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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 Cheriankunnel

[moc\\_shibu.cheriyankunnel@pastoral.org](mailto:moc_shibu.cheriyankunnel@pastoral.org)

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



**February 5, 2023 5th Sunday--Ordinary Time**

Your light must shine before others that they may...glorify your heavenly Father. Mt.5:16

## Sunday's Readings

### First Reading:

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your wound shall quickly be healed. (Is 58:8)

### Psalm:

The just man is a light in darkness to the up-right. (Ps 112)

### .Second Reading:

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, proclaiming the mystery of God, I did not come with sublimity of words or of wisdom. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ. (1 Cor 2:1-2)

### Gospel:

"You are the light of the world.

A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket." (Mt 5:14-15)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001,



Several years ago, I went to the Humane Society to see about adopting a pet for myself (there had been several priests in the rectory, but they had returned to school and military so the rectory is sort of quiet!). I visited the Humane Society on two different occasions. On my first visit, I didn't find a dog that 'felt' like a match. However, on my second visit I met a small puppy (Lab Mix). He looked at me with the funniest expression (and who are you?). I picked him and almost immediately named him "Buddy". It has been a while since I last had a pet. Several years ago, while pastoring Sts. Peter and Paul in Hopkinsville, I decided to adopt a cat. However, not just any cat. I adopted a Sphinx. This is an Egyptian breed . . . that is hairless. His name was "Pelon" which in Spanish translates "No Hair!". Pelon was a good cat. Actually, he behaved somewhat like a small dog. When I would enter the rectory, he would come running to greet me. He was playful. After several years, Pelon developed a health problem that could not be treated easily. I was sad to lose him.

Buddy was brought home to the rectory of Christ the King on December 23. He immediately made himself at home and began learning how to live with a priest. He was a bit hesitant in the beginning and seemed to be almost shy at first. However, by the second day, he was definitely 'at home'. We began the process of learning what time we were going to eat, and where to go to the bathroom. He did well. Very soon, Buddy was even letting me know when he needed to 'go'. I had decided to 'crate' him. So at night when it was time for bed I would prepare the coffee for the morning, turn off lights and make my way to the bedroom. Buddy was always right in tow. He would climb right into his crate and be put until morning. Sometimes he would cry during the night. A friend let me know that if I simply took my T-shirt off and put it in the crate with him, he would stop crying. It worked like a charm. Buddy learned quickly which chair was 'mine' in the TV room. He always wanted to get in that chair. Even if I was not in it, he wanted to be. I know it was because my 'scent' was in that chair and he found comfort in that. Sometimes I would enter the room and he would be standing next to the chair with his head up against it. He wanted to be 'near his master'.

Of course, I feel there is a homily there. It is beautiful to think that someone could be so dedicated to someone else (and so quickly) that they had such a desire to be near that person. It is touching to realize someone is so dedicated that only to 'smell' them gave comfort and security. How wonderful it would be if we interacted with Christ like that. Huh? To think that we were so dedicated to Christ that we only wished to be 'near our Master'. To think that just to have a scent of Jesus would be enough for us to feel at peace and secure.

After only having him a few weeks, I learned that Buddy had distemper. Canine distemper is a viral disease that usually attacks dogs in the first four years of life. The disease is spread through the air and by contact with body fluids. There is no specific treatment for the disease and the prognosis is poor. His health declined rapidly. I first noticed something might be wrong on Friday night. Saturday Buddy kept me awake all night. By Sunday morning it was obvious he was in trouble. I left the rectory at 5:15 PM to prepare for Spanish Mass. When I returned at 7:00, Buddy was in serious trouble. The little pup was suffering terribly and his little life was coming to a quick end. It is sort of funny how such a small animal can bring such joy and enjoyment. I only had Buddy for two weeks, but I must say the rectory was especially quiet on Monday morning. God manifests himself in so many ways. God created the world and all that is part of it. He did this for OUR good. Buddy was just a little piece of God's great creation. His presence caused me to reflect on my desire to be near our Lord (in Word and Sacrament). Buddy's presence caused me to reflect on my need to be close to Jesus in order that I feel secure and at peace. St. Francis is the saint of whom we think when we reflect on God's gift of animals and pets in our world. I know that many of you have pets and have a deep love and respect for each of them. I pray God's blessing on each of you and all the pets that bring such joy, peace, security, and love. And in so doing, help us know the love of God through creation. St. Francis, pray for us. Father John

## TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

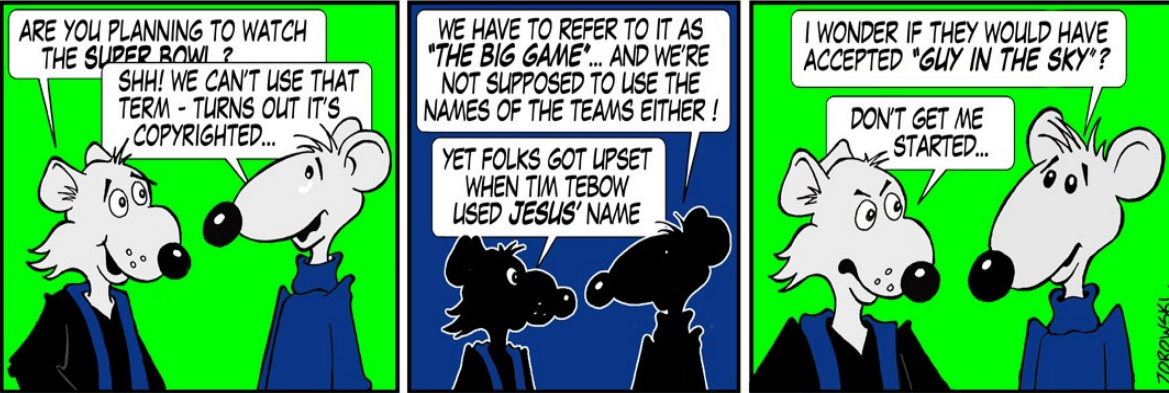
You need ore than water for a bath. Most family bathrooms contain an arsenal of soaps and body washes, lotions, shampoos, and conditioners to combat grime and honor the body. A bath without oil is still unthinkable. No wonder early Christians used lavish amounts of oil to paint" the skin of people drawn dripping wet from the baptismal font on Easter. There were two oils used in baptism long ago. "Oil of exorcism" protected candidates from "evil spirits"; it strengthened their resolve and purified their purposes.

The second oil, slathered over them after baptism's bath "sealed" them, making them like Christ, anointed one, the priest, the prophet, the king. Chrism always had a powerful odor; rich resinous perfumes poured in before it is consecrated. As the newly baptized were embraced by new brothers and sisters in Christ, the scent permeated the hall of Eucharist, a sign of our connection to Christ and one another.

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## Church Mice

Karl Zorowski



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**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. The prayer will be presented by an experienced practitioner of Centering prayer who has been commissioned to present the program by Contemplative Outreach, Ltd. It will include time for presentation, discussion, prayer and includes lunch, The program and lunch are offered at no cost to you, with the support of your Parish and the sponsorship of the Ursulines Sisters. Please register in advance by contacting Maryann Joyce at 812-867- 7507, [maryannjoyce@sbcglobal.net](mailto:maryannjoyce@sbcglobal.net) or Michelle in the office at 270-684-6888. Catholic Charities



### February Birthdays

2--Nancy Bumm  
3--Jacques Williams Sr.  
6--Philip Moorman  
8--Karen Terry  
9--Beau Bisel  
10--Father Jerry  
23--Larry Allen  
24--Yasmeen Williams  
27--Sondra Hibbs



### Retrouvaill

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### Mass Intentions

February 5--Burnell and Idella Hamilton  
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:**  
**Larry Clark, Brent Hatchett, Gloria Savet, Rachel Mattingly, Sister Janice Fennwald,**  
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.**



## Coming Events CALENDAR



### Blessed Sacrament Chapel

February 5--St. Blasé Blessing  
Feb. 10--McDonald's Share Night  
5-7 pm (Wesleyan Plaza)  
Feb. 22--Ash Wednesday  
6 pm Mass  
March 4--Italian Night 6:30 pm.



Jan. 29--\$1365

Weekly Budget--\$1058

MTD Collection--\$6,756.11

MTD Budget--\$5,290

YTD Collection--\$38,744.80

YTD Budget--\$30,682

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

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RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

If ...

It's a surprising little word — if. For such a short word, it holds an abundance of excuses.

Personally, I could buy a new car if I had a dollar for every time I used the word “if” to explain away my own flaws. “If I wasn’t so tired. If we had more money. If the kids weren’t always on my last nerve. If I had more talent. If life wasn’t so hard.”

If, if, if.

I don't always feel like being the salt of the earth. Can't someone else season the dish? Sometimes it's more than I want to give, more than I want to do, more than I want to be. Sharing my bread, sheltering the oppressed, clothing the naked, and accompanying my neighbor — doing these things in the literal or figurative sense can be completely exhausting. Mediocrity is so easy. It's so comfortable.

But *if*. It looms again, that short but powerful word.

“If” can be deep with excuses, but it can also be wide with possibility. If I bring it all to God. If I stop relying on my own abilities. If I prayed more than I talked. If I make my heart firm. If my faith does not rest on human wisdom.

If not me, who? If not now, when?

