



## Weekly Email from Father Paul Wharton

February 11, 2023

The first confessions I heard as a priest were by local Catholic school 8th graders. When another priest at the service learned this was my first time, he shared with me what Saint Fulton Sheen once said about hearing the confessions of Sisters, “It’s like being pelted by popcorn.” Even now, children approach their First Confession with fear and trembling. Most of us will never forget it. Another first few forget is the first time confessing face-to-face. This Wednesday February 15 at 7:00 pm in the Parish Hall, Bob Pendleton will talk about the history and theology of the Sacrament. I will speak about why confession with a priest is necessary and thirteen misconceptions people have about this sacrament.

Beginning on Ash Wednesday, priests are to begin using a new translation of the Prayer of Absolution. The changes are so small that chances are few will notice. Please remember that we receive absolution when priests forget and use the old formula. Here it is. I include the old word in *italics*.

God, the Father of mercies, through the death and resurrection of his Son  
has reconciled the world to himself  
and poured out [*formerly sent*] the Holy Spirit  
for [*previously Holy Spirit among us for*] the forgiveness of sins;  
through the ministry of the Church  
may God grant [*instead of give*] you pardon and peace.  
And I absolve you from your sins in the Name of  
the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

It reminds me of St. Paul, “Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the holy Spirit that has been given to us.” (Rm 5:5)

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Phone: Office (304) 744-5523  
Parish website  
This Sunday’s Readings  
Newest Bulletin

Cell: (304) 433-7472      Email: [pjw424@gmail.com](mailto:pjw424@gmail.com)  
<https://www.blessedsacramentwv.org>  
<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/021223.cfm>

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SURVEY MONKEY QUESTIONS: Make yourself heard.

- New Logo: link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZL9GJPH>
- Lenten Symposium Sign-ups: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/D9XDJGL>
- Wednesday morning Masses: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BGMJP7Z>

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# live, local, & late-breaking

**COFFEE, COCOA, and QUESTIONS** debuts Sunday (February 12 at 10:15 am until 11:15 am in the Parish Hall. This was the overwhelming choice of those completing the survey on line or on paper. Some questions Fr. Paul will answer: “What are we studying?” “What’s up with a new logo? What is the old one? Can anyone tell me what it means?” “What do we believe about Purgatory?” *Some of our youth may ask a few more questions and will be the next answered.* “Why did Jesus have to die on the Cross?” “Can a priest withhold communion from a politician whom supports every abortion bill or a healthcare worker who is forced to help terminate a pregnancy. Dr. Bob Pennington will explain why the Church says it cannot ordain women.

**SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY** ends today. Vote for your favorite by donating soup cans, crackers, or money and vote for Kansas City, Philadelphia, or the Commercials. It all goes to a local food pantry.

**LENTEN SYMPOSIUM BEGINS** this Wednesday at 7pm in the Parish Hall.

## POEM

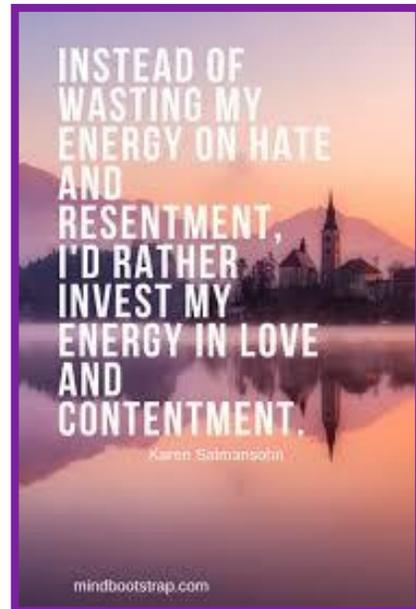
“But I say to you...”

Jesus takes the law up a notch—  
or, really, down: down into the depths:  
not just what you do but why,  
who you are in the world.

To not merely avoid murder,  
or even anger, but to truly honor people.  
To place your relationship with God  
in your relationship with others.

To not merely avoid adultery or even lust  
but to truly be faithful with another person.  
To not merely avoid over-grand promises  
but to be a person of profound integrity.

This is the grace of God, after all, toward you,  
who has vowed to love, honor and cherish you.  
Let the grace well up from within,  
for the true law of God is pure joy.



[Mt. 5.21-37]

Steve Garnaas-Holmes - Unfolding Light - [www.unfoldinglight.net](http://www.unfoldinglight.net)

## MYSTIC MORSELS

Prayer is a pure elevation of our minds to God,  
believing that God is more in us than we are in ourselves.  
–Saint Jane Frances de Chantal (1572-1641)

As a light bulb brightens when connected to a generator,  
so are you when you are joined in communication with God in prayer.  
Prayer is the foundation of the spiritual life.  
–Francois-Xavier Nguyen Van Thuân (1928-2002)

## CARBONATED GRACE \*\*\*

Many priests were gathered for Vespers (Evening Prayer) during a meeting at the Vatican. Right in the middle, the power went out, and the priests were cast into darkness. Without missing a beat, the Benedictines continued on in prayer with the Liturgy of the Hours from memory. The Franciscans immediately broke into spontaneous praise for the gift of darkness and light, marveling at God's creation. The Dominicans broke into a debate about the significant of darkness and light. The Jesuits broke into a debate about whether or not this excused them from their obligation to pray Vespers that night. Meanwhile, the diocesan priest excused himself, went to the cellar, and changed the fuse.

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