



Weekly Email from Father Paul Wharton

January 14, 2023

One of the reasons I don't preach too long is that ever since I began preaching in 1981, I have thought, "Why should I expect others' attention span to longer than mine was sitting in the pew?" I don't like to use too many words when fewer will do. After all, I am not paid by the word. The message can be lost among an avalanche of words. There are times when we really want to remember something early on in a sermon, only to forget it by the end.

Perhaps this is why I consider President Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address the *best* speech in the history of the USA. However, I think the *most important* speech to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s *I Have a Dream* delivered from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial on August 28, 1963. It is almost certainly the defining moment of the Civil Rights movement.

In honor of his birthday, I encourage you to listen to this stirring speech and experience its inspiring vision of a country worth becoming and being. Watch with others and talk about. One must have a heart made of stone not to be moved by these iconic words. Here are links to a video and transcript.

<https://youtu.be/smEqnklfYs>

<https://www.npr.org/2010/01/18/122701268/i-have-a-dream-speech-in-its-entirety>

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Parish website <https://www.blessedsacramentwv.org>
This Sunday's Readings <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/011523.cfm>
This Sunday's Bulletin <https://files.ecatholic.com/6381/documents/2023/1/2023%200115-1.pdf?t=1673642533000>

THIS WEEK and COMING SOON

Lunch Bunch begins with Mass Thursday Jan. 19 with Mass at noon and continues with food, fellowship, and fun in the Parish Hall. If you want to help prepare some soup or sandwiches, email Fr. John at snowman25303@hotmail.com or call/text 304-377-3560.

FAITH FORMATION for children & youth begins on Sunday, January 29 at 9:40 am in the church. Parents are encouraged to come, too. **First Communion Class** begins! Please read the bulletin for more information.

A short survey for **ADULT** Faith Formation is available in the gathering space or on line at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6QQX7BN> or the parish website. Let us know. Our new Director of Religious Education Bob Pennington is looking for help with any and all programs as well as thoughts about moving forward in this area. Please email him at rpenningtontheologian@gmail.com

CARBONATED GRACE ***

Fall was upon a remote reservation when the Indian tribe asked their new Chief what the coming winter was going to be like. The modern day Chief had never been taught the secrets of the ancients. When he looked at the sky he couldn't tell what the winter was going to be like. Better safe than sorry, he said to himself and told his tribe that the winter was indeed expected to be cold and that the members of the village should stock up on firewood to be prepared.

After several days, our modern Chief got an idea. He went to the phone booth, called the National Weather Service and asked, "Is the coming winter going to be cold?" "It looks like this winter is going to be quite cold," the meteorologist at the weather service responded. So the Chief went back to his people and told them to collect even more firewood in order to be prepared. A week later he called the National Weather Service again. "Does it still look like it is going to be a very cold winter?" "Yes," the man at National Weather Service again replied, "It's going to be a very cold winter."

The Chief again went back to his people and ordered them to collect every scrap of firewood they could find. Two weeks later the Chief called the National Weather Service again. "Are you absolutely sure that the winter is going to be very cold?" "Absolutely," the man replied. "It's looking more and more like it is going to be one of the coldest winters ever." "How can you be so sure?" the Chief asked. The weatherman replied, "The Indians are collecting firewood like crazy."

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

MYSTICAL MORSELS from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The time is always right to do what is right.

Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that.
Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.

Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase.

I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality. This is why right, temporarily defeated, is stronger than evil triumphant.

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