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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 Cheriyankunel

moc_shibu.cheriyankunel@pastoral.org

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



Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

"Take no revenge and cherish no grudge against any of your people. You shall love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD." (Lv 19:18)

Psalm:

The Lord is kind and merciful. (Ps 103)

Second Reading:

All belong to you, and you to Christ, and Christ to God. (1 Cor 3:22-23)

Gospel:

"You have heard that it was said, *You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.*

But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." (Mt 5:43-44)

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

Feb. 19, 2023 7th Sunday Ordinary Time

Be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy.
Lev. 19:2



My Dear Parishioners: If you wanted to find the most challenging, most difficult, most confounding passage in all of the gospels, this just might be it. It is also the most fundamentally Christian – because it is the passage that calls on each of us to be the most like Christ. More than that, it calls on us to be “perfect, like the Father is perfect.” That is a tall order. And look at what it entails.. . Turning the other cheek. Giving away your cloak. And the most radical and counter-cultural of all: Loving your enemies and praying for your persecutors. It sounds so nice and reassuring. But do you know what that means? Do any of us?

Take a moment to think and reflect on your own life. Consider all the people who have hurt you. Those who have lied to you. Stabbed you in the back. Remember the ones who spread vicious rumors about you that were patently untrue. Those who have gossiped about you, or judged you unfairly. Consider the friend that you trusted, who betrayed you. The co-worker who broke a confidence. The person whose name you’d rather forget who wounded you, or disrespected you, or took advantage of you or even abused you. Look back on all the people in your life who have left bruises and scars, with a word or a look or a touch.

Now, imagine doing what Jesus commands. Love them. Love them and pray for them. Pray for their good. Pray that grace will come into their lives. Pray that their eyes may be opened, and their hearts may be healed. Because the chances are, if someone has hurt you or persecuted you...it’s probably because someone once did the same to them. It is a vicious cycle. As Shakespeare put it: “Sin will pluck on sin.” And that fundamental truth of our humanity – that the cycle just keeps going — may be one reason why Jesus, in this gospel passage, says: “Stop. Enough. Break the cycle. Let it go.” Love your enemies and pray for your persecutors. I have a hard time with it, I’ll tell you. I have had times in my life when people hurt me, very deeply, and I’ve spent a lot of nights lying in bed, staring at the ceiling, imagining wonderful ways of getting revenge. It’s actually pleasurable to think that way. When you’re angry, I’ve found, it makes you happy. It puts a spring in your step. But that kind of thinking is ultimately self-destructive – and counter-Christian. And Jesus himself knows that. He knows we can do better. He knows we can aim higher.

Be perfect, he says, just as your heavenly Father is perfect. In the final moments of his life, he showed us that perfection. Surrounded by his enemies and his persecutors, he hung on the cross, stripped, bleeding, gasping, as they gambled for his clothes and waited for him to die. And in that moment, Jesus pleaded, and prayed: “Father, forgive them. They know not what they do.” Here is Christian perfection – our model for living, captured at the moment of death. Here is love beyond measure: a prayer for a broken and unknowing world. At one time or another, each of us has been suspended on our own cross, feeling helpless, or hopeless, facing cruelty or injustice. Maybe some of us are there now, angry at what life has done to us.

How do we pray for, and love, those responsible? But as Jesus reminds us: it’s not hard to love those who love us – or to pray for those who matter to us. Yet: we are called to do something more – to love those who hate us, and to pray for those who attack us. How do we begin? Writer Emmett Fox, in his book “Sermon on the Mount,” explains it in a way I think we all can understand. And it starts with something so simple, but so hard: forgiveness. It is a necessary first step. He says: by not forgiving we “are tied to the thing [we] hate. The person perhaps in the whole world whom you most dislike is the very one to whom you are attaching yourself by a hook that is stronger than steel. Is this what you wish?” I think we all know the answer. We must detach ourselves from that hook. Then, and only then, can we begin to heal, and to love, and to pray for those who have hurt us so deeply. So today, as you approach the altar to receive the body of Christ, pray to detach that hook. Pray for the grace to love the unlovable, to forgive the unforgivable, and to remember in prayer those you’d rather forget. Only in beginning that journey toward love, only then can we dare to approach the perfection Christ spoke of – a perfection we can never fully attain, but to which we all have to strive, day by day, prayer by prayer. Work to be more than what you are, Christ said. Strive to be perfect, like the Father. Jesus showed us the way. Father John

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

In brushing up for “Catholic Jeopardy,” it might help to know that there is only one feast on the calendar for a thing, rather than a person mystery. It’s for a chair: Saint Peter’s chair in fact.

After the Resurrection, there can be no doubt that the disciples reserved a special place for Simon Peter in the upper room. Later Peter became the bishop of Antioch in today’s Syria, the place where we were first called “Christians.” From there ,he went to Rome, the center of the Empire, where it is said that Peter sat in a chair in the house of Priscilla and Aquila to instruct his flock. Jesus, in entrusting the keys of the Kingdom to Peter and his successors, entrusted his compassion and mercy to them and charged them with pointing to the Kingdom of God. Compassion and mercy are to resonate through their teaching.

