



Weekly Email from *Father Paul Wharton*

November 29, 2022

The United Nations announced that the world has reached a population of 8 billion people — a staggering number that has made some question the size of their family, or their desire to have children at all. It's a fact parents welcome fewer and children into the world. Those with more than two are often criticized. Fortunately, Fr. David Moses posted this response about what to say to those who complain.

“It's simple. What does the world need the most right now? I think it's pretty clear: We need good people. Holy people. People of integrity and high moral character. People who are joyful, and hopeful, and courageous. And we don't just need a few of these people — we need a lot of them. So, have a bunch of kids, and raise them to be good, and holy, and joyful, and courageous people, who will one day become the husbands, wives, mothers, fathers, priests and sisters that our world so desperately needs. Have a bunch of kids, and raise them to be good, and you'll have made the world a better place.”

Thank you, readers, for the gift of your children to the world and the Church. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of the Messiah, pray for all parents, foster parents, adoptive parents, grandparents raising grandchildren, and those who more than anything desire to become parents.

Phone: Office (304) 744-5523
Parish website
Next Sunday's Readings

Cell: (304) 433-7472 Email: pjw424@gmail.com
<https://www.blessedsacramentwv.org>
<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/120422.cfm>

THIS WEEK at BSP

To see what's happening, consult our weekly bulletin at this link — <https://ec-prod-sites.s3.amazonaws.com/6381/documents/2022/11/221127.pdf>

*Advent Group Lectio
Divina Experience*



Wednesdays 1pm November **30** and
December **7, 14, & 21** in the church

PRAYING THROUGH ADVENT & CHRISTMAS is our Intergenerational Faith Formation theme for December 4, 2022. We will begin with lunch at 12:45PM! Activities include making advent wreaths, placemats and reflecting on important Advent/Christmas figures: Mary, Elizabeth, Zachariah, and Simeon! All households are encouraged to participate—especially those with children! Childcare in the nursery will be available for little ones. Register today! Go ahead.... click the link below.
<https://forms.gle/JfDhCdLnbNvXmZKE9>

YOUTH MUSIC ENSEMBLE for grades 1-12 Everyone in first grade through youth group age is invited to join in preparing music for offerings during Mass and for concerts on Friday, December 9 and Friday, January 6. We sing and play instruments, and we hold rehearsals between Sunday morning Masses to make it easy on families who come from a distance. Next Rehearsal: Sunday Dec. 4 at 10:15am in the church.

WVIS ADVENT RETREAT - Friday, December 9th from 5:45pm - 8:00pm EST
Saturday, December 10th from 8:00am - 3:30pm EST via Zoom. . We offer you this retreat as a gift of time to reflect on what we hear God saying during this season of Advent, as we wait in joyful hope. Register: Email wvisreg@gmail.com.

POEM:

Woke

Keep awake therefore,
for you do not know on what day
the One is coming.
—Matthew 24.42



The Beloved waits just on the other side
of the thin curtain.
The emperor and his minions,
the billionaire and his servants
want you to sleep, to stay oblivious.
Don't open your eyes to beauty,
the etchings of the frost on the pond.
Don't see what's going on,
don't notice injustice,
don't think of who suffers.
Just buy, and sleep.

But an awakening stirs in you,
an ocean tide you can't defy.
The Teacher knows.
A hunger, the hopeful gnawing
at the cracks in the world.
Attentiveness to where it hurts.

The mystery, the migrating nudge,
the first birth pangs,
angels' sharp desire.
"I know you're there."

Keep awake. Watch. Notice.
You don't know when
the Beloved will appear,
when the world will shift—
the bird at the window,
the bum on the street,
the prison door.

The fearful court your coma,
and disparage the opening of your eyes.
Ignore them.
Stay woke.

Steve Garnaas-Holmes
Unfolding Light
www.unfoldinglight.net

MYSTIC MORSEL: Rabbi Nachman of Breslov writes, "A person is not what he knows, a person is not what he does. A person is what he is longing for." [Shoutout to Rabbi Urecki]

CARBONATED GRACE ***

A little boy and his dad were in church, the boy asked, "Dad, what does it mean when everyone stands?" The man said, "We are listening to the gospel." The boy asked, "What does it mean when those men pass those baskets?" The dad said, "The people are giving gifts to God." The boy then questioned, "What does it mean when the people go up and down the aisle?" Dad answered, "They are guests at the Lord's table." Then the boy asked, what does it mean when the priest lays his watch on the pulpit?" Since the priest was fairly long winded, the man replied, "It means absolutely nothing, son, absolutely nothing!"

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