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Baptizing cow into fish for Lent:

John Smith was the only Protestant to move into a large Catholic neighborhood. On the first Friday of Lent, John was outside grilling a big juicy steak on his grill. Meanwhile, all of his neighbors were eating cold tuna fish for supper. This went on each Friday of Lent. On the last Friday of Lent, the neighborhood men got together and decided that something had to be done about John! He was tempting them to eat meat each Friday of Lent, and they couldn't take it anymore. They decided to try and convert John to Catholicism. They went over and talked to him and were so happy when he decided to join his neighbors and become a Catholic. After an intensive training in Catholic catechism they took him to their pastor and got him baptized and announced to him: "You were born a Baptist, you were raised a Baptist, but now you are a Catholic." The men were most relieved, that their biggest Lenten temptation had been resolved. The next year's Lenten season rolled around. The first Friday of Lent came, and just at supper time, when the neighborhood was setting down to their tuna fish dinner, came the wafting smell of steak cooking on a grill. The neighborhood men could not believe their noses! WHAT WAS GOING ON? They called each other up and decided to meet over in John's yard to see if he had forgotten it was the first Friday of Lent. The group arrived just in time to see John standing over his grill with a small pitcher of water. He was sprinkling some water over his steak on the grill, saying, "You were born a cow, you were raised a cow, but now you are a fish."



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 Cheriankunnel

mocshibu.cheriyankunnel@pastoral.org

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



April 2, 2023 6th Sunday of Lent

At the name of Jesus.. every tongue confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord. (Phil. 2:11).

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

I gave my back to those who beat me,
my cheeks to those who plucked my beard;
my face I did not shield from buffets and
spitting. (Is 50:6)

Psalm:

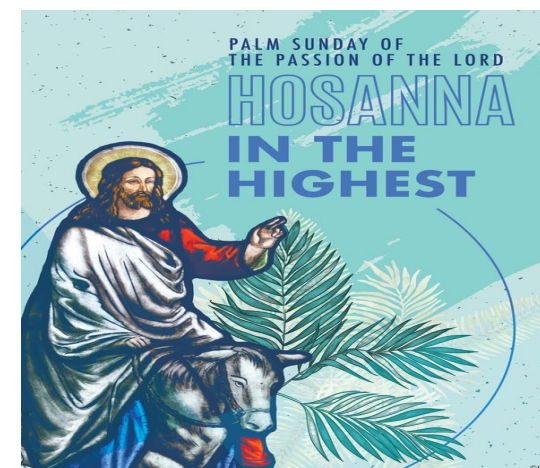
My God, my God, why have you abandoned
me? (Ps 22)

Second Reading:

He humbled himself, becoming obedient to
the point of death, even death on a cross.

Gospel:

The centurion and the men with him who
were keeping watch over Jesus feared
greatly when they saw the earthquake and
all that was happening, and they said,
"Truly, this was the Son of God!" (Mt 26:54)



We have finally arrived! HOLY WEEK! We begin with the celebration of Palm Sunday. There is a strange arc on Palm Sunday. We begin with the crowds acclaiming Jesus as the long-awaited one who comes in the name of the Lord. The title with which they acclaim him, ‘Son of David’, is a messianic title. As he enters Jerusalem, there is an air of excitement and anticipation. Son of David implies a new kingdom, a new glorious chapter in the history of the people of God. Then later in the Mass, we go on to read the passion narrative. Here the same crowds have turned, within a matter of days. We read that passers-by jeer at Christ on the cross. The people who were singing praises are now taunting him. It is a sobering reminder of the fickleness not only of crowds but of all human beings. Which of us could say that we have never run with the crowd, even against our better instincts? Which of us could say that we have never voiced opinions that were not our own, motivated by the fashion of the day and our desire to win favor in the eyes of others? This is the world – our world – into which the love of God incarnate has come to establish the kingdom. The crowds greeting Jesus were right. This is a new and definitive moment in history. Only this time it is a kingdom of the heart that Jesus is creating, a movement of followers who will seek to bring into everyday life the love of God and neighbor that Jesus taught and lived himself. Because we know this and believe this, it is difficult to read the words of the passion. In particular, it is painful to shout the words ‘Crucify him’. This is not what we want, we think in the quiet of our hearts. But let’s remember that we are following the whole story. That story includes not just the cross, but also the resurrection. As we re-enact the events of the passion, we enter more deeply into the meaning of it all. Psychologists tell us that we come to terms with trauma in our lives by playing it over and over again in our minds. We see it from different perspectives. We think how we might have reacted differently at the time. And in this way, slowly, the trauma has less and less hold on us. As we follow in the footsteps of Jesus, as we hear the menacing crowd and hear the thud of the nails hammered in, we are re-living once more a great wound on the body of humankind. But by doing this we find that we are not trapped in the past, but rather, we are set free in the power of the resurrection that we will soon celebrate. The paradox is that in remembering the death of Jesus we enter more deeply into the life of Jesus, as the one who overcame sin and death and takes us with him in his victory. So let us not be afraid to be with the crowd of sinners this Holy Week. We are the people who acclaim him. We are the disciples whose feet he washes. We are also the disciples who run away as he is arrested, and the crowd who taunt him on the cross. We remember all this and act it out so because we know that God’s response is not to leave us in our shame. The events of each Holy Week tell us that this world’s sorrows are not the final word. Rather, God raises us up with Christ and invites us to live the promise that his love is with us until the end of time. Confident in that love, confident in the victory of Christ over human sin, we can ask for gifts of grace so that we can continue the work of the kingdom of God that Christ has entrusted to us. ‘Your kingdom come’ he taught us to pray. Holy Week renews us each year in our desire to live what we pray.

