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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 Cheriyanunnel

moc_shibu.cheriyankunnel@pastoral.org

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



Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

"Strike the rock, and the water will flow from it for the people to drink." (Ex 17:6)

Psalm:

If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts. (Ps 95)

Second Reading:

And hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. (Rom 5:5)

Gospel:

."Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again; but whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst; the water I shall give will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." (Jn 4:13-14)

March 12, 2023 3rd Sunday of Lent

My food is to do the will of the one who sent me.



.My Dear Parishioners:

Shocking!! That's what it was! The gospel story we have today is absolutely, unequivocally shocking! Jesus, who was a Jewish man, was sitting there by a well having a conversation with, and even requesting water from, a Samaritan. Not only that, but this person with whom He was conversing was a woman. And furthermore, it appears they might have been alone. And it was high noon, not the usual time for women to be out gathering water. Some scholars speculate she may have been coming to the well at this unique time (a location which was typically a social gathering place for the women of a community) because, given her long, and some suggest sordid, history with men, the other women of the village may have been shunning her -- after all, when she later left the well, returning to the city to advise the residents of the person she had met, we are informed that she went to the men (vs. 28). What on earth was He thinking?! Wasn't He aware of the cultural norms of His day? His disciples, with whom He had been traveling, weren't around -- they had gone into the village to find food (vs. 8). However, when they returned to the well, and took in the scene, "they marveled that He had been speaking with a woman" (vs. 27). Behavior such as was being evidenced by the Lord Jesus on this occasion was unheard of. It was radical ... extreme ... scandalous! It could get you "talked about" ... it could get you "written up" ... it could even get you killed in certain circles.

Well, welcome to the wonderful, wondrous world of Jesus! He came to seek and to save souls, and no "cultural norm" was going to stand between Him and a sincere seeker. Jesus came to break down barriers between the races, the classes, and the sexes. There was no more rich or poor, slave or free, male or female, Jew or Greek ... or even Samaritan. All were equally precious in His sight ... and still are. Oh, that we could learn that lesson today!

The first thing that genuinely impresses me, as I reflect upon this account from John 4, is that there was an open and honest dialogue taking place. And it was happening between persons one would least expect to be engaging in such -- a leading Jewish teacher and a Samaritan woman of perhaps questionable repute. As noted, this dialogue shocked the disciples of Jesus. It even shocked the woman herself (vs. 9). But, that was the nature of our Lord's ministry. He reached out to people that "the religious elite" regarded as beneath them. Although Jesus was truly above all men, NONE were "beneath" Him!! This fact generated considerable criticism of Christ and His ministry. "Both the Pharisees and the scribes began to grumble, saying, 'This man receives sinners and eats with them'" (Luke 15:2). Shocking. What was Jesus thinking?! "And it came about that He was reclining at the table in Levi's house, and many tax-gatherers and sinners were dining with Jesus and His disciples" (Mark 2:15). Unheard of. Outrageous. Not overly insightful, was He?! Not very discriminating! As one Pharisee observed, when, during the course of a meal being hosted at his house, a particular woman anointed the feet of Jesus with her tears and wiped them with her hair, "If this man were a prophet He would know who and what sort of person this woman is who is touching Him, that she is a sinner" (Luke 7:39). Well, guess what . . . Jesus is still doing it. He still is meeting unworthy characters at the 'well'. Every time we gather around His altar, every time we gather to reflect on his Word, every time we receive his Body and Blood in the Most Holy Eucharist, Jesus is meeting with US! Jesus is in dialogue with US! We are no more worthy than the woman we hear about in today's gospel.

This Sunday and the next two, those who are seeking entrance into the Church and the reception of the Sacraments will be experiencing the Rite of Scrutinies. They have for months participated in study, reflection, and conversion. For months they have been doing what this season calls each of us to do over and over. God is compassionate, God is forgiving, God is merciful. Are we not created in his image? Would he not expect the same from each of us? This is the 'season of change'. This is the 'season of mercy'. If we desire God's mercy . . . we must first show mercy to those who are daily around us. I dare say . . . it would be shocking! Father John



SSND reflection on **Laudato Si**, Pope Francis's encyclical on *Care of the Earth*.

