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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 [pa@blessedsacramentchapel.org](mailto: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](mailto:john.thomas@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)

## TODAY'S READING

### First Reading:

For so the Lord has commanded us,

*"I have made you a light to the Gentiles,  
 that you may be an instrument of salvation  
 to the ends of the earth."* (Act 13:47)

### Psalm:

We are his people, the sheep of his flock.  
 (Ps 100)

### Second Reading:

For the Lamb who is in the center of the  
 throne will shepherd the and lead them to  
 springs of life-giving water. (Rev 7:17)

### Gospel:

"My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and  
 they follow me. I give them eternal life, and  
 they shall never perish." (Jn 10:27-28)



## 4th Sunday of Easter--May 8, 2022

I have made you a light to the Gentiles, that  
 you may be an instrument of salvation to the  
 ends of the earth. ---Acts 13:47



During this period following on the Easter celebrations, there is one thing that the liturgy readings try to impress upon us, and that is the zeal and urgency the Apostles showed in preaching the good news about Christ. They disregarded every attempt on the part of the Jews to put a stop to them. Threats did not deter them, and whether people accepted their message or not, they appeared to be driven on by an inner God given sense of mission to hand on to everyone their faith in Jesus. We might from time to time ponder over the question: “Why did God create us?” The answer has to be that God is love, that God is goodness, and love and goodness are only meaningful if they are communicated to others, if there is someone else to be loved and to experience that goodness.

The Holy Spirit poured out his graces and gifts in abundance on the members of the early Church, and they in turn felt compelled to share them with others. In season and out of season, as St Paul puts it, the Apostles and those close to them preached the marvellous news about the salvation won for the world by Christ. And with the departure through death or old age, of these disciples, from the scene of this activity, there was no scarcity of people to take their place. It is this willingness on the part of chosen members of a community to devote their lives to the task of spreading the gospel message that helps that community to survive and adapt to new circumstances. There is no doubt about the quality of missionary zeal among the first members of the early Church, nor indeed that of the Irish people during the golden age of Irish monasticism, when throughout Europe monks and missionaries from these shores spread the Christian ideals of love of God and of living together in harmony and peace.

If here and now we are found wanting in these ideals there is one thing we can and must do, pray. People only pray for things they really want, such as health, success, secure employment, provision for their children’s future. But it is possible to enjoy all of these and yet be conscious of a profound emptiness in one’s life, for we were intended for something greater than these passing attainments.

It is within the context of family that most vocations are nurtured. The French Jesuit, scientist, philosopher, Teilhard de Chardin, once said, “I come from a family where I became who I am. The great majority of my opinions, of my likes and dislikes, of my values and appreciations, of my judgments, my behaviour, my tastes, were moulded by the family I came from.” For this reason, parents remain, and always will remain, the first and most important teachers of the faith to their children. In fulfilling this role, they should strive to make daily family prayer, a natural part of life within the home. So what I do, what I am, concerns other people to as great an extent as it does myself.” Therefore, on this special Sunday, each one should feel in duty bound to ask God’s blessing, so that generous souls may not be wanting in the apostolic work of teaching and preaching to all nations. “Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he may send labourers to his harvest. (Mt 9:37). Blessings, Fr. John

## TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

The reception of Holy Communion at Sunday Mass is such an expected feature of the Mass these days that it is surprising to realize that for many centuries, receiving Communion was a relatively rare event in the life of a faithful Christian. “Easter duty” means that Catholics must celebrate reconciliation if aware of serious sin, and receive Holy Communion during the Easter season. For a while, this was a requirement of Easter week, and later extended to the whole season of fifty days, and even beyond that by a few weeks. For the majority of people long ago, this meant Communion was a once-a-year moment. A rather complex bureaucracy grew up around this rule in the Middle Ages. Amazingly people received a kind of token at confession admitting them to Communion in their home parish, which then kept careful records and reported them to the Bishop.

Surviving records can tell us a great deal about our ancestors. In fact, people were encouraged to journey to the church of their Baptism in order to fulfill their duty, and therefore the Easter duty includes in its origins a grateful pilgrimage to the font in which you were first embraced by Christ. If your “Holy Mother Church” is within a drive, why not make a pilgrimage to that font a feature of your Easter celebration of these fifty days?

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



## OPPORTUNITIES

July 1-4 National Conference of Burmese American Catholics

This year the conference is held in Owensboro. We have several volunteer opportunities.

- Sarah Malone is looking for people to serve meals on July 3: 2 shifts 11:30-2:30 and 5:30-8:30.
- The parishes in Daviess County are asked to help at 7 motels on July 1 to welcome the community. They are asking for 2 volunteers to help for each of three hour shifts. 12-3, 3-6, 6-9 pm. Along with a representative of the Burmese community, you will welcome and give a goodie bag which is provided.



### May Birthdays

7--Connie Clary  
8--Mary Ann Terry  
12--Cindy Clark, Brent Hatchett  
14--Steve Coble  
18--Tina McHenry  
19--Lad Ottofy  
20--Christian Trevor  
22--Charles Brown, SR  
23--John Carson Malone  
26--Diane Hatchett



### IMP—Kroger

If you do not have a community reward partner at Kroger, please designate Blessed Sacrament. Blessed Sacrament's # is WX799. Go to [krogercommunityrewards.com](http://krogercommunityrewards.com) to register. Thanks to each of you for your support.

