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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

First Reading:

Who can know God's counsel, or who can conceive what the LORD intends? (Wis 9:13)

Psalm:

In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge. (Ps 90)

Second Reading:

Perhaps this is why he was away from you for a while, that you might have him back forever, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a brother. (Phmn 9:15-16)

Gospel:

"Anyone of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple." (Lk 14:33)

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



Sept. 4, 2022 23rd Sunday--Ordinary Time

Fill us at daybreak with your kindness, that we may shout for joy and gladness all our days.



One of the most famous blunders in the history of construction is the so-called Leaning Tower of Pisa.

Begun in the year 1173 it took nearly two centuries for the completion of the tower. Its stated purpose was to be a bell tower but in fact it was intended to be a monument to the greatness of the community that built it. Something that people from miles around would look up to. We know today however that the leaning tower stands not as a monument to greatness but rather its architects and builders are remembered more for their careless engineering. It is a story similar to the examples Jesus uses in the Gospel today.

Jesus tells the crowds that they cannot rush ahead without making sure they have what it takes to reach their goal. A King shouldn't fight a battle when he is not sure if he has enough soldiers. A builder shouldn't start a construction project before he knows if he has enough money and material or before he has studied whether the land will provide a suitable foundation for the project. And we, we who want to be followers of Christ need to count the cost. We need to know the price of being a disciple if we are going to accept that invitation. And the price, as laid out in the Gospel today is to carry the cross that Jesus carries. The cost is nothing less than our lives.

Someone once approached the famous pianist, Victor Borge (*one of my favorites*) to ask for an autograph. The adoring fan, in her enthusiasm, said to the musician, "I would give my life to play the piano the way you do." Borge's response was, "that's what I did." And it's true. We know that in order to be a great musician or a great artist or a great athlete we must spend our whole life dedicated to the endeavor. For most of us it costs too much to be great and we are happy to just dabble.

We plunk away at the piano; we play a bit of golf on the weekend. For many of us, at times, the same hold true for our Christianity. We play at it. We do good works; we are kind to our neighbor. But when the crunch comes and being a Christian begins to cost us too much, our inclination might be to put it aside, just for a little while. Young people face the pressure of their peers to try drugs and alcohol or, if not, risk being uncool and unpopular. Business people face the temptations of using unethical practices in order to stay competitive. When somebody does something to wrong us we might want to hold a grudge refusing to make the first step toward reconciliation. But Jesus says the call to discipleship doesn't have room for dabblers, it asks nothing less than our full commitment.

I often reflect on my own ordination and call to service. The Church didn't ordain the 'good part of John Thomas' or the 'holy areas of my life'. The Church ordained all of me. I attempt to bring 'all of me' to my priestly service.

So it is when we come to Mass. We bring everything. We place EVERYTHING at the Altar of Service. We place our joys, hopes, and dreams. We also place our sins, failures, disappointments, and fears. God receives it all.

All he asks of us is the same in return; to offer ourselves completely to Him. If we wish to be 'successful or good' at being a Christian or Catholic, it takes giving our entire life. And we know all the while, in the end, like the Tower of Pisa, it may not be perfect, but we will know we were faithful.

Blessings, Fr. John

St. Peter Claver | September 9

Born in Catalonia Spain in 1580, Saint Peter Claver studied at Barcelona University and then joined the Jesuits. He became friends with fellow brother Saint Alphonsus Rodriguez who encouraged him to be a missionary in the New World. Accordingly, Saint Peter went to Cartagena, a city in present-day Columbia where he was ordained in 1615.

Cartagena was a center for the slave trade, and the young missionary knew where he could best serve God. He proclaimed himself, "the slave of the Negroes forever." As ships would arrive with their human cargo, Saint Peter and a group of interpreters would rush into the hold with food and medicines. When the slaves were moved to pens to await sale, the saint continued to work among them, communicating God's love with acts of generosity and teaching the Catholic faith.

He also led missions in the interior, refusing the hospitality of plantation owners and preferring to stay in the slave quarters. He organized is said to have baptized and catechized more than 300,000 enslaved persons.

Saint Peter Claver died on September 8, 1654. He was canonized with his friend Saint Alphonsus Rodriguez in 1888, by Pope Leo XIII. He is the worldwide patron saint of African Americans and of enslaved peoples.



Why do Catholics light candles in church? Candles have been part of the Church's worship from the earliest times. In the days before electricity, candles and oil lamps were the ways that people lighted buildings. Even today, we often still depend on candles during power outages, relying on their flickering flames to bring light into the dark.

Like our ancestors, we also light candles on special occasions. Think about a festive family meal or a romantic dinner for two — there will often be candles on the table, special objects for a special event. We light candles on birthday cakes and carry them in processions. We also place candles at makeshift memorials when there has been an accident or act of violence. In these moments, their light casts aside a different kind of darkness — the darkness of grief, fear, and death.

