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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 Cheriyanunnel
moc_shibu.cheriyankunnel@pastoral.org
Parish Life Coordinator: Sr Jeannette Fennewald,
 SSND pa@blessedsacramentchapel.org



January 15, 2023 2nd Sunday--Ordinary Time
Here am I Lord; I come to do your will. Ps. 40 .

Sunday's Readings

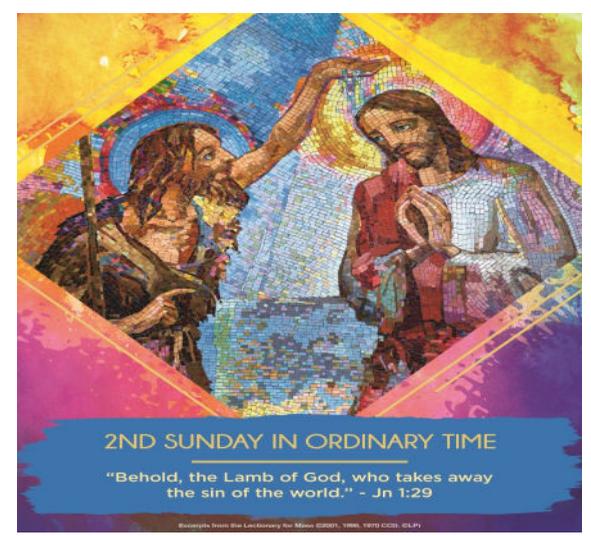
First Reading:
 I will make you a light to the nations; that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth. (Is 49:6)

Psalm:
 Here am I, Lord; come to do your will. (Ps 40)

Second Reading:
 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Cor 1:3)

Gospel:
 John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world." (Jn 1:29)

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My Dear Parishioners

This Sunday I write about a very basic issue: the value of human life. How we value human life determines how we treat ourselves and others: the poor, the immigrant, the handicapped, the unborn, the infirm and the dying - not to mention the person who makes my life difficult or who I just cannot forgive. The question is fundamental: Where does the value of human life come from? Why does human life have worth at all? Today's Gospel gives us the answer. To put it in a nutshell: Human life has value for the same reason that gold has value.

To illustrate what I mean by the value of gold, I offer a story. In his book on the Holocaust, Martin Gilbert tells about a concentration camp prisoner. Before his arrest, the man was a successful jeweler in Holland. The Nazis robbed him of his possessions, but he managed to smuggle a small amount of gold into prison. He hoped to survive the encampment and use the gold to begin his life over again. But, with the lack of food, he grew thinner and hungrier. In desperation he took the gold and showed it to a guard. He asked the guard what he would give for it. The next day the guard returned, reached into his pocket and pulled out two potatoes. They were small, shriveled and had begun to rot. The prisoner looked at them. He hesitated for a moment, then handed the gold to guard and quickly ate the uncooked potatoes. Martin Gilbert comments that the exchange represented a precise scale of worth. In that concentration camp, a few scraps of food were more valuable than gold. Right now that same gold would be worth a couple thousand dollars. With it you could buy one of those new cars from India. What we see here is that gold has value because of the price someone is willing to pay for it.

Something similar applies to the value of human life. This Sunday we hear the price someone is willing to pay for a human life - for yours and for mine. When John the Baptist saw Jesus coming, he said, "Behold, the Lamb of God." In the Old Testament, each year, they used to select a lamb - that is, a young male sheep. He was a year old, the time when his meat and wool fetched their highest price. Each family, who could afford it, would offer a young sheep for the sacrifice. The priest placed the lamb on the altar and opened its throat so blood would flow out. The blood of the lamb brought forgiveness - it restored people to God. When St. John saw Jesus, he said: "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world." Like a young sheep placed on an altar, Jesus would give his blood - his life - for us. That is the greatest price, because Jesus is perfect man and true God.

If you were to ask where our value comes from, you would have to say: Ultimately our worth does not come from our brilliance or virtue or beauty or strength.* We are valuable because someone is willing to pay a great price for us. It is important for us to say that today. We live in a society confused about the value of human life. I remember, Washington state had a former governor who considered his life so worthless that he wished to end it. But he didn't want to do it by jumping off a bridge or taking an overdose. He wanted to implicate the rest of us and the medical profession in his suicide - and, then, call it "death with dignity." As Christians we cannot do that. We know that his life has incalculable value. Someone is willing to pay an enormous price for it. The Lamb of God has paid the price. We of course want to do what we can to ease the other person's discomfort. But we do not believe that suffering in itself is absurd. We can join our suffering to the Lamb of God. Pope Benedict wrote in his encyclical *Spes Salvi* - in hope we are saved - about the importance of offering our daily trials in union with Christ. What a person endures - for the sake of Christ - can have great value. This applies particularly to the suffering involved in one's final illness. This message is hard to proclaim - and even harder to live: That each human life has incalculable worth - even in the face of great suffering. As Christians we know we have been purchased at a high price.

