



FATHER PAUL'S WEEKLY EMAIL

December 29, 2023

A well known and frequently quoted African proverb says, “It takes a village to raise a child.” The truth is raising a child is a communal effort. No matter what this village may look like — friends, family, or other trusted loved ones — a child’s environment in the home, neighborhood, and community make all the difference. In my mind, there is no more challenging and important calling and responsibility than being parents and raising a child.

The Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph is normally celebrated on the Sunday after Christmas. This feast developed at the beginning of the 19th century in Canada and then spread to the entire Church in 1920. It is a Feast that seeks to portray the Holy Family of Nazareth as the true model of life from which our families can draw inspiration and know where to find help and comfort.

Back when Bishop Bernard Schmidt was the pastor of Saint Francis of Assisi parish in Saint Albans, he was talking to a little boy after Sunday mass. His family had been living in a motel while they looked for suitable housing. He asked the boy how hard it was waiting to have a home of their own. The boy said, “We already are a family. We just need a house to put it in.” Pope Francis wrote, “In the family, we learn to love, to forgive, to be generous and open, not closed and selfish. We learn to move beyond our needs, to encounter others, and share our lives with them. That is why families are so important in God’s plan.”

Here are some thoughts as we come to the end of 2023.

- Tell your family how much you love them.
- Give thanks to God for how God has blessed you.
- Know that your presence here at Blessed Sacrament makes a difference.
- Compliment parents when you see them doing a good job.
- Support our religious education and youth ministry programs.

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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/123123.cfm>

Wednesday Bible Handout <https://blessedsacramentwv.org/en/download/bible-sharing-01-03-24/?wpdmdl=1547&refresh=658ef36e0e9dc1703867246>

Headlines and Happenings

SUNDAY No Faith Formation this weekend.
Youth Music Ensemble rehearsal from 10:00-11:15am

MONDAY Mass for Feast of of Mary the Mother of God is on Monday at 10am.

COMING SOON After discussion by members of the Liturgy Committee, Pastoral Council, and Staff, it was decided to closing the wall doors separating the Church from the Gathering Space sometime in January. The wall was moved aside to allow for overflow crowds during Christmas and Easter celebrations. They doors were last opened due to the Covid 19 pandemic.



FRIDAY Epiphany Concert January 5 at 6pm cookies to follow.

PRAYER

God, Our Father, loving and merciful, bring together and keep all families in perfect unity of love and mutual support. Instill in each member the spirit of understanding and affection for each other. Keep quarrels and bitterness far from them, and for their occasional failures instill forgiveness and peace. May the mutual love and affection of parents set a good example. Instill in children self-respect that they may respect others and grow in mature independence. May the mutual affection and respect of families be a sign of Christian life here and hereafter, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

POEM

May There Be Peace Within

May today there be peace within.
May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be.
May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith.
May you use those gifts that you have received,
and pass on the love that has been given to you.

May you be content knowing you are a child of God.
Let this presence settle into your bones, and
allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise and love.
It is there for each and every one of us.

– Saint Thérèse de Lisieux

CARBONATED GRACE ***

A boy asks his father, "Dad, are bugs good to eat?" "That's disgusting. Don't talk about things like that over dinner," the dad replies. After dinner the father asks, "Now, son, what did you want to ask me?" "Oh, nothing," the boy says. "There was a bug in your soup, but now it's gone."

A mom texts, "Hi! Son, what does IDK, LY, & TTYL mean?" He texts back, "I Don't Know; Love You; and Talk To You Later." The mom texts him, "It's ok, don't worry about it. I'll ask your sister, love you too."

*** Anne Lamott calls laughter *carbonated grace*

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