
Blessed Sacrament Weekly Email - December 20, 2024

“We are in a point in American History that we want to take God and religion out of all public life for fear we will offend someone. So, we don’t thank God at Thanksgiving we are just to be thankful. At Christmas we want to have a happy holiday with no religious intrusion. Christmas has always been a time of Peace on earth, Joy to the World, and good will to mankind. People are nicer at Christmas it seems. So, the secular people of our country want to keep peace, joy, and goodwill in this winter holiday, but avoid all religious references. What they really want is Christmas without Christ.”

— Author Unknown

When we look at the last 100 years, we would have to admit that Christmas has been ruined — or at best lessened. It seems that Praise has given way to Party, the Savior has given way to Santa, Glory has been exchanged for Gifts, and that Bows (in reverence) have been replaced by Bōws (ribbons). It seems now more than ever we need reminded Jesus IS the Reason for the season. It wasn’t Santa Claus who came to town that first Christmas, but Jesus Christ, the Word (of God) Made Flesh was born in humility and poverty some 2,000 years ago.

Other anonymous writers have compared Santa Claus and our Lord Jesus Christ.

- Santa lives at the North Pole. Jesus lives everywhere.
- Santa rides in a sleigh. Jesus rides on the wind and walks on the water.
- Santa comes once a year. Jesus is an ever-present help.
- Santa comes down your chimney. Jesus stands at the door of your heart & knocks
- Santa fills your stockings with goodies. Jesus supplies all your needs.
- You have to wait in line to see Santa. Jesus is as close as the mention of His name.
- Santa lets you sit in his lap. Jesus holds you in His hands.
- Santa has a belly like a bowl of jelly. Jesus has a heart of love.
- Santa’s little helpers makes new toys. Jesus makes new lives.
- Santa puts gifts under your tree. Jesus became our gift and died on a tree.

Remember Jesus especially today, tomorrow, and forever.

Father Paul

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Faith in West Virginia

This Sunday’s Readings

Wednesday Bible Handout

This Sunday’s Bulletin

Cell: (304) 433-7472.

pjw424@gmail.com

<https://www.blessedsacramentwv.org>

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

<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/122924.cfm>


We will not have Wednesday evening Bible study on Jan. 1

Headlines and Happenings

January 1 is a Holy Day of Obligation when Catholics are expected to celebrate the **SOLEMNITY of MARY the MOTHER of GOD**. Jesus was from the moment of his conception in Mary's womb fully divine and human. There are two Masses:

- **Tuesday December 31 at 04:00 pm**
- **Wednesday January 1 at 10:00 am**

Join us Friday evening,
January 3, 2025 for our annual



Concert
from 6:00-7:00pm
Blessed Sacrament Parish
305 E Street in South Charleston, WV

featuring our adult choir,
our handbell choir, our youth, harps,
and other small ensembles.

We'll also enjoy a
Post-Concert Cookie Bar
in the Gathering Space following the concert.

Come celebrate the season with us!

MYSTIC MORSELS

As the sun illumines not only the heaven and the whole world, shining on both land and sea, but also sends rays through windows and small chinks into the furthest recesses of a house, so the Word, poured out everywhere, behold the smallest actions of our life.

— Saint Clement of Alexandria (c.150-215)

Christ is born, glorify Him! Christ from heaven, go out to meet Him! Christ on earth, be exalted! Sing to the Lord all the whole earth; and that I may join both in one word, let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad, for Him who is of heaven and then of earth. Christ in the flesh, rejoice with trembling and with joy; with trembling because of your sins, with joy because of your hope.

— Saint Gregory Nazianzen (329-c. 391)

Open wide your door to the one who comes. Open your soul, throw open the depths of your heart to see the riches of simplicity, the treasures of peace, the sweetness of grace. Open your heart and run to meet the Sun of eternal light that illuminates all men."

– Saint Ambrose (339-397)

PRAYER

Loving Father,

Help us remember the birth of Jesus,
that we may share in the song of the angels,
the gladness of the shepherds,
and worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate
and open the door of love all over the world.

Let kindness come with every gift
and good desires with every greeting.

Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings,
and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May Christmas morning
make us happy to be thy children,
and Christmas evening bring us to our beds
with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven,
for Jesus' sake. Amen.

– Robert Louis Stevenson

CARBONATED GRACE

One afternoon in the Arctic, a father polar bear and his son polar bear were sitting in the snow. The son polar bear turned to his father and asked, "Dad, am I 100% polar bear?" The father polar bear replied, "Of course, son, you're 100% polar bear."

A few minutes pass, and the son polar bear turns to his father again and says, "Dad, tell me the truth. I can take it. Am I 100% polar bear? No brown bear or panda bear or grizzly bear?" The father polar bear replies, "Son, I'm 100% polar bear, your mother is 100% polar bear, so you are definitely 100% polar bear."

A few more minutes pass, and the son polar bear AGAIN turns to his father and says, "Dad, don't think you're sparing my feelings if it's not true. I gotta know -- am I 100% polar bear?" The father polar bear was distressed by this continued questioning and asked his son, "Why do you keep asking if you're 100% polar bear?"

"Because I'm freezing!"