

Weekly Email from Father Paul Wharton

December 20, 2022

One of the things I enjoy most about Christmas is not the presents I receive, but when my family sits down and shares memories of past Christmases. When my younger brother Tim was almost four years old, he decided to give our dad a nice, shiny pair of shoes for Christmas. The problem was that they were the same shoes my dad just paid money for. Dad looked everywhere, high and low, for those shoes, but Tim had them well hidden, wrapped under the tree. After all, his gift was supposed to be a surprise.

My dad was somewhat furious when he had to wear his old shoes to Midnight Mass. The next morning as we opened the gifts, there were Dad's shoes, all wrapped up. "To Dad, With Much Love" said the note. Dad's blood pressure rose, the blood rushed to his face, and we older kids were just sure that he would lose his temper. Instead, he said, "Thanks, Tim. They're beautiful." I don't think I ever saw my Dad more surprised.

People sometimes say, "It's more blessed to give than to receive." There is much truth to this, but what I would like to suggest is that Christmas is a time when it might be better to receive than to give. Imagine how horrible my brother Tim would have felt had my Dad lost his temper that Christmas morning so long ago. Notice sometime that the giver of a gift wears a bigger smile than the receiver. My father taught us an important lesson that day: the acceptance of a gift is an acceptance of a giver and his or her love. This is as true for our relationship with God as it is for other relationships.

I hope you are able to share spe cial memories with family, friends, and parishioners. I would enjoy hearing these stories. May your Christmas be blessed

Phone: Office (304) 744-5523

Parish website

Next Sunday's Readings

night.cfm

Cell: (304) 433-7472 Email: <u>pjw424@gmail.com</u>

https://www.blessedsacramentwv.org

https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/122522-

◎ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ PLEASE DON'T BE SCAMMED ◎ ○ ○ ○ ○

I received an email purporting to be me, ask me to do Fr. Paul a favor and buy gift cards so he help somebody. Neither I nor any member of the Blessed Sacrament Parish Staff will **EVER** email or text you asking to buy gift cards for some worthy cause. Scammers know how busy we are this week, and try to appeal to your good heart and generosity

Please welcome Dr. Bob Pennington as our new Director of Religious Education. (DRE)

Bob is originally from Huntington and recently returned home to West Virginia to join the Theology Department at Charleston Catholic High School. He most recently served as the Director of the Bachelors, Masters, and Doctoral program of Religious Studies, Theology, and Leadership at St. Thomas University in Miami, Florida. He is passionate about Catholic education and is eager to listen to everyone's insight as we move forward with events and programs for all ages as we move into the new year. He will be working about 20 hours a week. Please be on the lookout for updates in the bulletin and the website with his parish email address and contact information.



Father Paul is grateful for the hard work, helpful advice, and honest feedback of the Search Committee: Rick Brennan, Ellen Bullock, Chip Counsil, Jeanne Haas, Fr. John Finnell, Matt Hayes, Cindy Manning, Tim Norris, Mary Odin, and Alice Ruhnke. Chip Counsil helped keep us on task and especially in recent months.

Once again, we express appreciation to Jeanne Hass for her dedication and diligence for more than two decades. She was a true blessing to so many through the years.

THIS WEEK at BSP

To see what's happening, consult our weekly bulletin at this link — https://files.ecatholic.com/6381/documents/2022/12/221218.pdf?t=1671223194000

Advent Group Lectio
Divina Experience



Wednesdays 1pm Dec. **21** in the church Gathering Space.

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Dec. 24 4PM with Youth Music Ensemble

7PM

MIDNIGHT with the Adult Choir

Dec. 25 10AM