



Father Paul's Weekly Email

February 16, 2024

It happens often enough that an 18-24 month old child takes more pleasure in playing with the ribbon, wrapping paper, and box than the toy that grown ups are not surprised when it happens. So many people take stories in the Bible at face-value and fail to see the meaning hidden with the story. For example, when Jesus heals a blind person, we need to consider the spiritual blindness we need cured.

There is a rather humorous example of this reflecting on the story of the Flood and Noah's ark, part of which hear in this Sunday's first reading. There are several versions including at least one book about Everything I Ever Needed to Know I Learned from Noah's Ark.

- * Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark.
- * Don't listen to critics - do what must be done.
- * Speed isn't always an advantage. The cheetahs were on board, but so were the snails.
- * If you can't fight or flee - float!
- * Take care of your animals as if they were the last ones on earth.
- * Don't forget that we're all in the same boat.
- * When the doo-doo gets really deep, don't sit there and complain - shovel!!!
- * Remember the ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic was built by professionals.
- * Remember the woodpeckers inside are often a bigger threat than the storm outside.
- * Don't miss the boat.
- * No matter how bleak it looks, there's always a rainbow on the other side.

It rained for 40 days and 40 nights at the time of the Flood. Before Jesus began his public ministry, he spent 40 days fasting and praying during which he was tempted by the Devil. The Season of Lent is a time for spiritual growth by availing ourselves of opportunities to pray more, give more, worship more, be more and to give up that which gets in the way of our relationship with God. May we persevere in what we have begun. May we begin if we haven't started.

Phone: Office (304) 744-5523 Cell: (304) 433-7472 Email: pjw424@gmail.com
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/021824.cfm>
Wednesday Bible Handout <https://blessedsacramentwv.org/download/february-21-2024/?wpdmdl=1674&refresh=65cfc7bcbece91708115900>
This Sunday's Bulletin <https://blessedsacramentwv.org/download/february-18-2024/?wpdmdl=1673&refresh=65cfc61cbd8571708115484>

Just pick a few to do. <https://catholicmissionarydisciples.com/news/40-unique-ideas-for-lent>

Live, Local, and, Late-breaking

STATIONS of the **CROSS** today - Friday - 5:30 pm in the church.

The Special Collection this weekend is Church Missions within the U.S. Your donation may be put in the Special Collection Box or placed in the collection basket with the regular offerings.

PRAYER

We have chosen to fast,
Not only with ashes but with actions,
Not with sackcloth but in sharing,
Not in thoughts but in deeds.
Let the ashes speak of our commitment.
We will give up our abundance,
To share our food with the hungry.
We will give up our comfort,
To provide homes for the destitute.
We will give up our fashions,
To see the naked clothed.
We will share where others hoard,
We will free where others oppress.
We will heal where others harm.
Let the ashes speak of our commitment.
Then God's light will break out on us,
God's healing will quickly appear.
God will guide us always,
We will be like well-watered gardens,
Repairers of broken walls,
Builders of sustainable cities.
Let the ashes speak of our commitment
To God's ways and God's purposes.
A new world coming,
Where we will feast together, at God's banquet table.
Christine Sine <http://godspace-msa.com>

MYSTIC MORSELS

Faith flourishes in the dark: trials, temptations, spiritual dryness and suffering are all opportunities for our faith to grow stronger.

–Saint Mary Magdalene De Pazzi (1566-1607)

No period of the Christian life is exempt from temptation. The temptations incident to the earlier stages are different from those incidents to a later period, and are to be resisted in a different manner.

–François Fénelon (1651-1715)

Since the time of Adam, you will not find a saint who has not been tempted — some in one way, some in another — and the greatest saints are those who have been tempted the most. If Our Lord was tempted, it was in order to show us that we must be also. It follows, therefore, that we must expect temptation.

–Saint John Vianney (1786-1859)

CARBONATED GRACE ***

A minister had all of his remaining teeth pulled out. New dentures were being made. The first Sunday, he only preached 10 minutes. The second Sunday, he preached only 20 minutes. On the third Sunday, he preached 1 hour 25 minutes. When asked about this by some of the congregation, he responded this way: “The first Sunday, my gums were so sore it hurt to talk. The second Sunday, my new dentures were hurting me a lot. The third Sunday, I accidentally grabbed my wife's dentures...and I couldn't shut up.”

*** Anne Lamott calls laughter *carbonated grace*