*“You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden.” — Matthew 5:14*

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman ©LPi

**Question:** In which year did the church start allowing for Catholics to attend Mass on Saturday night to fulfill their weekly Sunday obligation?  
**Answer:** 1970

LECTORS	
Feb. 5:	Alexis Hatchett Connie Clary
Feb. 12:	Greg Gough Misty Sanford
Feb. 19:	Jacques Williams Barbara Bisel
Eucharistic Ministers	
Feb. 4:	Cindy Clark, Misty Sanford, Kathi Skidd
Feb. 12:	Barbara Bisel, Vivian Higgs, Rita Moorman
Feb. 19:	Lori Robinson, Greg Gough, Sarah Malone
Collection & Gifts	
Feb. 5:	Steven, Meredith, Quinn, Hank Fain
Feb. 12	Holly, Kelly, Samuel Hollis
Feb. 19:	Ethan Gough, Lad Ottofy

Laugh of the Week

While sports fishing off the Florida coast, a tourist capsized his boat. He could swim, but his fear of alligators kept him clinging to the overturned craft. Spotting an old beachcomber standing on the shore, the tourist shouted, "Are there any gators around here?!" "Naw," the man hollered back, "they ain't been around for years!" "Feeling safe, the tourist started swimming leisurely toward the shore. About halfway there he asked the guy, "How'd you get rid of the gators?" "We didn't do nothin'," the beachcomber said. "The sharks got 'em." .

GOSPEL MEDITATION

I recently decided to learn to cook. As I sit at the feet of various YouTube cooking masters, I notice how much of cooking is adding ingredients that don’t provide any more nourishment, like herbs and other seasonings. But man! They make all the difference because they make the meal delightful to eat and share.

Jesus calls his disciples “salt of the world.” No one eats just salt. So, Christians are not meant to replace or do away with the world. They are meant to be agents of preservation and glorification. Notice how often these days the Church seeks to preserve what is threatened: the goodness of marital and family love, the desires of young people for greatness, the value of honest work, healthy economics, and altruistic political engagement, the dignity of the poor and vulnerable. Over and over, we say to a world who wants to throw things out, “It’s worth saving! We’ll preserve it! We’ll show you it’s wonderful.” If we can’t engage the world like that, Jesus says we are the ones who get thrown out, because salt alone is worthless.

Jesus only asks us to do for others what he does for us. He is the “salt” of everything in our lives. Is there something in your life starting to rot a bit? Something tasting bland and boring? Let Jesus salt it and see if you like it better.

— Father John Muir

*Let us not be satisfied with just giving money. Money is not enough; money can be got, but they need your hearts to love them. So spread your love everywhere you go. St. Teresa of Calcutta*

February

Black History Month

Readings for the Week	
Monday:	Gn 1:1-19/Ps 104:1-2, 5-6, 10- 12, 24 and 35/Mk 6:53-56
Tuesday:	Gn 1:20—2:4a/Ps 8:4--9/ Mk 7:1-13
Wednesday:	Gn 2:4b9, 15-17/Ps 104:1-2, 27-30/Mk 7:14-23
Thursday:	Gn 2:18-25/Ps 128:1-5/ Mk 7:24-30
Friday:	Gn 3:1-8/Ps 32:1-2, 5-7/ Mk 7:31-37
Saturday:	Gn 3:9-24/Ps 90:2, 3-6, 12-13/ Mk 8:1-10
Observances for the Week of Feb. 5	
Monday:	St. Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs
Wednesday:	St. Jerome Emiliani; St. Josephine Bakhita, Virgin
.Friday:	St. Scholastica, Virgin
Saturday:	Our Lady of Lourdes

**St. Josephine Bakhita** is the patron saint of the Sudan, human trafficking survivors and of our foundation. She is a shining ray of hope for human trafficking victims and an inspirational demonstration of how a victim can recover from their trauma and become whole again. Her feast day is February 8th.

She was born in 1869, in Sudan. While still a young girl around 7 years old, she was kidnapped and sold into slavery. Her captors asked for her name but as a result of the trauma, she was unable to remember. Mocking her, they named her “***Bakhita***,” which means “***fortunate***”. During her time of captivity she was tortured by her various owners. She suffered brandings and beatings on many occasions. Once her owners cut her 114 times and poured salt in her wounds to make sure that the scars remained.

During these early years of her life, she did not know Christ but she did believe in a Creator and had great awe and wonder for His creation. Eventually, after exchanging hands five or six times, St. Bakhita found herself serving as a caretaker for a young girl at a school run by Canossian Sisters. Bakhita was very intrigued by the Catholic faith . She learned many things from the sisters and was eventually baptized by the name “Josephine Margaret”.

Against the will of her owner, who wanted to take her back to Africa, she went before the Italian courts seeking her freedom. The courts declared that Bakhita was a free woman because slavery had been outlawed in both Italy and the Sudan and they allowed her to stay in Italy. St. Bakhita was attracted to the religious life and entered the Canossian Sisters. She lived out the rest of her days serving God and her community and teaching others to love Him with great faithfulness. St. Bakhita died in 1947.

THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE

As children we sang the lively song *This Little Light of Mine*. The words of course are based on today’s Gospel, in which we are called as disciples to be salt and light for the world. Children are uninhibited about sharing their faith. It’s only when we grow older that we prefer to hide our light under a bushel basket because our culture tends not to emphasize discipleship. The message in this week’s readings is clear: in order to give glory to God through our discipleship, we must show the light of Christ in our words and deeds. Not an easy thing for inhibited adults. Often we may think of salt and light in terms of what we do for others, but it can be just as important not to do something, such as getting angry with the stranger on the road, or telling an offensive joke.

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