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Blessed Sacrament

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

www.blessedsacramentchapel.org or email at pa@blessedsacramentchapel.org

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

Pastor: Father John Thomas

john.thomas@pastoral.org

Parochial Vicar: Fr. Sinoj Pynadath HGN

sinoj.pynadath@pastoral.org

Parish Life Coordinator: Sr Jeannette Fennewald,
 SSND pa@blessedsacramentchapel.org



Aug. 29, 2021 22nd Sunday Ordinary Time

Humbly welcome the word that has been planted in you and is able to save your soul.

TODAY'S READING

First Reading — For what great nation is there that has gods so close to it as the LORD, our God, is to us? (Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8).

Psalm — The one who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord (Psalm 15).

Second Reading — Religion that is pure is this: to care for orphans and widows in their affliction (James 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27).

Gospel — This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me (Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23).



*Be doers of the word
and not hearers only.*

From the desk of Father Sinoj



Dear Friends in Christ,

Greetings! The Gospel this Sunday tells us how the Pharisees and scribes relentlessly opposed Jesus for not being faithful to the Jewish laws and traditions. But Jesus admonishes them for their pride and self-righteousness. They practiced man-made traditions and did not give praise to God.

Jesus draws our attention to what is more important. Often by devoting too much focus on non-essentials, the essentials received less prominence. When our worship of God seems to dwell exclusively on ritual without self-evaluation of one's moral conduct, the worship we offer to God is worthless lip service, for it costs nothing. Rituals are necessary. But if rituals do not lead us to reality, they encompass and celebrate; we have confined ourselves to living superficial lives. May our religious rituals and practices help us keep our minds clean and hearts pure!

September 1 is observed as World Day of Prayer for Creation. This is an opportunity for us to pray, reflect and act to care for God's creation. Let us realize the marvelous gift of God in creation and be grateful for that. Let us renew our personal participation in the vocation as custodians of creation. Let us pray for a better stewardship of the Earth.

😊 Always
😊 Keep
😊 Smiling!

God Loves you!!!

Father Sinoj, HGN

September Birthdays

1--Norwetta Taylor
2--Emma Latta
3--Venice Higgs
6--Shelby Webster
7--Aubrey Ottofy
8--Mary Hagan
16--Luke Bisel
20--Mary Katherine Gough



St. Corona Prayer

Almighty God, you forgive the sins of our people and heal all their faults. You sent your beloved Son to bear our sickness. We stand humbly before You. We pray to You in this time of plague and need, remember our love and kindness that You have always shown to Your people in times of tribulation. Accept today our prayer and sacrifice and show us mercy. Keep the disease away from us, allow those affected to be healed, protect those who have been preserved from it so far by Your goodness, and do not let the plague spread any further. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mass Intentions

August 29--Herbert Millay
September 5--Rachel Fulkerson
September 12--Ann Denise Ward
September 19--Mary Ann Calhoun
September 26--Herbert Millay

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: Cathy Kramer, Connie Clary, Stephen Hall, Colton Braungardt, Doris Smith, Debbie Bellwood, Janice Taul, Merle Griffith, Tyler Cruppi, Pam Wilson, Frank & Gloria Adams, Larry Allen, Shirley Schmidt, Carol Hatchett, Shelby Webster, Louise Johnson, Ruth Coble, Larry Conder, Mike Coakley, Andy Evans, Gary Moorman, Rachel Mattingly, Camilla Greer, Phillip Moorman, Jr. If you know of anyone 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 Place, Connie Clary who is at home. Georgia Holland lives in St. Louis but stays active in BSC happenings. A card or phone call can cheer them up.

IMP—Kroger

If you do not have a community reward partner at Kroger, please designate Blessed Sacrament. Blessed Sacrament's # is WX799 Thank you. It does not affect your fuel point or any other rewards. Go to [krogercommunityrewards.com](https://www.krogercommunityrewards.com) to register. Thanks to each of you for your support.

Coming Events

CALENDAR



Blessed Sacrament Chapel

The **Sophia Award** Mass held annually (except last year when it was cancelled due to Covid) recognizes someone who is an example of seeing God as the true owner of everything in their lives. This recognition is awarded to someone 65 or older who not only has true wisdom (Sophia) but demonstrates and shares it. **Our nominee is Rita Moorman.** The Award ceremony in September is again cancelled, but as a parish we congratulate Rita!



August 22--\$575

Weekly Budget--\$962

MTD collections--\$4028

MTD budget--\$3848

YTD collection--\$8712

YTD budget--\$1016

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



What Really Matters

Albert Einstein said that the “true measure of intelligence is not knowledge but imagination.” Being a disciple of Jesus Christ requires a great deal of imagination. The Gospel is always about putting people in touch with their compassionate, forgiving, and unconditionally loving God and meeting them where they are.

