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Blessed Sacrament

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Mission Statement:

Established in the Spirit of Jesus Christ with an Afro-centric focus, Blessed Sacrament Chapel is committed to spreading the "Word" through fellowship and good works.

Sunday Mass: 10:00AM

Reconciliation: 1st Sunday 9:30AM

St. Stephen Cathedral Parish Office: 270-683-6525

Rector: Fr. Jerry Riney, jerry.riney@pastoral.org

Parochial Vicar: Fr. Jamie Dennis,
james.dennis@pastoral.org

Parish Life Coordinator: Sr. Jeannette Fennewald, SSND
jeannette.fennewald@pastoral.org

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — The LORD said to Abram: All the families of the earth shall find blessing in you

(Genesis 12:1-4a)

Psalm — Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you (Psalm 33).

Second Reading — God has called us to a holy life, not because of our works but according to grace

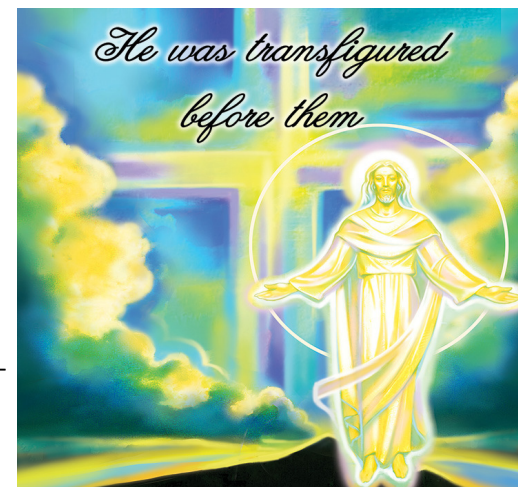
(2 Timothy 1:8b-10).

Gospel — Atop a high mountain, Jesus was transfigured before Peter, James, and John. (Matthew 17:1-9).



Second Sunday of Lent March 12, 2017

Christ Jesus . . . destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.



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MINSTERS

Lectors

March 19: Gloria Adams

Marsha Allen

March 26: M.K. Gough

Darlina Etienne

Eucharistic Ministers

March 19: Karen Leachman\

Diane Hatchett

Vivian Higgs

March 26: Marsha Allen

Payton Sanford

Misty Sanford

Ushers:

March 19: Cindy Clark

Barbara Hammond

March 26: Jeff Sanford

Dylan Sanford

Offertory

March 19: Cindy Clark

Barbara Hammond

March 26: Jeff Sanford

Dylan Sanford

TRUE FRIENDSHIP

A true friend can hear a tear drop.

—Anonymous

Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowls

This year, CRS Rice Bowl provides a path for Catholics in the United States to build, what Pope Francis calls “a culture of encounter”. By following the [daily Lenten calendar](#), sharing the weekly [stories of hope](#), and making the [meatless meals](#), participants will follow a personal journey that leads to us seeing ourselves in the faces of our neighbors, cultivating a spirit of global solidarity and encountering God’s love anew.

Pope Francis told Catholic leaders that the “ability to see yourselves in the faces of others, this daily proximity to their share of troubles and their little acts of heroism: this is what enables you to practice the commandment of love, not on the basis of ideas or concepts, but rather on the basis of genuine interpersonal encounter.”

“We do not love concepts or ideas,” the Pope said. “We love people.”

“CRS Rice Bowl is about people and the hope we have for each other. It’s about our ability to encounter our neighbors no matter where they live, to love them as God loves us.

It is global in its reach, bringing tangible goods and services to people in need around the world. Twenty-five percent of all contributions stay in local dioceses to support hunger and poverty prevention programs such as community gardens, food pantries, soup kitchens, support groups, and job centers. The remaining 75% goes to support CRS’ humanitarian and development programs overseas, providing life-saving assistance and hope to impoverished and vulnerable communities.

IMP—Kroger Update

Blessed Sacrament’s # is 30623

**Do you shop at Kroger? Are you signed up?
Your contribution which costs you nothing is greatly appreciated.**

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

The Blessed Sacrament was not reserved in church buildings in the first centuries of the church. In those early years, of course, people met in borrowed “house churches,” gathering on the Lord’s Day for community, apostolic teaching, the breaking of the bread, and the prayers, as Acts of the Apostles tells us. Dispersed, people went their way into the workaday world until the next assembly. Weighing down their hearts was the absence of brothers and sisters, not only the sick, but those imprisoned for the faith. No wonder they developed a way of extending the food of the Holy Table to them.

