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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: 10:00AM

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

Pastor: Father John Thomas

john.thomas@pastoral.org

Parochial Vicar: Father Shibu Cheriankunnel

mocshibu.cheriankunnel@pastoral.org

Parish Life Coordinator: Sr Jeannette Fennwald,
SSND pa@blessedsacramentchapel.org



December 11, 2022 3rd Sunday of Advent

Those whom the Lord has ransomed will return and enter Zion singing, crowned with everlasting joy. Isaiah 35:10

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

Be strong, fear not! Here is your God, he comes with vindication; with divine recompense he comes to save you. (Is 35:4)

Psalm:

Lord, come and save us. (Ps 146)

Second Reading:

Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand. (Jas 5:7)

Gospel:

When John the Baptist heard in prison of the works of the Christ, he sent his disciples to Jesus with this question, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" (Mt 11:2-3)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. International Commission on English



I would rather be judged by Jesus Christ than praised by anyone else. No one loves me more than he or knows me better. He gave his life for me. If the life I live is one of trust and gratitude that strives to imitate his mercy, even though flawed, I have nothing to fear. This is one reason why I find the prospect of Purgatory as part of my personal judgment to be so appealing. I will finally and forever be sorted out and put right. If when all is said and done, I end up among the goats, then I will have deserved it and will have thrown away the most generous act of kindness of the one who loves me most. Respecting human freedom, Christ is doing all Divinely possible to have a field full of sheep on the great and terrible Day of Judgment. We fear that there will be an unfortunate number of goats.

Mother Theresa of Calcutta, in the years of her service as a Missionary of Charity, most felt the presence of Christ when she was directly caring for the poor, sick, and dying. Most of the time she felt nothing in her prayer. It was the prayer, however, which sustained her ministry. It is exceedingly rare for me to have immediate thoughts of Jesus in pastoral ministry. The personalities of those immediately present overshadow awareness of the Lord. Awareness of the Lord is often strong at liturgy (especially as I stand at the altar at Mass) and other times of prayer. May it be fruitful in kindness. In any case, I fully expect to be surprised at judgment, both by the kindnesses and the cold cruelty the Lord accepts as done to himself. Even for those who come up short in the kindness column, Christ offers his own compassion and sacrifice to their account, if they will at last accept unmerited mercy. In the end, I do firmly believe we will all be surprised!

Only God knows the burden of un-love under which people labor. It is so clear that we are designed to thrive by being loved. Children blossom when wisely loved. This counteracts the inborn tendency to self-centeredness which we call the effect of original sin. Neither is any human love so wise and good as to be perfect, nor does any one of us emerge from childhood undamaged. Just as we hope the children to forgive us our mistakes in their regard, so too must we forgive our parents their faults in our regard. If love consists in God having loved us first, last, and always, having sent his Son in expiation for our sins, then it is paramount that we know in our deepest heart that we are divinely loved, even to death.

Love is an act of hope. It may spark a flame of kindliness in another. Like faith, hope does not see with physical eyes. There may be no humanly measurable evidence to ground our having hope in another apparently God forsaken person. Hope acts with love anyway. For it remembers that Christ bore our sins on his body on the Cross, so that freed from sin, we might live for God. By his wounds we are healed. If I know in the core of my being that I am loved, then I love others for the joy of already being loved by Christ. I worry that during this season of Advent, as we approach the sacred season of Christmas, our focus is not entire on the Peace, Love, and Joy the Christ Child offers to us and in turn, asks us to offer one another. Let us pray that the GIFT of this time not be lost!

There is un-diminishable joy in the voice of the King as he declares, "Come, all you blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." This is gladness, majesty, celebration, indeed, Divine Joy. The other sentence is not an equal opposite. The horror of the accursed who choose the hell fire prepared for the devil and its angels approaches the vanishing point of nothingness and insignificance. Being full of itself, it is full of emptiness and implodes towards nothing. For love's sake God keeps it in some vestige of being, for evil will have no last word. Unlike earthly terrorists, it cannot diminish God's joy and that of the Blessed in any way at all. While this heaven and earth, along with us, will pass away, Blessed be the Day the New Creation. Let us hasten it with loving faith and hope for all the least of these brothers and sisters of ours. This must be our Advent cry: Come Lord Jesus, come. Come quickly so the darkness might be no more. Father John



St. Nick visited the younger parishioners of Blessed Sacrament. After enjoying a snack and working on a craft, the children were given a treat by St. Nick.