3rd Sunday of Lent Reflection

.“Jesus answered and said to her, ‘Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again; but whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst’...” John 4:5-42
“...our very bodies are made up of her elements, we breathe her air and we receive life and refreshment from her waters.” Laudato Si' #2
Reflection:
Oh, how vital water is to the life of all creation! Have I ever grumbled because I didn’t have a glass of ice water on a hot day? Am I aware that over 700 million people do not have access to clean drinking water and that I’m contributing to the world’s water pollution? How? Because of my overuse of plastics! Less than 10% of all plastic is recycled, eventually, about 80% of plastic waste ends up in the oceans which is also extremely damaging to sea life. Jesus, when you talked about life giving water, you were talking about deepening my faith life!

Laugh of the Week

A woman hurried to the pharmacy to get medication for her daughter, got back to her car and found that she had locked her keys inside. The woman found an old rusty coat hanger left on the ground. Not knowing how to use it she bowed her head and asked God to send her some HELP. Within 5 minutes a beat-up old motorcycle pulled up, driven by a bearded man who was wearing an old biker skull rag. He got off of his cycle and asked if he could help. She said: "Yes, my daughter is sick. I've locked my keys in my car. I must get home. Please, can you use this hanger to unlock my car?" He said, "Sure." He walked over to the car, and in less than a minute the car was open. She hugged the man and through tears said, "Thank You, God, for sending me such a very nice man." The man heard her little prayer and replied, "Lady, I am NOT a nice man. I just got out of prison yesterday; I was in prison for car theft." The woman hugged the man again, sobbing, "Oh, thank you, God! You even sent me a Professional!"



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 22
There are several opportunities to practice the spiritual and corporal works of mercy.

1. Mission on Eucharist at Precious Blood March 12-14 6 pm. .\
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. Avail yourself of the Sacrament of Reconciliation
6. **Pray, Penance, and Almsgiving**

Mass Intentions

March 5--Mike Coakley
March 12 --Iona Simon
March 19--Tom Riney
March 26--Tony and Donna Powers

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

RECONCILIATION SCHEDULE

- ◇ March 13 St. Pius X 7:30 pm
- ◇ 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
- ◇ March 29 Sts. Joseph and Paul 6 pm
- ◇ April 2 St Stephen 2 pm
- ◇ St Stephen Every Saturday 9:30-11

Coming Events CALENDAR



Blessed Sacrament Chapel

March 24--St. Stephen's fish fry
5-7 pm
March 31--Fish Fry 5-7 pm
April 4--Chrism Mass 6:30 at Sportscenter
April 6--Holy Thursday Mass 7 pm
April 7--Good Friday service 6 pm



March 5--\$2006.97

Budget--\$1058

MTD Collection--\$2006.97.

MTD Budget--\$1058

YTD Collection--\$45,709.38.

YTD Budget--\$35,972

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

Spring:

The first day of spring is one thing, and the first spring day is another. The difference between them is sometimes as great as a month. .vanDyke

Mark your calendar
Workers are needed inside and outside. Friday afternoon and evening. Volunteer sheets will be out next week. Invite your family and friends to come.

Our fish is the best!!!



Lenten penance: There is a story of a father trying to explain Lent to his ten-year-old son. At one point, the father said, "You ought to give up something for Lent, something you will really miss, like candy." The boy thought for a moment, then asked, "What are you giving up, Father?" "I'm giving up liquor," the father replied. "But before dinner you were drinking something," the boy protested. "Yes, but that was only sherry," said the father. "I gave up hard liquor." To which the boy replied, "Well then, I think I'll give up hard candy."

	LECTORS
<u>March 12:</u>	Alexis Hatchett Jacques Williams
<u>March 19:</u>	Greg Gough Misty Sanford
<u>March 26:</u>	Sarah Malone Barbara Bisel
	Eucharistic Ministers
<u>March 12:</u>	Lori Robinson, Sarah Malone, Misty Sanford
<u>March 19:</u>	Barbara Bisel, Sarah Malone, Kathi Skidd
<u>March 26:</u>	Greg Gough, Misty Sanford, Charlene Meadows
	Collection & Gifts
<u>March 12:</u>	Campbell Family
<u>March 19:</u>	Lad Ottofy, Ethan Gough
<u>March 26:</u>	Greg and Denise Richardson

