

Father Paul's Weekly Email

November 17, 2023

Years ago (1193-1998) when I was the Pastor of the Catholic Church of the Ascension in Hurricane, I took my turn as a volunteer Chaplain at Putnam General Hospital. One of my duties each day was to visit all newly admitted patients to see if they would welcome a visit and some prayer. I would also ask if the patient would like me to contact their minister to let him or her know.

One day I came to open door of a 40 year old man and knocked. He was talking to someone on the phone when he looked up and saw me dressed in clerical clothing. Without missing a beat, he told the caller, "I must be sicker than I thought. They sent for the Catholic priest to see me." The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick was once known as *Extreme Unction* - final anointing - and associated with preparing for immanent death. It is still wrongly called by some as *The Last Rites*.

The **ANOINTING of the SICK** is appropriate whenever one is hospitalized and preparing for or recovering from surgery. Someone who has a chronic condition such as diabetes or arthritis may also benefit. The Church teaches that anyone who is feeling the burden or weakness from old age may come for this sacramental blessing. Fr. Bill Petro, Fr. John Finnell, and I will be anointing the sick during the Saturday November 18 4pm Mass and the Sunday 11:30 am Mass. Please come to be anointed or pray for our sick brothers and sisters.

Another special event this week is our **BLESSED SACRAMENT THANKS-GIVING DAY CELEBRATION** with Mass at 1pm and dinner at 2pm. It is good to give thanks to the Lord and enjoy faith, food, fellowship, and fun. There is still time to sign up. Feel free to bring some side dishes or dessert. There will be a children's play area.

Finally, please pray for our pilgrims to the **National Catholic Youth Conference** in Indianapolis Thursday through Sunday. NCYC is a powerfully unique three-day experience of prayer, community, evangelization, catechesis, service, and empowerment for Catholic teenagers (of high school age) and their adult chaperones. For more information on NCYC please go to their website at <https://ncyc.us/>

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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/111923.cfm>
Wednesday Bible Handout We will not have Bible Sharing this week.
This Sunday's Bulletin <https://blessedsacramentwv.org/en/download/november-19-2023/?wpdmdl=1518&refresh=6557c87e556141700251774>

POEM

A Sainly Exhortation

Recognize to whom you owe the fact that you exist,
that you breathe,
that you understand,
that you are wise, and, above all,
that you know God
and hope for the kingdom of heaven.

You have been made a child of God,
co-heir with Christ.
Where did you get all this,
and from whom?
What benefactor has enabled you
to lookout upon the beauty of the sky,
the sun in its course,
the circle of the moon,
the countless number of stars
with the harmony and
order that are theirs,
like the music of a harp?

Who has blessed you
with rain,
with the art of husbandry,
with different kinds of food,
with the arts, with houses,
with states,
with a life of humanity and culture,
with friendship and the easy familiarity of kinship?

Is it not God
who asks you now in your
turn to show yourself generous
because we have received
from him so many wonderful gifts,
will we not be ashamed to refuse him
this one thing only, our generosity?
— Saint Gregory Nazianzen

MYSTIC MORSELS

- If the only prayer you said in your whole life was, “Thank you,” that would suffice.
— Meister Eckhart (1260-1328)
- When it comes to life the critical thing is whether you take things for granted
or take them with gratitude.
— GK Chesterton (1874-1936)



PRAYER For the Blessings

For the Blessings You lavish upon us
in forest and sea, in mountain and meadow, in rain and sun,
we thank You.

For the blessings You plant within us,
joy and peace, meditation and laughter,
we are grateful to You.

For the blessings of friendship and love,
of family and community,

For the blessings we ask of You
and those we cannot ask,

For the blessings you bestow on us openly
and those You give us in secret,

For all these blessings, O Lord of the Universe,
we thank You and are grateful to You.

For those blessings we recognize
and those we fail to recognize,

For the blessings of our tradition
and of our holy days,

For the blessings of return and forgiveness,
of memory, vision, and of hope —

For all these blessings that surround us in every side
Dear God, hear our thanks and accept our gratitude.
— Ruth Brin

CARBONATED GRACE ***

An elementary school substitute teacher who was helping her kids spell. She told the class she wanted each one of them to tell what their father did for a living and then spell his occupation. A girl named Mary went first. She said, "My dad is a baker. B-A-K-E-R. If he were here, he would give everyone a cookie." Next came Tommy. He said, "My dad is banker. B-A-N-K-E-R. If he were here, he would give everybody a dollar." The third kid was Jimmy. He said, "My dad is an electrician." He tried several times to spell the word, but he just couldn't do it. Finally, the teacher asked him to sit down and think about it while she called on somebody else, so she turned to a kid named, Johnny. He said, "My dad is a bookie. B-O-O-K-I-E. If he were here, he would lay you 8 to 5 odds that Jimmy ain't never gonna spell 'lectrician.'"

*** Anne Lamott calls laughter *carbonated grace*