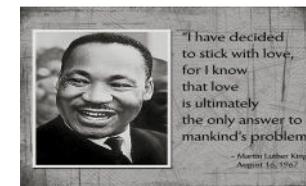
TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

The symbols and actions of baptism evolved around the experience of adults dying to old patterns of life and rising from the waters of baptism as new creations. As for newborn babies, at first it was desired to wait until the following Easter, when they could be baptized, anointed with chrism, and given taste of the Eucharist in association with adults. The Church was always willing to baptize adults in emergency situations outside the Easter timetable, and in time, since infancy itself was a life-threatening situation, the baptism of babies became commonplace. As with the "emergency" adult baptism, it was required that parents bring the child, as soon as health was recovered, to the bishop for the full menu of sacraments.

The very real fear of death for infants thus created a situation in which the three sacraments drifted apart from each other, and away from their original adult celebration at Easter. Today, at last, we know a great deal about how our practices evolved. This knowledge is reshaping how we celebrate Easter, how we receive adult faith, and how we structure the faith journey of children. - Rev. James Field, Copyright J.S. Paluch Co.



SIRI ... SAY GRACE



O God, your children of all colors have been hurt by racism. Help us heal together. Help us do the inner work to be open to your grace and to the "balm in Gilead" so our hearts are converted, and we can join hands to do the constructive work of love and justice. Amen (Jane Deren)

- Every minute someone leaves this world
- behind. Age has nothing to do with it.
- We are all in "the line" without knowing
- it. We never know how many people
- are before us. We cannot move to the
- back of the line. We can not step out of
- the line. We can not avoid the line
- So while we wait in line:
- ♦ Make moments count
- ♦ Make priorities
- ♦ Make the time
- ♦ Make your gifts known
- ♦ Make a nobody feel like a some-
- ♦ body
- ♦ Make your voice heard
- ♦ Make someone smile
- ♦ Make the change
- ♦ Make up
- ♦ Make peace
- ♦ Make sure to tell people they are
- ♦ loved.
- ♦ Make sure you are ready.

January Birthdays

- 3--Parker Malone
- 7--Jacques Williams II
- 10--Whitney Williams
- 14--Burnell Hamilton
- 20--Janet Clark
- 22--Von Williams
- 25--Louise Johnson
- 26--Frank Adams
- 27--Sarah Malone, Lilly Malone
- 30--Pam Wilson



To all who helped lift our minds and hearts in worship at the Christmas liturgy. Those who helped with envisioning and decorating our environment. Those who were our ministers--especially our three priests and server. Those who shared your musical talents--vocalists and instrumentalists. As a small parish, we are so blessed to have musicians who greatly enhance our worship. Thank you. A big thank you also to all who stayed and help put the decorations away.

Mass Intentions

- January 1--Stephen Hall
- January 8--Betty and John Clark
- January 16--Sandy Dyer
- January 23--Stephen Hall
- January 30--Betty and John Clark

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:
Gloria Savet, Mike Coakley, Rachel Mattingly, Carol Hatchett, Sister Janice Fennewald,
 Charlie Brown Sr, Teresa Woods, Larry Allen, Jordan Gertisen, Buddy Adcock, Debbie Moseley, Donna Kaelin, Janice Taul, Merle Griffith, Pam Wilson, Frank & Gloria Adams, Shelby Webster, Louise Johnson, Ruth Coble, Larry Conder, 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.

This basic message ties in with an observance which commences this weekend: The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Once someone asked C.S. Lewis if he thought it was a good time to pray for Christian unity. He responded that it is always a good time to pray for Christian unity. Still, in light of the assault on basic values - including human life itself - now more than ever we need to pray for a united Christian witness. For sure, there are natural reasons for valuing human life - but ultimately human life has value for the same reason that gold has value - yet even more so. This Sunday, St. John the Baptist tells us the price - and who is willing to pay it: Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. He sees the value in each one of us. Father John

Coming Events CALENDAR



Blessed Sacrament Chapel
 January 26--Scripture sharing
 5:30 pm in hall

VISION:
 Some people see more in a walk around the block than others see in a trip around the world. Anonymous



- Jan. 8--\$858
- Weekly Budget--\$1058
- MTD Collection--\$2090
- MTD Budget--\$2116
- YTD Collection--\$34,078.69
- YTD Budget--\$27,508

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)

Showing Up

I broke my foot once, when my second child was only 12 weeks old, and I was about to move houses. For six weeks I was confined to a chair, a shrieking newborn in my arms, a toddler running circles around me, and my right foot rendered useless by a plaster cast. I couldn't do anything without assistance. I couldn't eat or get a drink or change my clothes or feed my children.

My family was in dire straits. A lot of people offered help, but there was a core group of friends and family members who really saved us.

