

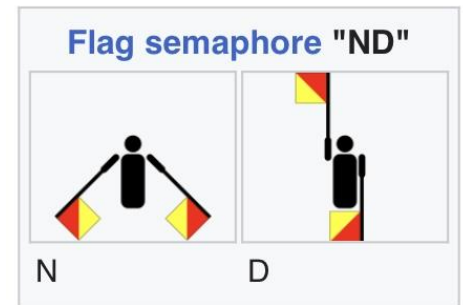
FEBRUARY 21, 2025



We don't know with certainty who created the flag of the United States of America. Some claim it was designed by New Jersey Congressman Francis Hopkinson. Others credited Betsy Ross for designing and sewing the first flag of the newly declared United States. The truth is we can't be sure.

On February 21, 1958, the symbol now known internationally as the "peace symbol" or "peace sign", was created in 1958 as a symbol for Britain's campaign for nuclear disarmament. It went on to be widely adopted in the American anti-war movement in the 1960s and was re-interpreted as generically representing world peace.

The symbol was designed by Gerald Holtom (1914–1985), who presented it to Direct Action Committee on 21 February 1958. It was "immediately accepted" as a symbol for the movement and used for a march from Trafalgar Square, London, to the Atomic Weapons Research Establishment at Aldermaston in Berkshire on 4 April. The original design is in the Peace Museum in Bradford, England. The symbol is a super-imposition of the flag semaphore for the characters "N" and "D", taken to stand for "nuclear disarmament."



We Christians believe peace is a fruit of the Holy Spirit. It is a gift from God as we seek to live out our faith every day with a strong connection with God. When our lives are in harmony with God, we come to know peace with others and ourselves. Saint Paul writes, "And let the peace of Christ control your hearts. And be thankful. . . And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." ([Colossians 3:15, 17](#))

[May God grant us perseverance and peace during these difficult times.](#)

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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/022325.cfm>

Wednesday Bible Handout

<https://blessedsacramentwv.org/download/bible-share-02-26-25/?wpdmdl=2254&refresh=67b78ea015d1b1740082848>

This Sunday's Bulletin

Announcements and Reminders

One of Jesus's most fundamental and important teachings is that we show our love for God by loving God's people, especially those in need. There has been severe flooding in communities along the Tug River, including Mingo County, WV and Pike County, KY. The Sisters of St. Joseph and their associates (including some of our own parishioners) have reached out to us in the hope that we can provide some immediate assistance. They are working with A.B.L.E. Families, a critically important community service organization in Kermit to reach those in need.



It would be so helpful to so many if you could bring any of the following with you to Mass this weekend:

- Bottles of drinking water (especially)
- Bottles of Clorox bleach
- Buckets, bundles of cleaning cloths, etc.
- Monetary donations (Look for a box specially marked for these donations) Cash is great. If you write a check, please write it to Blessed Sacrament. We will gather these and write one check to ABLE Families

They already have a volunteer to help them take the donations collected this weekend to Kermit.

SIX SESSION LENTEN BOOK STUDY BEGINS SUNDAY FEBRUARY 23 at 10:15 in Room 2. Do You Love Me? is a short booklet created by the Catholic Bishop's Conference of England and Wales. It uses the Resurrection Appearance in John 21:1-22 to explore the treasure of Catholic Prayer and Spirituality. John Shawler is facilitating.

Copies of the Booklet will be available and can be also found online at

<https://cbcew.org.uk/plain/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2018/11/do-you-love-me-2014.pdf>

POEM

All that matters is to be at one with the living God
to be a creature in the house of the God of Life.
Like a cat asleep on a chair
at peace, in peace
and at one with the master of the house, with the
mistress,
at home, at home in the house of the living,
sleeping on the hearth and yawning before the fire.
Sleeping on the hearth of the living world
yawning at home before the fire of life
feeling the presence of the living God
like a great reassurance
a deep calm in the heart
a presence
as of the master sitting at the board
in his own and greater being,
in the house of life.
— DH Lawrence (The Collected Poems of DH Lawrence)



PRAYER

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.
O, Divine Master, grant that I may not so much
seek to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
it is in dying that we are born again to eternal life.
— attributed to Saint Francis of Assisi

CARBONATED GRACE

Blessed are the peace makers. Little Johnny came home from the playground with a bloody nose, black eye, and torn clothing. It was obvious he'd been in a bad fight and lost. While his father was patching him up, he asked his son what happened. "Well, Dad," said Johnny, "I challenged Larry to a duel. And, you know, I gave him his choice of weapons." "Uh-huh," said the father, "that seems fair." "I know, but I never thought he'd choose his big sister!"

The preacher's Sunday sermon was, "*Forgive Your Enemies.*" He asked, *How many have forgiven their enemies?*" About half held up their hands. He then repeated the question. This time about eighty percent held up their hands. He then repeated his question a third time. The entire congregation held up their hands except one elderly lady. "*Mrs. Jones,*" the preacher asked, *aren't you willing to forgive your enemies?*" "***I don't have any***" she replied. "*That is very unusual*", the preacher said. "*How old are you?*" "*Ninety-three.*" "*Mrs. Jones, please come to the front and tell the congregation how a person cannot have an enemy in the world.*" The little sweetheart of a lady tottered down the aisle and said: "***It's easy; I just outlived all those rascals!***"

MYSTIC MORSELS

Prayer gives joy to the spirit, peace to the heart.

I speak of prayer, not words. It is the longing for God, too deep for words.

– Saint John Chrysostom (347-407)

Be converted, then, with a sincere heart. Live your life that you may receive the blessing of the Lord. Then the peace of God our Father will be with you always.

–Saint Francis of Paola (1416-1507)

Let your desire be the vision of God, your fear the loss of Him, your sorrow His absence, and your joy in that which may take you to Him; and your life shall be in great peace.

–Saint Teresa of Avila (1515-1582)