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# Blessed Sacrament

602 Sycamore Street • Owensboro, KY 42301 • 270-926-4741

[www.blessedsacramentchapel.org](http://www.blessedsacramentchapel.org) or email at [blessedsac602@gmail.com](mailto:blessedsac602@gmail.com)

## 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

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

**Rector:** Fr. Jerry Riney, [jerry.riney@pastoral.org](mailto:jerry.riney@pastoral.org)

**Parochial Vicar:** Fr. Sinoj Pynadath HGN  
[sinoj.pynadath@pastoral.org](mailto:sinoj.pynadath@pastoral.org)

**Parish Life Coordinator:** Sr Jeannette Fennewald,  
 SSND [pa@blessedsacramentchapel.org](mailto:pa@blessedsacramentchapel.org)



## 1st Sunday of Lent February 21, 2021

Your ways, O LORD, make known to me;  
 teach me your paths.

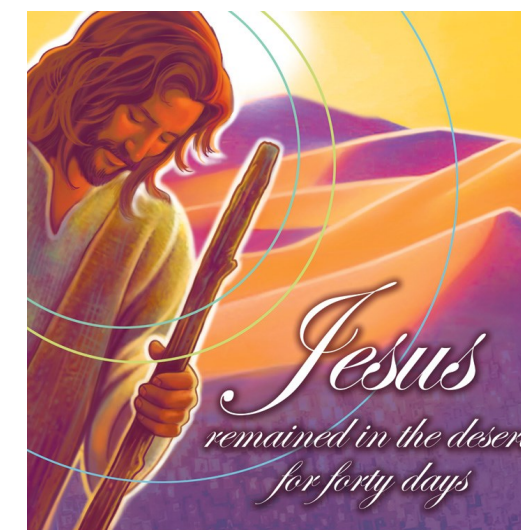
## TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading** — God's covenant with Noah when he was delivered from the flood (Genesis 9:8-15).

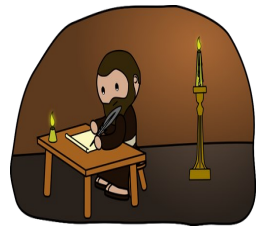
**Psalm** — Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant (Psalm 25).

**Second Reading** — The water of the flood prefigured baptism, which saves you now (1 Peter 3:18-22).

**Gospel** — This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand (Mark 1:12-15).



# The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe in the gospel



## From the desk of Father Sinoj

Dear Friends in Christ,

We begin this Season of Lent with a sincere intention to cleanse our souls from the stains of sins and prepare to celebrate the mystery of the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus our Savior. Today, the First Sunday of Lent calls us to reflect on the temptation Jesus faced in the desert and His invitation to repentance.

In the Gospel we are told that Jesus faced and defeated the tempter by his forty days of prayer and penance in the desert immediately following his baptism. Temptation and our response to it are integral parts of our lives. Jesus also experienced them. Jesus’ temptations after his baptism are described to teach us why we are tempted and how we should conquer temptations.

“The Kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the Gospel.” This exhortation of Jesus summarizes the purpose of His ministry. God is already working among us, but we will be able to experience Him only if we undergo a complete change in our value system and priorities by means of true repentance. May this season of Lent help us to know where we stand in our relationship with God and strengthen us to know and overcome evil through repentance and Faith!

(^.^) Always  
(^.^) Keep  
(^.^) Smiling!

God Loves You!!

Fr. Sinoj Pynadath HGN

### February Birthdays

- 10--Father Jerry Riney
- 21--Burnell & Mabel Hamilton  
(51 yr. anniversary)
- 23--Larry Allen
- 24--Yasmeen Williams
- 27--Sondra Hibbs

### March Birthdays

- 2--Marsha Allen
- 6--Jax Malone,  
Alizabeth Hatchett
- 7--Britney Carmona



### Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen

### Mass Intentions

- February 14--Kenneth Higgs
- February 17--Grace Medley Ebelhar
- February 21--Donald Moorman
- February 28--Charles E. Thompson
- March 7--Mary Ann Calhoun

*Let us remember to pray for those who have recently died or those in the process of dying. Remember to pray for the souls in purgatory, especially for those who have no one to pray for them.*

**Our thoughts and prayers are with the sick: Janice Taul, Louise Johnson, Ruth Coble, Merle Griffith, Tyler Cruppi, Pam Wilson, Frank & Gloria Adams, Larry Allen, Shirley Schmidt, Carol Hatchett, Larry Conder, Mike Coakley, Andy Evans, Jason Pierce, Gary Moorman Rachel Mattingly, Camilla Greer, Phillip Moorman, Jr. If you know of anyone seriously ill who is in need of prayer or visitation, please notify the office.**

Please remember our home-bound: Ruth Coble and Shirley Schmidt who are at Heritage Park. Georgia Holland lives in St.. Louis but stays active in BSC happenings. Please pray also for all who, because they are vulnerable, cannot attend Mass. A card or phone call can cheer them up.

