

Father Paul's Weekly Email

October 27, 2023

Just in case you haven't heard, Halloween is upon us. People decorate porches and yards with stuff meant to scare us. Hollywood typically releases several horror movies while previous creepy and chilling cinematic classics are replayed on tv and streaming services. A tagline is a short description or comment on a movie that is displayed on movie posters, memes, and adds to capture the essence of the movie, and ultimately make you watch the movie. A few weeks ago, something I read got me thinking about was one of my favorite taglines from the 1986 version of The Fly: "Be afraid. Be very afraid!"

Occasionally I'll see an Internet post declaring there are 365 Bible verses telling us not to be afraid. That is a lie. The truth is it is only about 150 times, including some spoken by our Lord Jesus Christ. "Fear is Useless. What is needed is trust." (Luke 8:50) Most Christians don't understand what it means to fear God and why it is so important. This fear is not like the fear we experience when a viscous, barking dog charges us. Many people think that we ought to be afraid of what God can and will do to us.

Here is a better, more positive understanding of what it means to fear the Lord.

- It is an acknowledgment that God is God and I am not. If we forget this truth, then we begin to think we don't need God.
- It involves a sense of awe for how great are the power, majesty, knowledge, and love the Creator has for each of us. Saint Augustine teaches us that God loves each of us as if we were the only person in the world.
- It means that we obey God and seek God's will because we love God and want to please God in our words and actions, our attitudes, and beliefs. We come to believe that our failure to love God and others offends God.
- It is a foundation for respect for God who is so much more than we can ever hope to understand why God loves us and seeks to lead us to everlasting light and life.
- It helps us to become and be fearless because our confidence in God is unshakable. This is how and why so many martyrs from the earliest days of the church and even now accept death with faith and joy.

When we understand what it means to truly fear the Lord, then may our Lord Jesus and the Holy Spirit make us afraid, very afraid.

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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/102923.cfm>
Wednesday Bible Handout <https://blessedsacramentwv.org/download/bible-share-11-01-2023/?wpdmdl=1493&refresh=653c03296e31b1698431785>
This Sunday's Bulletin <https://blessedsacramentwv.org/download/october-29-2023/?wpdmdl=1494&refresh=653c0329628b31698431785>

Headlines and Happenings

This weekend and next, people are invited to **GIVE THANKS** by **GIVING THANKS-GIVING DINNER.** Please see the bulletin for more information about what you might bring. 25 Baskets will go to Heart & Hand. The rest will be for the Coalburg Food Pantry.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST Sunday October 29 from 10:00 until 11:00 am. Plenty of free food and fellowship. Donations are appreciated to pay for the food.

WINTER MASS SCHEDULE begins on Saturday November 4. Masses on Saturdays begin at 4pm to allow those who find it difficult to drive at night to get home safely. The Sunday Mass schedule remains at 9:00 and 11:30am. **PLEASE NOTE**, with the recommendation of the Pastoral Council, when the Winter Schedule ends in the Spring, the new Mass time for Saturday will be at 5:00 pm.

November 1 is a Holy Day of Obligation a day when Catholics are obliged to come to Mass. The **FEAST of ALL SAINTS DAY** Masses are 12 noon and 6pm.

November 2 is the **FEAST of ALL SOULS.** This is an opportunity to remember and pray for our beloved dead (especially those who died in the past year) and to pray for the Poor Souls in Purgatory who have no one to pray for them. Masses are 12 noon and 6pm.

COME HOME for THANKSGIVING DAY at BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH on Thursday **NOVEMBER 23.** Mass at 1pm and Dinner at 2pm. See bulletin for info.

PRAYER

I love you, Lord, my powerful defender,
wise guide, gentle consoler, generous rewarder.
Confident, I cast all my care on You
whose strength cannot be overthrown,
whose wisdom cannot be led astray,
whose loving kindness cannot be exhausted...
How much better, how much safer it is to
have You caring for me than to be looking after myself.
How much better it is to take refuge You
than to put confidence in people...
I put trust in you, for you, O Lord,
do not forsake me or anyone who put their trust in you.
— Saint Gueric of Igny (c. 1075-1157)

MYSTIC MORSEL

One of the things we absolutely owe our Lord is never to be afraid.

– Saint Charles De Foucauld (1858-1916)

POEM

Shadows in the forest,
leaves upon the ground,
gentle breezes stirring;
the peace of God is found.

Where the sun is shining,
shadows will be born; at
the brightest moment,
darkest shadows form.

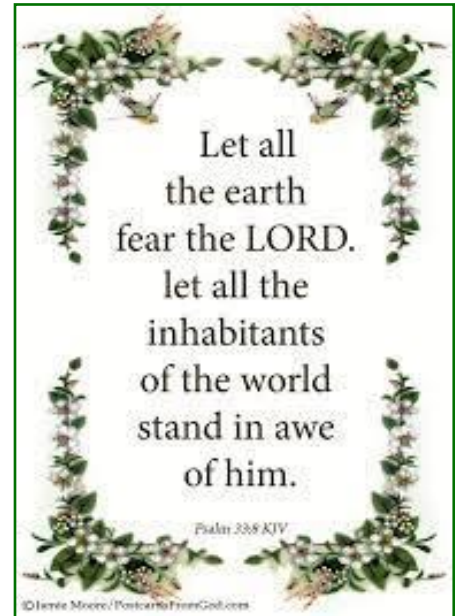
When our hearts are troubled,
and the shadows fall,
let's recall God's promise,
not give in, stand tall.

“I will not forsake you,”
is the Master's word;
face the tribulation;
take God at His word.

God has sent His Spirit
and the light has shown;
we are never orphaned,
left to fend alone.

Yes, The Light is shining
‘though the shadows fall;
God will keep His promise,
help us through it all.

– David Yohe Bevington



CARBONATED GRACE ***

A DEA Agent stopped at a ranch in Texas and talked to an old rancher. He told the rancher, “I need to inspect your ranch for illegally grown drugs.” The rancher said, “Okay, but don’t go into that field over there...” As he pointed out the location, the Agent verbally exploded and said, “Look mister, I have the authority of the federal government with me!” Reaching into his rear back pocket, the arrogant officer removed his badge and proudly displayed it to the rancher. “See this badge?! This badge means I

can go wherever I want... On any land! No questions asked, no answers given! Do you understand old man?!"

The rancher kindly nodded, apologized, and went about his chores. Moments later the rancher heard loud screams, he looked up and saw the DEA agent running for his life, being chased by the rancher's big Santa Gertrudis Bull..... With every step the bull was gaining ground on the officer, and it was likely that he'd sure enough get gored before he reached safety. The officer was clearly terrified. The old rancher threw down his tools, ran as fast as he could to the fence, and yelled at the top of his lungs..... "YOUR BADGE! SHOW HIM YOUR BADGE!"

*** Anne Lamott calls laughter *carbonated grace*