



FATHER PAUL'S WEEKLY EMAIL

February 9, 2024

Way back in the 1960's, I attended Saint Margaret Mary's Grade School under the watchful eyes and lightning-fast rulers of the Sisters of the Poor Child Jesus. As Ash Wednesday approached there was one big topic of discussion amongst the children. The one question that was most on our minds was, "What are you giving up for Lent this year?" Central to our understanding of what it means to be Catholic was and is about our Lenten Sacrifice.

Jesus gave up his life and offered it up as sacrifice for the forgiveness of sins and the promise of eternal life. As his followers, we would give up something as a sign of sorrow for our sins and an expression of gratitude to God. There were no loopholes either. No one was allowed to give up school or homework during Lent. Knuckles were cracked if Sisters Mary Augustana, Mary Ethelrita, or Mary Esther heard such nonsense cross our lips. The point was to give up something we enjoy like candy, cartoons, or comic books. At the same time we were challenged to do something positive: to give money to help in missionary work in Africa and Asia. It was the boys against the girls to see who could raise the most. (I hope they really didn't give babies some of the names we picked!)

Lent really hasn't changed. We are called to self-sacrifice, fasting, and abstinence. It might be sweets, caffeine, alcohol, computer games, or social media. We are also challenged to do something positive: come to Mass more often, pray more, read the Bible every day, participate in a Bible sharing group in person or on Zoom donate food, money or time to a Food Pantry, etc. For more information, please read the bulletin.

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Faith in West Virginia
This Sunday's Readings

Cell: (304) 433-7472 Email: pjw424@gmail.com
<https://www.blessedsacramentwv.org>
<https://faithinwv.org/latest-bulletin/>
<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/021124.cfm>

Here is a link for ideas for Lenten Renewal. Just pick a few.

<https://catholicmissionarydisciples.com/news/40-unique-ideas-for-lent>

Noteworthy News

The **SOUPER BOWL** of **CARING** is this weekend. The youth of Blessed Sacrament invite you to bring cans of soup, boxes of crackers, and/or virtual soup (\$1 = 1 can) donations to help our brothers & sisters who are hungry in WV. You can root for your favorite team, the **Kansas City Chiefs** or the **San Francisco 49ers**, or you can root for the **Commercials** by placing donations in containers in the Gatherings Space.

SHORT TEACHING on **ASH WEDNESDAY** by Tommy Ross will be in the Church Sunday February 11 from 10:15 until 10:30 am for children, youth, and adults.

PANCAKE DINNER Sunday February 11 from 10:15 until 11:15 in the Parish Hall made by the Dismas Club. There is no charge but donations are appreciated.

ASH WEDNESDAY opportunities to receive: 7:00 am brief prayer service; Masses at 12:00 noon and 6:00 pm. As Father John says, *"Be sure to get your ashes in church!"*

STATIONS OF THE CROSS on the Fridays of Lent are will be at 5:30pm in church.

POEM Called to Become

You are called to become
A perfect creation.
No one is called to become
Who you are called to be.
It does not matter
How short or tall
Or thick-set or slow
You may be.
It does not matter
Whether you sparkle with life
Or are as silent as a still pool.
Whether you sing your song aloud
Or weep alone in darkness.
It does not matter
Whether you feel loved and admired
Or unloved and alone
For you are called to become
A perfect creation.
No one's shadow
Should cloud your becoming.
No one's light
Should dispel your spark.
For the Lord delights in you.
Jealously looks upon you



