

Email from Father Paul



June 1, 2024

June 1 is the Feast Day of Saint Justin Martyr who was put to death because he refused to deny his faith in his Lord Jesus Christ. As special as the example of laying down his life is to our Catholic Faith, perhaps more important is the witness poured out into his writings. More about this saint can be found in this weekend's bulletin.

Saint Justin attempted to explain the Christian faith to the Emperor and other Romans who heard rumors, misunderstandings, and lies about what Christians believed and did. Two Apologies (explanation) he wrote in the Second Century and sent to Emperor Antoninus. His First Apology is critical to our understanding of how Christians worship was structured around the year 150 AD. He testifies to how Mass was celebrated and what Christians believed about the Eucharist.

“And on the day named after the sun, all who live in the city or country side assemble, and the memoirs of the apostles or the writings of the prophets are read for as long as time allows (READINGS). When the lector has finished, the presider addresses us, admonishing us and exhorting us to imitate the splendid things we have heard (PREACHING). Then we all stand and pray (GENERAL INTERCESSIONS).

“When we finish praying we greet each other with a kiss (SIGN OF PEACE). Then bread and a cup containing water and wine are brought to him who presides over the brethren. The wealthy who are willing make contributions, each as he pleases, and the collection is deposited with the presider who aids widows and orphans, those who are in want because of sickness, those in prison, and visiting strangers; in short, he takes care of all who are in need (COLLECTION & BRINGING GIFTS TO THE ALTAR).

“He takes them (THE BREAD AND WINE) and offers prayer, glorifying the Father of all things through the name of the Son and the Holy Spirit. ...The presider offers prayers of thanksgiving and the people give their assent with an ‘Amen’ (THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER AND GREAT AMEN). “Those who we call ‘deacons’ distribute the bread and wine over which the thanksgiving has been spoken to each of those present; they also carry them to those who are absent (COMMUNION TO THE SICK & HOMEBOUND)

Listen as Justin describes what Christians believe about the Eucharist: “For we do not receive these things as though they were ordinary food and drink. Just as Christ our Savior was made flesh through the Word of God and took on flesh and blood for our salvation, the food over which the thanksgiving has been spoken becomes the flesh and blood of the incarnate Jesus in order to transform our flesh and blood.”

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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/060224.cfm>

I am grateful for the encouraging words, cards, texts, and emails at the death of my brother Tim. These spiritual works of mercy lift me up. I am especially grateful that Tim returned to the Church & sacraments earlier this year.

NOTEWORTHY NEWS

The **ORDINATION TO THE DIACONATE** of 20 Permanent Deacons will take place on Friday June 8 at 3pm at Sacred Heart Basilica. Please continue to pray for our parishioners **TONY O'LEARY** and **TOMMY ROSS**. Seating is extremely limited.

CAMP LEON will be held near Huttonsville from June 16-24. There will be 100 campers as well as many adults and youth helpers. The camp costs about \$400 per camper. Some are able to pay, but others cannot. Donations for scholarships or to help defray the cost will be accepted and appreciated. Just place your gift in an envelope or write "Camp Leon" in the memo on your check made out to Blessed Sacrament Parish.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL is scheduled for July 22 - 26, 2024 in the evenings. It will consist of a week of fun, learning, and growing in faith. The theme this year is Splash Canyon — God's Promise on Life's Wild Ride. It features an array of river-related bible stories paired with lessons, a reference to the Catechism, and a Mighty Saint's Story. We hope to have a component for adults as well. If you would like to volunteer to help in some way, please contact the office bsccwv@gmail.com or Mike Granata mikegranata3@gmail.com

MYSTIC MORSELS

The Eucharist is the sacrament of love: it signifies love, it produces love.
The Eucharist is the consummation of the whole spiritual life.
— Saint Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274)

The culmination of mass is not the consecration, but communion.
— Saint Maximilian Kolbe (1894-1941)

When you look at the crucifix, you understand how much Jesus loved you then. When you look at the Sacred Host, you understand how much Jesus loves you now.

-- Saint Teresa of Calcutta (1910-1997)

PRAYER|POEM

◆ You satisfy the hungry heart
With gift of finest wheat
Come give to us, O Saving Lord
The Bread of Life to eat

As when the shepherd calls his sheep
They know and heed his voice
So when you call your family Lord
They follow and rejoice ◆

With joyful lips, we sing to you
Our praise and gratitude
That you should count us worthy Lord
To share this Heavenly food ◆

Is not the cup we bless and share
The blood of Christ outpoured?
Does not one cup, one loaf declare
Our Oneness in the Lord? ◆

The mystery of your presence, Lord,
No mortal tongue can tell:
Whom all the world cannot contain
Comes in our hearts to dwell ◆

You give yourself to us, O Lord,
Then selfless let us be
To serve each other in your name
In truth and charity

You satisfy the hungry heart
With gift of finest wheat
Come give to us, O Saving Lord
The Bread of Life to eat
— Robert Kreutz



CARBONATED GRACE***

Fr. Richard Carton, associate pastor of St. Catherine of Siena Church, Mountain Lakes, NJ, was speaking to a group of second graders about the Resurrection when one student asked "What did Jesus say right after He came out of the grave?" It was a question of no great theological importance, but Fr. Carton had to explain, in words suitable to his young audience, that the Gospels do not tell us just what Jesus said. The hand of one little girl shot up. "I know what He said, Father," she insisted. "And what was that?" asked Father Carton. "Ta-da!" the girl exclaimed.

A Sunday school teacher read to her third graders the story of the Prodigal son. Then, to test how well they had paid attention, she asked, "Who was unhappy at the return of the Prodigal son?" One lad in the back raised his hand and shouted: "The fatted calf!"

***Ann Lamott calls laughter *carbonated grace*