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Blessed Sacrament

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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 Fennwald,
SSND pa@blessedsacramentchapel.org



January 29, 2023 4th Sunday--Ordinary Time

God chose the weak of the world to
shame the strong. I Cor. 1: 27.

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

But I will leave as a remnant in your midst
a people humble and lowly. (Zep 3:12)

Psalm:

Blessed the poor in spirit; the kingdom of
heaven is theirs! (Ps 146)

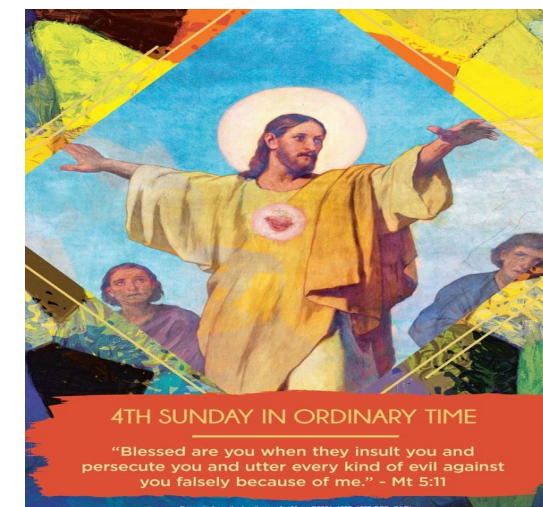
Second Reading:

Rather, God chose the foolish of the world to
shame the wise, and God chose the weak of
the world to shame the strong. (1 Cor 1:27)

Gospel:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the
kingdom of heaven." (Mt 5:3)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass
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There many customs in our Church that dates back to its earliest time. We use incense, burn candles, bow, stand, and bless with water. Some customs come and go . . and come back again (chapel veils). All customs are to help us understand something of our faith.

This Friday, February 3, happens to be the memorial of Saint Blaise. The custom attached to this day is the ‘Blessing of Throats’.

Unfortunately, what is known about the life of St. Blaise derives from various traditions. All sources agree that St. Blaise was the Bishop of Sebaste in Armenia who suffered martyrdom under Licinius about A.D. 316. St. Blaise was born to rich and noble parents, and received a Christian education. He was a physician before being consecrated a bishop at a young age. Although such a statement seems terse, keep in mind that at that time the local community usually nominated a man to be a bishop based on his outstanding holiness and leadership qualities; he in turn was then examined and consecrated by other bishops with the approval of the Holy Father. Therefore, St. Blaise must have been a great witness of our Faith, to say the least. During the persecution of Licinius, St. Blaise, receiving some divine command lived as a hermit in a cave. Wild animals visited, and he healed any that were sick and wounded. One day, a group of hunters gathering wild beasts for the game in the amphitheater discovered St. Blaise and seized him. While in prison, he miraculously cured a small boy who was choking to death on a fishbone lodged in his throat. Eventually, Agricolaus condemned St. Blaise for upholding his Christian faith. He was tortured with the iron comb (an instrument designed for combing wool but was used here for shredding the skin) and finally beheaded.

By the sixth century, St. Blaise's intercession was invoked for diseases of the throat in the East. As early as the eighth century, records attest to the veneration of St. Blaise in Europe, and he became one of the most popular saints in the spiritual life of the Middle Ages. Many altars were dedicated to his honor, and even the Abbey of St. Blaise in southern Germany claimed to have some of his relics.

One reason for St. Blaise's popularity arose from the fact he was a physician who cured, even performing miraculous cures. Thereby, those who were sick, especially with throat ailments, invoked his intercession. Eventually the custom of the blessing of throats arose, whereby the priest held two crossed candles over the heads of the faithful or touched their throats with them while he invoked the prayer of the saint and imparted God's blessing. In our present Roman Ritual, the priest prays, "Through the intercession of St. Blaise, bishop and martyr, may God deliver you from every disease of the throat and from every other illness, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." This practice continues in many parishes on St. Blaise's feast day.

