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# Blessed Sacrament

602 Sycamore Street • Owensboro, KY 42301 • 270-926-4741

[www.blessedsacramentchapel.org](http://www.blessedsacramentchapel.org) or email at [pa@blessedsacramentchapel.org](mailto: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](mailto:john.thomas@pastoral.org)

**Parochial Vicar:** Father Shibu Cheriyanunnel

[mocshibu.cheriyankunnel@pastoral.org](mailto:mocshibu.cheriyankunnel@pastoral.org)

**Parish Life Coordinator:** Sr Jeannette Fennwald,  
SSND [pa@blessedsacramentchapel.org](mailto:pa@blessedsacramentchapel.org)



**Feb. 26, 2023 1st Sunday of Lent**

**The Lord your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve. Mt.4:10**

## Sunday's Readings

### First Reading:

The LORD God formed man out of the clay of the ground and blew into his nostrils the breath of life. (Gn 2:7)

### Psalm:

Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned. (Ps 51)

### Second Reading:

For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so, through the obedience of the one, the many will be made righteous. (Rom 5:19)

### Gospel:

At that time Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights. (Mt 4:1-2)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass  
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One reason why we cannot sit in judgment on anyone in terms of salvation or condemnation (as if we were God) is that we do not know the nature of anyone’s personal experience of temptation. It is a very different thing to discern and judge the objective morality of actions. This we must do. Temptation lurks in that place in which we are faced with a choice to be made for or against God, either to obey God or to set God aside choosing one’s own will. Who of us has not at times affirmed God and passed the test or set God aside and failed the temptation? Just as our strengths and weaknesses differ so do our temptations. One thing that is true for all of us is that without the strength God graciously offers us, each and all would fail. Jesus himself, at the Last Supper, affirmed, “Apart from me, you can do nothing.” He also assured us that “by remaining in him” we would “bear much fruit.” Growth in relationship with God, which gives growth in the theological and cardinal virtues, offers such strength in God that sin is avoided and love flourishes. Refusing the love of God leaves one weaker and weaker in the face of temptation and sin. Teens learn quickly and almost all adults know many of their particular sins and the paths normally taken by the temptations leading to them. The habit of sin, however, dulls or blinds the awareness of sin and its evil. If we give in to sin and no longer resist its temptation, we can be so swept away by its lie or its sense of futility that it merely seems normal, the way things are. The final objective of temptation is, after all, despair.

All sin is idolatry, the placing of the self or something else in the place of God. Similarly, the door to all sin is self-centered pride. I have always said that PRIDE is the center of all sin. The battle of every temptation is self-denial– rejecting one’s own will in a matter for the sake of what is true, good, right, loving, and holy, The bait of temptation is some hunger or other, a misinterpreted need. No one is tempted unless and until something is perceived to be desirable, but then conscience, the Scriptures, the Church, or some other right authority says “no” or “probably not.” Most do not like to be challenged in face of their desire. And one of the most telling signs of temptation is that its loudest argument in favor of the deed is the strength of desire. Temptation never suggests that we consider what the Holy Spirit urges of us to be worthy of the Gospel.

Many people have divided hearts. Even after many battles, the war of conversion to God and the good of neighbor and self continue. But the sin and its temptations are both familiar and even comfortable. The person says, “I know the desire is approaching. I have fallen for it many times. Maybe it’s not really a sin or not a sin for me in my circumstances. How can so many people be wrong and the Church be right on this? I even go to confession and mean what I say in the act of contrition, but when I turn around I fall again. The same circumstances, the same people, the same opportunities, the same desires.” Again, the objective of temptation is despair. Jesus died so that you and I could enter into his death and its power to deliver us from the slavery of sin. JESUS WAS TEMPTED IN EVERY WAY WE ARE AND WAS SINLESS SO AS TO GIVE US THE VICTORY OVER TEMPTATION. He was faithful so that we might be freed from despair. But how to gain this power, victory, and freedom? In obedient submission of my will to Christ I accept his cross in place of my desire. I place my will and each desire in his hands as his property and ask him to help me. Over and over, moment by moment, day by day, until I am walking with Christ, Practical union with Jesus Christ in his Cross destroys the power of temptation. It acknowledges God alone as true God and self as creature, made and beloved in Christ. That we might face our temptations with Christ, the Church begins Lent with the Gospel of his Temptation by Satan in the wilderness. He journeys with us. We journey with him. He suffered, we suffer. He was victorious . . . one day we will share his VICTORY! Blessings, Fr. John

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

In recent years, there has been a resurgence of interest in various forms of adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Some people suggest that this recovers an ancient tradition in the church, when in fact the practice belongs to a later time. The custom of showing the consecrated host to the people, encased in a vessel called a monstrance, developed in a period of history when even very pious people received Communion only rarely. The opportunity to see the host raised high above the head of the priest at Mass, or to see the host exposed outside of Mass, was thought by many to be a form of spiritual Communion. Without question, our Catholic practice of reserving the consecrated host both for adoration and Communion of the sick and dying is a cherished tradition.