I remind you once again of the Holy Week Schedule and strongly encourage you to participate in the Mass of Holy Thursday, the service of Good Friday, and of course, the celebration of the Solemnity of Easter!

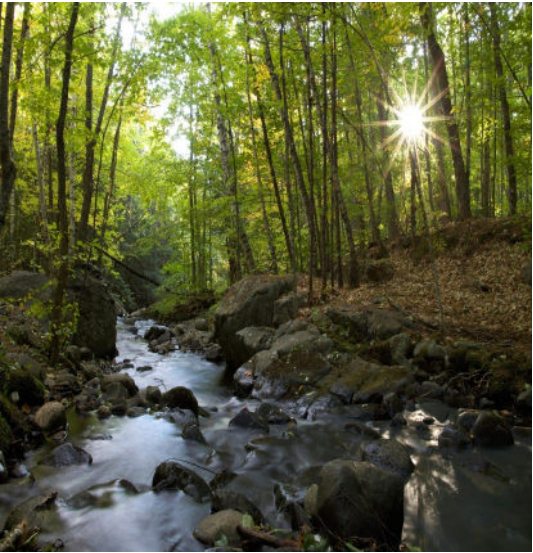
Tuesday, April 04 Chrism Mass, 6:30 pm, Sportscenter, Owensboro, KY

Thursday, April 06 Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper, 7:00 pm

Friday, April 07 Good Friday of the Lord’s Passion, 6:00 pm

Saturday, April 08 The Holy Vigil, 8:00 pm (at St. Stephen Cathedral)

Holy Week Blessings, Father John



SSND reflection on Laudato Si, Pope Francis’s encyclical on Care of the Earth

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Most Christians today receive a bunch of palm fronds, olive branches, pussy willow, or forsythia (a relative of the olive) to carry in procession and to bear home in blessing. Some even offer sprigs of palm or other branches as a gesture of peace to those they have offended. The desire is to make a clean sweep of your spiritual house before the Easter feast.

Accepting the branch is a token of the bearer’s willingness to journey with the Church through a grateful remembrance of Jesus Christ’s passion, death, and life-giving resurrection. Traditionally, the plants associated with today’s feast are planted in cemeteries as a sign of Christ’s victory over death and promise of new life.

The joy of this day’s opening procession soon gives way to a solemn reading of the Passion, this year according to Matthew. The ritual is meant not only to strengthen us to hear this account, but to stir us up to accompany the Church on this journey through Holy Week. It also prepares us for next Sunday’s joyful renewal of our baptismal vows.

Palm Sunday

“The Eucharist joins heaven and earth; it embraces and penetrates all creation. The world which came forth from God’s hands returns to him in blessed and undivided adoration: in the bread of the Eucharist; ‘creation is projected towards divinization, towards the holy wedding feast, toward unification with the Creator himself.’ Thus the Eucharist is also a source of light and motivation for our concerns for the environment, directing us to be stewards of all creation.” Laudato Si #236 Jesus took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and giving it to his disciples said, “Take and eat; this is my body.” Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed on behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins.” Matthew 26:26-27 Reflection: As our Gospel today presents the foundation of the Eucharist, we often become so accustomed to it that we fail to realize the significance of Christ embodied in the flesh, in the simple gifts of bread and wine. Laudato Si enlarges our vision to see that the “Eucharist joins heaven and earth.” and embraces and penetrates all creation. As you receive Eucharist at liturgy, reflect on how you yourself embody Eucharist and are joined to heaven and earth.



RESURRECTION TO COME

But from this earth, this grave, this dust, My God shall raise me up, I trust.

