

## **Blessed Sacrament Weekly Email - Nov. 15, 2024**

Every last Sunday of the Church or Liturgical Year celebrates *The Feast of Christ the King*. The Church's new year begins with the *First Sunday of Advent*. The readings on both Sundays are about the end of the world. In the verse right before where this weekend's gospel begins, Jesus declares, "But of that day or hour, no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father." Don't be fooled into thinking some preacher or website knows something Jesus doesn't know. The solution is to be always watchful and ready. Today's gospel remind us that we also don't know the hour of our death. Some saints advise us to always be ready for it to happen. Here's some of my thoughts.

Monks, mystics, hermits and the like may seem to say that holiness means setting oneself apart from the world, its temptations, trials and troubles. In the desert wastelands, river valleys, lakesides, forests and mountain tops men and women have experienced God and come to know their selves and calls.

But not so for the rest of us. We are called to be in, not of, the world. To be sure we are holy when we choose God and not our selves and sinful desires. Being relatively sin-free is a worthy aim and no doubt a noteworthy accomplishment. But this is only a beginning and not the end of what is actual and authentic holiness. Nor is holiness something we put on and take off like brocaded vestments or religious jewelry. Neither is it restricted to churches and cathedrals.

Jesus Christ calls us salt and light. We are to make a difference in the lives of family, friends, and strangers by our words, with our actions, in our example, through our efforts. Words in a Jewish Prayerbook remind us how and when we find holiness: *There is holiness when we ..... strive to be true to the best we know; are kind to someone who cannot possibly repay us; promote family harmony; forget what divides us and remember what unites us; we love – truly, honestly, and unselfishly; we remember the lonely and bring light where it is dark; share – our bread, our ideas, our enthusiasms; gather to pray to God who gave us the power to pray: Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God of hosts; all of life can be filled with God's glory.*  
— Paul Wharton (and *Likrat Shabbat*)

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Wednesday Bible Handout  
This Sunday's Bulletin

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<https://faithinwv.org/latest-bulletin/>  
<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/111724.cfm>

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## Noteworthy News

Plans are underway for our annual Thanksgiving Day Dinner at 2pm on November 28. During our 1pm Mass we express our gratitude by celebrating the Eucharistic Liturgy.

A tree full of shining stars are now available in the gathering area. Each star will have the gender and age of a needy child in our area and suggestions for gifts. Your donations of gifts can be placed in our gathering area, unwrapped, with the shining star attached. Catholic Charities will pick up all our donations on Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> and take them to a distribution point for needy families.

**STORY** A man was caught stealing a loaf of bread and sentenced by the sultan to be hanged. While awaiting his fate, he told the jailer that he knew a marvelous secret, and it would be a pity for it to die with him. He knew how to make a single pomegranate seed instantly sprout and bear fruit. The sultan was told, and decided to attend the hanging. The thief was brought out, and given a single pomegranate seed. He asked for a hole to be dug, then kissed the seed and said, "This seed will only grow if the one who plants it has never stolen anything. I, being a thief, cannot do it."

The man offered the seed to the executioner, but he said, "I have taken things from the pockets of those I have executed..." So the man offered the seed to the jailer, but he said, "In my youth, I retained things I ought not..." The man looked to the sultan's mighty vizier, but he said, "I deal with large sums of money from the sultan's treasury. It is possible some of it may have been misplaced..." So then the man said, "The mighty sultan shall plant the seed!" But he said, "I have taken whole countries from other sultans..."

The thief spoke. "O mighty and powerful people, you who have everything cannot plant the seed, while I am to be hanged for stealing a loaf of bread to feed my family!"

The sultan laughed, "I need a wise fellow like you around to remind me that a life can be saved by a single pomegranate seed." He made the man his personal gardener and moved his family into the palace, and they were never hungry again.

### MYSTIC MORSELS

- To be kind is more important than to be right. Many times what people need is not a brilliant mind that speaks but a special heart that listens.  
– Rabbi Menachem Mendel
- When I was young, I admired clever people. Now that I am old, I admire kind people.  
– Abraham Joshua Heschel

### CARBONATED GRACE

A somnambulist is a person who walks in his sleep. On the eve of his wedding, a young man decided to confess all to his fiancée. He went to her and said, "My love, there is something I feel I must tell you before we are married; something you must know. It may make a difference in your feeling toward me. You see, I am a somnambulist." The young lady thought for a moment, then replied, "Oh that's all right. There's no problem. I was raised a Methodist. We can go to your Church one Sunday and to mine the next."