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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



Sept. 18, 2022 25th Sunday--Ordinary Time

God...wills everyone to be saved and to come to knowledge of the truth. *1 Timothy 2:4*

First Reading
Hear this, you who trample upon the needy and destroy the poor of the land! (Am 8:4)

Psalm:
Praise the Lord who lifts up the poor. (Ps 113)

Second Reading:
This is good and pleasing to God our savior, who wills everyone to be saved and to come to knowledge of the truth. (1 Tm 2:3-)

Gospel:
"No servant can serve two masters. He will either hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and mammon." (Lk 16:13)
Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.



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My Dear Parishioners:

Today's Gospel, the so-called parable of the unjust servant and the associated collection of sayings, is one that poses many questions to those who attempt to interpret it. Chief among them is the question, "Why does Jesus make the point that the master praised the squandering steward after the steward has curried the favor of the debtors by reducing their debt?" "And the master commended the dishonest steward for acting prudently." It would seem that the steward was further shirking his duty by not collecting the full measure of the debts, and thus continuing to squander the master's money.

Allow me to add a bit of information to the story that might help to make some more sense of it. One interpretation maintains that stewards functioned somewhat like tax collectors in those days. Tax collectors collected the debt of taxes owed by the Jews to their Roman masters. Tax collectors regularly added their fee to the tax bill; this is how they made their salary. Sometimes they added excessively large amounts to increase their salaries and to thus unfairly tax the Jews. Tax collectors were despised by the Jews, not only because they collected tax for the Roman Emperor, but also because they often cheated their fellow Jews. Most probably the steward, who was squandering the master's money, was likewise looking out for himself. The amounts owed by the debtors were probably inflated by the steward, so that he could be sure to get his cut. And, he might not have always been returning the master's full cut to him. This may be why he had been reported as squandering.

In this light, we can see the prudence in what the steward did. It wasn't just a matter of his resourcefulness that he wanted to make some friends that might be able to help him later in life, but it might also have been his resourcefulness that led him to relinquish his fee by reducing the debts. Maybe, just maybe, he truly deserved the acclamation that he was now prudent, because he decided that he valued the love and compassion he should have for the servants AND THEIR LOVE AND COMPASSION FOR HIM, more than he valued his own desire for wealth.

Prudence is one of the four cardinal virtues of the Church. The four are prudence, justice, fortitude and temperance. Prudence is called the "rudder" virtue because it "steers" all the others. To live a moral life one must know what is good AND have the intelligent discernment to translate the general demands of morality into concrete actions. That intelligent discernment and its translation to action is prudence. Prudence requires really good thinking, darn good thinking. St. Thomas Aquinas said that prudence is the virtue which enables us to do the right thing at the right time. The steward did the right thing at the right time, both for the debtors and himself.

Because we squander the gifts God has given us, when we sin, Jesus is teaching us that we must be prudent like the steward who reduced the debts. We must seek to do the right thing at the right time.

(continues on page 7)

(Continued from page 2.) Fr. Lou Guntzelman of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, in an article listed some practices that can help us to become more prudent. I will mention four of them.

1. We must have the facts; we must inquire, look at all sides of a situation. The steward realized that there was more than just his relationship with his master. He knew he needed friends; he saw the bigger picture.
2. We must think. Reason deeply. While emotion may play a part, acting solely out of emotion can be dangerous. We must determine with good reasoning what would be good for ourselves and for others. We must discover what love demands, what authentically expresses love, love of self and love of the other. I believe the steward was not just looking out for himself, acting out of the emotion of self-preservation. I believe that as he thought the situation through, he found a way that his actions could also benefit others. If we are faced with what to do after we have been hurt by another, we must listen to reason not emotion. Emotion leads us to retaliation. Retaliation adulterates love. Forgiveness authenticates love, love of the other person in our forgiveness of them, and love of ourselves in removing that burden of the need for retaliation.
3. Don't let fear be your enemy. Some act impulsively without deeply thinking something through for fear that they will be mired in complexity. "Just make the decision and get it over with." Or, some do not follow a reasoned approach, for fear of being out of step with others.
4. When in doubt, seek advice. When we are unsure about our capacity to make a decision, we must be open to seeking out someone we can trust, not to make the decision for us, but to give input AND to provide the confidence that will help to validate our decision.

We must know the facts of the situation, and the teachings of Jesus related to the situation, and the teachings of the Church. We must do some deep thinking; take the reasoned approach, not the emotional approach. This is how Jesus operated. We might measure what we are about to do against the question, "What would Jesus do?" We must not let fear keep us from a decision, based on right reasoning. Our faith in Jesus must be stronger than those fears.

If we need help, we must be open to seeking it, either from those around us who can advise us, or from the Lord in prayer. God wants us to be prudent, to make decisions that will ensure that we do the right thing at the right time. We cannot serve two masters: God and the world.

Trivia Night
Blessed Sacrament Chapel
October 1 @ 7 pm
Get a table together (up to 8 people)
\$200 per table. (Limited number available)
Prizes for winning table and
other happenings.
Complimentary popcorn and soda
Food for purchase



September Birthdays

- 1--Norwetta Taylor
- 2---Emma Latta
- 3--Father Suneesh, Venice Higgs
- 6--Shelby Webster
- 7--Aubrey Ottofy
- 8--Mary Hagan, Mamie Farish
- 9--Luke Bisel
- 20--Mary Katherine Gough



IMP—Kroger

We have just received a donation of \$138.32 from Kroger, thanks to 38 households who have signed up to contribute through the community rewards program. 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.

God and silence are great friends. We need to listen to God, because it is not what we say but what He says to us and through us. Ask Him to remind you when you see a beautiful sunset that He did that for you. --Jane Trufant Harvey.