For Jesus, it often meant breaking a few rules. Well respected and time-honored traditions had to be set aside in order to attend to what really mattered. God’s compassion, mercy and true conversion were always the trump cards. The story of the Good Samaritan, healing on the Sabbath, and bypassing of purification rituals all display this theme. Human beings can get too hung up on protocol and tradition. This is so much so that often preserving all of these things is of greater concern than the beggar knocking on our door or the sinner looking for mercy. It is no wonder, then, that we can easily become hypocritical. Many can see us on our knees in prayer while our true heart and actions, rooted in judgment and self-preservation, are hidden from others. It is a trap into which we can easily fall. Who cares how we live our lives as long as our hands are properly washed!

Here enters the need for imagination and the distinction of truly being a wise and intelligent person. It takes a good measure of creativity and a lot of guts to really be a doer of God’s word and not merely a hearer. Being a person who doesn’t just tell people about God but shows people God requires courage and ingenuity

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday:	1 Thes 4:13-18/Ps 96:1 and 3-5, 11-13/Lk 4:16-30
Tuesday:	1 Thes 5:1-6, 9-11/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 /Lk 4:31-37
Wednesday:	Col 1:1-8/Ps 52:10, 11/ Lk 4:38-44
Thursday:	Col 1:9-14/Ps 98:2-6 [2]/ Lk 5:1-11
Friday:	Col 1:15-20/Ps 100:1-5/ Lk 5:33-39
Saturday:	Col 1:21-23/Ps 54:3-4, 6 and 8 /Lk 6:1-5

Observances-- Week of August 22, 2021

Friday:	St. Gregory the Great, Pope, Doctor of Church
Saturday:	BVM

Diocesan Covid Guidelines

There is a growing concern in our medical communities that the Delta variant could begin to overwhelm local health care facilities, as it is in other parts of the state, country and world. Due to the strong recommendation of the healthcare community:

There is **an expectation that unvaccinated people be masked** at all indoor parish functions (e.g. parish meetings, religious education, parish social events, weddings, funerals, receptions, etc...) including the Celebration of the Mass. We would also **recommend and strongly encourage all vaccinated parishioners to mask**, because there is growing evidence that vaccinated transmissions can still take place. We are asking these things out of an abundance of caution and out of charity for our neighbor.

THE HIGHEST LAW

From time to time, newspapers and magazines will offer, as an item of “filler,” various laws that are still on the books but seem silly to us in our day and age. In one California city, it is illegal to have two indoor bathtubs in one house. Clean water, a precious commodity when the law was written, is now readily available, so the law seems silly. But the human value of protecting and preserving precious resources is still around, evident in many conservation laws that seem sensible to us. So it is with the laws of religious tradition. What Jesus scorns today is others’ attitude toward ritual laws, an attitude that becomes nearly idolatrous when laws are observed for their own sake. Jesus teaches that observation of external ritual laws is of value only when they are emblems of our internal disposition toward the will of God. Our whole lives must follow the one ultimate law of God: to love God completely and to love neighbor entirely. Roman Catholicism is a tradition rich with customs, traditions, and even laws. As we continue to listen to the voice of Christ, we must always look into our own hearts and underneath our ritual practices to make sure that love of God and love of neighbor are what we prize above all.

Laugh of the Week

Elijah and the false prophets were the subjects of Mr. Walt’s Sunday school class. He explained how the true prophet built an altar and placed pieces of a sacrificial steer on it and then poured sixteen barrels of water over the whole thing. “Now,” said the teacher, “can anyone tell me why the Lord asked Elijah to pour water all over the sacrifice?” Little Emma raised her hand with great enthusiasm and said, “To make the gravy.”

Lector	
<u>August 29:</u>	Greg Gough Sarah Malone
<u>Sept. 5:</u>	Barbara Bisel Veronica Wilhite
<u>Sept. 12:</u>	Alexis Hatchett Aubrey Ottofy
Eucharistic Minister	
<u>August 29:</u>	Rita Moorman
<u>Sept. 5:</u>	Vivian Higgs
<u>Sept. 12:</u>	Cindy Clark

.Picnic Recap

Thank you to everyone who contributed in any way to the success of the picnic. The sale of the 50-50 tickets was phenomenal. Workers gave of their time, but most importantly shared the beautiful people you are both to each other and our guests. We couldn't have a picnic or any other event without parishioners like you (and non-parishioners like Kitty Board and Elmer Clay Roberts). God asks us to give of our time, talent, and treasure and serving others in the way that you did is a living demonstration of that. May God bless you abundantly.

Meat and Dinner Profit	\$1408
50-50 Raffle profits	\$2822.50
Donations	\$450
Total:	\$4680.50

For having a number of unknown, the day went very well.

Opportunity or Obligation

In today’s Gospel, Jesus admonishes those who honor Him with “lip service” rather than with their hearts. Perhaps this is something for each of us to consider. Do we attend Mass and participate in the Sacraments out of a sense of duty? Do we believe that the sharing of our time, talent, and treasure is an obligation, something to be checked off a to-do list?

