

 **AnITConsultant** LLC

Whaylon Coleman
Chief Technology Officer

Office : PO BOX 22998
Owensboro, KY 42304-2998
Phone : 270-883-1450
Email : it@anitconsultant.com

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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



April 16, 2023

Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed. John 20:29

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple area and to breaking bread in their homes. (Acts 2:46)

Psalm:

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, his love is everlasting. (Ps 118)

Second Reading:

.God has given us an undiminished inheritance, safeguarded for us in heaven.1 Pt:1

Gospel:

[On the evening of that first day of the week](#), when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." (Jn 20).



Curious . . . Curiouser . . . Most Curious . . . The Most Curious of all . . .

Mercy. Most people believe that they can forgive someone who offends them, particularly if: they are sorry; they apologize; they make up for the offense (pay the damages); they intend not to offend again; and the offense wasn't so bad or the hurt very prolonged. That is, at least, one time. Some people do not believe in forgiving at all. Either they reject the offender and write them off or they exact vengeance. The well of human mercy tends to be shallow, partly because we are so vulnerable and easily harmed or offended. We tend to be defensive or vengeful. Is it any surprise, then, that Jesus' teaching on loving one's enemies and forgiving one's siblings seventy times seven times a day are so largely ignored. "Who can forgive sins, except God alone?" they ask in scripture. The biblical answer is that whoever desires forgiveness from God must forgive by God's measure, for the measure we use is the measure by which we will receive. Interestingly, there is not, as far as I can tell, any consideration whatever of anyone deserving God's mercy. God's love and mercy are never deserved. Jesus taught that our love and mercy should be the same.

Curious. For almost 30 years, I have been absolving the sins, which people confess with sorrow and intention of avoidance in the future. For the last several years, I have been very aware that this means ministering Jesus taking the sins and guilt upon his own crucified body for their deliverance. On the front side of the crucifixion this was done by the Roman executioners. On the Resurrection side of the crucifixion, Jesus authorized and empowered the Apostles and their successors and assistants to be ministers of his taking away the sins of the world. I have learned that the Lord wants to relieve each person of the burden of their sins and all the effects of the sins committed against them. He offers his own Risen body and blood as restitution and healing to redeem us from the effects of sin. The Cross is the unloading dock, set up for the transfer. It is as private as a one on one meeting with Christ. It is as crowded as necessary to uproot the tangle of each and every sin. The justice of God is the Divine Act to exterminate sin personally. Its only limit is the freedom required for love to be true. As no one is forced to love, no one is forced to forgive. Hell is not the failure to be forgiven. It is the failure, the refusal to forgive, that is, the refusal to love.

Curiouser. "Who can love except God alone?" No one can truly love except by God's loving them and giving them a communion in Divine love. Mercy works the same way, for it is an aspect of the same mystery. Left to my own resources I am quickly emptied of kindness. If I tap into the flood of God's love in the Holy Spirit being poured into my heart, I have an inexhaustible supply. Unlike a hose or pipeline, however, I can only be a minister of God's love if I let my will be conformed to Christ. Unless I say yes to being personally transformed by God's mercy and love, I cannot be its vessel. To be a bearer I must be an undeserving beneficiary. Just as God teaches me to love, so God teaches me how to forgive and to be forgiven.

Most Curious. Jesus is by Divine Choice a co-defendant and co-plaintiff in every human life. This is an aspect of the mystery of the Incarnation. "Whatever you do to the least of these..." As co-defendant he offers himself to bear the guilt. As co-plaintiff he offers pardon to the offender. Because God is Love, Christ is the great Meddler in human interrelations. Who does he think he is? He intervenes to reconcile us to each other and to God and this lands him square on the cross. This is the justice of God. This is Righteousness. He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, the Great Lover and friend of all.

The Most Curious of all. God's mercy is ours for the asking. It is not deserved, it is not earned, and it is not something to which we have a right. Yet it is ours, freely given, always poured out, running over. What we have been given, we are to give. "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who have trespassed against us. . . ." I remind everyone that we formally hear confessions every Saturday morning from 9:30 – 11:00 or anytime by appointment. Easter Blessings! Father John

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

One of the great Easter traditions is "mystagogy," an ancient word meaning "reflection on the mysteries." It is a style of catechesis, or passing on the faith. People who have shared an experience, in this case those who have been baptized at Easter, are urged to recall their experience, reflect on its meanings, and apply their insights to their new way of life.