Rev. James Field copyright J.S. Paluch Co



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Symphony Invitation

Enjoy the beautiful sounds of Owensboro Symphony musicians at St. Stephen Cathedral on Sunday March 4 at 4 pm. Under the direction of Troy Quinn, the concert will feature the Owensboro Symphony brass and percussion sections along with the Owensboro Symphony chorus in a performance of John Rutter’s Gloria. The concert is free of charge and open to the public.

Laugh of the Week

One morning a man came into the church on crutches. He stopped in front of the holy water, put some on both legs and threw away his crutches. An alter boy witnessed the scene and ran into the sacristy to tell the priest what he’d just seen. “Son, you’ve just witnessed a miracle!” the priest said. “Tell me where the man is now?” “Flat on his back over by the holy water,” the boy informed him.



### 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  
31--Cameron Malone, Frank Fulton



### Lent

Lent began on February  
There are several opportunities to practice the spiritual and corporal works of mercy.

1. Mission on Eucharist .\
2. Donate to St. Benedict Shelter: deodorant, razors, 3 in 1 body wash--size at Dollar Tree is good to fit in totes, toothpaste, coffee, cereal, gently used shoes
3. Rice Bowls
4. Reach out to the lonely and homebound: call, card, visit.
5. **Pray, Penance, and Almsgiving**

### Mass Intentions

February 22--Ron Sullivan  
  
February 26--Donald Moorman  
  
March 5--Mike Coakley  
  
March 12 --Iona Simon  
  
March 19--Tom Riney

*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,**  
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.**

### RECONCILIATION SCHEDULE

- ◇ March 19 Blessed Mother 2 pm
- ◇ March 20 Precious Blood 6 pm
- ◇ March 20 Our Lady of Lourdes 6 pm
- ◇ March 27 Immaculate 6 pm
- ◇ April 2 St Stephen 2 pm

### LOVE ANND DEEDS

God does not want our deeds;  
God wants the love that prompts them.  
St. Teresa of Avila

## Coming Events CALENDAR



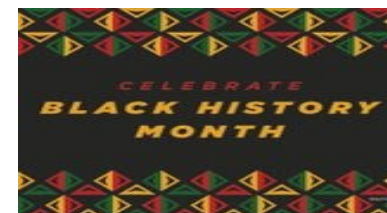
### Blessed Sacrament Chapel

February 26--Italian Dinner meeting  
after Mass  
  
March 3--Set-up for dinner 6 pm  
  
March 4--Italian Night 6:30 pm.  
  
March 31--Fish Fry 5-7 pm



Feb. 19--\$1739.61  
Weekly Budget--\$1058  
MTD Collection--\$3,704.61  
MTD Budget--\$3174  
YTD Collection--\$42,449.61  
YTD Budget--\$33,856

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



The Spirit leads Jesus into the desert to be tempted by the devil, and we hear this: **“He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was hungry.”** Seems like a questionable battle preparation plan. When I fast, I usually feel grouchy at best, and at worst, like I might pass out from longing for a hamburger. Isn’t it better to be well-fed and fully hydrated, especially to face spiritual struggles? Why fast?

This might help. The origin of the word “fast” means to “hold firmly.” We still use it that way when we say, “I held *fast* to my original decision.” We human beings are a bundle of desires which vie for our attention: food, drink, comfort, safety, sex, laughter, beauty, and so on. If we can’t manage to have firm grip on them, in short order they’ll have a firm grip on us. By fasting from our lower desires, we learn to firmly grip on to what is greater. Fasting leads to us to a firmer hold on our body and mind.

Jesus fasts for us. He’s showing us that his grace can help us regain this firm hold of our lives, which makes it more difficult for the devil to tempt us. But take it one more step. Fasting also teaches us to finally hold fast to Jesus, the Word of God in flesh. **“Man does not live by bread alone,”** he says, **“But by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.”** Jesus’ fasting reveals his fast hold to the Father in everything. May our fasting help us to grasp ourselves more firmly, and then to hold fast to Jesus alone. — *Father John Muir*



LECTORS	
<u>Feb. 26:</u>	Layson Brooks, Sarah Malone
<u>March 5:</u>	Connie Clary, Kathi Skidd
<u>March 12:</u>	Alexis Hatchett Jacques Williams
Eucharistic Ministers	
<u>Feb. 26:</u>	Janet Clark, Charlene Meadows, Sarah Malone
<u>March 5:</u>	Greg Gough, Cindy Clark, Rita Moorman
<u>March 12:</u>	Lori Robinson, Sarah Malone, Misty Sanford
Collection & Gifts	
<u>Feb. 26:</u>	Alexis and Alizabeth Hatchett
<u>March 5:</u>	Greg and Denise Richardson
<u>March 12:</u>	Lad Ottofy, Ethan Gough