Forty years ago, every altar boy in training heard about Saint Tarcisus. He was a twelve-year-old boy at the time of intense persecution in fourth-century Rome. His community had begun to convey the consecrated bread from their Eucharist to those condemned to death or awaiting trial. Normally deacons did this, but on one occasion, it was necessary to send the boy to bear the holy mysteries to the prison. The legend says that he was an athlete, and was detained on the way by some playmates who wanted him to join in their game. When he refused, they demanded to know what he was carrying. The situation went from bad to worse, and he was badly beaten and died of his injuries. A hundred years later, a pope called him a second St. Stephen. In the nineteenth century, Cardinal Nicholas Wiseman of England wrote a novel in which he expanded the story and popularized it. By then, no one seemed to notice that this twelve-year-old was actually touching and ministering the Eucharist, unthinkable until recently. The first reason for setting some Eucharistic bread aside was not adoration, but Communion of the sick.

Our thoughts and prayers are with:

SICK: Loretta Wathen, Rita Moorman, Beverly Chilton, Larry Leachman, Otha Holbrook, Georgia Holland, Carol Hatchett, Philip Moorman, Sr., Jim Moorman, Bernice Williams, Sarah Bumm, Dorothy Fulton, Louise Johnson, Larry Allen, Betty Clark, Phillip Moorman, Jr., Linda McDonald **If you know of anyone seriously ill who is in need of prayer or visitation, please notify the office.**

THE HOMEBOUND: Stan Howard at Bishop Soennecker Home, Knottsville, Donald Moorman room 40 at Wellington Park, 2885 New Hartford Rd, Maggie Howard at Twin River Nursing Center, A phone call or a card can cheer the homebound if you can’t visit.

Our next Cursillo Weekends are: March 23-26 (Women) at Immaculate Conception, Hawesville. Cost is only \$75. Interested candidates can contact the Parish Office to find a Cursillo Sponsor or contact: Men's Weekend- Kelley Wheatley, [270.316.5609](tel:270.316.5609), wheatleysdd@att.net; Women's Weekend-Julie Tiell, [270-962-7109](tel:270-962-7109), j.a.ritzheimer@

In the face of so many wounds that hurt us and could lead to a hardness of heart, we are called to dive into the sea of prayer, which is the sea of the boundless love of God, in order to experience His tenderness. —Pope Francis

Coming Events

CALENDAR



Blessed Sacrament Chapel

March

- ◆ Weeks of March 5 and 12—Outreach for Local needs.
- ◆ 12 Collection for local needs
- ◆ 17 Stations of the Cross 2PM

April

- ◆ 7 Fish Fry 5-7 PM

Penance Services

- ◆ March 16 Our Lady of Lourdes 6 PM
- ◆ March 19 Blessed Mother 2 PM
- ◆ March 22 St. Joseph and Paul 6 PM
- ◆ March 27 St. Pius Tenth 6 PM
- ◆ March 28 Immaculate 6 PM
- ◆ April 3 Precious Blood 6 PM
- ◆ April 9 St. Stephen 2 PM
- ◆ **Every Wednesday 6:30 –8 PM at St. Stephen’s**
- ◆ Every Saturday after 9 AM Mass at St. Stephen’s

Thank you for your contributions.

March 5— \$1291

Goal: \$818

Donuts \$8



Community Events

March 17—St. Stephen’s Fish Fry 5-7 PM

March 18—Diocesan Black Catholic Gathering

10—5 at Christ the King Parish in Madisonville. Mass at 4 PM with the Bishop. Continental breakfast and lunch provided.

March 18—BBQ Dinner 10 Am-2 PM at Dugan Best Park (Corner of 10th and Omega) Asbury UM Women’s Ministry. Donation \$7

April 11 6:30 PM Chrism Mass at the Sports Center.

St. Meinrad’s has several retreat offering:

- ◆ March 24-26 The Sacraments. “I am always with you.”
- ◆ April 7-9 Celebrating the Paschal Mystery (prepare for Holy Week)
- ◆ April 12-16 Holy Week Retreat

2017 Women’s Day Weekend

Theme: Women of God Moving From Belief to Practice. Friday March 24-March 26 at Asbury UMC on Cravens Ave.

Stations of the Cross

Blessed Sacrament will have Stations on March 17th at 2 PM

St. Stephen’s Cathedral has Stations on Wednesday after noon Mass and on Fridays at 6 PM

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Dn 9:4b-10; Ps 79:8, 9, 11, 13; Lk 6:36-38

Tuesday: Is 1:10, 16-20; Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21, 23; Mt 23:1-12

Wednesday: Jer 18:18-20; Ps 31:5-6, 14-16; Mt 20:17-28

Thursday: Jer 17:5-10; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 16:19-31

Friday: Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a; 17b-28a; Ps 105:16-21; Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

Saturday: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20; Ps 103:1-4, 9-12; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

Sunday: Ex 17:3-7; Ps 95:1-2, 6-9; Rom 5:1-2, 5-8; Jn 4:5-42 [5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42]

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Second Sunday of Lent;
Daylight Saving Time begins;
Girl Scouting Sunday

Friday: St. Patrick; Abstinence

Saturday: St. Cyril of Jerusalem

Do you know that you can help raise money for Blessed Sacrament (or an OCS family) when you buy SCRIP gift card? SCRIP is sold at OCHS on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 8 AM to 5 PM. Just mention Blessed Sacrament (or the name of an OCS family) when you purchase.