There is an aspect of an experience that is simply not available until you've had it. For example, you may think you know weddings inside out; you've been to dozens, seen hundreds in the movies or on television, but until you've said "I do" to another, there is a certain knowledge unavailable to you. Those who go down into the waters of baptism as adults have similar experiences; they have all taken baths before, but not like this one! Mystagogy helps such persons to uncover the deep meaning of the experience, their sense of a new beginning, of God's abundant love, of forgiveness, of community.

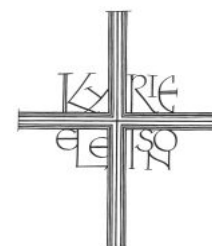
It takes time for the power of the Easter Vigil to work its wonders for us. Those who are newly baptized are called "neophytes," meaning "newly planted." The tender buds of spring need care and nurturing, and out new brothers and sisters need your prayer and your faithful example. . Rev. James Field Copyright J.S. Paluch Co.



For God justice is not a problem;

For human beings it is.

JUSTICE—GETTING WHAT YOU DESERVE.



Loving Mercy

MERCY—NOT GETTING WHAT YOU DESERVE

Purgatory--where justice and mercy meet.



*All is gift and all is grace,
all is given through the death and
resurrection of Jesus.*

GRACE—GETTING WHAT YOU DON'T DESERVE

April Birthdays

3--Rita Moorman, Ethan Gough
Bobby Hardin
6--Marshall Williams
10--Steven Fain
21--Kathi Skidd
23--Misty Sanford
25--Charlene Meadows
26--Vivian Higgs
27--Ruth Coble
29--Jeff McCarter



*The very first Easter taught us this:
that life never ends and
love never dies.*

Katie McGahan

Inscriptions at the Tombstones:

In the cemetery, we see various inscriptions on tombstones, some of them truly amusing. On the tomb of an atheist: “Here lies an Atheist, All dressed up, And no place to go.” On the tomb of a famous lawyer: “Here lies a lawyer who lies no more.” To a greedy and selfish woman it is written “Returned unopened” On the tomb of Jesus, perhaps the most appropriate words would be: “Jesus was here, but not anymore, for He is risen.”

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., Wynter Keller, 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.

Easter Flower Donations

- ◇ Georgia Holland--In memory of Beverly Chilton, Frances Johnson, Bernice Williams
- ◇ Steven Coble
- ◇ Cindy Clark
- ◇ Sister Jeannette--In memory of Chris, Martha, and Aaron Fennewald

Coming Events

CALENDAR



Blessed Sacrament Chapel

April 16--Celebration of Divine Mercy 1-3 p.m. at Blessed Mother Church
April 30--Celebration of sacraments/graduation after Mass in hall.
May 21--1st Communion



April 9--\$2006.76
Budget--\$1058
MTD Collection--\$3337.76
MTD Budget--\$2116
YTD Collection--\$52,816.11
YTD Budget--\$41,262

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

Holy Land--\$116
Seminary--10

2nd Sunday of Easter (Sunday of Divine Mercy)

A young, engaged couple sat on the couch in front of me as we chatted about their upcoming marriage. The young lady was struggling to trust her future husband. She told me her father had been unfaithful to her mother. She said of her fiancé, “I want him to prove to me that he won’t cheat on me.” The young man looked at me helplessly, raised his eyebrows and shrugged his shoulders. What evidence could he possibly give to validate such a proof? Nothing. All he could do was invite her to trust him.

We all are wounded by experiences of imperfect love. We also are tempted to demand from God proof of His fidelity and goodness. We are like St. Thomas the Apostle who, on that second Sunday of Easter, demands proof of the Lord’s resurrection. **“Unless I see the mark of the nail ... I will not believe.”** Our science, technology and mathematics can indeed prove a great deal. But there are some things that require trusting another person. We prove promises of love only by trusting.

St. Thomas indeed saw the wounds of Jesus and believed. But there is an even greater blessing for us who simply trust Him — and all the truths the Church proclaims — because of the trustworthiness of the Risen One who speaks. This week let’s trust Jesus without seeing him.

— Father John Muir

	LECTORS
<u>April 16:</u>	Layson Brooks, Kathi Skidd
<u>April 23:</u>	Alexis Hatchett, Greg Gough
<u>April 30:</u>	Jacques Williams, Sarah Malone
	Eucharistic Ministers
<u>April 16:</u>	Vivian Higgs, Sarah Malone, Charlene Meadows
<u>April 23:</u>	Barbara Bisel, Misty Sanford, Kathi Skidd
<u>April 30:</u>	Cindy Clark, Janet Clark, Lori Robinson
	Collection & Gifts
<u>April 16:</u>	Holly, Kelly, Samuel Hollis
<u>April 23:</u>	Connie Clary, Wonet Taylor
<u>April 30:</u>	Aubrey and Lad Ottofy

READY TO EMBRACE

God is patient with us because he loves us, and those who love are able to understand, to hope, to inspire confidence; they do not give up; they do not burn bridges; they are able to forgive.