Father Mike Williams who helps at Brescia and Kentucky Wesleyan spoke at our last deanery meeting. There are a number of international students at both colleges and other students who are far from home. He is reaching out to see if anyone would like to sponsor a student. Basically, it is not a financial support but more emotional. Maybe having the student to your home for a meal, giving recommendation for needed services, just offering friendship.

### Mass Intentions

May 1--Betty and John Clark  
May 8--Shirley Schmidt  
May 15--Bernard and Jayne Payne  
May 22--Herbert Millay  
May 29--Kenny Malone

*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:** Larry Allen, Debbie Moseley, Donna Kaelin, Carol Hatchett, Gina Kirby (Connie Clary's daughter) Tom and June Johnson, Colin Holahan, Doris Smith, 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 and praying for you. Next one is May 12 at 5:30. Put it on your calendar.*

## Coming Events CALENDAR



### Blessed Sacrament Chapel

May 12--Scripture sharing 5:30  
May 15--Parish meeting 11 AM  
May 21--Clean-up day  
June 19---Farewell Potluck meal to honor Father Paul (11 AM)  
June 24--Sunday Mass at 9 AM



May 1--\$980  
Weekly Budget--\$962  
MTD Collection--\$980  
MTD Budget--\$962  
YTD Collection--\$51,461  
YTD Budget--\$42,328  
Fish Fry profit \$2286.17

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.

### Reluctant Sheep

Sheep get an awfully bad rap, linguistically. Some are quick to label people as "sheep" if we think they haven't sufficiently questioned authority or if they're too willing to go along with someone else's plan. We say someone has "the wool over their eyes" if they aren't willing to see what we think is very obvious. "A wolf in sheep's clothing" is what we call someone looking to take advantage of those too gullible to identify a real threat.

Taking all this into account and considering how often we are referred to as sheep in Scripture, you've really got to wonder if God trying to tell us something about ourselves.

If you look at the phraseology associated with sheep, it's no wonder that nobody *wants* to be one. Sheep are innocent. Sheep can't protect themselves. They're vulnerable and easily misled.

We want to see ourselves as the opposite of all that. We like to think we're shrewd, with plenty of common sense. We want to believe that we don't have to rely on anybody for anything. We would sooner identify with the wolf than with the sheep — at least the wolf can take care of himself.

We do this because we often resist the need to rest in the greatness of God. Like a child walking to school alone for the first time (forgetting his mom is following watchfully in the car), we want to think we can handle it all by ourselves.

The truth is that God *is* trying to tell us something by comparing us to sheep: *You don't have to do this on your own.*

Every time I look at an obstacle and think that there is no way around it, I am forgetting that I have a shepherd who knows the location of the gate.  
— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

**Mothers hold their children's hands for a short while, but their hearts forever.** --Anonymous

	<b>Lectors</b>
<u>May 8:</u>	Aubrey Ottofy Greg Gough
<u>May 15:</u>	Connie Clary Jacques Williams
<u>May 22:</u>	Alexis Hatchett Wayne Stephens
	<b>Eucharistic Minister</b>
<u>May 8:</u>	Misty Sanford
<u>May 15:</u>	Cindy Clark
<u>May 22:</u>	Vivian Higgs

# HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

MARY IS THE MOTHER WHO WATCHES OVER US, HER CHILDREN, ON OUR JOURNEY THROUGH LIFE, OFTEN WEARY AND IN NEED, ANXIOUS THAT THE LIGHT OF HOPE NOT FAIL.

CHRISTUS VIVIT, NO. 48

## 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: Acts 11:1-18/Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4/ Jn 10:1-10
Tuesday: Acts 11:19-26/Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7/ Jn 10:22-30
Wednesday: Acts 12:24—13:5a/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8/Jn 12:44-50
Thursday: Acts 13:13-25/Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25 and 27/Jn 13:16-20
Friday: Acts 13:26-33/Ps 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11/ Jn 14:1-6
Saturday: Acts 1:15-17, 20-26/Ps 113:1-8/ Jn 15:9-17

Observances for the Week of May 8
Sunday: 4th Sunday of Easter; World Day of Prayer for Vocations; Mother’s Day
Tuesday: St. Damien de Veuster, Priest
Thursday: Sts. Nereus and Achilleus, Martyrs; St. Pancras, Martyr
Friday: Our Lady of Fatima
Saturday: St. Matthias, Apostle
Next Sunday: 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter; St. Isidore

### 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

### SHEPHERDS LIKE JESUS

Each year this fourth Sunday of Easer celebrates Jesus the Good Shepherd. Today’s Gospel seems especially timely, far as Christians worldwide suffer persecution like Paul and Bar-nabas, Jesus promises his sheep enduring, in-vincible safety. “They shall never perish. No one can take them out of my hand.” But e who are free to live our faith peacefully sometimes take our membership in Jesus’ flock for granted, wandering astray to seek our ow pleasure and prosperity. The simple cross that Pope Francis always wears seems to show us how Jesus re-sponds to that. Francis’s cross features an im-age of Jesus, who has sought and found a lost sheep then joyfully set it on his shoulders to carry it gently home. May Good Shepherd Sun-day inspire us, so often lost and found our-selves, to assist Jesus in seeking, finding, and gently caring home our fellow precious lambs.

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### Commitment Sunday

Today is the Commitment Sunday for our Stewardship campaign of

**Honoring our past and Growing our Future.**

If you have not turned in your commitment form, please do so this week. We would like to hear from everyone by next Sunday. May 15. Thank you.

When people hear God’s word, they marvel at its beauty and power; when they see what little impact it has on our daily lives, they laugh and poke fun at us.