The custom of the early Christians lighting candles and lamps at the tombs of the martyrs gave way to the practice of having candles at Mass, honoring the sacredness of the celebration. As Christians decorated their worship spaces with statues and icons, they would burn candles in front of sacred images and the relics of the saints, basically "shining a light" on what they held to be sacred. When pilgrims would visit these shrines, they would often bring candles to light before the image or relic. These candles came to be a symbol of the person, and their prayer and the burning these candles came to be understood as an extension and continuation of the prayer that was offered. What began as a practical way to provide light has come to be a symbol of the hopes, desires, loves, losses, fears, and faith of everyday Christians offering their prayers

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



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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

- September 4--Stephen Hall
- September 11--Sandy Dyer
- September 18--Herbert Millay
- September 25--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: 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, 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: 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

- September--Sunday Mass at 9 am
- September 11--Sophia Award (Rita Moorman) 2 pm
- October 1--Trivia Night



August 28--\$833

Weekly Budget--\$1058

MTD Collection--\$5,353.44

MTD Budget--\$4,232

YTD Collection--\$9921.44

YTD Budget--\$9522

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.
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Where's the Sacrifice?

“It's not that I want you to do it. It's that I want you to *want* to do it.”

If you're married or in a relationship, your partner has probably either said something like this to you or you have said it to them. If one of you hasn't said it, you have probably wanted to, and it's likely that a big argument or two was had where you dance around the sentiment, these exact words flashing in your mind like an old-time movie marquee.

The “it” never really matters much. Taking out the trash, painting the bedroom, traveling to your in-laws' for Christmas — whatever the subject matter of the disagreement is, it's all just so much set dressing. The heart of the matter is the sacrifice and desire. That's what it all hangs on. *Am I with a person who will sacrifice for me?*

When Paul writes to Philemon that he is sending Onesimus to him, he says exactly this. He tells Philemon that he would prefer to keep Onesimus with him, but that he does not want to deprive Philemon both of Onesimus and the opportunity to make a sacrifice worthy in the sight of the Lord.

The point is not who gets to hang out with Onesimus. The point is, as it says in the Gospel, who is willing to carry his cross? Who is willing to renounce his possessions? Who is willing to do the good deed for the sake of the other?

God doesn't care that much about what we have to offer. He cares much more that we have the strength to offer whatever we have.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

	Lectors
<u>Sept. 4:</u>	Layson Brooks Aubrey Ottofy
<u>Sept. 11:</u>	Misty Sanford Sarah Malone
<u>Sept. 18:</u>	Alexis Hatchett Kathi Skidd
	Eucharistic Minister
<u>Sept. 4</u>	Vivian Higgs, Lori Robinson, Charlene Meadows
<u>Sept. 11:</u>	Barbara Bisel, Greg Gough, Kathi Skidd
<u>Sept. 18:</u>	Cindy Clark, Sarah Malone, Rita Moorman
	Collection & Gifts
<u>Sept. 4:</u>	Cindy Clark, Kathi Skidd
<u>Sept. 11:</u>	Steven and Meredith Fain and sons
<u>Sept. 18:</u>	Carol Hatchett, Alizabeth Hatchett

LAUGH OF THE WEEK

An old man was relaxing at his 100th birthday party when a reporter went up to him.

“Sir, what is the secret of your long life?”

The man considered this for a moment, then replied,

“Every day at 9 PM I have a glass of port. Good for the heart I’ve heard.”

The reporter replied,

“That’s ALL?”

The man smiled, “That and cancelling my voyage on the Titanic

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.

Continue to Change

When you're through changing, you're through

Readings for the Week

Monday:	1 Cor 5:1-8/Ps 5:5-6, 7, 12/ Lk 6:6-11
Tuesday:	1 Cor 6:1-11/Ps 149:1-6 and 9/Lk 6:12-19
Wednesday:	1 Cor 7:25-31/Ps 45:11-12, 14 -17/Lk 6:20-26
Thursday:	Mi 5:1-4 or Rom 8:28-30/Ps 13:6/Mt 1:1-16, 18-23
Friday:	1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-27/Ps 84:3 -6, 12/Lk 6:39-42
Saturday:	1 Cor 10:14-22/Ps 116:12-13, 17-18/Lk 6:43-49

Observances for the Week of Sept. 4

Monday:	Labor Day
Thursday:	The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Friday:	St. Peter Claver, Priest

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I'M COLLECTING TEN PERCENT OF OUR
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08-11-2014

POST-SUMMER CHALLENGES

With any luck, summer delights will continue a while past this weekend's Labor Day: refreshing recreation (with maybe an occasional swim) or enjoyable relaxation on the deck (with tasty outdoor grilling). Truth is, for some of us, this year's Labor Day came way too early. With many schools back in session for a while already, meal times and driving schedules needed readjustment to coordinate youth sports with adult commitments. Some religious education and parish programs resumed too. No surprise, then that this weekend's scriptures sound a little like post-summer challenges. For instance, Wisdom reminds us that believers in God can never be content with "timid deliberations" and "unsure plans." Paul challenges longtime friend and follower Philemon to "let the good you do be voluntary." Jesus instructs "great crowds" traveling with him--including us--on three things necessary for all true disciples to accomplish. On this early autumn weekend, our scriptures describe disciples' lifelong labors.

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