March Birthdays

31--Cameron Malone, Frank Fulton

April Birthdays

3--Rita Moorman, Ethan Gough

Bobby Hardin

6--Marshall Williams

10--Steven Fain

21--Kathi Skidd

23--Misty Sanford



Lent

Lent began on February 22 We are now over the half way point. There are several opportunities to practice the spiritual and corporal works of mercy.

1. 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
2. Rice Bowls
3. Reach out to the lonely and homebound: call, card, visit.
4. Avail yourself of the Sacrament of Reconciliation
5. **Pray, Penance, and Almsgiving**

Mass Intentions

April 2--Brian Bumm

April 6--Tom Riney

April 9--Mike Coakley

April 16--Betty Winsatt

April 23--Ron Sullivan

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:

Brian Bumm, 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, If you know of anyone who is in need of prayer or visitation, please notify the office.

RECONCILIATION

◇ April 2 St Stephen

Laugh of the Week One Palm Sunday, a little boy had a sore throat and had to stay home from church, with a sitter. When the rest of the family came home they were carrying palm branches. The little boy asked what they were. His father told him that people held them over Jesus' head when he walked by. In a sad, disappointed voice, the little boy said, "Wouldn't you know it? The one Sunday I miss, Jesus shows up!"

Coming Events

CALENDAR



Blessed Sacrament Chapel

April 4--Chrism Mass 6:30 at Sportscenter

April 6--Holy Thursday Mass 7 pm

April 7--Good Friday service 6 pm

April 9--Easter Sunday
Mass 10 am

April 13--Scripture reflection 5 pm



March 26--\$1039.10

Budget--\$1058

MTD Collection--\$5,575.94

MTD Budget--\$4232.

YTD Collection--\$49,478.25

YTD Budget--\$39,146

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

THE CROSS We should glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whom is our salvation, life, and resurrection, through whom we are saved and delivered. Holy Thursday Mass

Making Way for God

As Christ reclined at the Passover meal and his impending betrayal, I have to imagine at least one of the disciples thought to himself, incredulously and perhaps even indignantly: *And you're not going to do anything about it?*

So often we expect God to behave like the frantic parent of a teenager, banging down the closed door of a bedroom filled with loud music. We expect him to be overbearing, snooping in our diary and waiting to ground us the minute we break curfew, desperate to keep us within the family fold, ready and willing to use judgment and force to do so.

It's true that God greatly desires us to stay in friendship with him. But to accomplish it, he does not come to us as a meddler or an overlord. He comes in the same way he does on Palm Sunday. He waits for us to make way.

He may not be overbearing, but he is still devoted, and unfailingly patient. As the Palm Sundays of our lives — the moments of our devotion and piety — give way to the Holy Thursdays, when we inevitably deny him, God does not abandon us. The sacrifice on the cross is still there, waiting for us to accept it. *Say to daughter Zion, "Behold, your king comes to you, meek and riding on an ass, and on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden."* — Matthew 21:5 ©LPi

YOU DO NOT CARRY YOUR CROSS ALONE

The Cross of Christ bears the suffering and the sin of mankind, including our own. Jesus accepts all this with open arms, bearing on his shoulders our crosses and saying to us: "Have courage! You do not carry your cross alone! I carry it with you. I have overcome death and I have come to give you hope to give you life." (Pope Francis)

What are you worried about today? Make a list and give these things over to Jesus, who carries these burdens with you.

LECTORS	
<u>April 2:</u>	Alexis Hatchett, Connie Clary
<u>Passion:</u>	Jacques Williams, Sarah Malone
<u>April 9:</u>	Misty Sanford, Barbara Bisel
<u>April 16:</u>	Layson Brooks, Kathi Skidd
Eucharistic Ministers	
<u>April 2:</u>	Janet Clark, Lori Robinson, Rita Moorman
<u>April 9:</u>	Cindy Clark, Greg Gough
<u>April 16:</u>	Vivian Higgs, Sarah Malone, Charlene Meadows
Collection & Gifts	
<u>April 2:</u>	Jacques & Whitney Williams and sons
<u>April 9:</u>	Janet Clark
<u>April 16:</u>	Holly, Kelly, Samuel Hollis

HOLY WEEK

Chrism Mass: **6:30 pm Tuesday at SportsCenter.** Blessing of oils that are used in sacraments during the year. Priests renew their commitment to the Bishop.

Holy Thursday: **7 pm.** Mass commemorating the Institution of the Eucharist and Ordination of Apostles as priests. Washing of feet. Adoration follows Mass

Good Friday: **6 pm** Day of Fast and Abstinence (1 normal, 2 smaller meals, no eating in between {ages 18-59} no meat {ages 14 and older}) No Mass. Veneration of the Cross, Passion read, Holy Communion.

