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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 Cheriankunnel

moc_shibu.cheriyankunnel@pastoral.org

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



6th Sunday of Easter May 14, 2023

I will not leave you orphans;
I will come to you. John 14: 18

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

Then they laid hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit. (Acts 8:17)

Psalm:

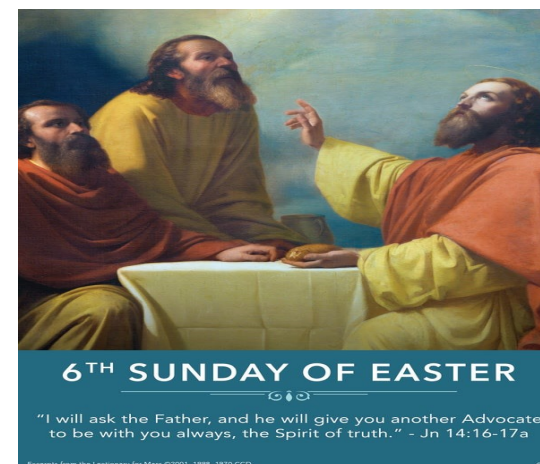
Let all the earth cry out to God with joy. (Ps 66)

Second Reading:

For Christ also suffered for sins once, the righteous for the sake of the unrighteous, that he might lead you to God. Put to death in the flesh, he was brought to life in the Spirit. (1 Pt 3:18)

Gospel:

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot accept, because it neither sees nor knows him." (Jn 14:15-17)



My Dear Parishioners:

As we continue through the Season of Easter, we have been blessed to see God’s work among us. Over and over again, the Church has shown us the way to love. That love is best expressed and experienced through Jesus himself. Every one of us has a desire and need for love. To be loved and to express love, to receive love and to offer it. The world, however, has warped our minds and understandings of what TRUE love really is. So we so often seek to fill this desire in ways that do not really satisfy or last.

It is interesting that so many young people think of love as something inexpressible and unknowable in itself, as if it is the unutterable mystery that a person can only experience, but never define. There is certainly mystery in human existence, mystery that will always evade the grasp of human reason and thus resist our attempts to contain it in a simple definition. I think I'd have to argue, though, that love is not this mystery. God, rather, is the unutterable mystery. And it is true that "God is love" (1 Jn 4, 8). But our love is not God. God's love is God. But human love, married love, erotic love, friendship, self-love and affection are all open to being clearly and distinctly understood. This does not mean that our relationships will lack that superabundance or that inexhaustible quality that characterizes mystery. Rather, being clear about the difference between genuine love and those other loves that are less stable can go a long way in maximizing a person's chances of having a successful marriage. If we misunderstand the nature of love and fail to understand how a genuinely human love differs from other kinds of relationships that we in the English world designate by that same word 'love', then we remain confused about love. Mystery is overwhelming, not confusing. And there is no doubt that the Western World is confused about love. We have been singing about it and celebrating it for decades now, yet consider the ever increasing divorce rate.

To understand love, let us begin with what the West typically regards as love. I am referring to the experience of 'falling in love'. I think one of the best things we can do for people is to remind them that it is only when a couple fall out of love that the real work of love can be initiated. This is from Psychiatrist Scott Peck's best selling book, *The Road Less Traveled* (p. 88). He writes: “Of all the misconceptions about love the most powerful and pervasive is the belief that “falling in love” is love or at least one of the manifestations of love...the experience of falling in love is specifically a sex-linked erotic experience. We do not fall in love with our children even though we may love them very deeply...We fall in love only when we are consciously or unconsciously sexually motivated...the experience of falling in love is invariably temporary. No matter whom we fall in love with, we sooner or later fall out of love if the relationship continues long enough. This is not to say that we invariably cease loving the person with whom we fell in love. But it is to say that the feeling of ecstatic lovingness that characterizes the experience of falling in love always passes. The honeymoon always ends. The bloom of romance always fades (p. 84-85).

