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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](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 Cheriankunel

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

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



**March 26, 2023 5th Sunday of Lent**

I will put my spirit in you that you may live  
thus you will know that I am the Lord. (Ps. 130)

### Sunday's Readings

#### First Reading:

I will put my spirit in you that you may live,  
and I will settle you upon your land; thus  
you shall know that I am the LORD. (Ez  
37:14)

#### Psalm:

With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of  
redemption. (Ps 130)

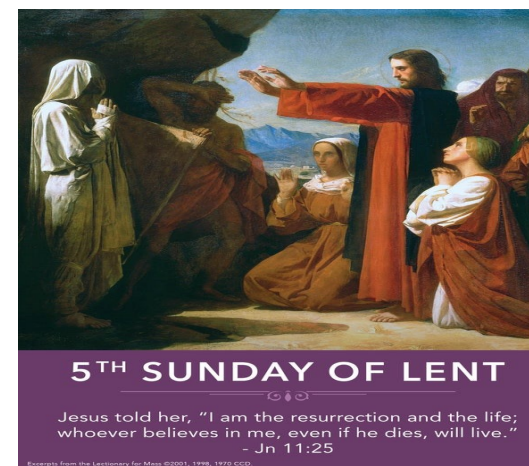
#### Second Reading:

If the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus  
from the dead dwells in you, the one who  
raised Christ from the dead will give life to  
your mortal bodies also, through his Spirit  
dwelling in you. (Rom 8:11)

#### Gospel:

"I am the resurrection and the life; whoever  
believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and  
everyone who lives and believes in me will  
never die." (Jn 11:25-26)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998





Of all the miracles Jesus did, the raising of Lazarus ranks as the most astonishing to the people of his time. Traditional Jewish belief had it that the soul of a dead person somehow remains with the body for three days. After three days, the soul departs finally from the body never to return, and that is when corruption sets in. When Martha objects to the opening of the tomb and says, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days” (John 11:39), she is expressing the common view that this is now a hopeless situation. Is that why Jesus delayed coming to the funeral, to let the situation become “impossible” before acting on it? G.K. Chesterton once said, “Hope means hoping when things are hopeless, or it is no virtue at all.” In traditional Jewish mentality, bringing back to life a person who is already four days dead and decaying is as unthinkable as the prophet Ezekiel’s vision in which the grey, dry bones of the dead are miraculously restored to life.

For the early Christians the story of the raising of Lazarus was more than a pointer to the resurrection of Jesus. Jesus rose on the third day; his body never saw corruption. For them this miracle is a challenge to never give up hope even in the hopeless situations in which they found themselves as individuals, as a church or as a nation. It is never too late for God to revive and revitalize a person, a church or a nation. But first we must learn to cooperate with God.

How can we cooperate with God so as to experience God’s resurrection power in our lives and in our world? Well, everyone knows the answer already: faith. There is no one in the story, not even Mary or Martha, who believed that Jesus could bring Lazarus back to life after four days dead. No one expected him to do it, so expectant faith is not the emphasis here. Rather the emphasis in the story on how we cooperate with a miracle-working God is placed on practical obedience and doing God’s will.

To effect the miracle, Jesus issues three commands and all of them are obeyed to the letter. That is how the miracle happens. First, “Jesus said, ‘Roll away the stone.’ ... So they rolled away the stone” (verses 39-41). Did the people understand why they should do this heavy work of rolling away the tombstone to expose a stinking corpse? You bet they didn’t. But it was their faith in Jesus expressing itself not through intellectual agreement with Jesus but through practical agreement with him, through obedience. Why didn’t Jesus command the stone to roll away all by itself, without bothering the people? We don’t quite know. All we know is that divine power seems always to be activated by human cooperation and stifled by non-cooperation. The second command Jesus gives is directed to the dead man: “‘Lazarus, come out!’ and the dead man came out” (verses 43-44). We do not know the details of what transpired in the tomb. All we know is that Jesus’ word of command is followed by immediate obedience. Lazarus gropes his way out of the dark tomb even with his hands and feet tied up in bandages, and his face all wrapped up. Even a man rotting away in the tomb can still do something to help himself. The third command again is addressed to the people, “Unbind him, and let him go” (verse 44). Even though Lazarus could stumble himself out of the tomb, there was no way he could unbind himself. He needs the community to do that for him. By unbinding Lazarus and setting him free from the death bands, the community is accepting Lazarus back as one of them.