Mass Intentions

- September 18--Herbert Millay
- September 25--Kenny Malone
- October 2--Sandy Dyer
- October 9--Stephen Hall

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: Carol Hatchett, Sondra Hibbs, Joyce Springer, Sister Janice Fennewald, Charlie Brown Sr, Doris Smith, John Thompson, Dorothy Fennewald, Teresa Woods, Larry Allen, Jordan Gertisen, Buddy Adcock, Ka'Mya Morton, Debbie Moseley, Donna Kaelin, 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, Philip Mooman, 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. **Our Scripture sharing time will resume early October***

Coming Events

CALENDAR



Blessed Sacrament Chapel

- September--Sunday Mass at 9 am
- September 24--Diocesan Response Fund Sunday
- October 1--Trivia Night 7 pm



Sept. 11--\$578

Weekly Budget--\$1058

MTD Collection--\$1,643.55

MTD Budget--\$2,116

YTD Collection--\$11,564

YTD Budget--\$11,638

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)

Fixing the Scales

Most people don't intend on being selfish. The reality of selfishness usually lies in the grey shades of our decision-making. We would never go out of our way to kick a homeless person begging by the highway exit. We would never steal money from our parish collection plate.

But would we drive past the homeless person without even extending a thought or a prayer toward his need? Would we justify stinginess in time, talent, and treasure because of our own comfort? We all have been guilty of transgressions such as these in the past. We will fall again in the future.

Most of the evil in this world can be traced back to a feeling of entitlement that lurks deep within each of us — a frantic concern for our own good that we find difficult to shake. The same instinct that compelled Eve to reach for the fruit that would give her the knowledge of good and evil still compels people to focus on what they are owed, on what they have "earned," on what they have "coming to them." We are so tempted to fix the scales. We are so tempted to keep score.

We would do well to remember that our God is not a God who keeps score. He is not a God who acts entitled or who tacks on extra dues, taking as much as He can get. He is a God who seats the lowly with princes. He is a God who seeks avenues for reconciliation and mercy. — Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

Lectors	
<u>Sept. 18:</u>	Alexis Hatchett Kathi Skidd
<u>Sept. 25:</u>	Barbara Bisel, Connie Clary
<u>Oct. 2:</u>	Greg Gough Misty Sanford
Eucharistic Minister	
<u>Sept. 18:</u>	Cindy Clark, Sarah Malone, Rita Moorman
<u>Sept. 25:</u>	Vivian Higgs, Misty Sanford, Lori Robinson
<u>Oct. 2</u>	Janet Clark, Kathi Skidd, Barbara Bisel
Collection & Gifts	
<u>Sept. 18:</u>	Alizabeth Hatchett, Barbara Hammond
<u>Sept. 25:</u>	Alvin Leachman, Leland Herzog
<u>Oct. 2:</u>	Fain Family

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.

Renewed by The Eucharist: A Parish Mission | St. Pius X, Owensboro September 25-27, 2022 | 6:30 PM Nightly

- Sunday - How God's Word brings us into relationship and conversion.
- Monday - How the Mass unites us to Jesus Christ and each other.
- Tuesday - How the Mass sends us forth as servants to transform the world.

Join with parishioners and friends in the renewal event that will allow us to prayerfully see and celebrate how the Holy Eucharist brings life and hope to the world today.

The Mission Director is Fr. Frank DeSiano, CSP. Fr. Frank has served as pastor in New York and Chicago and has written numerous books. He is the president of Paulist Evangelization Ministries in Washington, DC.

2022 Barbecue Schedule
9/24 Immaculate 1:00-3:00 PM
9/25 St. Mary of the Woods 11:00 AM

Readings for the Week

Monday:	Prv 3:27-34/Ps 15:2-5/ Lk 8:16-18
Tuesday:	Prv 21:1-6, 10-13/Ps 119:1, 27, 30, 34, 35, 44/Lk 8:19-21
Wednesday:	Eph 4:1-7, 11-13/Ps 19:2-3, 4- 5/Mt 9:9-13
Thursday:	Eccl 1:2-11/Ps 90:3-6, 12-14 and 17bc/Lk 9:7-9
Friday:	Eccl 3:1-11/Ps 144:1-4/ Lk 9:18-22
Saturday:	Eccl 11:9—12:8/Ps 90:3-6, 12-13, 14 and 17/Lk 9:43-45

Observances for the Week of Sept. 18

Monday:	St. Januarius, Bishop and Martyr
Tuesday:	Sts. Andrew Kim Tae-gŏn, Priest, and Paul Chŏng Ha- sang, Companions, Martyrs
Wednesday:	St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist
Friday:	St. Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest

GOD IS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE POOR

Two of today's readings make it quite clear that God is on the side of the poor. Amos describes in detail the exploitation of the poor and needy. The psalm repeats that God acts to benefit the poor and lowly. But Luke turns things upside down, telling a tale of a conflicted steward, about to be fired, who demonstrates is cleverness and is rewarded. Like the community to whom Paul writes in timothy, these readings are personal, directed to believers, members of the Jewish and Christian communities who struggle to deal with personal choices about how to conduct their lives. They offer an outline for how God wishes us to live in a world as complicated and as confusing as our own.

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Laugh of the Week

The teacher gathered her Sunday school group around her and exclaimed, "Well class, all those who want to go to heaven raise your hands." Everyone around the circle raised their hands, except one boy. "Don't you want to go to heaven, Henry?" asked the teacher. "I can't, ma'am," Henry replied. "My mom wants me to come straight home"

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(See Mark 10:25) 05-07-2010

ARE WE GOING TO HAVE A PROBLEM?



**Congratulations, Rita Moorman!
Sophia Award, 2022**