People are generally shocked to hear this for the first time, especially young people, and it is inevitably received as bad news. But bad news it is not. In fact, it is very good news. For the end of this kind of love that is 'falling in love' can mark the beginning of greater things. When a couple find themselves at this point, that is, at the point of falling out of love, the relationship is at a crossroads. They can go one way, towards something richer, towards a discovery of what married love is really meant to be, or they can allow their relationship to disintegrate.

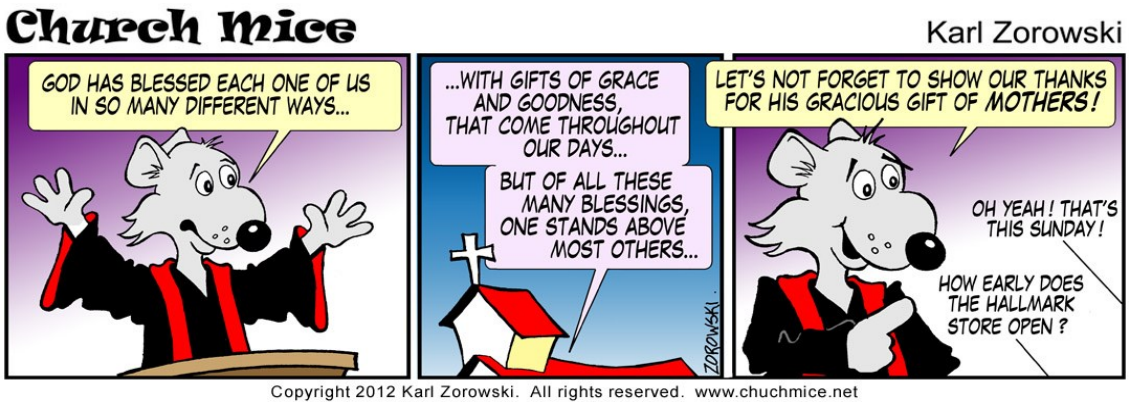
Often we hear others speak of how much they love this or that, for example pizza or Krispy Kreme donuts. What do people really mean by this? They mean that they love what these things do for them. It does not mean that one actually loves the donut. In our culture, we speak so freely and casually of love, yet really have so little true understanding of its truest expression. Jesus, as always gives us the example.
.Easter blessings, Fr. John

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

The custom of genuflection is not found everywhere in the Catholic Church. In fact, it is a bit of breach of etiquette to genuflect in most Eastern Catholic Churches. If you’re visiting an Eastern Catholic or Orthodox church, the “when in Rome” rule should be adopted. Watch what the home team is doing! Usually, Eastern Catholics and Orthodox reserve a small portion of the Eucharistic bread for the dying in a cupboard or Eucharistic dove, but it is not a center of attention or devotion. The rule is to make a profound bow, called a “metasis,” toward the altar--bowing deeply while making the sign of the cross.

East and West split years before we Westerners began to reserve the Blessed Sacrament prominently in our churches. Thus the East never changed the original custom of bowing toward the altar. Increasingly, as tabernacles became more widespread in the West and moved into prominent placement within churches, we replaced the bow toward the altar with a genuflection toward the Blessed Sacrament when its place of reservation is visible.

In a church where the Blessed Sacrament is reserved in a special chapel or off the main axis of the building, normally you should bow toward the altar when you enter your pew, because the Eucharistic table is the principal sign of Christ’s presence in the church building. If you have ever participated in the liturgy of Dedication of a Church and Altar, there is no mistaking the altar’s significance: it is slathered with chrism and then adorned with billowing clouds of incense that fill the whole church.
James Field, copyright J.S. Paluch Co.



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WHAT’S FOR DINNER:
This guy was watching TV as his wife was out cutting the grass during the hot summer. He finally worked up the energy to go out and ask his wife what was for dinner. Well, his missus was quite irritated about him sitting in the air conditioned house all day while she did all the work, so she scolded him “I can’t believe you’re asking me about dinner right now! Imagine I’m out of town; go inside and figure dinner out yourself.” So he went back in the house and fixed himself a big steak, with potatoes, garlic bread and tall glass of iced tea. The wife finally walked in about the time he was finishing up and asked him, “You fixed something to eat? So where is mine?” “Huh? I thought you were out of town.”
.....

