

Father Paul's Weekly Email

October 13, 2023

Robert Louis Stevenson was born in Edinburgh, Scotland in 1850. He is best known for writing 'Treasure Island', 'Kidnapped' and 'The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde.' He is less well known for what he called his Patterns for Living. Here are the first six of twelve. They were good words of advice then that ring just as true today.

- Make up your mind to be happy. Learn to find pleasure in simple things.
- Make the best of circumstances. No one has everything and everyone has something of sorrow.
- Don't take yourself too seriously.
- Don't let criticism worry you. You can't please everybody.
- Don't let your neighbors set your standards; be yourself.
- Do things you enjoy doing but stay out of debt.

Would that someone told me about this in my early twenties! I can't say for sure that I would have listened. But I do know I would have saved myself (and others) a lot of grief. Which one do you think has been or can be most important to you? The Roman Catholic Church has both the gift of God's Word in Sacred Scripture and the insights of holy men, women, and children handed down to us in our Sacred Tradition now about 2,000 years in the making. This is another reason we are truly blessed to be Catholics.

Please consider taking advantage of the opportunities we have to grow in faith here at Blessed Sacrament:

- Daily Mass most Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays at noon
- Wednesday Morning Bible Study at 10 am in the Library and on Zoom
- Wednesday Evening Bible Sharing at 6:30 pm in the Library and on Zoom
- Saturday Morning Men's Bible Sharing at 9 am in Library and on Zoom
- Sunday mornings for adults and children from 10:15 - 11:15 am
- occasional topical talks or panels with several contributors

Don't forget to visit our library, read free literature, and check out the links below especially Faith in West Virginia, This Sunday's Readings, and our latest bulletin.

Phone: Office (304) 744-5523	Cell: (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/101523.cfm	
Wednesday Bible Handout	https://blessedsacramentwv.org/download/october-18-2023/?wpdmdl=1480&refresh=65294875961f71697204341	
This Sunday's Bulletin	https://blessedsacramentwv.org/download/october-15-2023/?wpdmdl=1481&refresh=652948758b5cb1697204341	

Noteworthy

The Final Four . . . and More

November is a month when Catholics are traditionally challenged to think about death and what comes next. We have the Feast of All Saints and the Feast of All Souls. Our readings at Mass speak of death, the end of the world, and judgment. A teaching titled *Four Last Things* centers on Death, Judgment, Heaven, and Hell. Fr. Paul Wharton will present *The Final Four and More* on Sunday, October 22 from 10:15 – 11:15am. His talk includes death, judgment, heaven, hell, purgatory, limbo, cremation, funerals, why we pray for the dead, and more. **Please Pre-Register** by signing up in the gathering space, or by calling the office (304-744-5523) or emailing bsccwv@gmail.com. This will help us know how many handouts will be needed.

THANKSGIVING FOOD-DRIVE for Helping Hand and the Coalburg Food Pantry is scheduled for the weekends of October 21-22 and October 27-28.

POEM

For to be human
is to be incomplete,
yet yearn for completion;
it is to be uncertain,
yet long for certainty;
to be imperfect,
yet long for perfection;
to be broken,
yet crave wholeness.
All these yearnings
remain necessarily unsatisfied,
for perfection, completion,
certainty, and wholeness
are impossible precisely
because we are imperfectly human—
or better, because we are perfectly human,
which is to say humanly imperfect.
— Ernest Kurtz and Katherine Ketcham



STORY An old man in ancient Israel was planting a fig tree when a Roman rode by. The Roman said to the man, “Don’t you realize it will take twenty years before that tree will grow enough to give fruit, and you will be long dead by then?” The old man responded, “When I was a small child, I could eat fruit because those who came before me had planted trees. Am I not obliged to do the same for the next generation?”

MYSTIC MORSELS by Saint Teresa of Avila (1515-1582)

- Be gentle to all and stern with yourself.
- He never tires of giving. Let us never tire of receiving.
- Trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be.
- That is the wonderful thing about this journey: one is given more than one ever asks or even dreams of desiring. This is absolutely certain; I know it to be true.

CARBONATED GRACE ***

A man dies and goes to heaven. At the pearly gates, he sees two lines. The first line has a sign that says, "Henpecked Husbands." The line is full of an endless queue of men that stretches far out of site. The sign above the second line says, "Non-Henpecked Husbands." This line is empty, aside from a single scrawny man who was just entering it. The recently deceased man approaches the single occupant of the second line and taps him on the shoulder. "Excuse me," he says, "but can I ask why you're the only man in this line?" The man in the line frowns defensively and says, "My wife told me to stand here."

** Anne Lamott calls laughter *carbonated grace*