

Email from Father Paul (July 7, 2023)

I was a passionate follower of Major League Baseball, growing up as a Cincinnati Reds fan. I listened to every game on radio, collected baseball cards, memorized statistics, went to occasional games, and can still remember Wiedemann Beer jingles. Baseball owners and players betrayed me when there was no World Series in 1994. Every July there is an exhibition game bringing most of the very best players known as All Stars.

It is fair to say the Saints recognized by the Church are All Stars when it comes to being outstanding examples of living the Christian faith. Saints are venerated and esteemed for their example, teachings, and prayers. Like us, they are not without sins and shortcomings, but that allowed God to work through, with, and in them.

The influence of sixth century Saint Benedict (480-547) upon religious communities of men and women is too large to measure. Many priests, brothers and sisters today live by a Rule based upon the Rule of Saint Benedict. Several Fortune 500 companies use some of Benedict's wisdom. His Feast Day is July 11. Here are a few thoughts on prayer to consider.

“If we want to ask a favor of any person of power, we presume not to approach but with humility and respect. How much more ought we to address ourselves to the Lord and God of all things with a humble and entire devotion?”

“We are not to imagine that our prayers shall be heard because we use many words, but because the heart is pure and the spirit penitent. Therefore, prayer must be short and pure, unless it be prolonged by a feeling of divine inspiration.”

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Parish website	https://www.blessedsacramentwv.org	
Faith in West Virginia	https://faithinwv.org/latest-bulletin/	
This Sunday's Readings	https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/070923.cfm	

Headlines and Happenings

Wednesday Evening Sunday Gospel Bible Sharing is at 6:30 pm and on Zoom.
Vacation Bible School is almost here.
Please consult the bulletin.

PRAYER

Gracious and holy Father,
please give me:
intellect to understand you;
reason to discern you;
diligence to seek you;
wisdom to find you;
a spirit to know you;
a heart to meditate upon you;
ears to hear you;
eyes to see you;
a tongue to proclaim you;
a way of life pleasing to you;
patience to wait for you;
and perseverance to look for you.
Grant me:
a perfect end;
your holy presence;
a blessed resurrection;
and life everlasting.
— Saint Benedict



STORY

A legend is told about the Roman Emperor Trajan asking a Jewish rabbi about God being present everywhere. “If he is present everywhere, why don’t mortal eyes see him?” The rabbi replied, “God IS everywhere, but no mortal eye can see him.” Trajan was not satisfied with his answer. He demanded the rabbi explain why this is true. The rabbi led the emperor outside in the noonday sun. “Now look straight at the sun.” “I can’t. The light blinds me!” The rabbi spoke, “You see. You can’t bear to look at the light of one of God’s creations. How do you think you could look directly at the light of the Creator? If the sun blinds your eyes, would not the light of the Creator destroy you?”

CARBONATED GRACE ***

THEOLOGICAL PUN AHEAD

A man in a small town decided he had been shaving long enough. He would let the local barber shave him. He went to the barbershop which was owned by the pastor of the local Baptist church. The barber’s wife, whose name was Grace, shaved him and sprayed him with lilac water. “That will be twenty dollars,” she said. The man thought the price was a bit high, but he paid and went off to work. The next morning, the man realized his face was as smooth as it had been when he left the barber shop the day before. “Not bad,” he thought. “At least I don’t need to get a shave every day.” The next day, the man’s face was still smooth. Two weeks later, the man was still unable to find any trace of whiskers on his face. He couldn’t understand it, so he returned to the barber shop. “I thought

twenty dollars was high for a shave,” he told the barber’s wife, “but you must have done a great job. It’s been two weeks and my whiskers still haven’t started growing back.” The woman’s face showed no surprise. “Well, of course,” she said. “You were shaved by Grace. Once shaved, always shaved.”

*** 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

NO STAFF MEMBER will ask you to pay for a gift card with your own money.