



## Weekly Email from Father Paul Wharton

January 28, 2023

In the summer of 1965, my dad drove five children in VW Bus from Parkersburg, WV to Miami, FL, a trip of slightly more than 1,000 miles. The WV Turnpike was a two-lane road, the Interstate was largely still in the planning stages, and Dad somehow drove about 24 hours straight. There was nothing to keep us kids ages 8 to 14 entertained but ourselves.

Anyone who has ever traveled a distance with young children knows the question which will punctuate the journey: “Are we there yet?” No doubt Dad lost count of how often he was asked just that. When we left Parkersburg that summer, we children mostly had had no idea how long we would be prisoners inside a hot, noisy three door metal box on wheels.

Will we ever get back to normal? When the pandemic struck our lives, our families, our parish, and our world were forever changed. This Sunday we take another step closer in returning to the way it was. Faith Formation begins and some of our children begin preparing for their First Holy Communion. Please pray for the success of new beginnings.

But the truth is there is no going back to the way things were. Our parish is aging, there are fewer volunteers, attendance and giving are down. **NEVERTHELESS**, we trust that God will continue to bless us and use us to make a difference in the lives of parishioners and local communities.

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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/012923.cfm>

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## FAITH FORMATION BEGINS SUNDAY

● at 10:15:am in the Church ●

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POEM

Saint Francis de Sales is was a 17th Century bishop who believed that the key to renewing the Church was helping people in the spiritual lives. He did this through books, letters, preaching, & spiritual direction. His feast day was last Tuesday.

A heart that is free  
is the close companion  
of a peaceful soul.

A free heart is one  
that is not attached to  
its own way of doing things,  
that does not become impatient  
when things don't go its way.

A free heart will surely  
enjoy spiritual consolations,  
but is not dependent on them and  
will, to the best of its ability,  
accept troubles in their stead.

A free heart is not so tied to a schedule  
or a way of praying that any change  
is upsetting and a source of anxiety.

A free heart is not attached  
to what is beyond its control.

A free heart prays to God  
that his name be hallowed,  
that his kingdom come,  
that his will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.

For if the name of God is hallowed,  
if his kingdom is in us,  
if his will is being done,  
a free spirit need not concern itself with anything else.  
— Saint Francis de Sales (1567-1622)

### **MYSTIC MORSELS:**

We shall steer safely through every storm so long as our heart is right, our intention fervent, our courage steadfast, and our trust fixed on God.



Continue to trust in God. Do you think that the God who takes care to provide food for the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth – which neither sow nor reap – will ever forget to provide all that is necessary for the one who trusts wholly in His Providence, seeing that we are capable of being united to God, our sovereign good?  
– Saint Francis de Sales (1567-1622)

### **CARBONATED GRACE \*\*\***

An old country preacher was fishing one afternoon when he noticed a frog sitting next to him. The frog said, "Mister, I've had a spell cast on me. If you'll kiss me, I'll turn into a beautiful princess and I'll make you happy for the rest of your life." The old preacher smiled, picked up the frog, and put it in his pocket. After a while, he looked into his pocket to see how the frog was doing. The frog said again, "Mister, I've had a spell cast on me. If you'll kiss me, I'll turn into a beautiful princess and I'll make you happy for the rest of your life." The preacher just smiled and kept on fishing. When he checked on the frog again, it said, "What's wrong with you, fella? I said I've been bewitched. Just kiss me and I'll turn back into a beautiful princess and make you the happiest man on earth for the rest of your life!" The old preacher just smiled and said, "Frog, I'm sorry to tell you this...but at my age, I'd rather have a talking frog than a beautiful princess!"

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