These are the people who turned up in my driveway with empty vans and cooked meals. These are the people who blocked off their Saturdays to haul furniture, mow our lawn, and run after unruly kids. These are the people who said: "Here I am. Give me a job."

If you've ever really, really needed another person's help, you know that "showing up" means more than saying: "Let me know what you need." It means saying: "I'm already here. Tell me what to do."

So often, I pay lip service to the idea of submission. "What do you want, God?" I ask, and I secretly hope that what He wants isn't one of those things that I'm not willing to give.

What if I really strove to "show up" for God? What if I was ready to give what He asks of me, whatever it is?

Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will. — Ps. 40
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Renovated Sanctuary



LECTORS

Jan. 15: Barbara Bisel
Sarah Malone

Jan. 22: Jacques Williams
Misty Sanford

Jan. 29: Layson Brooks
Kathi Skidd

Eucharistic Ministers

Jan. 15: Rita Moorman,, Greg Gough,
Kathi Skidd

Jan. 22 Barbara Bisel, Vivian Higgs,
Lori Robinson

Jan. 29: Sarah Malone, Charlene
Meadows, Janet Clark

Collection & Gifts

Jan. 15: Alexis and Alizabeth Hatchett

Jan. 22: Hollis Family

Jan. 29: Mary Hagan, Lori Robinson and
family

Thanks to each of you who have made a pledge or contributed in some way to update our chapel. We invite you to get involved if you have not been.

Phase 1 is complete except for presider and server chairs.

Phase 2 is the replacement of windows. Donations may be made toward the windows (\$800). There is a total of 24 windows. A plaque will be displayed with names of people that windows have been purchased in honor of or memory of.

When we receive needed donations, we will begin this Phase. Please keep all in prayers as together we serve the Lord with the gifts He gave us.

Readings for the Week

Monday: Heb 5:1-10/Ps 110:1-4/
Mk 2:18-22

Tuesday: Heb 6:10-20/Ps 111:1-2, 4-5, 9
and 10/Mk 2:23-28

Wednesday: Heb 7:1-3, 15-17/Ps 110:1-4/
Mk 3:1-6

Thursday: Heb 7:25—8:6/Ps 40:7-10, 17/
Mk 3:7-12

Friday: Heb 8:6-13/Ps 85:8 and 10-14/
Mk 3:13-19

Saturday: Heb 9:2-3, 11-14/Ps 47:2-3, 6-9/
Mk 3:20-21

Observances for the Week of Jan. 15

Monday: Martin Luther King Day

Tuesday: St. Anthony, Abbot

Wednesday: January 18-25 is the Week of
Prayer for Christian Unity

Friday: St. Fabian, Pope and Martyr;
St. Sebastian, Martyr

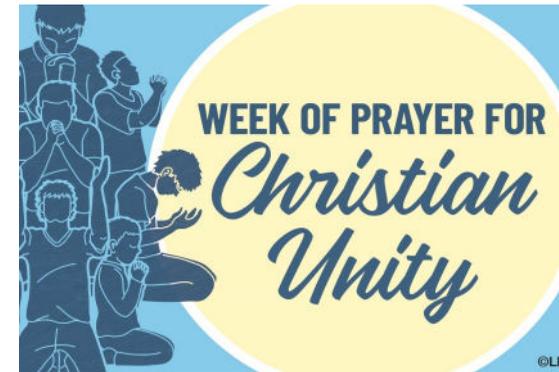
Saturday: St. Agnes, Virgin and Martyr

THREE MISSIONS

Today we begin with one of the “servant songs” from the book of Isaiah, a song prophetic of Jesus’ ministry of service. Isaiah’s mission is not only to bring back the children of Jacob to gather in Israel: it is also to be “a light to the nations” (Isaiah 49:6). Jesus Christ, as servant, will be the fulfillment of the ancient prophecy and the basis of the new.

This Sunday we begin a series of readings from Paul’s letter to the Corinthians. Here Paul is identified by his mission: he is an apostle of Jesus Christ. The church at Corinth to whom he addresses this letter I also identified: it is part of the universal church of God. The Corinthians are called to holiness, as are all Christians.

Though the feast of the baptism of the Lord was celebrated last Monday, today’s Gospel also attests to the importance of that event. The reading emphasizes that Jesus “out-ranks” John: his baptism in the Spirit will eradicate sin. Jesus accepts John’s baptism, even though it is he himself who is the Lamb of God. J.S. Paluch



GOD KNOWS BEST
God’s creative wisdom was at its best when making humans. There are four holes in the head for information to go in and only one for it to go out.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity has a [history of over 100 years](#), in which Christians around the world have taken part in an octave of prayer for visible Christian unity. By annually observing the WPCU, Christians move toward the fulfillment of Jesus' prayer at the Last Supper "that they all may be one." (cf. John 17:21)

The theme for the 2023 Week of Prayer is
DO GOOD, SEEK JUSTICE.

Isaiah 1:17