Amen.

### **MYSTIC MORSELS**

The recollection of an injury itself is wrong. It adds to our anger, nurtures our sins and hates what is good. It is a rusty arrow and poison for the soul. It puts all virtue to flight.

— Saint Francis of Paola (1416-1507)

God freely created us so that we might know, love, and serve him in this life and be happy with him forever. God's purpose in creating us is to draw forth from us a response of love and service here on earth, so that we may attain our goal of everlasting happiness with him in heaven.

— Saint Ignatius of Loyola (1491-1556)

### **CARBONATED GRACE**

A man was on a scenic drive down a country road, when he spots a farmer standing in the middle of a huge field of grass. He pulls the car over to the side of the road and notices that the farmer is just standing there, doing nothing, looking at nothing. The man gets out of the car, walks all the way out to the farmer and asks him, "Ah excuse me mister, but what are you doing?"

The farmer replies, "I'm trying to win a Nobel Prize."

"How?" asks the man, puzzled.

"Well, I heard they give the Nobel Prize to people who are out standing in their field.