THE JOURNEY OF TRANSFIGURATION

“We used to be such good friends. How is it that you’ve moved so far away?” one man asked another. “Perhaps,” the other replied, “you have moved away. By standing still.” This exchange very well could have happened between Peter and Jesus, had Peter been allowed to erect tents to stay on the mount of the Transfiguration. He nearly succumbed to the temptation to stay in a place of wonder and light. But Jesus knew the hard truth: we are on a continual journey when we are walking the paths of God’s will. It is not good for us to stay in one place on our faith journey. Equally unhealthy is staying put in times of joy and wonder to avoid life’s difficulties, or to wallow in our trials and temptations and fail to be companions for our sisters and brothers who are also suffering—or celebrating! The pilgrim Church is required to do one thing on its Lenten journey: to walk continually with Christ as his Body born of water and the Spirit, seeking God’s will, helping the reign of God to be known on earth, being led to the end of our journey, transfigured for all time into the company of heaven.

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Keep in Prayers

- ◆ **Ruth Coble who will be received into full communion of the Church at the Easter Vigil on April 15th.**
- ◆ **Austin Gough as he continues his journey toward Confirmation on June 4th.**

From the desk of

Father Jamie



Today we hear the great account of the Transfiguration. Interestingly enough, the poor apostles just did not get it. We see this as they talk about setting up tents, instead of what is happening in front of them. Instead of admiring and learning from what is happening in front of them, they are uncomfortable and distract themselves with wanting to build tents. Sometimes I think we like to do this as well. Instead of enjoying what God sets before us, we don't want to deal with it and distract ourselves with other things.

One of the things that I think we don't appreciate enough is the beauty in nature that God gives us every day. Some of us would much rather stay inside, play video games, watch TV, and busy ourselves. I myself was raised on a farm and I have always admired nature and natural things. I am finding more and more, that even children who are raised on farms or near naturally beautiful places don't get out as much. I also find, that these same generations not only don't appreciate the outdoors, but they don't appreciate relationships either. If we can't appreciate what God gave us and who God gave us, how are we to appreciate God? I ask us to reflect on these ideas as we continue on this journey of Lent. May we not be distracted while beautiful things of God are happening right in front of us.

I think we miss a lot of miracles in the world as we become more and more distracted. God performs miracles every day, we just have to be open to them. They can be as small as a beautiful sunset, sunrise, or an answered prayer. If we pay attention, we can see the hand of God present in our every day lives. May we stay alert and focus on what God puts right in front of us.

Father Jamie leads Vespers each Tuesday and Thursday at 5:30 in the Cathedral.

40 Forty is a number that has significance during Lent.. It is a time to imitate Jesus who in the 40 days spent in the desert taught us how to overcome temptations with the Word of God. The number 40 is mentioned 146 times in the Bible. The number points to or symbolizes trial and testing, a time for God to effect change. God sent rain upon the land for 40 days. After the Exodus, the Israelites were in the desert for 40 years. Elijah walked 40 days in the desert to Mount Horeb. God gives Ninevah 40 days to repent or be destroyed. Jesus fasted 40 days in the desert before he began his public ministry. Jesus presented himself as alive for 40 days after his resurrection.

March Birthdays

1—Bernice Williams
2—Marsha Allen
7—Britney Carmona
18—Jean Higgs
21—Tracy Hunter
25—Carol Hatchett
31—Frank Fulton



Mass Intentions:

March 1—Michael Carrico
March 5—Frances Johnson
March 12—Les Bumm
March 19—Kenneth Higgs
March 26—Jerry Mezur

Let us remember to pray for those who have recently died or those who are in the process of dying. Always remember to pray for the poor souls in purgatory.

Needed:

Blessed Sacrament is in need of someone to clean the Church and hall. Usually it takes 1-2 hours a week. If you or anyone you know is interested, please contact Sister Jeannette. If we had 4 individuals (or families) who could come one week a month and clean until we find someone, that would be much appreciated. Thanks.

Each year during Lent we reach out to help others. (One of the pillars of Lent is Almsgiving). We have chosen three: local needs, backpack ministry, and Crossroads Women Shelter.

We will take up a collection on March 12 for local needs—someone has emergency needs

The weeks of March 19 and 26 we will collect for the Backpack ministry. (canned pasta, Vienna sausage, fruit cups, crackers with peanut butter or cheese) No macaroni and cheese.

The weeks of April 2 and 9, we will collect for Crossroads Women Shelter. (umbrellas, bus passes, blankets, sheets, pillow cases)