

Arthur J. Williams was born on Thanksgiving Day in 1972. He grew up on the South Side of Chicago and is a diehard White Sox fan.

He is best known as the man who successfully counterfeited the 1996-series \$100 Bill ... and his life is the subject of the book titled: *"The Art of Making Money."*

Counterfeiting can cause unintended inflation, resulting in a reduction in the value of authentic money. In addition to decreasing consumer confidence, companies get stuck with the counterfeit bills and receive no compensation, resulting in higher prices.

These days, you see all sorts of things on various bills as the government attempts to thwart counterfeiters: (1) holograms, (2) color-shifting inks, (3) watermarks, (4) raised printing, and (5) magnetic security threads.

Yet despite their best efforts, professional counterfeiters are hard at work trying to defeat the newest counter-measures in order to continue their criminal enterprise.

The Gospel we hear today is the Parable of the Wheat and the Weeds.

In a slightly different parable - the Parable of the Sower - Jesus explained that the seed represents the Word of God sown by Christ in the hearts of His faithful people.

In this parable, something else is growing ... something unwanted. When asked where this came from, we are told: *"An enemy has done this."*

The enemy of our souls presents a false Gospel, a counterfeit version of the Word of God ... which has no spiritual value ... and no power to save.

By knowing and bearing in mind Who God is, we can avoid false gods in our lives ... putting our faith in the One True God and His Son Jesus Christ ... and not go running off after counterfeits.

As we approach this altar to receive the Sacred Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, let us fix our eyes on Jesus - He Who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Let us not be drawn astray by worthless counterfeits, but trusting in the power of the Holy Spirit, may we be guided in faith and prayer, and always live out our own lives in God's will.