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Blessed Sacrament

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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 Fennwald,
SSND pa@blessedsacramentchapel.org



Sunday of Divine Mercy

Once I was dead, but now I am alive
forever and ever. Rev. 1:18

TODAY'S READING

First Reading:

Yet more than ever, believers in the Lord, great numbers of men and women, were added to them. (Acts 5:14)

Psalm:

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting. (Ps 118)

Second Reading:

"I am the first and the last, the one who lives. Once I was dead, but now I am alive forever and ever." (Rev 1:17-18)

Gospel:

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst. (Jn 20:19)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.



Curious . . . Curiouser . . . Most Curious . . . The Most Curious of all . . .

Mercy. Most people believe that they can forgive someone who offends them, particularly if: they are sorry; they apologize; they make up for the offense (pay the damages); they intend not to offend again; and the offense wasn't so bad or the hurt very prolonged. That is, at least, one time. Some people do not believe in forgiving at all. Either they reject the offender and write them off or they exact vengeance. The well of human mercy tends to be shallow, partly because we are so vulnerable and easily harmed or offended. We tend to be defensive or vengeful. Is it any surprise, then, that Jesus' teaching on loving one's enemies and forgiving one's siblings seventy times seven times a day are so largely ignored. "Who can forgive sins, except God alone?" they ask in scripture. The biblical answer is that whoever desires forgiveness from God must forgive by God's measure, for the measure we use is the measure by which we will receive. God's love and mercy are never deserved. Jesus taught that our love and mercy should be the same.

Curious. For almost 30 years, I have been absolving the sins, which people confess with sorrow and intention of avoidance in the future. For the last several years, I have been very aware that this means ministering Jesus taking the sins and guilt upon his own crucified body for their deliverance. On the front side of the crucifixion this was done by the Roman executioners. On the Resurrection side of the crucifixion, Jesus authorized and empowered the Apostles and their successors to be ministers of his taking away the sins of the world. I have learned that the Lord wants to relieve each person of the burden of their sins and all the effects of the sins committed against them. He offers his own Risen body and blood as restitution and healing to redeem us from the effects of sin. The Cross is the unloading dock, set up for the transfer. For that matter, it is the busiest port in the cosmos. It is as private as a one on one meeting with Christ. It is as crowded as necessary to uproot the tangle of each and every sin. The justice of God is the Divine Act to exterminate sin personally. Its only limit is the freedom required for love to be true. As no one is forced to love, no one is forced to forgive. Hell is not the failure to be forgiven. It is the failure, the refusal to forgive, the refusal to love.

Curiouser. "Who can love except God alone?" No one can truly love except by God's loving them and giving them a communion in Divine love. Mercy works the same way. Left to my own resources I am quickly emptied of kindness. If I tap into the flood of God's love in the Holy Spirit being poured into my heart by Christ, I have an inexhaustible supply. Unlike a hose or pipeline, however, I can only be a minister or conveyer of God's love if I let my will be conformed to Christ. Unless I say yes to being personally transformed by God's mercy and love, I cannot be its vessel. Just as God teaches me to love, so God teaches me how to forgive and to be forgiven. I am learning it all at the foot of the Cross.

Most Curious. Jesus is by Divine Choice a co-defendant and co-plaintiff in every human life. "Whatever you do to the least of these..." As co-defendant he offers himself to bear the guilt. As co-plaintiff he offers pardon to the offender. More than any other, because God is Love, Christ is the great Meddler in human interrelations. Who does he think he is? Without so much as a 'by your leave' or 'beg your pardon' he intervenes to reconcile us to each other and to God and this lands him square on the cross. This is the justice of God. This is Righteousness. He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, the Great Lover and friend of all.

The Most Curious of all. God's mercy is ours for the asking. It is not deserved, it is not earned, it is not something to which we have a right. Yet it is ours, freely given, always poured out, running over. What we have been given, we are to give. "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who have trespassed against us. . ."

Father John

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION.

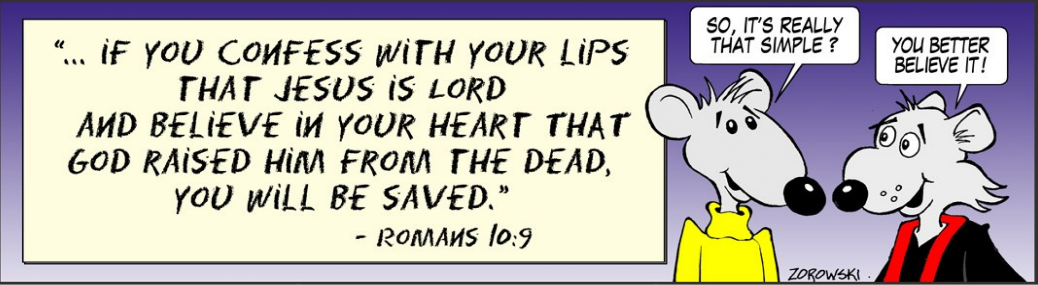
An ancient title for this Sunday is *Dominica in Albis* or "*Sunday in White*." During the Easter Vigil, the newly baptized are invested with a white garment, a sign that they have put on Christ. At one time, the garments were worn for a full week of celebration and reflection, and on this Sunday the newly baptized would appear in their robes again in their new place among the faithful for Eucharist.