Let us remember this in our lives as Christians: God always waits for us, even when we have left him behind! He is never far from us, and if we return to him, he is ready to embrace us.

Pope Francis Divine Mercy Sunday.

Recollect that God is very near to you. In what ways is he asking you to return to him.

The Doors We Lock

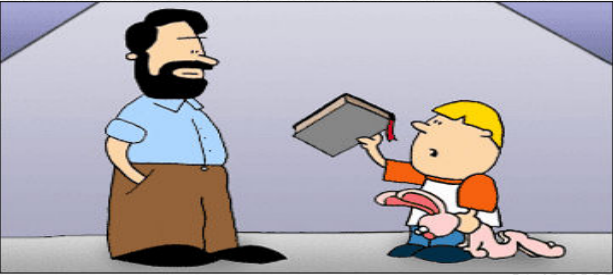
As a child, and even for a while as a teenager, I experienced an enormous amount of anxiety whenever I went to confession. For so many years I feared it. For so many years I waited in the confession line trembling, feeling sick to my stomach.

In the upper room after Christ’s Passion and death, the anxiety of the disciples was so strong that they locked themselves away. But still Christ found a way into their midst. He would not be prevented from bringing mercy and hope to a place shrouded in despair. No barred door could keep him out.

This is the genius of the sacrament of Reconciliation — and of all sacraments, really. Here we are, restricted in so many ways by an existence that is woefully physical. We feel fear, and our body reacts, just as we feel anger and our body reacts. How can God deliver mercy to us in this flesh-bound state? Through that very flesh which can feel so confining. Through confession, which requires a physical action, and the physical participation not just of the penitent but of the priest.

I don’t know why my anxiety around the sacrament has lessened over the years. Sometimes, I still feel it come roaring back unexpectedly. It doesn’t surprise me: after all, I am in the flesh, and I will, as Peter says today, “suffer through various trials.” But Christ will find me. He will not be kept away. --Colleen Dorman

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DAD, I NEED YOUR HELP TO FIND OUT WHERE IT TALKS ABOUT THE EASTER BUNNY IN THE BIBLE

Readings for the Week

Monday: Acts 4:23-31/Ps 2:1-3, 4-9/
Jn 3:1-8

Tuesday: Acts 4:32-37/Ps 93:1-2, 5/
Jn 3:7-15

Wednesday: Acts 5:17-26/Ps 34:2-9/
Jn 3:16-21


Thursday: Acts 5:27-33/Ps 34:2 and 9,
17-20/Jn 3:31-36

Friday: Acts 5:34-42/Ps 27:1, 4,13-
14/Jn 6:1-15

Saturday: Acts 6:1-7/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-
19/Jn 6:16-21

Observances for the Week of April 16

Friday: St. Anselm,



To all who participated in the Holy Week and Easter liturgies. Special shout-out to

- * Father John Thomas and Father Shibu for presiding at our liturgies
- * Our musicians who came faithfully for each service and to Leland Herzog and Clint Campbell who enhanced with their instruments
- * Vivian Higgs who always sees that all is set up and taken care of after the service
- * Servers and ministers
- * All who volunteered (or were drafted) to participate in whatever was needed to have meaningful liturgies during Holy Week
- * Kitty Board for cookies and cake
- * Easter egg providers and hiders
- * Everyone who attended

A SEASON OF JOY

“They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers” (Acts 2:42). This first line of today’s first reading sets the tone as this fifty-day celebration of Easter opens before us. Today we listen to the teachings of three apostles--Luke, Peter, and John--who remind us that even though we have not seen Christ, we nonetheless are filled with joy as we place our belief in his saving death and resurrection. Each week during the Easter season we will gather as a community of faith to find strength and support from our God and from one another. Each week we will gather to break bread and offer the great prayer of thanksgiving, actions that will manifest the very presence of the risen Christ in our midst. Let us be open to the wonders of this season of joy.

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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 was received into full Communion of the Catholic Church last week. Congratulations!! Lad Ottofy who will be confirmed and Lennox and Marshall Williams and John Carson Malone who will receive their 1st Communion.