

MARCH 21, 2025



Yesterday – Thursday – was the first day of Spring this year. In other years, it happens on March 19 or March 21. My mom was born on March 21, 1928, in Columbus, Ohio. She says she was a remarkable woman because she gave birth to 12 children and, with my dad, raised us. More importantly, she was intelligent, intellectual, well-read, a lover of words, and went back to school when the youngest began school. She became a well-respected Addiction Counselor and confidant to many religious sisters and priests.

Some claim to be spiritual, but not religious. They claim to have a direct connection to God and don't need to belong to what Jesus believed necessary: the Church he founded. My mom was both spiritual and religious. She frequently attended daily Mass and did spiritual reading, meditation, and prayer regularly. But she loved the Church and benefited from her traditions, teachings, and practices. The ebb and flow of the Liturgical Year was important to her and our family. Lent and Holy Week were part of the fabric of our lives.

Lent is sometimes said to be a time of spiritual spring cleaning when we work to clear the dusty clutter of our lives and get back to the basics of our faith. Blessed Sacrament gives us many opportunities to do just that as spelled out in our bulletin. It's never too late to begin and possible for those who have begun to persevere. *"A clean heart create for me, God; renew within me a steadfast spirit."* (Psalm 51:12)

Phone: Office (304) 744-5523	Fr. Paul's Cellphone: (304) 433-7472.
Email	pjw424@gmail.com
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/032325-YearC.cfm
Wednesday Bible Handout	https://blessedsacramentwv.org/download/bible-share-03-26-25/?wpdmdl=2272&refresh=67dd87a45e5c31742571428
This Sunday's Bulletin	https://blessedsacramentwv.org/download/march-23-2025/?wpdmdl=2273&refresh=67dd87a44398d1742571428

News Now

CAMP LEON sign-ups are underway. The deadline is March 31st for parishioners to be given preference. Space is limited: 52 boys and 52 girls. The link to submit applications is here: <https://forms.gle/RpqmuyNTQi4pBFDH8>

NEW PASTORAL COUNCIL members are needed to promote the life and mission of the church. Please read the bulletin for more information.

POEM|PRAYER

Fire

Now the appearance of the glory of God was like a
devouring fire on the top of the mountain. — Ex. 24.17

God, your presence is like a consuming fire—
not destructive, but transformative,
not the fire of anger but the flame of love,
the fire of glassblowers and bakers
the grace to make us more beautiful, strong and useful.
Your glory is no tame campfire
where we sit and make s'mores.
It burns out of our control.
The furnace of your love
roars about our hearts, remaking us.
Teach us to be unafraid.

Radiant One, I want your grace
to burn away all the old junk that is not really me,
like gold being refined.
I want the warmth of your presence
to melt what is hard or brittle in me.
I want the heat of your love
to change the chemistry of my heart,
to bake me into something life-giving,
to mold me into a new shape.
Re-make me into a vessel of love.
Your light shine in me, the aroma of you
waft from me, fresh from the oven.

Steve Garnaas-Holmes *Unfolding Light*

CARBONATED GRACE

An elderly couple met their demise in an auto accident and were transported to Heaven. The faithful couple were recognized by St. Peter and escorted into the welcome center, where they began to take in all the wonder and amazement of the place. St. Peter pointed out the food court and told them that they could of course eat anything and not worry about their health. The husband especially began partaking of the pastries and desserts. The wife was amazed at the beauty, peace, and joy she felt and commented over and over about what a nice place Heaven was and how happy she felt to be there. However, the husband began looking quite grim. His wife inquired what the problem was. The husband sneered, "If it weren't for you and your oat bran muffins & healthy food, we'd probably have been here 15 years ago!"