In later centuries, the energy of new life at Easter was largely forgotten, and this Sunday was renamed "Quasimodo Sunday," or "Low Sunday." In recent years with the recovery of the insight that Easter is the privileged time for celebrating and renewing baptism, there is nothing "Low" about this Sunday. At a week's distance, the beauty and grace of our Easter celebration is sustained by joyful alleluias, the blessing and sprinkling of holy water, and the comfort of the Lord's presence to us. He is risen, and he summons us together, opening up the scriptures for us, breaking the bread, filling us with new life.

"--James Field, Copyright @J.S.. Paluch Co.

Church Mice

Karl Zorowski



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Divine Mercy Sunday

Each year, on the Second Sunday of Easter—the last day of the Easter Octave—the Church celebrates the Sunday of Divine Mercy. On this day, we contemplate the fullness of the Paschal Mystery—Christ's Passion, death, and Resurrection. The basis of the whole Easter Mystery is the merciful love of God. From the beginning of creation, throughout Scripture, and most perfectly in the life, Passion, death and Resurrection of his Son, Jesus, God has been revealed as love itself. In His infinite love for us, God desires nothing more than to forgive our sins and offer us His mercy.

Our world's need for the message of Divine Mercy took on new urgency in the 20th century. It was during this time that the world witnessed the rise of Nazism and communism and experienced the horrors of the world at war. Civilization was losing the understanding of the sanctity and inherent dignity of every human life. At this time Jesus appeared to a humble Polish nun, Maria Faustina and asked that we celebrate the gift of His mercy.

April Birthdays

21--Kathi Skidd
23--Misty Sanford
25--Charlene Meadows
26--Vivian Higgs
27--Ruth Coble
29--Jeff McCarter

May Birthdays

7--Connie Clary
8--Mary Ann Terry



IMP—Kroger

If you do not have a community reward partner at Kroger, please designate Blessed Sacrament. Blessed Sacrament's # is WX799. The last donation was \$171.97. Go to krogercommunityrewards.com to register. Thanks to each of you for your support.



Archbishop Fabre, new archbishop in Louisville, pictured above with some of our parishioners when he gave a talk in Owensboro. In 2019

Mass Intentions

April 17--Stephen Hall
April 24--Kathleen Meyer
May 1--Betty and John Clark
May 8--Shirley Schmidt
May 15--Bernard and Jayne Payne

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: Siji Varghese, Larry Allen, Debbie Moseley, Donna Kaelin, Carol Hatchett, Gina Kirby (Connie Clary's daughter) Tom Johnson, Colin Holahan, Doris Smith, Debbie Bellwood, Janice Taul, Merle Griffith, Pam Wilson, Frank & Gloria Adams, 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 at One Park Place. Georgia Holland lives in St. Louis but stays active in BSC. A card or phone call can cheer them up.

*As you might be aware we are looking at ways to Growing Forward in Christ. We are looking at renovations. Part of any moving forward has to be to invite people to join us and to pray. **We usually have a Scripture Sharing group on Thursdays, praying over the Sunday readings. Next one is April 28 at 5:30. Put it on your calendar.***

Coming Events CALENDAR



Blessed Sacrament Chapel

May 5--Scripture sharing 5:30 PM
??? May 7--Clean-up day
June 19---Farewell Potluck meal
to honor Father Paul (after
10 AM Mass)
June 24--Sunday Mass at **9 AM**



April 17--\$1446

Weekly Budget--\$962

MTD Collection--\$3,811

MTD Budget--\$2,886

YTD Collection--\$49,183

YTD Budget--\$40,404

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

Have you thought about donating to BSC online? It's safe. It's simple. It's convenient. You can use your debit or credit card, checking or saving account.

The World Is Watching

If you're a parent, you know this to be true: the world is watching. All it takes is one slip-up — one bad word, one selfish action, one uncharitable commentary, and that's the thing your child seems to notice.

When he or she calls you on it, the only thing you can do is come clean. "Yep, I did that," you have to say. "I'm a work in progress, but luckily, God never stops working."

I think it's fair to say that we don't think enough about the wounds of Christ. It's a little understandable, of course. Our human bodies flinch at the sight of such pain and mortification. It's a lot to handle, the physical trauma of a crucifixion. It carries an R rating in a PG world.

But the wounds of Christ are the only thing that could make Thomas believe. Literally nothing else was so powerful, not even the testimony of his most trusted friends. Only by looking at and feeling the torn flesh — by beholding that messy reality — did this Apostle, this actual companion of Christ, come to believe in the Resurrection.

