



Father Paul's Weekly Email

March 15, 2024

There are many memorable lines in movies to be sure. But very few of them are also theologically accurate. One such comes from the 1995 movie *The Usual Suspects*. The greatest trick the devil ever played was convincing the world that he did not exist." One of the titles given Satan is the "Father of Lies." The first sin was the result of believing the devil's lie in the Garden of Eden. Lent is a good time to reflect on a number of lies Satan spreads. Here are just a few.

- ❖ "You aren't significant to God." If we believe that life has no purpose and we don't matter, it is all too easy to live a life of sin. But God says, *I have loved you with an everlasting love.* (Jeremiah 31:3)
- ❖ "Church isn't important because God doesn't care." But God called a chosen people. Jesus gathered disciples and created the Church to be the Body of Christ in the world & carry on his mission. *We are his people, the sheep of his flock.* (Psalm 100:3)
- ❖ "Go ahead and say whatever you want. They're only words." *But no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings who are made in the likeness of God.* (James 3:7-8) *Keep your tongue from evil & your lips from telling lies.* (Psalm 34:13)
- ❖ "God loves us no matter what we do. God wants us to be happy." While it is true that God is love, God is also just. In the Bible and Apostles' Creed we declare, *Jesus will come again to judge the living and the dead.* (2 Timothy 4:1)

It is true that because we are human and imperfect, we sometimes do believe in the lies of the devil. Saint Paul put it this way, "*What I do, I do not understand. For I do not do what I want, but I do what I hate.*" (Romans 7:15) Fortunately, there is a remedy the Risen Lord Jesus gave the Church on that first Easter Sunday. *And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, Receive the holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained.*" (John 20:23f)

There will be a communal Reconciliation Service on Sunday March 17 at 3pm. Five priests will be available to help us seek, celebrate, and receive God's mercy. In addition, Fr. Paul is available on Saturdays at 4pm or by appointment at a mutually convenient time. Please call. (304) 433-7472.

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Faith in West Virginia
This Sunday's Readings

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

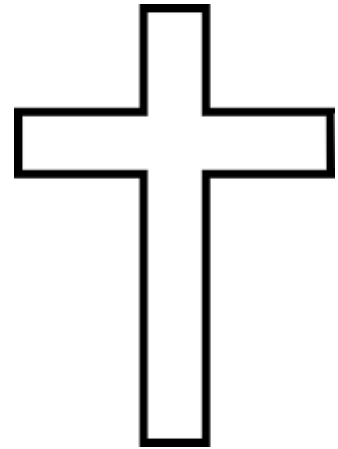
<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/031724-YearB.cfm>

Wednesday Bible Handout <https://blessedsacramentwv.org/download/bible-share-03-20-24/?wpdmdl=1691&refresh=65f4990b5aa101710528779>

This Sunday's Bulletin <https://blessedsacramentwv.org/download/march-17-2024/?wpdmdl=1692&refresh=65f499a38169e1710528931>

PRAYER

Jesus, my life feels cluttered.
Not just with material things,
but with my own distracted thoughts and desires.
I wish that things were simpler – not just my lifestyle,
but the inner attitude of my heart.
I know it's time to return to simplicity
when I stop being thankful and start feeling entitled;
when I begin grasping for everything in sight
rather than trusting you to provide;
when I hold on desperately to what I own
instead of sharing it with those around me.
Jesus, help me to be thankful –
viewing every possession and good occurrence
as a gift from you
so I get to the place where I expect nothing
but am delighted with everything.
Help me to trust that my life is ultimately under your care.
Free me from feeling as if I have to own everything,
because the truth is, all things belong to you.
Help me to be generous – willing to share all I have with others
as an expression of your generosity to me.
Restore in me a thankful, trusting, generous spirit
so I can live simply.
— Ronald Beers



CARBONATED GRACE ***

- Q. What type of magic spells do leprechauns cast?
A. Lucky Charms!
- Q. Who catches bold Lepre-Cons?
A. The Under-Clover cops!
- Q. What does an Irishman get from eating Italian food?
A. Gaelic breath!

Three lads from Tipperary were getting paid to take part in a survey about tea drinking. One of the questions was 'How do you stir sugar into your tea?' 'I stir it in with my left hand, replied the first lad. 'I stir it in with my right', replied the second. 'I stir it in with a spoon, replied the third.

A man walked into a bar in New York and asked the barmaid for a beer and a packet of peanuts. "Oh. You must be Irish," she replied. The man was clearly offended and responded, "The cheek of you. Just because I order a drink you assume that I'm Irish. If I ordered Spaghetti, would you that make me Italian?!" 'No 'she replied. 'But this is a post office...'"

*** Anne Lamott calls laughter *carbonated grace*