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 15, 22, 29
• Thursdays 6:30 pm --March 16 Holy Hour -- --March 23 Crucifixion of Jesus (talk) Precious Blood Renewed in the Eucharist Mission March 12, 13, 14 6 pm

When I became the pastor of a large parish, I soon found myself, for the first time in my life, riddled with anxiety, headaches, difficulty making decisions, and fatigue. I called a therapist friend and told her my symptoms and asked if she thought I needed a serious medical exam. She said, “How much water do you drink?” I told her, “I haven’t had time to drink water lately.” She responded, “You’re chronically dehydrated. Drink eighty-five ounces a day and call me in a week.” I started guzzling water and in a week all my symptoms went away. I felt great.

Like me, the people in the Exodus wanderings were dehydrated. But unlike me, they knew it. Their symptoms were bad. They fight with each other. They accuse God of being a monster who wants them and their children to die of thirst. Their thirst drives them to plot the bloody assassination of the man who rescued them. God responds by using Moses to strike a rock from which rivers of living waters flow to quench their thirst for years to come.

The Holy Spirit is the living water of love which flows from the pierced side of Jesus, the new Moses. What symptoms in your life suggest you’re spiritually dehydrated? Anger at God? Cynicism at your leaders? Bitter rivalry and bickering with others? Don’t panic. *Of course* we have those symptoms. Ask God to provide his water to quench your spiritual thirst, and he will. And all those symptoms will soon disappear. — *Father John Muir*



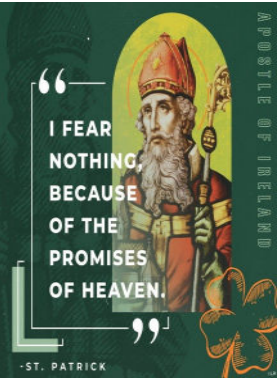
A super thanks to McDonald's for sponsoring a night for Blessed Sacrament Chapel Through their generosity, we received a check for \$626..

	Readings for the Week
Monday:	2 Kgs 5:1-15/Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4/Lk 4:24-30
Tuesday:	Dn 3:25, 34-43/Ps 25:4--9 / Mt 18:21-35
Wednesday:	Dt 4:1, 5-9/Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20/Mt 5:17-19
Thursday:	Jer 7:23-28/Ps 95:1-2, 6-9 /Lk 11:14-23
Friday:	Hos 14:2-10/Ps 81:6-11, 14 and 17/Mk 12:28-34
Saturday:	Hos 6:1-6/Ps 51:3-4, 18-21/ Lk 18:9-14
	Observances for the Week of March 12
Friday:	St. Patrick, Bishop, St. Patrick's Day
Saturday:	St. Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

POPE FRANCIS ADVICE FOR LENT
Fast from **hurting** and say **kind words**.
Fast from **sadness** and be filled with **gratitude**
Fast from **anger** and be filled with **patience**.
Fast from **pessimism** and be filled with **hope**.
Fast from **worries** and **trust in God**
Fast from **complaints** and **contemplate simplicity**.
Fast from **pressures** and be **prayerful**.
Fast from **bitterness** and fill your heart with **joy**.
Fast from **selfishness** and be **compassionate** to others.
Fast from **grudges** and be **reconciled**.
Fast from **words** and be silent so you can **listen**.

THIRSTING FOR LIFE-GIVING WATERS

Especially during the Lenten, Holy Week, and Easter seasons, the prayer text of the Eastern Church revel in paradoxical images of Christ: the eternal life who is put to death, the host of the supper who is also its meal, the thirsty crucified one with living water streaming from his side. These images flow from the evangelists’ portrayals of Jesus and from his very ministry, during which he often upset or reversed people’s expectations about him or the ways of God. This “reversal” is at play in today’s Gospel, as Jesus speaks to an enemy foreigner who is also a woman below his status. In addition he, the thirsting one, shows the woman to be the one truly thirsting. He--whose parched lips will say “I thirst” before he dies--is the source of life and life-giving water. Lent calls upon us to dwell on how each of us is thirsting for Christ, and it leads us, ultimately, back to the life-giving waters of our baptism into his Body.



Bishop Medley has dispense the day of abstinence (no meat) on March 17, St. Patrick's feast. However, he suggests that another penance is done.

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.