When Jesus was dying on the Cross, He said: “I thirst.” Jesus is thirsting for our love and this is the thirst we all have, rich and poor alike. We all thirst for the love of others, that they go out of their way to avoid harming us and do good to us. This is the meaning of true love, to give until it hurts.  
--St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta



## Coming Events CALENDAR



### Blessed Sacrament Chapel

Feb. 26--Fish Fry (drive-through)  
4:30--6:30 pm



March 26--Fish Fry (drive through)  
5-7 pm



February 14--\$1451.41

Weekly budget--\$952

MTD collections---\$2442

MTD budget--\$1904

YTD collection--\$35,849

YTD budget-- \$31,416



Candles--\$3

**May each of us give according to what the Lord has blessed us with.**



## Pope Francis's Prayer to Mary During Coronavirus Pandemic

O Mary, you always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and of hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm. You know what we need, and we are sure you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee, we may return to joy and to feasting after this time of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who has taken upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows to lead us, through the cross, to the joy of the resurrection. Amen. Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the entreaties of we who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.

Blessed Mother Church will have Sacrament of Reconciliation every Monday 5-6 pm starting February 22 thru March 29th.

## QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

### First Reading:

God promises Noah to use a "bow in the clouds" (a rainbow) as a sign and symbol of His divine pledge to never again allow a world-wide flood to devastate the earth. This is the Bible's first recorded covenant between God and humanity. What do you think of when you see a rainbow?

### Second Reading:

Peter teaches that Jesus preached to both the living and the dead — those dead dating back to the days of Noah — and connecting us through baptism. What do you find intriguing about this idea?

### Gospel:

We hear about Jesus' temptation in the desert and his inaugural gospel message to those living in Galilee. Jesus saw repentance as necessary to believe his good news. As we begin the Lenten journey, what aspects of your life require repentance?

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18; Ps 19:8-10, 15; Mt 25:31-46  
Tuesday: Is 55:10-11; Ps 34:4-7, 16-19; Mt 6:7-15  
Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10; Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19; Lk 11:29-32  
Thursday: 1 Pt 5:1-4; Ps 23:1-3a, 4-6; Mt 16:13-19  
Friday: Ez 18:21-28; Ps 130:1-8; Mt 5:20-26  
Saturday: Dt 26:16-19; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8; Mt 5:43-48

## Saints and Special Observances

### Week of February 21, 2021

Sunday: 1st Sunday of Lent  
Monday: The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle  
Tuesday: St. Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr  
Next Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Lent

## Feast of the Chair of St. Peter

Let us also remember Peter: three times he denied Jesus, precisely when he should have been closest to him; and when he hits bottom, he meets the gaze of Jesus, who patiently, wordlessly, says to him: "Peter, don't be afraid of your weakness; trust in me." Peter understands; he feels the loving gaze of Jesus, and he weeps. How beautiful this gaze of Jesus--how much tenderness is there! Let us never lose trust in the patience and mercy of God. --Pope Francis

## PEOPLE OF THE COVENANT

If there is one word that stands out in today's readings, it is "covenant." God's faithfulness and goodness serve as examples to us of how to live. Genesis tells the story of Noah and of God's covenant not only with all people, but with all of nature. Never will the cleansing waters of the flood bring their destructive power to all the earth again. The sign, the reminder to both God and nature, is the rainbow in the heavens.

The psalm reminds us of this compassion of God, and begs God to remember us, not because of our goodness, but because of God's goodness and fidelity to the promise. God shows us how to be good, not by decree, but by example.

***Our prayers and sympathy are with Marsha Allen whose father Arthur Boorman died recently.***

## Laugh of the Week

One morning a man came into the church on crutches. He stopped in front of the holy water, put some on both legs and threw away his crutches. An altar boy witnessed the scene and ran into the sacristy to tell the priest what he'd just seen. "Son, you've just witnessed a miracle!" the priest said. "Tell me where the man is now?" "Flat on his back over by the holy water," the boy informed him.