Since the ancient sign of a teacher is the chair (“disciple” literally means one who sits at the feet of a teacher), Peter’s chair has long been treasured. Today there is a symbolic shrine of Peter’s chair above the main altar of St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome. This monument is the last work of Bernini, a huge bronze throne supported by four doctors of the Church: Augustine and Ambrose from the Western Church and Chrysostom and Athanasius from the East. High above it is the alabaster window of the descent of the Holy Spirit. Rev. James Field copyright J.S. Paluch Co

Mardi Gras word Scramble: (How many can you figure out???)

Daseb aersadp iaptedr cujan odof azjz simcu nuf samsk ccknesale
etjser arsdamigr areirunhcr tolafs eoyzcd bonsoudbol rnwco rvlncavi wkeesr
enw lasonre tfa esudyta draim rags nkig keca teeeofu mbgou lupper gneitebs



On February 22, we enter the season of Lent, when we walk with Christ towards the sorrow of his passion and the joy of his Resurrection. **Prayer, fasting, and charity** are the pillars of this sacred season. Through prayer we draw closer to God...we acknowledge God’s part in our lives. Fasting and charity are both supported by prayer and made meaningful by our offering them to God.

February Birthdays

23--Larry Allen
24--Yasmeen Williams
27--Sondra Hibbs

March Birthdays

2--Marsha Allen
6--Alizabeth Hatchett, Jax Malone
7-- Brittany Carmona
18--Jean Higgs
25--Carol Hatchett



Lent

Lent will begin on February 22. We will have 6 pm Mass that day; neighboring parishes will have early morning Masses and noon Masses.

There are several opportunities to practice the spiritual and corporal works of mercy.

1. Centering Prayer Program
2. Mission on Eucharist (both explained in flyer)
3. Donate to St. Benedict Shelter: deodorant, razors, 3 in 1 body wash, toothpaste, coffee, cereal, gently used shoes.
4. Reach out to the lonely and homebound: call, card, visit.
5. **Pray, Penance, and Almsgiving**

Mass Intentions

February 12--Stephen Hall
February 19--Hugh Moorman
February 22--Ron Sullivan
February 26--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:
Philip Moorman, Jr., 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, P
If you know of anyone who is in need of prayer or visitation, please notify the office.



Coming Events

CALENDAR



Blessed Sacrament Chapel

Feb. 22--Ash Wednesday
6 pm Mass

March 4--Italian Night 6:30 pm.

March 31--Fish Fry 5-7 pm



Feb. 12--\$921

Weekly Budget--\$1058

MTD Collection--\$1965

MTD Budget--\$2116

YTD Collection--\$40,709.80

YTD Budget--\$32,798

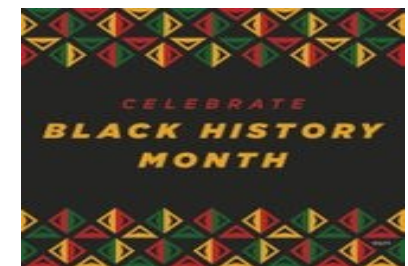
May each give according to what the Lord has blessed us with.



Laugh of the Week

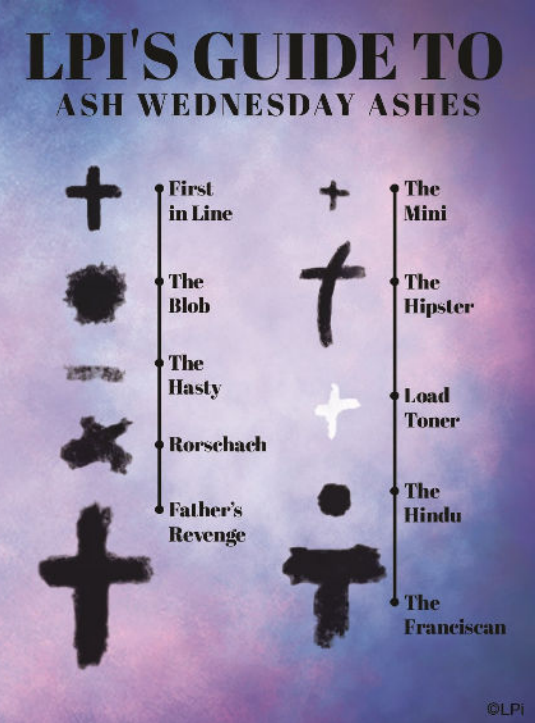
Senior Observations

- ⇒ The ability to speak several languages is an asset, but the ability to keep your mouth shut in any language is priceless.
- ⇒ Be decisive. Right or wrong, make a decision. The road is paved with flat squirrels who couldn't make a decision.
- ⇒ Just once, I want the prompt for username and password to say, "Close enough."
- ⇒ If you see me talking to myself, just move along. I'm self-employed. We're having a meeting.
- ⇒ "Your call is very important to us. Please enjoy this 40- minute flute solo".
- ⇒ Does anyone else have a plastic bag full of plastic bags, or is it just me?
- ⇒ Tip for a successful marriage: Don't ask your wife when dinner will be ready while she's mowing the lawn.
- ⇒ So, you drive across town to a gym to walk on a treadmill?
- ⇒ Why do I have to press one for English when you're just going to transfer me to someone I can't understand anyway?



