
Blessed Sacrament Weekly Email - December 06, 2024

Growing up with eleven brothers and sisters meant there was always someone to play or fight with. There was nearly non-stop noise and constant chaos. Keeping the house clean and well-ordered was a never-ending struggle. The living room could be perfectly clean one moment and look like a tornado had been there in the next. But you could be certain that the house would be in order, if we knew that someone special was coming to visit like a parish priest or distant relative.

The Season of Advent is an opportunity to declutter our lives of whatever comes between God and us. This includes sin, stuff, and spiritual smugness or even lethargy. We hope to make ourselves worthy and welcoming for our Lord Jesus Christ who came in the flesh, will come again in glory at the end of the world, and comes to us here and now in a variety of ways. Here is how one book I am reading this Advent explains.

The basic salvation story of Jesus is a story of going down in humiliation and coming up in exaltation. Jesus emptied himself of all glory, came to sinful earth in human form, was killed by human hatred, was raised by divine power, and has now returned to greater glory. Christians experienced the same pattern through moment-by-moment dying to sin, and rising to life in Christ.

The Eucharist, shared among Christians in the pattern Jesus gave, is both a celebration of God's constant proximity and a reminder of God's ultimate promise – that creation, when it is fully and finally restored, will elicit joy and thanksgiving that defy our deepest imagination. Central to the biblical, Eucharist is like-minded unity, people of one faith gathered around one table for one purpose: to be the good news – proclaiming, miracle – witnessing, disciple-making, community-transforming Body of Christ until he returns.

Advent is a time to pray more and do some scriptural or spiritual readings. Tomorrow evening (Friday December 6) gives us the chance to do this during Eucharistic Adoration beginning with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at 6 pm and concluding with Benediction at 8pm. The Catholic Church proclaims that the consecrated bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ who is truly present in his Blessed Sacrament.

One does not have to be here the whole time. Any time we spend with Jesus is worthwhile. Traditionally Catholics spend a whole hour in Adoration but there is no rule. Come stay and pray as long as you like. There will be materials to help us. You are invited to come and see. Father Paul will be available for confession between 7pm and 8pm in our Reconciliation Room.

Fr. Paul

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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/120824.cfm>

Wednesday Bible Handout

This Sunday's Bulletin

Important Reminders

Friday December 06

- 6-8pm Eucharistic Adoration

Saturday December 7

- Memorial Mass for Sister Carole Riley 11:00 am at Sacred Heart Basilica. She was one of the most influential Catholics in the area since sometime in the 1990's. Fr. Bill Petro will preside; Father Paul will concelebrate.

Sunday December 08

- 03:00pm — Communal Penance Service

Monday December 9

- 12 & 6pm — Mass for the Holy Day of Obligation
- 01:00 pm — Lunch Bunch in Parish Hall

Sunday December 15

- 03:00 pm — **Blue** Christmas Service
- 04:30 pm — Pizza for Carolers
- 05:30 pm — Christmas Caroling at Hubbard House

PRAYER

On the church calendar, a new "year of grace" begins on the first Sunday of Advent as once again, over the course of a year, we unfold the mystery of Jesus: in history, in word and sacrament and in our own lives...

O Holy God

With Advent comes a new year of grace,
grace that's yours alone to give
and always mine to receive...

In this new year I want to offer you
an open door to my heart
where you to freely enter in
and make yourself at home...

I offer you the corners of my heart's garden
where I often let the weeds grow wild:



help me prune away whatever fails
to nourish my spirit, my soul...

I offer you the closets of my heart, Lord,
filled with grudges and resentments,
boxes of wasted time, bags of foolishness
and suitcases of misspent effort;
help me clean out and discard
anything and everything
that fails to help me heal and grow...

I offer you the cellar of my heart, Lord,
where locked trunks of hurt and anger
wait for the key of your healing grace
to open them up and air them out,
setting me free of what I hide within,
what burdens and holds me down...

And I offer you my heart's deepest hopes
for this Advent's new year of grace:
my pledge to pray every day, every night;
my hope of finding my strength in you;
my need to rely on your wisdom and word;
my promise to ask for your help each day;
my desire to pardon those who offend me,
to be faithful in serving my neighbor's needs
and quick to welcome the lost and alone...

I offer the new year ahead of me, Lord,
and my resolve to live it as your disciple,
trusting your presence, close by my side
and in those I know and all I meet...

I offer you the new year ahead, Lord
- just a day at a time -
and I pray for
the serenity to accept the things I cannot change,
the courage to change the things I can
and the wisdom to know the difference... Amen.
— Father Austin Fleming

CARBONATED GRACE

Overheard while waiting in a long ticket line, from a disgruntled customer who was heading toward the back of the queue. "The only thing worse than waiting in line is waiting in the WRONG line!"

A student pushes a loaded shopping cart up to the express checkout lane at a Cambridge, Massachusetts grocery store. The cashier looks at the cart, looks at the student, looks at the "EXPRESS -- EIGHT ITEMS OR LESS" sign, and says to the student, "Are you from Harvard, where they don't know how to count? Or MIT, where they don't know how to read?"

PLEASE KNOW and REMEMBER

I will **NEVER** ask anyone to buy gift cards for me to give away.

I will **NEVER** be stuck in a foreign country since I have no Passport.

I will **ONLY** send you an email from pjw424@gmail.com

I will **ONLY** text you from my cell phone (304) 433 7472

NO member of the Blessed Sacrament Parish staff by text or email or another person will EVER ask you to buy gift cards or anything else. Only do so, if he or she asks in person and puts the cash in your hand!