While we invoke St. Blaise for his protection against any physical ailment of the throat, we should also ask his protection against any spiritual ailment - profanity, cursing, unkind remarks, detraction or gossip. St. James reminds us, "If a man who does not control his tongue imagines that he is devout, he is self-deceived; his worship is pointless" (1:26) and later, "We use [the tongue] to say, 'Praised be the Lord and Father'; then we use it to curse men, though they are made in the likeness of God. Blessing and curse come out of the same mouth. This ought not to be, my brothers!" (3:9-10). Therefore, may St. Blaise protect us from all evil, physical and spiritual, which may attack the throat.

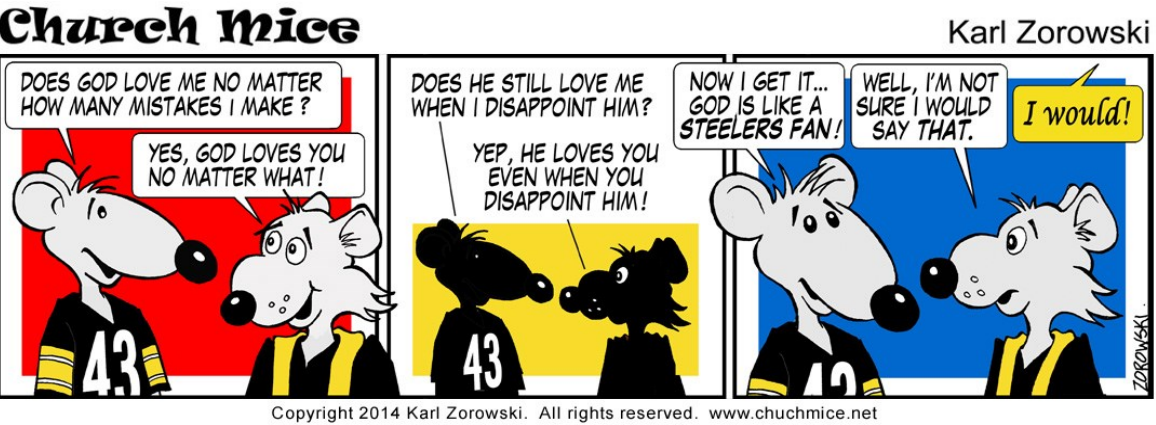
I know there are many in our congregation who has not had the throat blessed in many years (maybe never). At the conclusion of Masses next weekend (Feb 4 & 5) .this blessing will be offered to any who wishes to receive it. May our mouth and speech be used for God’s glory and praise. Blessings. Fr. John

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Until very recent decades “Holy Thursday” and “Good Friday” were centered on personal pious devotions, not public liturgy. In urban American, at least in cities with a significant Catholic population, Holy Thursday was about veneration of the Blessed Sacrament. People were encouraged to walk to seven churches for a “visit” to each parish’s repository, a kind of temporary tabernacle on a side altar, closer in proximity to the faithful than the usual tabernacle on the distant high altar. On Good Friday, the most popular form of devotion was the Stations of the Cross, or a 3 hour program of word and preaching beginning at noon.

The Holy Thursday seven-church hike was a way of participating in a custom of the city of Rome. Traditionally each day in Lent was assigned to a particular parish church or basilica in the city. Each week of Lent thus had seven churches and pious people tried to get to each one of them. The pilgrimage was a symbol of unity and also the journey of faith. Originally, the pope would go to each place for a liturgy but political strife removed the pope from Rome in 1305. With the papacy relocated in France, the custom ceased until Pope Leo XIII expressed interest in restoring it in 1900, and Saint John XXIII fully restored the custom in 1959. By the time Pope Leo began to revive the custom, many American cities had enough parishes and monasteries that the faithful could vicariously participate in the revived tradition of stational liturgies by a very long walk. Copyright Rev. James Field... Paluch Co.

Insert whatever team you want!!!!



