

# Email from Father Paul (June 23, 2023)

In 19th century Scotland there was a poor widow whose only son left home to make his fortune in America. She never complained about how little she had and cheerfully accepted handouts from people in her small town. From time to time, people would suggest, "Can't your son help you in your need?" She always defended him. One day she told a visitor. "He's a good boy, but he needs his money. He writes me twice a month and sends me some pictures of men I don't even know. I keep them in my Bible." The visitor asked to see them. It turns out, the pictures were money. By then she had plenty of money to live lavishly for the rest of her life. She had a treasure and didn't even know it.

It is unfortunate, but true that a great many Christians have a treasure that they aren't even aware of: the Bible. Imagine, that God is transmitting a radio signal to the world. To hear it, you would have to have a radio. Not only that, but you would have to tune to the proper channel. And, you would have to turn on the radio and actually listen to it. How wonderful that would be. But the fact is that God has done just that in the Bible. It is God's living word that has an amazing power to change our lives. It is not good enough to have a Bible in our house, we have to use it!

A great place to begin is to read and reflect on the Sunday readings before you come to Mass. There is a link down below. Here are some ways for folks to learn more and grow in faith.

- Wednesday Morning Bible Study at 10 am in the Library
- Wednesday Lectio Divina Scripture Group 1 pm in the Community Room
- Wednesday Evening Bible Sharing at 6:30 pm in the Library & on Zoom begins 06/28
- Saturday Morning Men's Bible Sharing at 9 am in the Library and on Zoom

Handouts are being prepared for Wednesday evening discussions on the coming Sunday Gospel. There are some copies available for those who are not online through the internet. The idea is to read the material ahead of the Wednesday discussion. **There is a link below to that handout. If you sign up with your email address, we will email the handout on Monday mornings.**

In the words of Jesus to Saint Andrew, "Come and see." . . . and hear!

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Phone: Office (304) 744-5523  
Parish website  
Faith in West Virginia  
This Sunday's Readings  
Wednesday Bible Handout  
This Sunday's Bulletin

Cell: (304) 433-7472    Email: [pjw424@gmail.com](mailto:pjw424@gmail.com)  
<https://www.blessedsacramentwv.org>  
<https://faithinwv.org/latest-bulletin/>  
<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/062523.cfm>

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**PRAYER**

A Prayer for Openness

Holy, mighty and immortal God,  
I praise, thank, and give you glory.  
Open my eyes today that I may see what you want me to see.  
Open my ears that I may hear what you want me to hear.  
Open my mind that I may know what you want me to know.  
Open my heart that I may feel what you want me to feel.  
Open my mouth that I may only speak the truth and your praises.  
Like your prophet Samuel, I say, "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening."  
— Paul J. Wharton

### **MYSTIC MORSELS**

Seek what suffices, seek what is enough, and don't desire more. Whatever goes beyond that produces anxiety not relief: it will weigh you down instead of lifting you up.  
— Saint Augustine (354-430)

Let nothing trouble you, let nothing frighten you. All things are passing; God never changes. Patience obtains all things. One who possesses God lacks nothing: God alone suffices.  
— Saint Teresa of Avila (1515-1582)

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

A dog sees a "Now hiring" poster outside of a computer store. The poster reads: "Must be able to type. Must be able to program. And must be bilingual. We are an equal opportunity employer." The dog takes the poster in his mouth, and walks in. The manager spots the dog, and decides to humor it, pulling up a chair and a computer with a word processor. "Alright, if you want to work here, you need to first write a letter," and leaves the room. 30 minutes later, he comes back in, and the dog has typed out a completely error-free letter.

"Well, I'll be. This is a smart dog. But can he program?" he asks himself. 20 minutes pass, and the dog has made a perfectly running website for the store. He looks, shocked, at the dog, and finally speaks. "Look, I know you have the qualifications, but, well... you're a dog." The dog nudges the words "We are an equal opportunity employer." on the poster, and the manager sighs. "There's no way you're bilingual." The dog looks him in the eyes, and says, "Meow."

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