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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 Fennewald,
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March 5, 2023 2nd Sunday of Lent

**Our soul waits for the Lord,
 who is our help and shield. Ps. 33:20)**

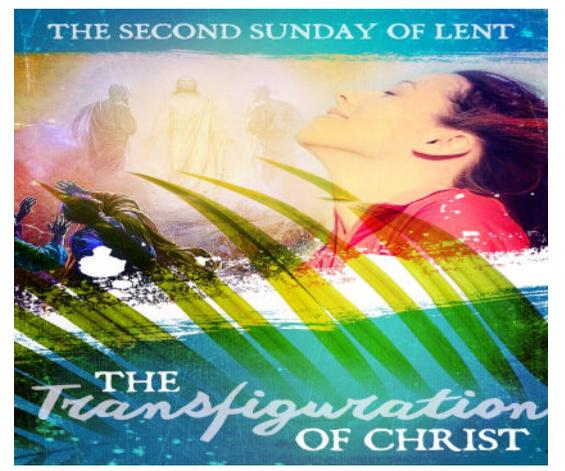
Sunday's Readings

First Reading:
 I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. (Gn 12:2)

Psalm:
 Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you. (Ps 33)

Second Reading:
 Bear your share of hardship for the gospel with the strength that comes from God. He saved us and called us to a holy life. (2 Tm 1:8-9)

Gospel:
 Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them; his face shone like the sun. (Mt 17:1-2) ..



“During Lent, we have the opportunity to hear voices that are usually lost in the din of pleasure and meaningless talk. We can enter into a private desert even in the midst of the world and face our own demons. We can tear down false idols only to be heartbroken at finding others behind them. If we are brave, we can run through this desert trying to find the real God amid all the false gods.” Drew Stevens

My Dear Parishioners:

It is difficult to believe, but it is definitely true. The Season of Lent is upon us. On Ash Wednesday, we joined the Church universal in praying the prayers of Ash Wednesday. We marked our foreheads with ash reminding ourselves how transitory everything we know here on Earth really is. The Season of Lent is an opportunity to examine our lives and discover the true meaning of our existence, the truth of why we were born and the truth of the promise of eternity that awaits each of us.

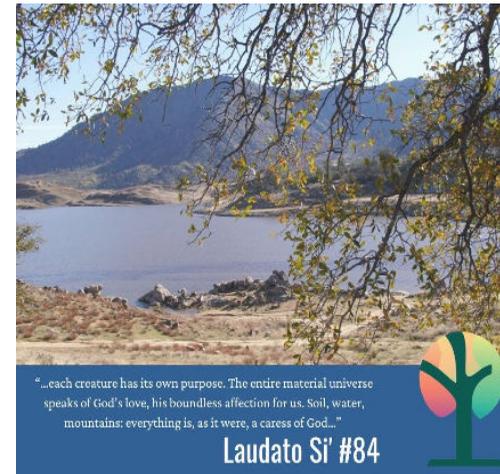
I have spoken before in a Sunday homily about the opportunity we are given to ‘begin again’. The Church is wise in yearly (sometimes several times a year through the sacramental life of the Church) reminding us we need to begin again. So often in our busy lives the Spirit is drowned out by the clamoring noises of possessions, addictions, anger, stress, and demands of jobs, family, and friend. The Season of Lent is an opportunity to calm the noise of the world to allow Jesus to enter our hearts. The Season of Lent is an opportunity to ‘de-clutter’ our homes and offices, our minds and hearts.

Please consider how you and your family can simplify even one area of your life. Maybe it will be turning off the TV one evening a week. Perhaps you can make it part of your Lenten sacrifice to come to Mass during the week. This Lent might be a good time to sit as a family around the table in your house and share a meal. I STRONGLY ENCOURAGE you to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation this year in preparation for the Season of Easter. The Sacrament is offered each Saturday morning from 9:30 – 11:00. The Sacrament is also offered any time by appointment. I offer myself to you in the name of Jesus a priest who is compassionate, patient, humble, and welcoming. Our associate priests offer themselves to you as well, in the Name of Jesus Christ. I especially make an invitation to those of you who have avoided this Sacrament for whatever reason. “Jesus says, this is the time of salvation, the Kingdom of God is at hand.” Jesus is calling us to himself.

This might be the time for you to attend a Mass during the week. We offer Mass M, T, W, TH, & F at 7 AM & 12:05 PM. Mass is also offered every Saturday morning at 9 AM. I promise you; to attend Mass during the week is a powerful and meaningful activity. I encourage you to receive the Eucharist as often as possible during this season of reflection and change.