Thanks to Cindy Clark, Michelle Jones, and Brian Bumm for designing the large vent cover, and to Dan Clark for bringing the design to life.

December Birthdays

16--Yulanda Williams
18--Robert Johnson
24--Susan Mutter



IMP—Kroger

If you do not have a community reward partner at Kroger, please designate Blessed Sacrament. For the past quarter we received \$130.93. Blessed Sacrament’s # is WX799. Go to krogercommunityrewards.com to register. Thanks to each of you for your support.

GOSPEL THOUGHTS

“Be strong, fear not!” Those are easy words to say. Putting them into practice is the challenge. When our paths are dark and life’s roads become treacherous, we can easily complain about life’s unfinished nature. When will the pain go away? Will the loneliness ever cease? Will I experience happiness again? As the farmer needs to exercise patience with the soil, we need to do the same with our lives. We have to wait for the early and late rains to come, properly tend to our gardens, and ensure that the rich nutrients of God’s merciful and tender presence continue to enrich us. God is not done. God has only just begun his work in us.

Mass Intentions

December 4--Stephen Hall
December 7--Herbert Millay
December 11--Linda Clark
December 18--Betty and John Clark
December 25--Donald Moorman

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: Mariyam Pynadath, Rachel Mattingly, Carol Hatchett, Sister Janice Fennwald, Charlie Brown Sr, Nancy Bumm, Kate Quinn, Larry Leachman, Teresa Woods, Larry Allen, Jordan Gertisen, Buddy Adcock, Debbie Moseley, Donna Kaelin, 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, Camilla Greer, Philip 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.

- Advent Penance Services**
- 12/4** Lourdes 2 pm
 - 12/11** Blessed Mother 2 pm
 - 12/12** Immaculate 6 pm
 - 12/14** Sts. Joe and Paul 6 pm
 - 12/18** St. Stephen 2 pm
 - 12/20** Precious Blood 6 pm

Coming Events
CALENDAR



- Blessed Sacrament Chapel**
- December 18--Decorate church after Mass
- December 24--Christmas Eve Mass 7pm
- January 1--10 am Mass



Dec. 4--\$1065.50
Weekly Budget--\$1058
MTD Collection--\$1065.50
MTD Budget--\$1058
YTD Collection--\$28,531.69
YTD Budget--\$22,218

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)

The Season That Gives Back

I don’t have anything left to give.

You can’t pour from an empty cup.

All I do is give. Who is giving to me?

Raise your hand if these thoughts have ever run through your head. I’m sure they occur to all of us from time to time. We can become so easily depleted by the fast pace of life and whatever vocation God has called us to, whether that’s parenthood, a demanding professional career or the caretaking of friends and family (or as so often happens, a hybrid of all three). Many of us also undergo certain seasons — seasons of the year, but also seasons of life — that seem to sap us of energy and leave us totally empty.

In these times, it seems impossible to continue in the spirituality of Everyday Stewardship. Graciousness, mindfulness, prayerfulness, gratitude, accountability — maintaining some semblance of these characteristics in our daily life feels not only overly optimistic, but totally impossible.

The Church gives us certain liturgical seasons that are meant to fill us up, almost like spiritual pit stops. Advent is one such season, and the Scriptural passages we reflect on at Mass during these four weeks are filled with images of nature defied. We see the dry steppe blooming. We see the weak made firm. We see the frightened made strong. We see the lame walk. We see the Virgin give birth.