God, help us to value diversity beyond variety. Help us value diversity with a vision for a progressive future that acknowledges our strength together as well as the power, creativity, ideas and part that we all bring when we are all welcome--to come to the table and see that the Lord is good.

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| | LECTORS |
| <u>Feb. 19:</u> | Jacques Williams Barbara Bisel |
| <u>Feb. 26:</u> | Layson Brooks, Sarah Malone |
| <u>March 5:</u> | Connie Clary, Kathi Skidd |
| | Eucharistic Ministers |
| <u>Feb. 19:</u> | Janet Clark, Rita Moorman, Kathi Skidd |
| <u>Feb. 26:</u> | Cindy Clark, Charlene Meadows, Sarah Malone |
| <u>March 5:</u> | Greg Gough, Lori Robinson, Rita Moorman |
| | Collection & Gifts |
| <u>Feb. 19:</u> | Malone Family |
| <u>Feb. 26:</u> | Alexis and Alizabeth Hatchett |
| <u>March 5:</u> | Greg and Denise Richardson |



The Hardness of Holiness

Want to know the words I find hardest to say? “Lord, give me the strength.”

The world tells us to push ourselves outside of our comfort zone if we’re training for a marathon or applying for a job — but if we’re talking about God, everything is supposed to be easy. If it comes “naturally” or without struggle it’s supposed to be right. *Only God is perfect*, the world tells us. *What’s the use of trying so hard?*

I’m really good at finding excuses for myself, especially when it comes to holiness. Holiness, often (not always, but often), is about choosing the hard, but right, thing. The invitation to holiness is whispered in the hardest moments of my day when I am the most hopelessly human. After the kids’ bedtime, when I really just want to watch *Dateline* and eat too much ice cream instead of saying the Rosary. When I’ve committed to helping someone, but it suddenly becomes incredibly inconvenient. When I see a social media post that’s just begging for a snarky reply. When the conversation becomes gossip and I’m dying to make myself feel superior to someone.

The reason it’s so difficult for me to mutter these five simple words is because I know that if I say them and I mean them, they form a prayer that God will always answer in the affirmative. He will give me the strength I ask for, and then I will have no excuse.

It’s not unlike my kids claiming they’re too tired to clean up the playroom. If they would just ask me for help, it would all be so doable. But where would that leave them? With a job to do, that’s where.

“Be holy, for I, the LORD, your God, am holy.”
— *Leviticus 19:2* ©LPi

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| | Readings for the Week |
| Monday: | Sir 1:1-10/Ps 93:1-2, 5/ Mk 9:14-29 |
| Tuesday: | Sir 2:1-11/Ps 37:3-4, 18-19, 27-28, 39-40/Mk 9:30-37 |
| Wednesday: | Jl 2:12-18/Ps 51:3-6, 12-14, 17/ 2 Cor 5:20—6:2/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18 |
| Thursday: | Dt 30:15-20/Ps 1:1-4 and 6/ Lk 9:22-25 |
| Friday: | Is 58:1-9a/Ps 51:3-6, 18-19/ Mt 9:14-15 |
| Saturday: | Is 58:9-14/Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/ Lk 5:27-32 |
| | Observances for the Week of Feb. 19 |
| Monday: | Presidents’ Day |
| Tuesday: | St. Peter Damian, Bishop and Doctor of the Church |
| Wednesday: | Ash Wednesday |
| Thursday: | St. Polycarp, Bishop, Martyr |

HEAVIEST LOAD

A CHIP ON THE SHOULDER IS THE HEAVIEST LOAD ANONE CAN CARRY.

DIVINE WISDOM

The Lord’s message, through Moses, was to “take no revenge and cherish no grudge., love your neighbor as yourself” (Leviticus 19:18). We might think, “Great in theory, but not always realistic.”

Then Jesus in today’s Gospel goes even further. Take a slap in the face and then turn the other cheek? Treat enemies the same as friends? Again, we’re tempted to think that those are nice ideals, but not very practical in the “real world..”

Paul echoes Jesus when he tells the Corinthians that what passes for human wisdom is absurdity to God. Divine wisdom casts sunshine on the good and the bad, showers rain on the honest and the dishonest--without distinction. We must examine our wisdom and common sense to see how they compare to the wisdom of God, and make adjustments accordingly. Copyright J.S. Paulch Co.

Practicing Prayer This Lent?

Do you seek the still, quiet voice of God? Come explore the gifts of contemplative prayer and discover more deeply God's presence and action in your life and within you. This prayer, often called Centering Prayer has been part of our Christian heritage for Centuries - and now you have the opportunity to participate in a Centering Prayer Introductory Program that will be offered at Precious Blood on Saturday, February 25, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00pm in the Parish Hall. It will include time for presentation, discussion, prayer and includes lunch, The program and lunch are offered at no cost to you, Please register in advance by contacting Maryann Joyce at 812-867- 7507, maryannjoyce@sbcglobal.net