Many Christian individuals and communities today have fallen victim to the death of sin. Many are already in the tomb of hopelessness and decay, in the bondage of sinful habits and attitudes. Nothing short of a miracle can bring us back to life in Christ. Jesus is ready for the miracle. He himself said, “I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly” (John 10:10). Are we ready to cooperate with him for the miracle? Are we ready to roll away the stone that stands between us and the light of Christ’s face? Are we ready to take the first step to come out of the place of death? Are we ready to unbind (i.e. forgive) one another and let them go free – let ourselves feel freedom? These are the various ways we cooperate with God in the miracle of bringing us back to life and reviving us as individuals, as a church, and a nation.  
**Lent is the Season to come back to LIFE! Jesus speaks the same words to us . . .are we ready to obey?**  
**Lenten Blessings, Fr. John**

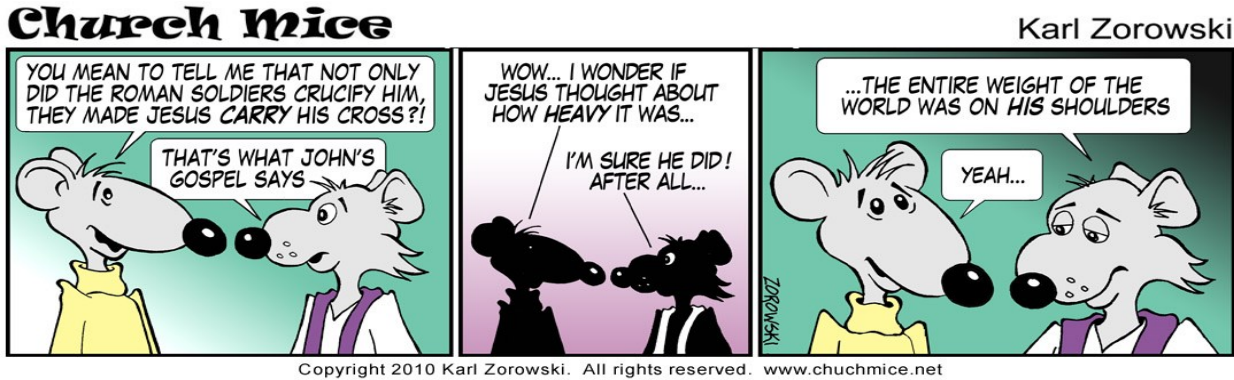


***SSND reflection on Laudato Si, Pope Francis's encyclical on Care of the Earth***

**Fifth Sunday of Lent: March 26, 2023**

“The Spirit of God has filled the universe with possibilities and therefore, from the very heart of things, something new can always emerge: Nature is nothing other than a certain kind of art, namely God’s art, impressed upon things, whereby those things are moved to a determinate end.”  
Laudato Si' #80  
“Father, I thank you for hearing me. I know that you always hear me; but because of the crowd here I have said this, that they may believe that you sent me.” And when he had said this, He cried out in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” The dead man came out, tied hand and foot with burial bands, and his face was wrapped in a cloth. So, Jesus said to them, “Untie him and let him go.” John 11: 41-46  
Reflection:  
Everyone berated Jesus because they said he came too late to be there for His friend Lazarus. But the power of God in Christ knew no such boundaries. Something new and wonderful is always possible. Laudato Si’ affirms this as it says, “...something new can always emerge.” This week we are called to believe this and call on the Spirit of God to fill the universe and our hearts with possibilities.  
Spirit of God, open my eyes to see the new that is waiting

**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.”  
***This week make a list of things you are worried about and turn them over to Jesus.***



### March Birthdays

24--Clint Campbell  
25--Carol Hatchett  
31--Cameron Malone, Frank Fulton

### April Birthdays

3--Rita Moorman, Ethan Gough  
Bobby Hardin  
6--Marshall Williams  
10--Steven Fain



### 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 19--Tom Riney  
March 26--Tony and Donna Powers  
April 2--Raymond Nichols  
April 6--Tom Riney  
April 9--Mike Coakley

*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 SCHED

- ◇ 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
- ◇ Blessed Mother Every Monday 5-5:45

### LOOK

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

## Coming Events CALENDAR



### Blessed Sacrament Chapel

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  
April 9--Easter Sunday Mass 10 am



March 19--\$1903.67

Budget--\$1058

MTD Collection--\$4736.84

MTD Budget--\$3174

YTD Collection--\$48,439.25

YTD Budget--\$38,088

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

### OPEN OUR GRAVES

Open our graves, Lord, remove us from the prison of death.. Place your Spirit in us so that we may live in a world of freedom.