Prayer for Life:: O Mary, Mother of the living, to you do we entrust the cause of life. Look down, O Mother, upon the vast numbers of babies not allowed to be born, of the poor whose lives are made difficult, of men and women who are the victims of brutal violence, of the elderly and the sick killed by indifference or misguided mercy. Grant that all who believe in your Son may proclaim the Gospel of life with honesty and love to the people of our time.
--St. John Paul II

January Birthdays

22--Von Williams
25--Louise Johnson
26--Frank Adams
27--Sarah Malone, Lilly Malone
30--Pam Wilson

February Birthdays

2--Nancy Bumm
3--Jacques Williams Sr.
6--Philip Moorman
8--Karen Terry



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Mass Intentions

January 22--Stephen Hall
January 29--Betty and John Clark
February 5--Burnell and Idella Hamilton
February 12--Stephen Hall
February 19--Hugh 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:
Larry Clark, Brent Hatchett, Gloria Savet, Rachel Mattingly, Sister Janice Fennewald,
Charlie Brown Sr, Carol Hatchett, 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.



.A huge thank you and many blessings to
St. Stephen Cathedral and
St. Romuald Parish, Hardinsburg
(Father Tony Jones)
for recent donations to our Capital
Campaign. Please remember them
in prayers.

Coming Events CALENDAR



Blessed Sacrament Chapel

January 29--Parish meeting after
Mass

Feb. 10--McDonald's Share Night
at McDonald's 5-7 pm
(Frederica)



Jan. 22--\$1800.61

Weekly Budget--\$1058

MTD Collection--\$5,391.11

MTD Budget--\$4,232

YTD Collection--\$37,379.80

YTD Budget--\$29,624

May each give according to what
the Lord has blessed us with.

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card, checking or saving account.
WeShare (on website)

The Humble of the Earth

When I think of the Beatitudes, I think of collectible coffee mugs emblazoned with the words *Blessed are the peacemakers*, with little pastel flowers stenciled in the white spaces of the lettering. I think of greeting cards and decorative wall hangings.

Why? These are the Beatitudes, for heaven's sake — revolutionary and radical. An uncompromising impeachment of worldly values. They are the opposite of banal. But I cringed from my head to my toes when I read my first draft of this reflection, a retelling of a time in my life when I decided to embrace humility and meekness. I realized that the Beatitudes aren't something I can tell you about. Poverty of spirit, the hunger for righteousness, the gladness God gives to the downtrodden — these are concepts that must be animated within us. They must be lived. So instead of telling you my story, I want you to tell yours.

I invite you to think of a time when you were vulnerable. When you were discouraged or humbled or felt like a failure. A time when you were cut low. The loss of a job, perhaps, or the rejection of a loved one. The abrupt end of some road that you felt sure would be long and prosperous. Resentment, envy, and vengefulness flourish in moments like this. Did you experience those feelings? Did you embrace them? Did you want to?

What did the world tell you this moment should mean? What does Christ tell you it should mean? Have you figured it out, or are you still working on it?

God chose the foolish of the world to shame the wise, and God chose the weak of the world to shame the strong. — 1 Corinthians 1:27

©LPi

LECTORS	
Jan. 29:	Layson Brooks Jacques Williams
Feb. 5:	Alexis Hatchett Connie Clary
Feb. 12:	Greg Gough Misty Sanford
Eucharistic Ministers	
Jan. 29:	Sarah Malone, Charlene Meadows, Cindy Clark
Feb. 4:	Janet Clark, Misty Sanford, Kathi Skidd
Feb. 12:	Barbara Bisel, Vivian Higgs, Rita Moorman
Collection & Gifts	
Jan. 29:	Holly, Kelly, Samuel Hollis .
Feb. 5:	Steven, Meredith, Quinn, Hank Fain
Feb. 12:	Jacques, Whitney Williams & sons

Laugh of the Week

When my daughter, Kelli, said her bedtime prayers, she would bless every family member, every friend, and every animal (current and past). For several weeks, after we had finished the nightly prayer, Kelli would say, "And all girls." This soon became part of her nightly routine, to include this closing. My curiosity got the best of me and I asked her, "Kelli, why do you always add the part about all girls?" Her response, "Because everybody always finish their prayers by saying 'All Men'!"

