

B.S.P. WEEKLY EMAIL — January 2, 2025

My first thought when all priests in West Virginia received an October letter about a special this Evangelization Program Bishop Mark Brennan is requiring each parish to do was this: “I am going to retire **NOW**.” My next thought was: “We priests are already not able to do everything we are supposed to do. Why are you giving us a major project to do?”

If you are on the parish or diocesan email list, you may have read a letter from Bishop Mark Brennan outlining a diocesan-wide program under the guidance of the Catholic Leadership Institute. Then I took the time to see a presentation about this for West Virginia priests and made a deep dive into their website. I realized this program has *exciting potential* for both Blessed Sacrament Parish and the Diocese.

In the conclusion of the Gospel according to Saint Matthew, Jesus commissions all disciples to share the gospel with everyone everywhere. There is a great need to evangelization here in West Virginia. Seven out of ten West Virginians are unchurched: they neither belong to nor attend a church. My guess is that about half the Catholics in West Virginia no longer attend more than once or twice a year. There is a great harvest out there.

It is hoped that Parish Leaders and Staff will come to a better understanding of the needs, wants, and ideas of as many parishioners as possible through a 75 question inventory called the Disciple Maker Index Survey. The aim is to

- invite parishioners to reflect on their journey of discipleship.
- enable parish staff and leadership to make data-driven decisions.
- help parishioners grow in their faith.

The 10–15-minute survey can be accessed through an online link from **Tuesday January 7 through Thursday February 6**. It will ask you to reflect on your own spiritual growth and enable you to provide your perspective on our parish’s efforts to help you grow in relationship with Christ. All responses will be confidential, and the parish will only receive information about the community as a whole. Paper surveys will also be available for those who prefer a paper version after Masses later this month.

Your participation in this survey is important to the future of our parish. A two-year program will be developed providing ways to share the light of faith with those around us including lapsed Catholics.

Phone: Office (304) 744-5523

Email:

Parish website

Faith in West Virginia

This Sunday’s Readings

Wednesday Bible Handout

This Sunday’s Bulletin

Cell: (304) 433-7472.

pjw424@gmail.com

<https://www.blessedsacramentwv.org>

<https://faithinwv.org/latest-bulletin/>

<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/010525.cfm>

Epiphany Concert & Cookie-palooza

Friday January 3 at 6PM

Invite a friend or neighbor



MYSTIC MORSELS

Every day I say to myself: 'Today I will begin.'
–Saint Anthony of Egypt (c. 251-356)

It is right that you should begin again every day. There is no better way to complete the spiritual life than to be ever beginning it over again.
– Saint Francis de Sales, (1567-1622)

Is there anything I can do to make myself enlightened?
As little as you can do to make the sun rise in the morning.
Then of what use are the spiritual exercises you prescribe?
To make sure you are not asleep when the sun begins to rise.
– Anthony de Mello (1931-1987)

A PRAYER of GRATITUDE

“... *give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*”
- 1 Thessalonians 5:18

Father, thank You for Your faithfulness this past year. Thank You for the ways You have worked in my life. Through the ups and downs of life, You have never left me. I also thank You for the ways You have pursued others around the world in the same way You have pursued me. Your love for all people is incomparable. I desire to show my gratitude by telling others what you have done in my life. Help me to carry this spirit of gratitude wherever you lead me. Amen.

CARBONATED GRACE

What's a spider's New Year's resolution? To spend less time on the web.

Last year, I was able to keep all my New Year's resolutions...
... tucked away in a journal on my bookshelf.

How can you keep a New Year's resolution to read more while never opening a book?
Watch TV with subtitles.

I was going to give up all my bad habits for the new year, but then I remembered that no one likes a quitter.

At the beginning of the year, I made a resolution to lose 15 pounds.
Only 20 more to go!

● **DON'T BE SCAMMED ••• 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.

NO MEMBER of our Blessed Sacrament Parish will **EVER** ask you to buy gift cards, free someone from jail, or pay airfare back to here from some foreign country.

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.