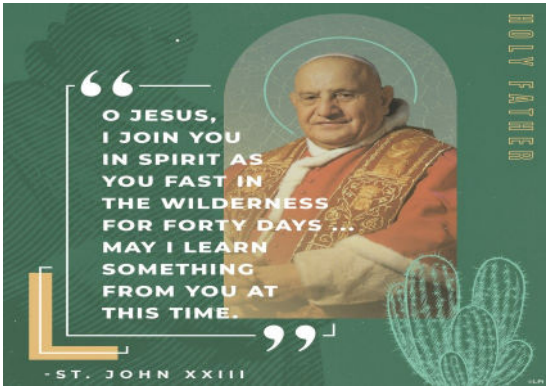
Lenten Opportunities	
<u>St. Stephen:</u>	
•	Stations of the Cross after noon Mass on Fridays
•	No Greater Love--A Biblical Walk Through Christ's Passion Wed. 10:30 March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
•	Thursdays 6:30 pm --March 2 Scriptural Rosary --March 9 Prayer Stations --March 16 Holy Hour <u>Precious Blood</u> Renewed in the Eucharist Mission March 12, 13, 14 7 pm

Formed and Fallen	
	There is a version of myself that walks into church on Ash Wednesday and a version of myself that walks into church on Good Friday. Aside from having the same face, these women bear very little resemblance to one another.
	Ash Wednesday Me is fired up. She's ready to go. She's got a stomach full of pączki, a forehead full of ashes, an oven full of fasting bread and a whole list of Lenten resolutions. She's got a plan for the next 40 days and she's ready to be transformed.
	Good Friday Me is tired. She's lumbering into church dragging six weeks of failure and unfulfilled expectations behind her. Nothing went the way it was supposed to (again). She didn't accomplish what she wanted (again) and she doesn't want to dwell on it (again).

	If Satan offered both versions of myself the same deal he offered Christ — <i>submit to me, and you will have the whole world</i> — I have to wonder: which one of these creatures, formed and fallen, would be strong enough to defy him? Would either?
	I can't say that the chipper, optimistic woman on Ash Wednesday has more strength than the tired woman on Good Friday. To each of these women Satan offers an easy way out. But to each, too, Christ offers an abundance of grace and the gift of justification.

	This Lent, I know that I will be tested. I know that I will fail in many ways. I know that my intentions and my best efforts will not be enough.
	But I bring them to the altar anyway, and I leave them there as an offering. And I know that Easter morning will dawn, and the tomb will be empty. <i>"The gift is not like the transgression."</i> — Romans 5:15 copyright LPI

Readings for the Week	
Monday:	Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Ps 19:8-10, 15/ Mt 25:31-46
Tuesday:	Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-7, 16-19/ Mt 6:7-15
Wednesday:	Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19/Lk 11:29-32
Thursday:	Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Ps 138:1-3, 7-8/Mt 7:7-12
Friday:	Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-4, 507, 7-8/ Mt 5:20-26
Saturday:	Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8/ Mt 5:43-48
Observances for the Week of Feb. 26	
Monday:	St. Gregory of Narek, Abbot and Doctor of the Church
Friday:	St. Katharine Drexel, Virgin
Saturday:	St. Casimir



TIMING	
What you give in health is gold	
What you give in sickness is silver	
What you give after death is lead.	
Jewish proverb	

STRENGTH AGAINST TEMPTATION	
	The first Sunday of the season of Lent always includes a Gospel account of the temptation of the Lord Jesus in the desert by the devil. This year, the story is set against the backdrop of the first reading from Genesis, which recounts the very first temptation by the devil. That story is set in a garden of delight. The Gospel story is set in the desert. As believers, we know that temptations comes our way in our own gardens of delight as well as the deserts of our lives. As Lent begins, our attention is drawn to that temptation within each of us to become like God--we want control, power, and answers to all of life's difficult questions. As communities of faith, we are given this season of repentance so that we can join our hearts with others on the difficult journey of conversion. We look to God and to one another for strength against temptation.
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Gratitude	
	Lent...must be a time of conversion that flows out of gratitude for all that God has given us; for all that he has accomplished and will continue to accomplish in the world, in history and in our own personal lives. Our gratitude must be like Mary's, who, in spite of all the sorrows she had to endure, did not cast down her eyes in defeat, but instead sang of the greatness of the Lord.
Pope Francis.	

Please pray for our parishioners who have important sacramental happenings in their lives this spring: Kelly Hollis who will be in full Communion of the Catholic Church on Holy Saturday, Lad Ottofy who will be confirmed and Lennox and Marshall Williams and John Carson Malone who will receive their 1st Communion.
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