Gospel Meditation

In my parents’ bedroom there were on the wall two photos of my mom and dad from their early adulthoods. The photo of my mother entranced me when I was a boy. I loved looking at it, even though I saw her in daily life. Something about that picture captured her perfectly. It was an image of the joy, wisdom, beauty, and strength that enveloped me from the start of my life. It was an icon of the woman who fed, taught, and encouraged me. I felt a deep pride that I came from such beauty.

The beatitudes of Jesus are a kind of self-portrait. But it is a strange picture. At first, the blessings of being poor, mourning, and hungering and thirsting for righteousness may seem bizarre or, worse, a religious delusion. Who wants to look like *that*? But if we look again, we begin to see the characteristics of Jesus’ form. He becomes poor and fills it with his riches for us, he weeps and mourns for us, and fills it with his joy, he hungers and thirsts for us to be righteous, and so satisfies us. And so on. It’s the way he appears on the cross.

Perhaps we should put on our bedroom room walls the words of the beatitudes next to a crucifix of the Lord Jesus. Then we can do what the beatitudes are designed for, to gaze at the joy, wisdom, beauty, and strength of the one who is our origin, and who is with us every day. And little by little, we’ll start to look like him.

— *Father John Muir*

The Christian Ideal
The Christian ideal has not been tried
and found wanting. It has been
found difficult and left untried.
Gilbert K. Chesterton

Readings for the Week	
Monday:	Heb 11:32-40/Ps 31:20-24/ Mk 5:1-20
Tuesday:	Heb 12:1-4/Ps 22:26-28 and 30, 31-32/Mk 5:21-43
Wednesday:	Heb 12:4-7, 11-15/Ps 103:1-2, 13-14, 17-18/Mk 6:1-6
Thursday:	Mal 3:1-4/Ps 24:7-10/Heb 2:14-18/ Lk 2:22-40
Friday:	Heb 13:1-8/Ps 27:1, 3, 5, 8-9/ Mk 6:14-29
Saturday:	Heb 13:15-17, 20-21/Ps 23:1-6/ Mk 6:30-34

Observances for the Week of Jan. 29	
Tuesday:	St. John Bosco, Priest
Thursday:	The Presentation of the Lord, World Day for Consecrated Life
Friday:	St. Blaise, Bishop and Martyr; St. Ansgar, Bishop



In Luke’s Gospel, Jesus, Mary and Joseph go to the Temple offering two turtledoves for Mary’s purification. Along with Mary’s willing submission, Jesus is presented into the hands of the priest and thus to God. In accordance with the Old Testament, the child was blessed and then bought or ransomed back by the family who would pay five shekels into the Temple treasury. The Gospel of Luke explains that the old prophet Simeon and the prophetess Anna were at the Temple that day (see 2:22-38). They, like many others, had spent their lifetime waiting, longing for a Messiah, and the Holy Spirit had revealed to Simeon that he would not die until he had seen the Savior. Among all the children and mothers coming into the Temple, Simeon recognized Jesus as the Christ Child; he held Jesus and exclaimed this hymn of thanksgiving, “Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel” (2:29-32 ..

THE CHOSEN REMNANT

Zephaniah is one of the least know of the Old Testament prophets. He speaks in today’s first reading of impending judgment. But the Lord will leave a “remnant” in Israel. This image of a remnant, or remainder, was to become vital to both Judaism and Christianity.

Paul’s letter to Corinth makes obvious his deep concern for the Christians there. They are too self-confident, he says, too sure of themselves. He admonishes them to remember that Christ has given them all they have.

Today’s Gospel comprises the opening of Jesus’ “Great Sermon.” As God gave Moses the law on Sinai, so now Jesus gathers his disciples on a hillside to teach them the new law. Each of these Beatitudes contrasts the humiliation of the present with the glory of the future: poverty vs. the riches of God’s kingdom, hunger for holiness vs. fulfillment in the Spirit, persecution vs. the reign of God. Jesus is here speaking to God’s chosen “remnant.”

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