Above all, I encourage you to pray for all families. This is a parish-wide activity and is one that can truly support families in our parish that are struggling. Many among us are struggling with finances, anger, regret, disrespect, loneliness, addictions, and betrayal.

Perhaps this is a time to examine our lives in a specific way. I suggest the following: Let us replace PRIDE with HUMILITY, ENVY with LOVE, WRATH & ANGER with KINDNESS, SLOTH with ZEAL, AVARICE & GREED with GENEROSITY, GLUTTONY with FAITH & TEMPERANCE, and LUST with SELF-CONTROL. There are so many opportunities to quiet the noises and strengthen our faith. Maybe this Lent is the time set aside for you, for your family, for our parish. Let us move through the desert together -- and in the end discover the spring of eternal life. Father John



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

The Lord God formed man out of the clay of the ground and blew into his nostrils the breath of life, and he became a living being.” Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7
“...each creature has its own purpose. The entire material universe speaks of God’s love, his boundless affection for us. Soil, water, mountains: everything is, as it were, a caress of God...” Laudato Si' #84

Reflection:

Some of us grew up thinking that we are superior to all other creatures and elements of the Earth, only to learn that they truly have a purpose on our planet. Besides praising God through their whole being, they sustain us with life in our one home, Earth! No doubt about it, we are interconnected! What am I doing to help protect and sustain the life of our planet? Or do I still have that attitude of being superior? If so, can I really live without water, food or shelter?

May I praise and thank our Loving Creator!

Servant of God Thea Bowman

Servant of God Sister Thea Bowman was a second generation free Black American born Bertha Bowman in Yazoo City, Mississippi in 1937. She later took the name Sister Thea when joining the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration. Being the only black woman in her order, Sister Thea committed her life to serving Black Catholics and their unique spirituality. When asked what it meant to be a black Catholic, she said —

“It means that I come to my church fully functioning. I bring myself, my black self, all that I am, all that I have, all that I hope to become. I bring my whole history, my traditions, my experience, my culture, my African-American song and dance and gesture and movement and teaching and preaching and healing and responsibility as gift to the Church.”

Sister Thea Bowman helped shape Black Catholic identity in countless ways. She was instrumental in the 1987 publication of the first Black Catholic hymnal, *Lead Me, Guide Me: The African American Catholic Hymnal*, making sure the hymnal properly showcased black spirituality and culture. She sang and recorded 25 spirituals and worship songs that were recently remastered and released on most music streaming platforms as recently as 2020!

She traveled and spoke around the world, captivating audiences with her ministry of joy. Sister Thea taught those she ministered to about celebrating each culture’s unique differences and lifting those differences up in each culture’s distinctive expression of the Christian faith. Dying of cancer on March 30, 1990, at the age of 52, Sister Thea’s legacy lives on in the more than 18 institutions named after her, her music, numerous works she authored, and countless students who received a college education thanks to the Sister Thea Bowman Black Catholic Educational Foundation. The U.S. bishops endorsed her cause for sainthood on Nov. 14, 2018.

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

- February 26--Donald Moorman
- 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 31--Fish Fry 5-7 pm
- April 6--Holy Thursday Mass 7 pm
- April 7--Good Friday service 6 pm
- April 9--Easter Sunday
Mass 10 am



- Feb. 26--\$1253
- Weekly Budget--\$1058
- MTD Collection--\$4957.61
- MTD Budget--\$4232
- YTD Collection--\$43702.41
- YTD Budget--\$34,914

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

The hunger for love is much more difficult to remove than the hunger for bread.
St. Teresa of Calcutta

GOSPEL MEDITATION

As a kid I remember looking at my sister and thinking, "No man is ever going to marry her. She is way too...my *sister!*" I couldn't see her as anything except my goofy, emotional, cooties-laden sister. Years later, on her wedding day, I remember seeing how her husband looked at her, he was totally in love with her, his watery eyes full of overwhelmed joy, drinking in her beauty and grace. He was the one who actually saw her. Blinded by familiarity, I had not been able to see her until now. She was glorious. I finally saw how beautiful my sister really was.

Jesus is transfigured before Peter, James, and John. His face shone like the sun and his clothes dazzle with heavenly light. If it's a miracle, it is so related to the apostles' perception of the glory of Jesus. The physical spectacle reveals how the Father perceives the Son, so to speak: **"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to him."** The Son is *always* bathed in the Father's love. It's only just now that they finally perceive it.