May Birthdays

3--Mae Campbell
7--Connie Clary
8--Mary Ann Terry
12--Cindy Clark, Brent Hatchett,
Tess Campbell
14--Steve Coble
18--Tina McHenry
19--Lad Ottofy
20--Christian Trevor
22--Charles Brown SR
23--John Carson Malone
26--Diane Hatchett
30--Karen Leachman
31--Barbara Hammond,
Layson Brooks



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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.

Mass Intentions

May 7--Patricia Thomas, Lloyd and R.V.
Hamilton
May 14--Frances Johnson
May 21--Lucian Moorman, Sandra Brown
May 28--Aaron Fennewald

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: Rachel Mattingly Philip Moorman, Jr., Danny Stevens, Wynter Keller, Larry Clark, Gloria Savet, Shaun Winchell, Jeeriah Cruite, Charlie Brown Sr, Carol Hatchett, Teresa Woods, Larry Allen, Brian Bumm, 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.

SACRED HEART CONSECRATION

Do you want more peace in your family, blessings on your undertakings, and a more perfect faith life? Jesus is standing at the door and knocking. Open the door for Him! Join our nationwide campaign to invite the Sacred Heart of Jesus into your home, classroom, or business. Visit www.SacredHeartRevival.com for more information on the graces of the Sacred Heart and sign up today.

Coming Events CALENDAR



Blessed Sacrament Chapel

May 21--1st Communion 10 am
May 28--Pentecost--Lad Ottofy's Confirmation at St. Stephen-11am
June 11--Corpus Christi procession (BSC a site)



May 7---\$1338.50

Budget--\$1058

MTD Collection--\$1338.50

MTD Budget--\$1058

YTD Collection--\$57,296.61

YTD Budget--\$45,404

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

You are called to be holy where you are, wherever God has put you, right now. Mother Teresa

GOSPEL MEDITATION 6th Sunday of Easter

My dad was adopted as a baby. It's a big part of my family's story. His birth mother placed him in a Catholic orphanage not long after birth. A young couple longing for a baby strolled among the bassinets. My father, then only a few months old, looked at the husband and smiled. The man said, "That's my son." They took him home and the family grew. This moment of adoption was a wonderful truth they celebrated even when my dad was a young boy. They told him, "You're even more special than the other children, because we chose you to be our son." My dad's eyes well up with tears of gratitude whenever he tells the story, even eighty-three years later.

What is your story? Do we think or act like unwanted orphans? Who do we believe ourselves to be? As we continue to ponder Jesus' resurrection, we hear him say to us this Sunday, **"I will not leave you orphans."** God doesn't leave us alone like spiritual orphans. The power that raised Jesus from the dead is the Holy Spirit, who is also called the Spirit of Adoption. He chooses us to be His children, to share God's life forever. He gives us a future filled with hope.

We are not orphans anymore! This Easter, that's the story we should share with others. It's the true story we are living right now.

— Father John Muir

If you wish to go to extremes, let it be in sweetness, patience, humility, and charity. St. Philip Neri

	LECTORS
<u>May 14</u>	Barbara Bisel, Kathi Skidd
<u>May 21</u>	Sarah Malone, Jacques Williams
<u>May 28:</u>	Greg Gough, Misty Sanford
	Eucharistic Ministers
<u>May 14:</u>	Janet Clark, Holly Hollis, Cindy Clark
<u>May 21:</u>	Kathi Skidd, Denise Richardson, Misty Sanford
<u>May 28:</u>	Barbara Bisel, Charlene Meadows, Sarah Malone
	Collection & Gifts
<u>May 14:</u>	Steven, Meredith, Hank, Quinn Fain
<u>May 21:</u>	Lennox, Marshall, John Carson

MOTHER’S DAY BLESSING

Holy God, you compared your own love for your people to the love of a mother for her children. Look with kindness on our mother who has shared in your creating love by the gift of her children. We thank you for the joys and sorrows of her life, the giving and sharing, and, especially for your love that has formed us in your image. Listen to our prayers and bless the mother who has nurtured and sustained us.

