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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



March 19, 2023 4th Sunday of Lent

**The Lord is my Shepherd;
I shall not want. (Ps. 23:1)**

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

Then Samuel, with the horn of oil in hand, anointed David in the presence of his brothers; and from that day on, the spirit of the LORD rushed upon David. (1 Sm 16:13)

Psalm:

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. (Ps 23)

Second Reading:

"Awake, O sleeper; arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light." (Eph 5:14)

Gospel:

He spat on the ground, made clay with the saliva, smeared the clay on his eyes, and said to him, "Go wash in the Pool of Siloam" — which means Sent — .So he went and washed, and came back able to see.



"None is so blind as one who will not see." I pick up old proverbs. Jesus said, "If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, 'We see,' your guilt remains (John 9.41)." Just as there is a wicked or culpable (irresponsible) ignorance, so there is a wicked, spiritual blindness. It certainly results from the practice of vice. The more thoroughly a person willfully practices a vice (sinning), the more deeply the conscience is silenced, the more spiritually blind and ignorant that person becomes. Just as behind each vice and sin is a cowardly self-protecting fear, so the consequence of vice is a failure to see the neighbor and one's own true need to love. Each of the seven deadly sins or vices refuses the light of God and brings its own form of blindness. The vices even mix together to make some deadly "cocktails."

Every vice spiritually boils down to pride, self-idolatrous vanity. Materially and otherwise quite innocently, the seed bed that goes along with the vice of pride, and that which gives specific shape to the other vices, is fear, ignorance, hunger, injury, pain, loss, and weakness. These latter human conditions are never in and of themselves sinful. They only become so by way of their being infected by self-seeking vanity. God's grace has accomplished monumental victories of love in the very same contexts of human fear, ignorance, hunger, injury, pain, loss, and weakness by way of generous self-sacrifice. When these human conditions are shaped by virtue, they are saintly, even heroic. When shaped by vice, they are pathetic, even demonic.

Pride, anger, and sloth in combination warp together to produce self-righteous autocrats and terrorists. Such people are all blind to faith, mercy, hope, divine providence, human solidarity, and self-sacrifice. The rulers in Jerusalem who condemned Jesus were invested in the political compromises of the status quo with Rome. This protected their self-interests and status of authority, their perks. To be perceived as threatening that status and its benefits provoked an anger and defensiveness to a murderous degree. Sloth is the path of least risk and creativity. For one with political power and legitimacy it is easier to destroy an opponent than to risk a new potential for the common good and step aside so that another and better hope may prevail. A terrorist in our day, if a suicide-murderer, ignites anger and pride to destroy. The terrorist leaders fool such agents to do their own cowardly bidding, for sloth draws them back from such fruitless exertion and the exertions of painstakingly spending themselves for building the common good. Their blindness is lethal.

Pride, covetousness (avarice, "never enough"), gluttony (intemperance), lust (regarding a person or the human body as a object for one's own pleasure rather than one to be loved and honored for her or his own sake), and envy (resentment of another's good) grown in a seed bed of human weakness can produce a jungle of viciousness. Each weed of sin works to mute the interior light of God's grace. These will come breaking back through all the self-defended deceptions as long as the human being walks this earth. If one surrenders humbly to the light and mercy of Christ, there is deliverance, conversion, and redemption. If the response is a self-defended fury and an even stronger, the downward spiral may descend into a final self-implosion, an irreversible "NO" to God. If all one sees is one's own fractured self, the blindness is complete.

The cure is in the Crucified and Risen Hands of Jesus Christ. Place each and every item of fear, ignorance, hunger, injury, pain, loss, weakness, and personal sin in the Hands of Christ. He calls each of us to come to him and give ourselves this way to his care. Listen to him as he teaches how to walk in the dazzling light. We continue our journey through the season of Lent to the joy of Easter. Our time is moving quickly. Our journey is more than half-way complete. As we now move through the second half of the Lenten Season, let us put on the life of the virtues that work against the 'Seven deadly sins'. . They thrive in the garden of humility, service and sacrifice for another where no weeds of darkness can dare grow.

Against Pride wear Humility, Against Envy wear Love, Against Wrath / Anger wear Kindness Against Sloth wear Zeal, Against Avarice / Greed wear Generosity Against Gluttony wear Faith & Temperance, Against Lust wear Self Control
Lenten Blessings, Fr. John



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



Congratulations to Clint and Cassidy Campbell and family on the occasion of the Baptism of Dominic Andrew on March 12th.

4th Sunday of Lent Reflection

“As never before in history, common destiny beckons us to seek a new beginning... Let ours be a time remembered for the awakening of a new reverence for life, the firm resolve to achieve sustainability, the quickening of the struggle for justice and peace, and the joyful celebration of life.” Laudato Si' #207.
“You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light, for light produces every kind of goodness, righteousness and truth. Try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.” Ephesians 5: 8-9
Reflection:
Our Lenten journey draws us to life in the light, to seek a new beginning, and to live as children of the light. This is the hope and dream that is presented in Laudato Si'. We are called to look at the earth and the peoples of the earth through the lens of Our Common Home. Our struggles for peace and justice call us to seek and learn “what is pleasing to the Lord,” and to resolve to make the world a better place for ourselves, future generations and all the created world.

Loving God, help me to learn what is pleasing to you so I may live in the light!



