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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: 9:00AM

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

Pastor: Father John Thomas
john.thomas@pastoral.org
Sacramental Minister: Father Suneesh Mathew, HGN
suneesh.mathew@pastoral.org
Parish Life Coordinator: Sr Jeannette Fennewald, SSND
pa@blessedsacramentchapel.org



August 21, 2022 21st Sunday--Ordinary Time

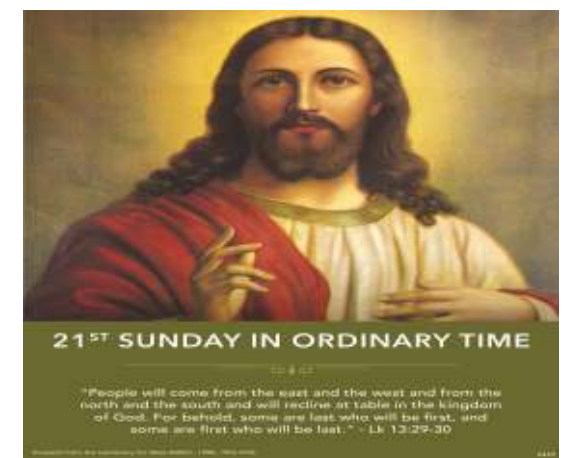
Strengthen your drooping hands and your weak knees. Make straight paths for your feet, that what is lame may be healed..

First Reading:
They shall bring all your brothers and sisters from all the nations as an offering to the LORD. (Is 66:20)

Psalm:
Go out to all the world and tell the Good News. (Ps 117)

Second Reading:
"My son, do not disdain the discipline of the Lord or lose heart when reproved by him; for whom the Lord loves, he disciplines." (Heb 12:5-6)

Gospel:
And people will come from the east and the west and from the north and the south and will recline at table in the kingdom of God. (Lk 13:29)
Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.



Jesus was not a proud or arrogant man. He and his disciples simply spent their time walking from town to town proclaiming the good news to anyone who would listen.

As we heard in today's Gospel, one day as he was walking into a village someone asked him: "Lord, will those who are saved be few?" Jesus didn't answer the question, but rather he used the opportunity to talk to them about what people needed to do to grow in holiness and be saved.

You see, for most of its history Israel was a tiny country among giants. It was at the crossroads of many nations and because of this it was continually being taken over. In order to survive and maintain its identity Israel became very insular and isolated. The people of Israel rarely interacted with others. In fact they looked down on people from other countries and somehow convinced themselves that only they would enjoy eternal life.

It was the opinion of many during Jesus' time that simply being an Israelite and following the letter of the law was enough. And so in today's passage Jesus warned them not to take their salvation for granted. Being an Israelite or simply following the letter of the law was not enough. Jesus explained that in order to be saved a person had to strive or work at being holy. And when he said strive he used the word which describes the strenuous exercise of an athlete. I don't know about you but for me strenuous exercise is not easy (even light exercise is not easy!).

His point was simple; being the men and women God wants us to be is not easy. It is strenuous because we have to change. We have to change our hearts. It is not easy to let go of our wills, it is not easy to let go of our desires and our plans. To be holy there has to be a continual surrender of our wills to God's will - - Our plans to God's plan.

Religious practice, going to Mass, going to confession, are so important because they help us understand God's will and fall in love with him - - to know him. But without love and a conversion of heart all the religious practice in the world is worth nothing. Being holy is indeed like trying to squeeze a big body through a tiny door. You have to pull in tummy and fold over your arms and bend your neck and tuck up your legs and then if you are like me you need someone to unfold you when you if and when you get through.

What does this have to do with all of us here? Brothers and sisters, if our presence here on Sunday is to bring us closer to God - - We have to strive. We have to really work at being the men and women of God. We have to work really hard at being holy. If we think it is easy then something is wrong. Coming here every Sunday and warming the bench is important but it is not enough. Something more is required.

In in this passage Jesus is reminding us - warning us if you will - that we cannot just sit back and take salvation for granted. We cannot permit ourselves thoughts like, "I go to Church every Sunday and there are a lot of people worse than me so that is enough."

We have to be more loving, more merciful, more kind, less judgmental, less angry, more trusting, more concerned about the need of others, more forgiving, less proud and more faith filled. And it is not easy. The Word of God which we hear at Mass will inspire us. The grace of the Eucharist will nourish us and sustain us, even cleanse us. The incredible grace of a good confession will make us more humble and merciful. If you wish to be a forgiving person - - then ask for forgiveness first. Simply coming to Mass is not enough. And being baptized Catholic is not enough. Something more is required. We must never take our salvation for granted.

