



## Weekly Email from Father Paul Wharton

March 25, 2023

There are many different kinds of old Roman Catholics. There are Cradle Catholics like myself - born into a Catholic family, baptized in infancy, and raised in the faith. Then there are Converts like my dad who, baptized a Methodist, became a very devout Catholic in his 20's. Years ago before Piggly Wiggly or Aldi grocery stores, one of the best known places to buy food was the Greater Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company (A & P for short.)

Another interesting group of Church members include those we affectionately call A & P Catholics. The Season of Lent is their Prime Time. Every Catholic is strongly encouraged and really ought to come both to the First Day and the Sixth Sunday of Lent. Churches are more crowded these days because of the A & P Catholics who rarely come to Mass, but wouldn't think of missing **A**sh Wednesday **and** **P**alm Sunday. They come to get ashes or palms. Let's me be absolutely clear that everyone from everywhere is always welcome at Blessed Sacrament, but especially on days like Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Christmas, and Easter.

Palm Sunday (April 2) marks the beginning of Holy Week. The primary purpose of Lent is to prepare our hearts and minds, souls and lives to celebrate the holiest week of the year. This Sunday March 26 we will have a Communal Penance Service at 3 pm. Fr Paul and several other priests will be available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

**HERE'S AN IDEA.** Invite someone you know who has been unable to come or been away from Church for whatever reason to come with you to one of our three Palm Sunday Masses. If you think of it, bring old palm branches from home. We will use them to make the ashes for next year.

---

Phone: Office (304) 744-5523  
Parish website  
This Sunday's Readings  
Faith in West Virginia  
This Sunday's Bulletin

Cell: (304) 433-7472      Email: [pjw424@gmail.com](mailto:pjw424@gmail.com)  
<https://www.blessedsacramentwv.org>  
<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/032623.cfm>  
<https://faithinwv.org/latest-bulletin/>

### Headlines and Happenings

**Extraordinarily Ministers of Holy Communion** new and old are asked to meet at the altar for 10-15 minutes after Mass either this weekend or next. We will review procedures as well as answer questions. Communion from the Cup will be offered again beginning on Holy Thursday April 6.

A Sunday morning book discussion group begins Sunday March 26 at 10:15 am in the Conference Room beside the Parish Hall. **Essential Writings of Oscar Romero** is

filled with insights, wisdom, and challenges by this Bishop, Saint, and Martyr Books will be provided or you can choose to purchase an ebook for your tablet or device.

**Choosing a Logo for Our Parish.** To say that Fr. Paul, was truly and genuinely shocked by the kerfuffle kicked off by the possibility of a new parish logo is an understatement to say the least. The logo was not being used. Some people had no idea there was a parish logo or thought it was what is at the top of the Blessed Sacrament Website. Hardly anyone knew its origin much less could explain what it means. Consultation was sought and received about three possible designs. As promised, you have the opportunity to stop by the super secret ballot box in our gathering area and tell us about your choice of logo for our parish. Three easy steps:

- 1) Pick a ballot with the logo of your choice.
- 2) Tell us what the logo says to you.
- 3) Tell us what you think the logo would say to a stranger/someone new to our parish.

### **Lent discipline: Weeping**

Jesus wept.

—John 11.35

For Lazarus, for Mary and Martha,  
for Jerusalem, for us—Jesus weeps,  
and invites us into the spiritual discipline of weeping:  
to cede control, to be, after all, a body, baby-weak,  
subject to the sting of love,  
the pangs of our connectedness.  
The rend in the fabric of Oneness  
is made real in the rend in your eyes,  
the crack in the wall, the opening of your flesh.  
You surrender to a current,  
like a river pulled into the ocean,  
deep within you, flowing out,  
a holy out-flowing.  
Tears come when you have gone beyond yourself,  
embodying a divine bond, severed yet still holding.

Weep; for even if you have not suffered  
you have loved a suffering world.  
Break the seal.  
Feel the aliveness of a good cry.  
For if you can weep you can hope.  
If you can weep you have loved, and will love again.  
You flow with God, who weeps for us in grief,  
and weeps with joy.

Steve Garnaas-Holmes  
Unfolding Light

[www.unfoldinglight.net](http://www.unfoldinglight.net)

**MYSTIC MORSELS** from Saint Oscar Romero.

- Aspire not to have more, but to be more.
- A church that doesn't provoke any crises, a gospel that doesn't unsettle, a word of God that doesn't get under anyone's skin, a word of God that doesn't touch the real sin of the society in which it is being proclaimed — what gospel is that?
- When we leave Mass, we ought to go out the way Moses descended Mount Sinai: with his face shining, with his heart brave and strong to face the world's difficulties.

**CARBONATED GRACE** \*\*\*

Frank believed that five was his special number. He was born on May 5, the 5th son of a 5th son. He and his wife had 5 children and lived at 555 East 55th. At the track on his 55th birthday, he was surprised to find a horse named Numero Cinco running in the 5th race. So 5 minutes before the race, he went to the 5th window and put 5 thousand dollars on Numero Cinco. . . . Sure enough, the horse came in 5th.

\*\*\* Anne Lamott calls laughter *carbonated grace*.



Taizé Prayer is evening prayer for all Christian faiths. It is a simple, meditative form of worship, calling us to dwell deeply on Christ's presence around and within us. Simple songs (like "Jesus, Remember Me"), prayerful silence, and short readings guide the focus of the prayer in a candle-lit environment.

You are cordially invited to come join us in a Taizé Prayer Experience this Wednesday at 7pm at Sacred Heart Basilica on Leon Sullivan Road in downtown Charleston, WV.