If you think you don’t have anything left to give this Advent, think again. This is the season of miracles when what we thought was depleted brings new life

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

	Lectors
<u>Dec. 11:</u>	Greg Gough
	Sarah Malone
<u>Dec. 18:</u>	Jacques Williams
	Barbara Bisel
<u>Dec. 25:</u>	Layson Brooks
	Misty Sanford
	Eucharistic Ministers
<u>Dec. 11</u>	Barbara Bisel, Janet Clark, Charlene Meadows
<u>Dec. 18:</u>	Cindy Clark, Misty Sanford, Lori Robinson
<u>Dec. 25:</u>	Barbara Bisel, Vivian Higgs, Rita Moorman
	Collection & Gifts
<u>Dec. 11:</u>	Jacques and Whitney Williams
<u>Dec. 18:</u>	Lori Robinson and family
<u>Dec. 25:</u>	Michelle Jones, Barbara Hammond

Laugh of the Week

The Advent Wreath

A few weeks before Christmas, Reverend Johnson of Christ Lutheran was leading a children’s service featuring an Advent wreath. He told them what the three purple candles represented, then asked, “Does anyone know what the pink one means?” No one answered. Finally little Sara’s hand went up. “Are they expecting a girl?”



Safe Environment

The safety of our children is the responsibility of every Christian. Anyone aware of the abuse of a person under the age of eighteen is required by law to report this to the proper state authorities (800-422-4453); local law enforcement (800-752-6200); or the Kentucky Child Abuse Hotline (toll-free: 1-877-597- 2331). To report abuse to the diocese, current or past, by anyone acting in the name of the Church (paid or volunteer), call Louanne Payne, Pastoral Assistance Coordinator (English) on the confidential phone line: 270-852-8380, or Susan Montalvo-Gesser/Miguel Quintanilla, Pastoral Assistance Coordinators (Spanish): 270-880-8360. The Diocese of Owensboro’s sexual abuse policy is available at this parish (in the bookshelf in back of the church), in the parish office, and also on the diocesan website (<https://owensborodiocese.org/safe>). To make a report of sexual abuse of a minor and related misconduct by bishops, go to ReportBishopAbuse.org or call 1-800-276-1562

Readings for the Week	
Monday:	Zec 2:14-17/Jdt 13:18-19/ Lk 1:26-38
Tuesday:	Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-19 and 23/Mt 21:28-32
Wednesday:	Is 45:6-8, 18, 21-25/Ps 85:9-14 Lk 7:18b-23
Thursday:	Is 54:1-10/Ps 30:2 and 4-6, 11-13/ Lk 7:24-30
Friday:	Is 56:1-3, 6-8/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 7-8/ Jn 5:33-36
Saturday:	Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-4, 7-8, 17/ Mt 1:1-17

Observances for the Week of Dec. 11

Monday:	Our Lady of Guadalupe
Tuesday:	St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr
Wednesday:	St. John of the Cross, Priest

PROMISE FULFILLED

Today’s readings address the faithful one, the one who waits on God but may not feel God’s presence. Every person who seeks God has at one time or another experienced the absence of God. Jesus himself cried out during his dark night of the soul.

The Epistle of James speaks to this. The author says that we must be as patient as the silent, fallow earth that awaits the slow, soaking rains of winter and the hard, necessary rains of spring. As the farmer is sure of the precious yield of the land, we can be sure of the precious yield of our patient waiting. God is never far away.

The messengers from John the Baptizer asked Jesus if he was the one whose coming John had announced. The messengers wanted to hear the answer that the imprisoned John already knew. Everything that John said was finally happening; because of Jesus, light shines in eyes, words of promise are received; people leap and dance.

The promise of Isaiah is fulfilled in Jesus. Wobbly knees and feeble hands are strong; the desert blooms; the savanna and steppe flower; the darkness is chased away

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PRAYER TO OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

Our Lady of Guadalupe, O dark Madonna of the Americas, come again to bring us the roses of compassion, justice, and peace. In the midst of our winter, bestow your love on all those marginalized in these lands, and give us your gift to see dignity in the least of those among us. Amen.