The message of the today's Gospel is simple. We have to work at conforming ourselves to Christ - - every day of our lives - - so that someday we may pass through the narrow door of holiness to life eternal. Blessings, Fr. John

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

The wonderful diversity of life and worship among roman Catholics of East and West is an example of God writing straight with crooked lines. The steady hand of the villainous Emperor Diocletian drew a line across Europe and Africa that split the empire I two, and for the most part determined how Christians would worship two thousand years later.

Italy's heel and the far northern city of Trieste fell on the Eastern side, and have had a form of Eastern liturgy ever since. Constantinople, which soon became the seat of the Roman Empire, became a base for Christianizing the East up to Russia and Poland. Poland was on the Eastern side, but a series of wars and medieval mayhem pushed the religious boundary back to the Ukraine and Poland remains an outpost of the Latin Church to this day.

An old rule of thumb declared that whatever religion was observed by the local prince, the people had to follow. This gave rise to persecution and migration as people sought toleration for their expressions of faith. In the United States, we are accustomed to peaceful collaboration among Christians of East and West, a situation that



Question:

How can I practice gratitude in my everyday life?

Answer:

God has given each of us many blessings. Fostering an "attitude of gratitude" might be easier than you think. Simple, concrete practices can help us to be more thankful more often. Incorporate it into your dinner with your spouse, or as you tuck the kids into bed at night. "What are three things you're thankful for today?" Make a habit of writing one note a week to someone special in your life, thanking them for how they've impacted you. This is also a good practice in the workplace. Consider opening your weekly meetings with a quick round of gratitude sharing. "I'm grateful John helped me with that last-minute change to my presentation last week. I wouldn't have finished it in time for the meeting without him."

August Birthdays

21--Kyler Carmona
24--Celena Hagan
30--Hank Pardon



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 to register. Thanks to each of you for your support.

Job Opening

The Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph have openings for full and part-time Food Service Cooks and Assistants. We have an enhanced pay scale and very competitive benefits. Applicants may apply through Indeed.com or come in and fill out an application. Questions may be directed to Rachel Travis at 270-229-2012.

Mass Intentions

August 7--Herbert Millay
August 14--Mary Lou Miller
August 21--Stephen Hall
August 28--Paul Bender

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: Charlie Brown Sr, Doris Smith, John Thompson, Dorothy Fennewald, Teresa Woods, Larry Allen, Jordan Gertisen, Buddy Adcock, Ka'Mya Morton, Debbie Moseley, Donna Kaelin, Carol Hatchett, Gina Kirby (Connie Clary's daughter) Colin Holahan, 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: Robert Johnson at his home. 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. **Our Scripture sharing time will resume mid-September.***

Coming Events CALENDAR



Blessed Sacrament Chapel

August--Sunday Mass at 9 am
August 21--Parish meeting in hall (Food!)
September 11--Sophia Award (Rita Moorman) 2 pm



August 14--\$1,678
Weekly Budget--\$1058
MTD Collection--\$3157.50
MTD Budget--\$2,116
YTD Collection--\$7,725.50
YTD Budget--\$7,406

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. WeShare (on website)

Chancing the Narrow Gate

From doctors to counselors, anthropologists to schoolteachers, it seems like everyone has their own parenting style to peddle, guaranteeing it will result in a happy and well-adjusted kid.

You've got "gentle parenting," predicated on respect for the child's feelings and needs. You've got "attachment parenting," based on the belief that kids need time to adjust to being outside of the womb. You've got "free-range parenting," where self-sufficiency reigns supreme.

But of all the parenting approaches I've come across, I've never encountered a philosophy that rejects discipline altogether. There are lots of conflicting opinions on how best to administer that discipline, but I've never heard any parent or parenting "expert" worth their salt say that a mother or father should completely ignore misbehavior that threatens the well-being of the child himself.