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

***Our fish is the best!!!***



### Laugh of the Week.

The psychology instructor had just finished a lecture on mental health and was giving an oral test. Speaking specifically about manic depression, she asked, "How would you diagnose a patient who walks back and forth screaming at the top of his lungs one minute, then sits in a chair weeping uncontrollably the next?" A young man in the rear raised his hand and answered, "A basketball coach?"



|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
|                  | <b>LECTORS</b>                                 |
| <u>March 26:</u> | Sarah Malone<br>Barbara Bisel                  |
| <u>April 2:</u>  | Alexis Hatchett, Connie Clary                  |
| <u>Passion:</u>  | Jacques Williams,<br>Sarah Malone              |
|                  | <b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>                   |
| <u>March 26:</u> | Greg Gough, Vivian Hiiggs,<br>Charlene Meadows |
| <u>April 2:</u>  | Janet Clark, Lori Robinson,<br>Rita Moorman    |
| <u>April 9:</u>  | Kathi Skidd, Cindy Clark, Greg<br>Gough        |
|                  | <b>Collection &amp; Gifts</b>                  |
| <u>March 26:</u> | Greg and Denise Richardson                     |
| <u>April 2:</u>  | Jacques & Whitney Williams<br>and sons         |
| <u>April 9:</u>  | .  |

**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 29
- Thursdays 6:30 pm  
---March 30 Passover Meal

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

**Offerings**

*Offer it up.* My grandmother used this phrase with her children, and my mother, in turn, used it with me. It’s a kind of verbal heirloom, a gift of wisdom from a generation that knew suffering all too well.

We know it to be true that God will work through our suffering if we invite him to. We know it and we have seen it — we have only to look at Lazarus and his sisters Martha and Mary.

But, often, I invite God into my suffering only to tell Him where I want Him to stand. I make an offering of suffering but expect God to do something very specific with it. *Teach me this, please. Give me this specific grace. Show me this specific answer.*

The happy ending in today’s Gospel is not the alleviation of the sorrow Martha and Mary feel because it isn’t alleviated, Lazarus is still human, and death still awaits him. Someday, his sisters will have to mourn at his tomb. That loss and pain will not be avoided.

The happy ending is that he is resurrected *now*, and in doing so, brings so many to belief. The happy ending is that Martha and Mary do not abandon discipleship because things didn’t work out exactly the way that they wanted. They run out to meet Christ, eyes dim with tears. They fling themselves into his company and onto his providence. They made an offering of their suffering, and their happy ending is that their offering was accepted.

*“You are not in the flesh, on the contrary, you are in the spirit.” — Romans 8:9* copyright: LPI

**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](http://krogercommunityrewards.com) to register. Thanks to each of you for your support.

**Readings for the Week**

Monday: Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62/Ps 23:1-6/Jn 8:1-11

Tuesday: Nm 21:4-9/Ps 102:2-3, 16-21/Jn 8:21-30

Wednesday: Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95/Dn 52-56 /Jn 8:31-42

Thursday: Gn17:3-9/Ps105:4-9/Jn 8:51-59

Friday: Jer20:10-13/Ps18:2-7/Jn 10:31-42

Saturday: Ez37:21-28/Jer31:10-13/Jn 11:45-56

**Observances for the Week of March 26**

Saturday: April Fools’ Day

Next Sunday: Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord, Holy Week begins

**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**.

**JESUS’ MINISTRY SUMMARIZED**

The story of the raising of Lazarus from the dead is the single longest story (apart from the Passion) in the Gospel of John. In it we find a summary of most of Jesus’ ministry. We see his very human nature as he is moved by Martha and Mary’s sorrow and as he himself weeps at the tomb of Lazarus. He is the wisdom of God’s Word made flesh as he explains to his followers that the death of Lazarus will serve as a sign of the glory of God. He crowns the miracles he works in John’s Gospel (which begins with the most “human” miracle of making new wine at Cana’s wedding) by raising Lazarus from the dead--a “preview,” if you will, of his own death and resurrection to come. This portrait of Jesus reminds us, as we near the end of our Lenten journey, that his is with us, knows us, understands us n every moment of our lives.

He knows the joy of our human feasting, he knows the sorrow of our weeping. As we prepare to walk with him through the days of Holy Week, we are filled with faith that--through Christ--God’s glory will be with us in every moment of our lives and--with Christ--in our life everlasting. copyright J.S. Paluch Co., Inc.

**| Lord, let your mercy be upon us. |**  
**| We place our trust in you. Ps. 33 |**

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.