Who could possibly give his or her heart totally to Jesus? If we perceive him to be just another teacher, symbol, or moral example, we can't. But if the Holy Spirit gives us eyes to see that he is the Beloved Son of God, who makes our humanity not just pleasing to God but filled with glory ... then who can resist him? Perhaps only the lovers are the ones who properly see. — *Father John Muir*

Laugh of the Week

A little girl, dressed in her Sunday best, was running as fast as she could, trying not to be late for Mass. As she ran she prayed, "Dear Lord, please don't let me be late! Dear Lord, please don't let me be late!" While she was running and praying, she tripped on a curb and fell, getting her clothes dirty and tearing her dress. She got up, brushed herself off, and started running again. As she ran she once again began to pray, "Dear Lord, please don't let me be late...But please don't shove me either!"

LECTORS	
<u>March 5:</u>	Connie Clary, Kathi Skidd
<u>March 12:</u>	Alexis Hatchett Jacques Williams
<u>March 19:</u>	Greg Gough Misty Sanford
Eucharistic Ministers	
<u>March 5:</u>	Greg Gough, Cindy Clark, Rita Moorman
<u>March 12:</u>	Lori Robinson, Sarah Malone, Misty Sanford
<u>March 19:</u>	Barbara Bisel, Sarah Malone, Kathi Skidd
Collection & Gifts	
<u>March 5:</u>	Greg and Denise Richardson
<u>March 12:</u>	Campbell Family
<u>March 19:</u>	Lad Ottofy, Ethan Gough

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 8, 15, 22, 29
•	Thursdays 6:30 pm --March 9 Prayer Stations --March 16 Holy Hour --March 23 Crucifixion of Jesus
<u>Precious Blood</u> Renewed in the Eucharist Mission March 12, 13, 14 6 pm	

The Long Walk

The walk down from Mount Tabor after the Transfiguration must have been a long one for Peter, James, and John. How differently they must have viewed the world with the eyes that had seen what they had just seen. How uncertain they must have been.

I think it's important to remember that, on the mountain, they were amazed, yes — but first, they were afraid. We are given the image of these three grown men — these saints, these giants of salvation history — cowering in fear at the voice of God. It was not until Jesus touched them that they could even bear to look up.

Christ was transfigured on Tabor, but in a way, the disciples were transfigured as well. We are all changed by what we see and what we hear. That change can be hard because knowledge is hard. Truth is hard. Sometimes cowering is easier.

Go forth, God told Abram. I will make of you a great nation.

Rise, Christ told his disciples. And do not be afraid.

I spend too much time cowering in fear at the voice of God. I cower even when the voice whispers into my heart instead of booming from the clouds. When it's the start of a hard day or a tough conversation. When it's the middle of a half-finished battle, big or small. When I know where Christ is and what he is asking, but I'm afraid because the walk down the mountain is so long, and the world that awaits me is so uncertain.

"Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you." — Psalm 33

Readings for the Week

Monday:	Dn 9:4b-10/Ps 79:8, 9, 11 and 13/ Lk 6:36-38
Tuesday:	Is 1:10, 16-20/Ps 50:8-9, 16-17, 21 and 23/Mt 23:1-12
Wednesday:	Jer 18:18-20/Ps 31:5-6, 14, 15-16/ Mt 20:17-28
Thursday:	Jer 17:5-10/Ps 1:1-4 and 6/ Lk 16:19-31
Friday:	Gn 37:3-4, 12-13, 17-28/Ps 105:16-21/Mt 21:33-43, 45-46
Saturday:	Mi 7:14-15, 18-20/Ps 103:1-4, 9-12/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

Observances for the Week of March 5

Tuesday:	Sts. Perpetua and Felicity, Martyrs
Wednesday:	St. John of God, Religious
Thursday:	St. Frances of Rome, Religious
Next Sunday:	3 rd Sunday of Lent, Daylight Saving Time 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**.

THE JOURNEY OF TRANSFIGURATION

"We used to be such good friends. How is it that you've moved so far away?" one man asked another. "Perhaps," the other replied, "you have moved away. By standing still." This exchange very well could have happened between Peter and Jesus, had Peter been allowed to erect tents to stay on the mount of the Transfiguration.. He nearly succumbed to the temptation to stay in a place of wonder and light. But Jesus knew the hard truth: we are on a continual journey when we are walking the paths of God's will. It is not good for us to stay in one place on our faith journey. Equally unhealthy is staying put in times of joy and wonder to avoid life's difficulties or to wallow in our trials and temptations and fail to be companions for our sisters and brothers who are also suffering--or celebrating! The pilgrim Church requires to do one thing on its Lenten journey: to walk continually with Christ as his Body born of water and the Spirit, seeking God's will, helping the reign of God to be known on earth, being led to the end our journey, transfigured for all time into the company of heaven.

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Who you become is infinitely more important than what you do or what you have. Matthew

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.