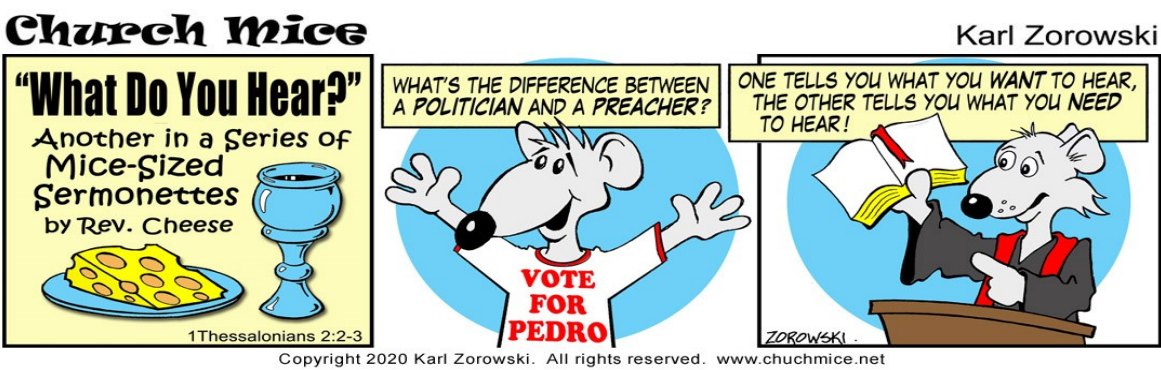
Or do we honor the Lord through faith and love? If the answer is yes, we recognize the Mass and Sacraments as opportunities to worship and draw closer to Him. And we realize that all gifts—time, health, possessions, talents and skills, relationships, even the air we breathe—come from God who loves us abundantly. *(All good giving and every perfect gift is from above” ~James 1:17)* Then from grateful hearts, not obligation, we cherish and tend our gifts responsibly, share them in justice and love with others, and return them with increase to the Lord.

When you don’t have anything, then you have everything. Having nothing liberates us in unimaginable ways. Be careful what you become attached to. In the end we have to give it all up anyway. But it is not true that we leave this world with nothing just as we came into the world with nothing. We can’t take things or money with us, but we take all the love we have allowed God to fill us with. --St. Teresa of Calcutta

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

When an altar is dedicated, the Rite of Dedication directs that, if possible, the relics of a martyr be mortared into the church floor under the *mensa*, or “altar table.” Up until this revised rite, the general practice was to include small relics of saints in an altar stone, a slab of marble that was normally set in the altar itself. Today’s rite states a clear preference for “martyr,” and for a substantial part of the body, in accord with our tradition’s desire for substantial symbols. Martyr, of course, means “witness” in Greek, and was the title given early on to the people who by their death imaged the death of Christ.

From the beginning, there has never been a shortage of such people, although it took a while for the Church to develop a process to declare someone a martyr. Saint Augustine tells how it was done in the fifth century. By then, popular opinion didn’t count as much as an official tribunal set up by the bishop of the place where the martyr suffered. After the inquiry established that the person did indeed die for the faith, a metropolitan bishop had to ratify the decision before a shrine could be built or an altar set up over the martyr’s tomb. For the most part, the honor paid to a martyr (called a “cult”) was restricted to that diocese, although the fame of some heroes spread so much that they were celebrated elsewhere. The age of the martyrs is now, and more people died for the faith in the twentieth century than ever before, witnessing to Christ to the end. Their sacrifice remains “the seed of the Church.”



Escape to the Mount” Trivia and Quilt Bingo Sept. 11-12 “Escape to the Mount” returns! On Saturday, Sept. 11, we will play Trivia from 6 p.m.-8:30 p.m. at Blessed Mother Parish Hall. Get your team together and join us for a fun evening. Register for \$25 per person, up to 10 people per team. Snacks and adult beverages will be served. Prizes will be awarded to the top three teams. On Sunday, Sept. 12, we will play Quilt Bingo (where you can win quilts!) from 1-4 p.m. in the Mount Saint Joseph Gym, Maple Mount. Tickets for Quilt Bingo are \$25 per person, which includes lunch and your first bingo game card. Extra cards are \$1 per game for smaller quilt prizes and \$2 per game for larger quilt prizes. Seating is limited, so register for Trivia and/or Quilt Bingo and pay in advance by Sept. 8. You can sign up online at <https://ursulinesmsj.org/escape-to-the-mount-weekend/> Also, Mount Raffle tickets can be purchased for just \$5 for your chance to win \$10,000, \$5,000, \$2,500, \$1,000, \$750, \$500 and \$250, or a handmade quilt! We will do the raffle drawing on Sun., Sept. 12, at 4 p.m. again this year.