

# Weekly Email

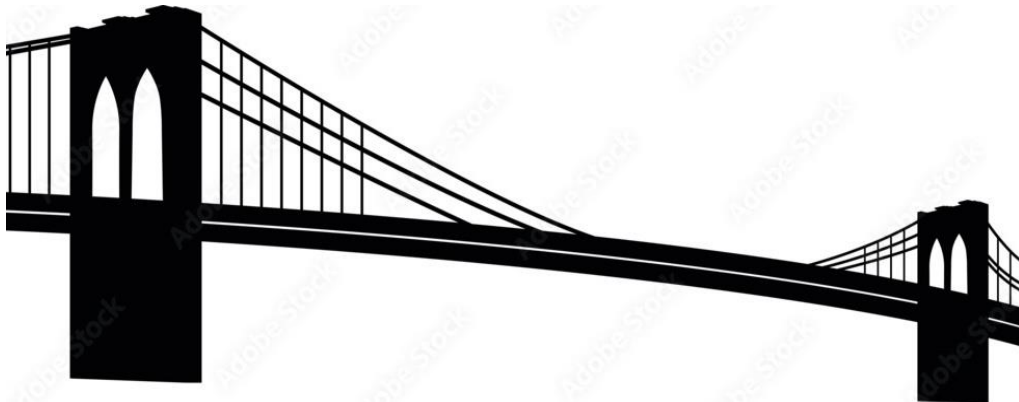
September 27, 2024



In the long history of con artists, George C. Parker holds a special place of dishonor. He is remembered as one of the most successful and daring swindlers in American history. He set up an office in New York City and “sold” some of the city’s most famous attractions to tourists. His favorite was the Brooklyn Bridge, but he also sold the Statue of Liberty, Madison Square Garden, and Grant’s Tomb. He produced elaborately forged documents and deeds to convince his targets that he was the rightful owner of the landmarks he was selling.

Parker was so persuasive that on more than one occasion, police had to come and explain why the new “owners” of the Brooklyn Bridge couldn’t put up tollbooths to collect money from those who tried to cross. After his third conviction for fraud, Parker was sentenced to life at Sing Sing Prison in New York, where he spent the last eight years of his life. He made a fortune preying on people who foolishly believed his empty words. He not only was an expert salesman, but he realized that many people were gullible and he could use that to his advantage.

God expects us to be careful and prudent with the resources that He entrusts to us. Of course, this applies to far more than financial matters. Prudence and wisdom also keep us from falling for the lies of temptation and protect us from great suffering and heartbreak. We should not be easily fooled, but rather we should investigate what we are told and be certain that it is true before making decisions. Paul wrote, *See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise*” (Ephesians 5:15). Develop discernment through reading and meditating on God’s truths, remaining open to the Holy Spirit, and be willing to seek the advice of people you respect.



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This Sunday's Readings

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<https://www.blessedsacramentwv.org>  
<https://faithinwv.org/latest-bulletin/>  
<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/092924.cfm>

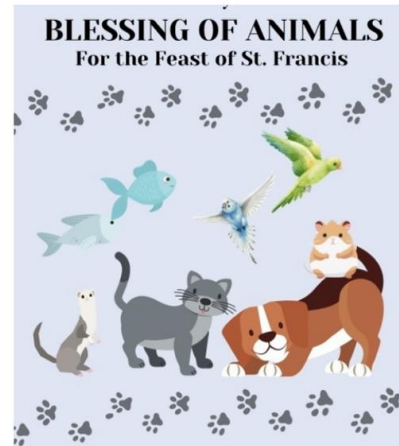
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## Now Hear This

**THIS SUNDAY** September 29th:

- Faith Formation for Children and Youth begins in the Church at 10:15 am for both students and parents.
- Faith Formation for Adults begins in the Parish Hall at 10:15 am.

Blessing of Animals There will be a **BLESSING OF ANIMALS** at 2:00 pm on Sunday October 6 In good weather, we will gather on the property we own across the street from the North Entrance. In bad weather, we will meet on the Church's parking lot. Pets must be properly restrained in cages, on leashes, in fishbowls, etc. The vision of the Prophet Isaiah when lions and lambs will live in peace has not yet arrived. We want no free-range pets on the loose. Given the nature of a particular pet, owners may choose to bring a leash or collar instead. Small children may also bring a favorite stuffed animal. Blessed Sacrament South Charleston is next to Oakes Field.



## PRAYER

God, our Creator of heaven and earth,  
how blessed we are to be surrounded  
by the beauty of your creation.

We lift our prayer of gratitude as we see the stars of heaven,  
and the beauty of the sunset.

We are amazed by the seas and waterways and all that are in them.  
We are enchanted by the flowers and trees which are clothed by you.  
We are awed by all the animals you created.

For the beauty of the earth,  
the mountains and valleys,  
the sun and the moon –  
we give you praise.

Amen.

**POEM**      Let Everything and Everyone

Let everything that has life,  
let everything that has breath  
give all the glory and honor  
and praise to the One  
who overcame death.

Let every living thing  
sing of the mercies of our God.  
Let us exalt Him wherever we live  
with thanksgiving and joy  
In our hearts.

If we don't praise Him,  
the mountains will.  
If we don't exalt Him,  
the rocks will cry out in our stead,  
'God is not dead!'

Let every living thing  
sing of the mercies of our God.  
Let us exalt Him wherever we live  
with thanksgiving and  
joy in our hearts.  
— Lawrence Chewning

**CARBONATED GRACE**

There was a story about three sons who left home, went out on their own and prospered. Getting back together, they discussed the gifts they were able to give their elderly mother. The first said, "I built a big house for our mother." The second said, "I sent her a Mercedes with a driver." The third smiled and said, "I've got you both beat. Remember how mom enjoyed reading the Bible? And you know she can't see very well. I sent her a remarkable parrot that recites the entire Bible. It took elders in the church 12 years to teach him. He's one of a kind. Mama just has to name the chapter and verse, and the parrot recites it.

Soon thereafter, mom sent a letter to each son. "Milton," she wrote one son, "the house you built is so huge. I live in only one room, but I have to clean the whole house."

"Gerald," she wrote to another, "I am too old to travel. I stay most of the time at home, so I rarely use the Mercedes. And the driver is so rude!" "Dearest Donald," she wrote to her third son, "you have the good sense to know what your mother likes. The chicken was delicious."