"Christ has no body now but yours," goes the famous quote attributed to St. Teresa of Avila. What she's saying is that we have become the means through which God chooses to accomplish His will in the world. Us, the broken. Us, the weary. Us, the imperfect. Yes, miraculous events and apparitions still occur from time to time, but by and large, if a person is going to come to believe in Jesus Christ in this day and age, it will be because of something we Christians do or say. Christ has no wounds now but ours. Our brokenness, our weariness, our imperfection — our reality. It all belongs to him, and the world is watching.
— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

	Lectors
<u>April 24:</u>	Alexis Hatchett Sarah Malone
<u>May 1:</u>	Layson Brooks Barbara Bisel
<u>May 8:</u>	Aubrey Ottofy Greg Gough
	Eucharistic Minister
<u>April 24:</u>	Vivian Higgs
<u>May 1:</u>	Rita Moorman
<u>May 8:</u>	Misty Sanford

Boulders

Even Thomas struggles to remove his boulder! Being very pragmatic and determined, he wants to see the risen Christ for himself! Thomas’s boulder is heavy with mistrust. Many of ours are too. A certain amount of skepticism is good, as it can save us from being duped or misled
Boulders are hard to move. It’s difficult to seek change or take a risk, especially when we are so afraid to be vulnerable or reluctant to trust another’s word. When we are closed minded, overly pragmatic, unwilling to see things in a different way, stubborn or defensive, it is difficult to be surprised by God and stretched. We need to be less guarded, self-assured, and self-absorbed. God cannot break into the ordinary moments of our lives and inspire us when we cling to doubt. If we are going to discover resurrection faith, we have to believe that what the witnesses say is true, especially when they are credible. We also have to trust that the risen Christ is alive in us, too!

A PRAYER FOR PEACE BY POPE FRANCIS

Lord God of peace, hear our prayer!
We have tried so many times and over so many years
to resolve our conflicts by our own powers and by the force of our arms.
How many moments of hostility and darkness have we experienced?
how much blood has been shed?
how many lives have been shattered?
how many hopes have been buried?
But our efforts have been in vain.

Now, Lord, come to our aid!
Grant us peace, teach us peace;
guide our steps in the way of peace.
Open our eyes and our hearts,
and give us the courage to say: "Never again war!"; "With war everything is lost".
Instill in our hearts the courage to take concrete steps to achieve peace.

Lord, God of Abraham, God of the Prophets, God of Love,
you created us and you call us to live as brothers and sisters.
Give us the strength daily to be instruments of peace; enable us to see everyone who crosses our path as our brother or sister.
Make us sensitive to the plea of our citizens who entreat us to turn our weapons of war into implements of peace,
our trepidation into confident trust,
and our quarreling into forgiveness.
Keep alive within us the flame of hope, so that with patience and perseverance we may opt for dialogue and reconciliation.
In this way may peace triumph at last, and may the words "division," "hatred," and "war" be banished from the heart of every man and woman.

Readings for the Week

Monday:	1 Pt 5:5b-14/Ps 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17/Mk 16:15-20
Tuesday:	Acts 4:32-37/Ps 93:1-2, 5/Jn 3:7b-15
Wednesday:	Acts 5:17-26/Ps 34:2-9/Jn 3:16-21
Thursday:	Acts 5:27-33/Ps 34:2 and 9, 17-20/Jn 3:31-36
Friday:	Acts 5:34-42/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Jn 6:1-15
Saturday:	Acts 6:1-7/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19/Jn 6:16-21

Observances for the week of April 24

Monday:	St. Mark, Evangelist
Wednesday:	Administrative Professionals’ Day
Thursday:	St. Peter Chanel, Priest and Martyr; St. Louis Grignon de Montfort, Priest
Friday:	St. Catherine of Siena, Virgin, Doctor of the Church; Arbor Day
Saturday:	St. Pius V, Pope
Next Sunday:	3rd Sunday of Easter; St. Joseph the Worker

Easter Flower Donations

Thanks to the donors of flowers for our Easter celebration:

Barbara Bisel
Georgia Holland
Steve Coble
Cindy Clark
Jean Higgs
Vivian Higgs
McCarter Family



Seeing is Believing

Seeing is Believing! Since cellphone screens connect us instantly to social media, live TV, and loved ones’ faces near and far, “Doubting Thomas” could e our patron saint: Unless I see, I will not believe!” But how comforting for any of us who share Thomas’s doubt, or love “doubters” who do, to see how kindly Jesus responds. By offering the very evidence that Thomas demanded, Jesus doesn’t scold Thomas, but seems to understand such skepticism. Could Jesus have been thinking of us, who long to believe that “Jesus is risen!” but see so much suffering, and perhaps even cause some, that we wonder, how could something so wonderful be true? In today’s reading from the Acts of the Apostles, the risen Jesus’ healing love comforts through disciples who love others. In Revelation, “our brother John” doesn’t just claim he saw Jesus alive, but passes on Jesus’ life-giving words, “Do not be afraid.” Seeing Jesus in others is believing!

This weekend is the beginning of a six-week period of prayer for evangelization that we might live our mission, “to be missionary disciples of Jesus, making present the kingdom of God.” We are so blessed to have our Catholic faith and to gather as a community each week to receive the presence and power of Jesus.

On Divine Mercy Sunday, April 24, there will be Adoration, Divine Mercy Chaplet, and confessions at Blessed Mother Church 1-3 PM