February 21: Aubrey Ottofy  
Layson Brooks

February 28: Jacques Williams  
Barbara Bisel

March 7: Layson Brooks  
Sarah Malone

### Black History Month Prayer

*God of Mercy and Love we place our African American families before You today.*

*May we be proud of our history and never forget those who paid a great price for our liberation.*

*Bless us one by one and keep our hearts and minds fixed on higher ground. Help us to live for you and not for ourselves, and may we cherish and proclaim the gift of life.*

*Bless our parents, guardians, and grandparents, relatives and friends. Give us the amazing grace to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world.*

*Help us, as your children, to live in such a way that the beauty and greatness of authentic love is reflected in all that we say and do. Give a healing anointing to those less fortunate, especially the motherless, the fatherless, the broken, the sick, and the lonely.*

*Bless our departed family members and friends. May they be led into the light of Your dwelling place where we will never grow old, where we will share the fullness of redemption and shout the victory for all eternity. Amen.*

### Our Lenten Journey: Pray, Fast, Give

In today's Gospel, Jesus gives us a short but powerful message about preparing for our Lenten journey, *"The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."* Lent has begun; so how do we journey from here? The Church gives us three disciplines to guide us: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. But how do we put these into practice? Consider these suggestions: **Pray.** Attend daily Mass or view via livestream; pray the Stations of the Cross on Fridays after 12:05 daily Mass or Mondays at 6:00 pm; devote some quiet time each day to the Lord in prayer. **Fast.** Embrace discipline and self-denial; it's not just about giving up chocolate (unless you overindulge!). Fast from habits that need pruning from your life or try beginning a new, positive habit. Fast from anxiety by practicing gratitude for people and blessings in your life (try writing down three things each day for which you are grateful). **Give:** Find a person to whom you can give time, attention. Help someone less fortunate.

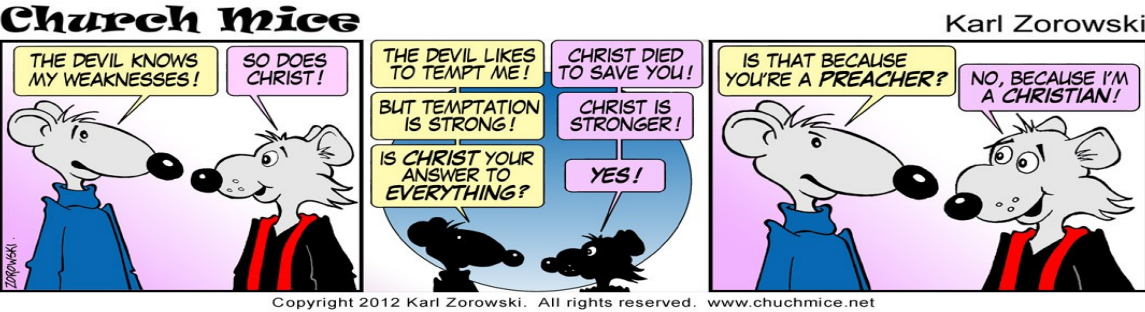
### DEBT REDUCTION

As I think most of you are aware, Blessed Sacrament has a debt of \$106,000 owed to the diocese on the hall. Thanks to paying some off every year through our budget and use of the Debt Reduction envelopes, we have been chipping away at it. An anonymous friend of the parish donated \$600 recently. We have also applied \$6000 from the PPP funds we received. ***We are now below \$100,000. Praise the Lord. Celebration is due!***

### TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

The Holy Father usually marks the solemn opening of the Lenten fast with a procession and Mass on Ash Wednesday evening. He walks from the Benedictine monastery, San Anselmo, down the Aventine hill to the Dominican monastery of Santa Sabina. This very old tradition was revived by Pope John XXIII in the late 1950s. Have you ever wondered who gives the pope his ashes? It's the cardinal who has been given the "title" of the church of Santa Sabina. The pope's homily at this Mass states his theme for Lent.

Santa Sabina dates from the fifth century, and is one of the most beautiful churches in Rome. One of the panels on its main doors features the Crucifixion, a scene not normally depicted in art until much later. In the year 1219 the pope gave the church to Saint Dominic for his new religious order, the "Order of Preachers," commonly called the Dominicans, and it remains their world headquarters to this day. That pope, Honorius III, was a member of the Savelli family, and this church was their personal family chapel. Sabina was a wealthy Roman lady who became a Christian and was martyred, and whose home became a place of prayer. Later, the church built on that spot was dedicated to her memory.



### Gospel Meditation:

St. Oscar Romero said, "Aspire not to have more, but to be more." These powerful words provide the perfect framework for a conversion oriented Lenten experience. God is giving us this Lenten sign to stop being concerned about what you have and focus on who you are. This requires that we create a desert space and listen more attentively for God to reveal His presence. It is all so wonderfully simple on the one hand and so incredibly challenging on the other. The message is simple: love God, neighbor, and self. Those simple words make great sense, but we struggle translating them into reality. Our attachments, compulsions, obsessions, addictions, routines, and busyness all anchor us to the "idol of the self," keeping us mired in our compulsive need for self-aggrandizement. It's not about us! Lent isn't just about giving stuff up for forty days and indulging again at Easter. We need to push things much farther and wrestle with the question of how we can be more. "Being more" means becoming more fully alive and in touch with the holiness of life and the divinity that lives in and empowers all beings and things. It is realizing that the "quality" of our presence is crucial to being an effective witness and herald of God's unconditional love.