



Weekly Email from *Father Paul Wharton*

February 4, 2023

On a rocky seacoast where shipwrecks were frequent, there was a ramshackle little lifesaving station. It was no more than a hut and only one boat. But the few people who staffed the station were absolutely devoted and kept constant watch. If there was any evidence of a shipwreck, they would fearlessly risk their lives to save others. Many lives were thus saved and the station became famous.

As the fame of the life-saving station grew, so did the desire of people in the neighborhood to become associated with its excellent work. They offered their time and money -- so new boats were bought, and new crews were trained. The hut, too, was replaced by a large, comfortable building for those who staffed the station & for the victims of shipwrecks who were saved.

Since shipwrecks did not happen every day and it was such a fine building with such a beautiful view. The lifesaving station became a popular gathering place. As time passed, the members became so interested in socializing that they had little interest in saving lives. As a matter of fact, when some people were actually rescued from the sea, it was nuisance because they were always dirty and sick and stained the carpet and furniture. Soon the social activities became so numerous that they sold the boats in order to make room for everyone who wanted to join. If you happen to visit that area today you will find a beautiful, but exclusive club, proud of its origin and tradition. Shipwrecks still happen, but nobody seems to care much.

This sometimes happens to churches and congregations. To try to keep that from happening, the Church sets before us readings from the Bible to remind us of what we are supposed to be about. At the heart of discipleship is this reality -- each of us is called to make a difference. We Christians are called to be the salt of the earth. In Jesus' day salt was used to preserve, to flavor, to heal. It is as if Jesus is saying, "How ridiculous, if you think you can love me and not make a difference in the lives of people around you." We Christians are to be light to the world, a light that shines boldly. It is as if Jesus is saying, "How ridiculous, if you think you can love me and not have that love shine forth for others to see."

Phone: Office (304) 744-5523

Parish website

This Sunday's Readings

Newest Bulletin

Cell: (304) 433-7472

Email: pjw424@gmail.com

<https://www.blessedsacramentwv.org>

<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/020523.cfm>

<https://blessedsacramentwv.org/download/february-05-2023/?wpdmdl=898&refresh=63dd403fb42121675444287>

This and That

Please choose As part of an ongoing and in the early stages process of updating our website and other forms of communication, we want you to vote for one of three designs. You can make your choice in the Gathering Space or by answering one question by February 22, 2023 at this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZL9GJPH>

PLEASE BE SURE to check out our weekend Bulletin for some current Faith Formation programs for our children and youth. There are also some programs for Adults on Wednesday evening and Sunday between Masses. There is a link to the bulletin above.

COMING SOON “Coffee, Cocoa, and Questions” an opportunity for all parishioners, young and old, and in-between, to submit anonymous questions either in-person in the submission box on the Religious Education table. Or, please go to our SURVEY MONKEY link where you can type one or more questions with complete and secure anonymity. After questions are submitted a respondent like Fr. Paul will answer the questions in a town hall style event. The first meeting is in the Parish Hall at the new Adult Faith Formation time of 10:15-11:15am, with our inaugural session on February 12, so please submit your questions at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/252W85K>

PRAYER

Holy, mighty and immortal God,
I praise, thank, and give you glory.
Open my eyes today that
I may see what you want me to see.
Open my ears that
I may hear what you want me to hear.
Open my mind that I may know
what you want me to know.
Open my heart that I may feel
what you want me to feel.
Open my mouth that I may only
speak the truth and your praises.
Like your prophet Samuel, I say,
“Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.”
– Paul J. Wharton



MYSTIC MORSELS

Teach me a prayer
which is full of longing
and asks for nothing
— Anna Kamińska (1920-1986)

One who prays well lives well;
one who lives well dies well; and for
one who dies well, all is well.
— Augustine (354-430)

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*.

●●●●●● PLEASE KNOW ●●●●●●

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

I gratefully accept invitations to breakfast, lunch, and dinner in people's homes or at
restaurants. By the way, I have no food allergies or special dietary needs.