
Blessed Sacrament Weekly Email - Nov. 22, 2024

(Today's weekly letter was written by our Music Director and Youth Ministry Coordinator Mary Odin. She has been sharing her gifts, talents, faith, and love with Blessed Sacrament ever since the Covid 19 Pandemic. We are especially blessed to have the wonderful staff we have including our Pastor Emeritus Fr. John Finnell and Deacon Emeritus John Hanna who continue to share their preaching from time to time.)



Many of you have heard me speak of my beloved grand-mother, Nama. She told the same stories over and over, using the same words and phrases each time, with the result that her voice still rings clearly in my mind. I was a very small child when I first heard her tell of her little sister, Dorothy Virginia Von Canon. "She was so beautiful and talented," Nama said. "I wish you could have known her."

Dorothy Virginia was smart, athletic, musical, and full of faith. She had it all, until one day when she was hit in the stomach by a basketball at school. A few days later, she was still suffering with abdominal pain, and the doctor came to the house. He applied heat to relieve her, and suddenly she felt much better. She got out of bed, went to the living room, and began playing the piano and singing. But her apparent healing was short-lived. Without surgery or antibiotics, the infection from her ruptured appendix spread quickly throughout her body, and in a few hours Dorothy Virginia Von Canon was dead. She was just fifteen years old. Her grave marker reads, "She came to raise our hearts to heaven. She goes to call us there."

A couple weeks ago, I woke up at 3am with rumbling abdominal pain. Having not encountered a basketball in a number of years, I decided it was indigestion and took some Tums. I remained miserable all day, and Wayne went to Mass that evening without me. While he was gone, I googled remedies for abdominal discomfort and found an article that advised me to "drink plenty of fluids and apply heat." As I reached for my heating pad, I heard my grandmother's voice clearly in my mind: *He applied heat to relieve her.*"

Four hours later, the results of my CT scan were in, and I was being prepped for surgery. I did not suffer the fate of Nama's little sister; I was in recovery fewer than twelve hours after the onset of my pain. My appendix was removed intact, having never ruptured because, quite literally, my grandmother warned me *not* to apply heat. Don't tell me the saints don't come to our aid.

Each year, Thanksgiving invites us to call to mind and express gratitude to God for the blessings specific to each of our lives. This year, I am grateful to God for calling people to serve in the field of medicine. I'm grateful for God-given human curiosity that drives people to discover scientific truths and invent CT scanners. I'm grateful for my grandmother, her stories, and her voice that still rings clearly in my mind. I'm especially grateful for Rabbi Blair and Rabbi Urecki and Father Paul who united their congrega-

tions to lift me up in prayer, releasing a flood of treats, cards, texts, prayers, and love from God's people. I'm grateful to God for you.

Dorothy Virginia Von Canon lost her life on November 14, 1924.
The surgery that saved my life took place on November 9, 2024.
For all of these things and for so much more, thanks be to God!

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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/112424.cfm>
Wednesday Bible Handout
This Sunday's Bulletin

Thanksgiving Day Festivities

You are cordially invited to join us for the Blessed Sacrament Thanksgiving Day events. We begin with Mass at 1pm to give thanks to God for our many blessings known and unknown. Dinner will follow in the Parish Hall. The last day to signup is this weekend!

Everyone is invited
to come,
to volunteer for setting up and cleaning up afterwards,
to bring a covered dish,
to invite others to come with you,
to join us for faith, food, fellowship, and fun.

Blessed Sacrament will be providing the turkeys, and you can bring a side dish to share if you are able. There will be a Kid's Corner with activities for the children. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to help in any way, please contact Terry Mathias at 304-741-0045.

David Brown is ready to arrange a ride for you. Call David by noon on Monday if you need a ride [681-264-0010].

MYSTIC MORSELS



O Give Thanks to the Lord*

GratITUDE to God should be as regular as our heartbeat.

When asked if my cup is half-full or half-empty, my only response is that I am thankful that I have a cup.

— Sam Lefkowitz

Oh, that people would give thanks to the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of humanity. For He satisfies the longing soul, and fills the hungry soul with goodness.

— Psalm 107: 8-9

If a fellow isn't thankful for what he's got, he isn't likely to be thankful for what he's going to get.

— Frank Clark

A good rule for going through life is to keep the heart a little softer than the head.

— Unknown

Some people have food, but no appetite; others have appetite, but no food; I have both. The Lord be thanked.

— Oliver Cromwell

Joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the sound of a melody.

— Isaiah 51: 3

Gratitude is the heart's memory.

— French proverb

Write it on your heart that every day is the best day of the year.

— Ralph Waldo Emerson

CARBONATED GRACE

Why did the Pilgrim go to the beach? She wanted a puri-tan.

What happens when winter arrives early? Autumn leaves.

Why do birds fly south after Thanksgiving? Because it's too far to walk.

How do leaves get to Thanksgiving dinner? By autumn-mobile.

What do cows do on Thanksgiving? They go to the moo-vies.

Why did the stuffing cross the road? To get to the other sides.

Why are Pilgrims' pants always falling down? They wear their buckles on their hats.

What are turkeys thankful for on Thanksgiving? Vegetarians.