

Blessed Sacrament Weekly Email - September 20, 2024

It is not easy to come up with a homily and a letter which are both interesting and have a good point to consider. Rabbi Victor Urecki is one of the nicest, wisest, and holiest men I have ever met. This week I am sharing something from one of his weekly letters earlier this year.

We Catholics believe truth is truth no matter the source.

Some of the greatest insights I have received are from the Jewish Tradition.



Bad religion stokes fears and channels ignorance.
Good religion raises hopes and encourages study.

Bad religion quotes sacred verses and ends each one with a period.
Good religion opens religious texts and invites adherents to add to them.

Bad religion offers "the answer" and allows no debate.
Good religion welcomes inquiry and dialogue.

Bad religion is about redeeming a wicked world.
Good religion is about bringing light to the darkest corners of a holy world.

Bad religion tells the weak to admit their sinfulness.
Good religion reminds followers to look first at themselves and reach out to the fallen.

Bad religion marginalizes the outcast and rejects the different.
Good religion embraces the vulnerable and welcomes the isolated.

Bad religion empowers the angry and joins with authority to impose.
Good religion angers the powerful and shames authority to do better.

Bad religion has the only truth and the world is "us versus them."
Good religion finds the shared truths and every traveler is on the same road under one divine sky.

— Rabbi Victor Urecki

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Faith in West Virginia

This Sunday's Readings

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<https://www.blessedsacramentwv.org>

<https://faithinwv.org/latest-bulletin/>

<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/092224.cfm>

Headlines and Happenings

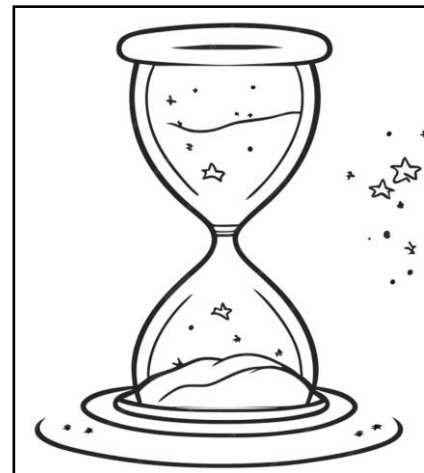
THE PANCAKE ETCETERA BREAKFAST is back this Sunday, September 22, from 10:10 am until 11:11 am. Free, but donations are welcome.

FAITH FORMATION ORIENTATION for students and parents will be held in the church on Sunday September 29, 2024 at 10:15 am.

Also next Sunday September 29, 2024 at 10:15 am in the Parish Hall Blessed Sacrament will present an 8 week video series **JESUS: HIS LIFE**. It explores the story Jesus Christ through a unique lens: the people in his life who were closest to him. Each week stands alone, so come to one, any, or all sessions to explore our Savior Jesus Christ.

PRAYER|POEM Timor Temporis

God of mercy and loving kindness,
Hear me now and in the days to come;
Be gracious to me now and in the time
 of pain and remorse;
Comfort me when old age weakens my mind
 and saps my strength,
When the rich fruits of life wither and sour,
When loneliness is guest at my table.
Lord God, You know my naked soul.
Be with me now,
Be with me at the hour of death.
— Ruth Brin



CARBONATED GRACE

A fleeing Taliban terrorist, desperate for water, was plodding through the desert when he saw something in the distance. Praying it wasn't a mirage, he hurried toward the object only to find a little old Jewish fella standing beside his weathered display rack, selling ties. The terrorist blurted, "Give me water!" The old man replied, "Sorry, no water. Would you like to buy a tie? They're only \$5." The terrorist screamed, "Idiot! Infidel! I don't need an over-priced western adornment. I spit on your ties! I need water!" "Sorry, no water, just ties. Pure silk, and only \$5." "Fah! A curse on your ties! I'd twist one around your scrawny neck and choke the life out of you but . . . I must save my strength and find water!" "Nu," said the little old Jew, "so you don't want to buy a tie from me, and you hate me, call me infidel and threaten my life. But I'm bigger than all of that, so I'll tell you that if you go west, over that hill for about two miles, you'll find a restaurant. They serve the finest food and all the ice-cold water you could ever drink. Go in peace." Grumbling another curse, the desperate Taliban terrorist staggered west, over the hill. Several hours later, he crawled back, nearly dead, and gasped, "They won't let me in without a tie!"