Discipline is in our human DNA. Consider for a moment what the world would look like if it came to be filled with people who had never been taught to reflect on their life challenges. People who bristled at the suggestion of personal growth. And yet we become this way with God. Even the most "devout" among us shy away from occasions of divine constructive criticism. We avoid confession and forego daily examinations of conscience. We keep things superficial in our prayer life, avoiding depth of heart and real intimacy with God, afraid of what He will speak to us. But when we do this, we rob ourselves of an opportunity to rely on God's fatherly strength, to rest in His mercy, to fill ourselves up with His goodness. We're putting up our hands, saying: "No thanks, Father, I'm good. You can keep your discipline. You can keep your grace."

When we do this, we are making a beeline for the "narrow gate," sure of our own strength and ability to pass through it. All I can say is this, proceed at your own peril. Are you so sure of yourself?

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

Lectors	
<u>August 21:</u>	Greg Gough Jacques Williams
<u>August 28:</u>	Connie Clary Barbara Bisel
<u>Sept. 4:</u>	Layson Brooks Aubrey Ottofy
Eucharistic Minister	
<u>August 21:</u>	Sarah Malone, Barbara Bisel, Kathi Skidd
<u>August 28:</u>	Cindy Clark, Janet Clark, Rita Moorman
<u>Sept. 4:</u>	Vivian Higgs, Lori Robinson, Kathi Skidd
Collection & Gifts	
<u>August 21:</u>	Cathy Kramer, Wonet Taylor
<u>August 28:</u>	Leland Herzog, Jax Malone
<u>Sept. 4:</u>	Steven and Meredith Fain and sons

Laugh of the Week

A burglar breaks into a house. He starts shining his light around looking for valuables.

Some nice things catch his eye, and as he reaches for them, he hears, "Jesus is watching you." Startled, the burglar looks for the speaker. Seeing no one, he keeps putting things in his bag, again, he hears, "Jesus is watching you."

This time, he sees a parrot. "Who are you?" the burglar asks. "Moses," the bird replied. "Who the heck would name a bird Moses?" the man laughed. "I dunno," Moses answered, "I guess the same kind of people that would name a rottweiler Jesus."

A PRAYER FOR PEACE BY POPE FRANCIS

Lord God of peace, hear our prayer! 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. Shalom, Peace, Salaam! Amen.



John Carson Malone drawing the winning ticket.

Congratulations to Ondra "Boo" Moorman who won the 50-50 drawing last weekend. The pot was \$4694 Thanks to everyone who supported the raffle.

Readings for the Week

Monday:	2 Thes 1:1-5, 11-12/Ps 96:1-2-5/Mt 23:13-22
Tuesday:	2 Thes 2:1-3, 14-17/Ps 96:10, -13/Mt 23:23-26
Wednesday:	Rv 21:9-14/Ps 145:10-13, 17-18/Jn 1:45-51
Thursday:	1 Cor 1:1-9/Ps 145:2-7/ Mt 24:42-51
Friday:	1 Cor 1:17-25/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 10-11/Mt 25:1-13
Saturday:	1 Cor 1:26-31/Ps 33:12-13, 18-21/Mt 25:14-30

Observances for the Week of August 21

Monday:	The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Tuesday:	St. Rose of Lima, Virgin
Wednesday:	St. Bartholomew, Apostle
Thursday:	St. Louis; St. Joseph Calasanz, Priest
Saturday:	St. Monica

Most Important Thing

What is the most important thing? Jesus. If we forge ahead with our own arrangements, with other things, with beautiful things but without Jesus, we make no headways; it does not work. Jesus is more important.
--Pope Francis

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NO THANKS ... I'VE GOT PLENTY

WELCOME THE STRANGER

We have become accustomed to seeing pictures in the media and stories on the news about immigrants from Latin America and refugees from Syria fleeing violence and destruction in their own countries, trying to make their way to a safe place. We have also seen the reactions of people who want to keep them away from their countries, who fail to welcome the stranger and the helpless children. Have we forgotten Jesus' call to comfort the homeless and the stranger? "They shall bring all your brothers and sisters from all the nations...to Jerusalem, my holy mountain, says the Lord."

In the three readings for this day, we are told that we are to welcome these strangers, to welcome the discipline of the Lord, which leads to peace, and to "strive to enter through the narrow gate" into the glory of God's own homeland, the reign of God.

2022 Barbecue Schedule

- 9/17 Blessed Mother (Drive through) 4 pm
- 9/24 Immaculate 1:00-3:00 PM
- 9/25 St. Mary of the Woods 11:00 AM

ACTS OF THE APOSTLES:

I never heard anything about the resolutions of the apostles, but a great deal about their acts. ---Horace Mann