Give her patience in abundance and let her find joy and satisfaction in all her work. Glory and praise to you, loving God, who was born of the Virgin Mary and who reign with you forever.

.OUR LADY OF KIBEHO

Our Lady of Kibeho is the only apparition on African soil that has been approved by the Vatican

Before the atrocities of the 1994 genocide, which left more than a million people dead, the Virgin Mary and Jesus Christ appeared to eight young people in the remote village of Kibeho, Rwanda. They warned of the coming bloodshed, but prophesised that it could be averted if Rwandans opened their hearts to God and embraced His love. Their powerful spiritual message spread throughout the country, with thousands making pilgrimage and experiencing the miracles.. Mary also sent messages to government and church leaders to instruct them how to end the ethnic hatred simmering in their country. She warned them that Rwanda would become “a river of blood”—a land of unspeakable carnage—if the hatred of the people was not quickly quelled by love. Some leaders listened, but very few believed. The prophetic and apocalyptic warnings tragically came true during 100 horrifying days of savage bloodletting and mass murder.

Much like what happened at similar sites such as Fátima and Lourdes, the messengers of Kibeho were at first mocked and disbelieved. However, as miracle after miracle occurred in the tiny village, tens of thousands of Rwandans journeyed to Kibeho to behold the apparitions. After the genocide, and two decades of rigorous investigation, Our Lady of Kibeho became the first and only Vatican-approved Marian site in all of Africa.

Our Lady of Kibeho, pray for us.

Readings for the Week	
Monday:	Acts 16:11-15/Ps 149:1-6and 9/Jn 15:26—16:4a
Tuesday:	Acts 16:22-34/Ps 138:1-2-3, 7-8/Jn 16:5-11
Wednesday:	Acts 17:15, 22—18:1/Ps 148:1-2, 11-14/Jn 16:12-15
Thursday:	Acts 18:1-8/Ps 98:1-4/Jn 16:16-20
Friday:	Acts 18:9-18/Ps 47:2-7/Jn 16:20-23
Saturday:	Acts 18:23-28/Ps 47:2-3, 8-9, 10/Jn 16:23b-28
Observances for the Week of May 14	
.Sunday: 6 th Sunday of Easter; Mother’s Day	
Monday:	St. Isidore
Thursday:	St. John I, Pope and Martyr
Saturday:	St. Bernardine of Siena, Priest; Armed Forces Day
Next Sunday:	The Ascension of the Lord; 7 th Sunday of Easter; World Communications



Weirdly Christian

For some time, I have worn a brown scapular. If you don’t know much about this devotional practice, here is a very quick-and-dirty version, greatly lacking in detail: it’s two little pieces of brown cloth, connected by a cord and worn around the neck beneath one’s clothing. One of the cloth pieces depicts Our Lady of Mount Carmel appearing to St. Simon Stock, and the other piece — the one that is sometimes visible at the nape of my neck — depicts Our Lady’s “scapular promise:” *Whosoever dies clothed in this Scapular shall not suffer eternal fire.*

This reflection is not about the brown scapular, but let me just quickly say that, while I believe the scapular promise, I do not view the scapular as a get-out-of-jail-free card, and neither does the Church. I don’t wear it for the purpose of avoiding eternal fire. I wear it as a reminder to myself of my Marian consecration and as an act of humility and prayer.

I have sometimes cringed at the thought of how it looks to the person standing behind me in line at the coffee shop, should they happen to glimpse my scapular and read its brazen promise. We don’t go in for talk of hellfire and salvation in polite society these days. I wonder if they think I’m a crazy person. I wonder if I should try to tuck the scapular back down below my collar. Sometimes I do. But more often than not, I take a deep breath and decide that it’s okay for me to feel self-conscious and trust that, if God wants to use this moment for His glory, he will — and if He doesn’t, all I’ve lost is the esteem of others, which isn’t worth that much to begin with.

I’ve always heard it said that if you do Christianity right, the rest of the world should think you’re just a little bit weird.

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Spring Weather

In the spring, I have counted 136 different kinds of weather inside of 24 hours.

--Mark Twain