



## Weekly Email from Father Paul Wharton

December 13, 2022

Chances are if you walk into a church with lots of candles ablaze or waiting to be lit, it is a Roman Catholic Church. Why candles? Jesus is the Light of the World who came to overcome the darkness of sin and power of death. People light devotional candles as a symbol of a desire to stay and pray for a particular intention. When the Easter Vigil is celebrated at night, the fire spreads from the Easter Candle to everyone gathered.

A story is about a grandmother struggling with a life-threatening illness. One granddaughter was watching her as she lit a candle and placed it in the window. "Grandma," the little girl asked, "why do you light so many candles?" She answered. "It's to tell darkness we beg to differ."

We hear these joyful words spoken during the Christmas Mass at Night. *"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone. You have brought them abundant joy and great rejoicing."* The people and staff of Blessed Sacrament invite you to join us in a joyful celebration of CHRIST's MASSES on Dec. 24 at 4pm, 7pm, Midnight, and at 10am on Christmas morning.

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Phone: Office (304) 744-5523  
Parish website  
Next Sunday's Readings

Cell: (304) 433-7472      Email: [pjw424@gmail.com](mailto:pjw424@gmail.com)  
<https://www.blessedsacramentwv.org>  
<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/121822.cfm>

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### THIS WEEK at BSP

To see what's happening, consult our weekly bulletin at this link —  
<https://files.ecatholic.com/6381/documents/2022/12/221211.pdf?t=1670607083000>

**BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE** Not everyone is up and cheery for the Christmas holidays. Some of us are feeling blue dealing with the death of a loved one, facing life after divorce or separation, coping with the loss of a job, living with cancer or some other disease that puts a question mark over the future, and several other trials make parties and joviality painful for some of us. A **BLUE** Christmas service seeks to acknowledge whatever shade of **BLUE** we may have, support one another, and find

comfort and strength in God. Blessed Sacrament Parish will hold a blue Christmas Service on Sunday, December 18 at 2:15 pm. It is open to the public.

### **AREA COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICES:**

Thursday, December 15 at 7:00pm — Sacred Heart  
Friday, December 16 at 7:00 pm — Ascension  
Sunday, December 18 at 3:00pm — Blessed Sacrament

### **MYSTICAL MUSINGS:**

In last Sunday's gospel we heard that while imprisoned John the Baptist was having doubts about whether or not Jesus was the Messiah. Pope Francis spoke about this prior to the Angelus when he said this about DOUBT. "... sometimes it is essential for spiritual growth: it helps us understand that God is always greater than we imagine Him to be. His works are surprising compared to our calculations; His actions are different, always, they exceed our needs and expectations; and therefore, we must never stop seeking Him and converting to His true face. A great theologian used to say that God "needs to be rediscovered in stages... sometimes believing that we are losing Him" (H. DE LUBAC, *Sur les chemins de Dieu*). This is what the Baptist does: in doubt, he still seeks Him, questions Him, "argues" with Him and finally rediscovers Him."

[link:

<https://m.vatican.va/content/francescomobile/en/angelus/2022/documents/20221211-angelus.html>]

### **CARBONATED GRACE \*\*\***

On a Sunday morning he couldn't get out of bed. His mother tried to get him out of bed, but to little avail. She shouted up the stairs, "Get up!" and he shouted down the stairs, "No!" Then she shouted again, "Get up!" and he shouted down, "Why should I?" She said, "Well, first of all your breakfast is ready, secondly this is the third Sunday of Advent, and thirdly you're the Pastor and you have to say two Masses today!"

[What happens when pastor's mom lives in the rectory as his housekeeper?]

\*\*\* Anne Lamott calls laughter *carbonated grace*.