Holy Saturday: **8 pm at Cathedral** Vigil Mass of Easter. Lighting of Easter Fire, Reception of people (Kelly Hollis from BSC) into full communion in church

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

What’s your car? Let’s say it’s a fancy silver Toyota. Now imagine you’re having lunch in a restaurant and suddenly see two men outside attempting to steal it. You run outside and confront them. They respond, “The master has need of it.” How do you respond? Would you just let them take it, and leave you without a car? I don’t think I would.

Yet that is precisely what the owners of the colt on Palm Sunday do. Stunningly, and perhaps a little comically, Jesus instructs two of his disciples to commandeer a colt for him to ride. And when they hear the disciples say, “**The master has need of it,**” they let them take it. Of course, Jesus *knew* they’d let it go. He gave them the grace to let go of what is rightfully theirs. The result? That colt became perhaps the most famous and important animal ever. The beast plays a role in the redemption of the world.

As Holy Week begins, Jesus perhaps will send people to you to ask for something valuable to you. Perhaps it’s your car. More likely it’s something like your attention, time, or energy. It’s natural to resist at first. We’ve got things to do, after all. But if the interruption is from Jesus himself, listen to that voice which calmly says, “**The master has need of it.**” And simply let it go. You’ll be amazed what the master will do with it. — *Father John Muir*

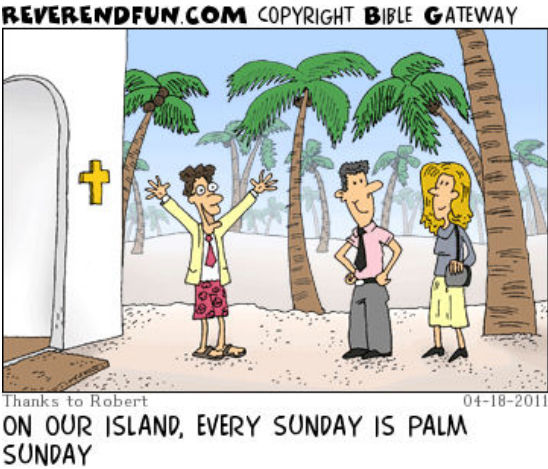
A huge thank you and many blessings on Blessed Mother Parish for a large donation toward our renovation.

Readings for the Week

Monday:	Is 42:1-7/Ps 27:1-3, 13-14/ Jn 12:1-11
Tuesday:	Is 49:1-6/Ps 71:1-6, 15 and 17/Jn 13:21-33, 36-38
Wednesday:	Is 50:4-9/Ps 69:8-10, 21-22, 31 and 33-34/Mt 26:14-25
Thursday:	Ex 12:1-8, 11-14/ Ps 116:12-13, 16-18 (1 Cor 10:16)/Jn 13:1-15
Friday:	Is 52:13—53:12/Ps 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-17, (Luke 23:46)/Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9/Jn 18:1—19:42
Saturday:	<i>Easter Vigil:</i> Gn 1:1—2:2 Ps 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12-14, / Gn 22:1-18 /Ps 16:5, 8-11 /Ex 14:15—15:1-6, 17-18 /Is 54:5-14/Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-13 /Is 55:1-11/Ez 36:16-28/Ps 42:3, 5; 43:3, 4)/Rom 6:3-11/Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23/Mt 28:1-10

Observances for the Week of April 2

Tuesday:	Chrism Mass
Thursday:	Holy Thursday
Friday:	Good Friday
Saturday:	Holy Saturday
Next Sunday:	Easter Sunday



SEEING CHRIST CLEARLY

We start today looking through the portals of Jerusalem, seeing crowds of people, cheering and waving palm branches in the air. The whole atmosphere is one of joy, triumph, and celebration. We can get distracted or enthralled by the scene, and not see clearly the features of Jesus as he enters. But our readings from Isaiah and Paul’s letter to the Philippians clarify his features for us. He is the suffering Servant, meek and mute before his captors and persecutors; he is the very image of the unseen God, yet will not clutch at equality with God before he endures his final confrontation in humility. Isaiah and Paul help us “behold the Lamb of God” before we hear the story of his final and greatest confrontation. It is important that we see Christ clearly before we hear the account of his passion, for we--his Body through baptism, the church--now bear his face. We must, with him, enter into this time of trial so we can, also with him, enter into his final triumph. Copyright J.S. Paluch Co. Inc.

April is Child Abuse Awareness month. We set time aside to pray for victims and survivors of both child abuse and sexual abuse, especially for those that occurred in the Church. ***Holy Spirit, comforter of hearts, heal your people’s wounds and transform brokenness into wholeness. Grant us the courage and wisdom, humility and grace, to act with justice. Grant that all harmed by abuse may find peace in justice. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. amen***

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.