March Birthdays

2--Marsha Allen
6--Elizabeth Hatchett, Jax Malone
7--Brittany Carmona
18--Jean Higgs
24--Clint Campbell
25--Carol Hatchett
31--Cameron Malone, Frank Fulton



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

March 12 --Iona Simon
March 19--Tom Riney
March 26--Tony and Donna Powers
April 2--Raymond Nichols

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 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--BSC 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 12--\$826.20

Budget--\$1058

MTD Collection--\$2833.17

MTD Budget--\$2116

YTD Collection--\$46,535.58

YTD Budget--\$37,030

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

**Look
Sorrow looks back, worry looks
around, faith looks up.**

**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!!!



Laugh of the Week: Lost on a rainy Friday night during Lent, a priest stumbles into a monastery and requests shelter there. Fortunately, he's just in time for dinner and was treated to the best fish and chips he's ever eaten. After dinner, he goes into the kitchen to thank the chefs. He is met by two brothers, "Hello, I'm Brother Michael, and this is Brother Francis." "I'm very pleased to meet you. I just wanted to thank you for the wonderful dinner. The fish and chips were the best I've ever tasted. Out of curiosity, who cooked what?" Brother Michael replied, "Well, I'm the fish friar." Father turns to the other brother and says, "Then you must be...." "Yes, I'm afraid I'm the chip monk..."

LECTORS	
<u>March 19:</u>	Greg Gough Misty Sanford
<u>March 26:</u>	Sarah Malone Barbara Bisel
<u>April 2:</u>	Alexis Hatchett, Connie Clary
<u>Passion:</u>	Jacques Williams, Sarah Malone
Eucharistic Ministers	
<u>March 19:</u>	Barbara Bisel, Sarah Malone, Misty Sanford
<u>March 26:</u>	Greg Gough, Vivian Hiiggs, Charlene Meadows
<u>April 2:</u>	Janet Clark, Lori Robinson, Rita Moorman
Collection & Gifts	
<u>March 19:</u>	Lad Ottofy, Ethan Gough
<u>March 26:</u>	Greg and Denise Richardson
<u>April 2:</u>	Jacques & Whitney Williams

Lenten Opportunities

St. Stephen:

- Stations of the Cross after noon Mass on Fridays
- No Greater Love--A Biblical Walk Through Christ's Passion Wed. 10:30 March 22, 29
- Thursdays 6:30 pm
----March 23 Crucifixion of Jesus (talk)-
---March 30 Passover Meal

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

GOSPEL MEDITATION

God asks a rhetorical and slightly sarcastic question to Samuel, the prophet: **“How long will you grieve for Saul, whom I have rejected as king of Israel?”** Like us, Samuel is depressed that the old king failed. It’s painful to admit that the old regime is done. But God won’t let us wallow our pity-party forever. **“I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem,”** announces the Lord, **“for I have chosen my king from among his sons.”** Samuel finally goes and anoints the young David as the new king. And his kingdom is glorious; it’s the golden age of Israel’s earthly history.

How discouraging to see that my own selfish ego is no longer in charge! How long will I grieve that money, power, pleasure, and reputation have been rejected as the ruler of my life? How wonderful that God has a new future in store for you and me. He is sending us to Bethlehem to anoint the new David as our king. His kingdom won’t fail us. He’ll slay our goliaths, unite our dispersed energies, and build a Temple where God himself will dwell. So how long will you grieve? How long?.
Father John Muir

IMP—Kroger

We have received a quarterly donation from Kroger for \$128.62. Thank you to everyone who has designated Blessed Sacrament as your community reward partner. If you do not have a community reward partner, please designate Blessed Sacrament. Blessed Sacrament’s # is WX799. Go to krogercommunityrewards.com to register. Thanks to each of you for your support.

Readings for the Week

Monday:	2 Sm 7:4-5, 12-14a, 16/Ps 89:2-5, 27,/Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22/Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24
Tuesday:	Ez 47:1-9, 12/Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8
-	9/Jn 5:1-16
Wednesday:	Is 49:8-15/Ps 145:8-9, 13-14, 17-18/Jn 5:17-30
Thursday:	Ex 32:7-14/Ps 106:19-23/Jn 5:31-47
Friday:	Wis 2:1a, 12-22/Ps 3421 and 23/Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
Saturday:	Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Ps 40:7-11/ Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38

Observances for the Week of March 19

Monday:	St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Thursday:	St. Turibius of Mogrovejo,
Saturday:	The Annunciation of the Lord

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**.

CHILDREN OF THE LIGHT

The future king, David, in today’s first reading, is an example of a type of character present throughout the Hebrew scriptures. He is the child born out of place (not the eldest nor most favored) who ends p receiving the promise of the covenant. The spirit of God’s anointing rushes upon him.. In this way, he is similar to the man born blind from today’s Gospel. David’s family and the blind man’s community did not expect the miraculous grace of God’s love to work through them. Perhaps they, too were “blinded” by the expectations and assumptions of those around them. Yet, after being touched by God, they both came to ‘see” the presence of God’s will for them. Both became messengers of God’s will. That same Spirit of God’s anointing rushed upon us at our baptism; we were given a candle as a sign of our membership in the Body of Christ, the Light from Light. Our vocation, then is to fulfill that enlightenment, that anointing, as Ephesians tells us, by living as “children of the light.”
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Relive Her “Yes” Feast of Annunciation
We must learn from Mary; we must relive her “yes,” her unreserved readiness to receive the Son of God in her life, which was transformed from that moment. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit take up their abode with us. Is our life truly inspired by God? How many things do I put before God?
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.