

 **AnITConsultant** LLC

**Whaylon Coleman**  
Chief Technology Officer

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

**ChemDry**

- Carpet Cleaning
- Upholstery Cleaning
- Ceramic/Grout Cleaning
- Auto Interiors
- Area Rugs Cleaned

715 Cumberland St.  
Owensboro, KY 42303  
Phone: 270-684-0969 (Owensboro)  
Phone: 270-827-1130 (Henderson)  
Emergency: 270-315-2294

**Jacques Williams**  
Manager

Pipe, Valves, Fittings, Pneumatics, Actuation, & Steam

 **PVF**  
Supply Company, Inc.  
"Since 1978"

**Greg Gough**  
(Cell) 270-993-7120  
greg@pvfsupplyco.com  
270-685-4919  
800-787-6803 (Fax) 270-685-2559  
PO Box 1796, 1611 West 7th St., Owensboro, KY 42302

 **GREENWELL CHISHOLM**

Printing  
Signs and Banners  
Promotions  
Design  
Mailing and Fulfillment

gc1919.com • 270.684.3267  
420 East Parrish Avenue  
Owensboro, KY 42303



# 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 Cheriyanunnel

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

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



Ascension May 21, 2023

He was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight. Acts 1:9

## Sunday's Readings

### First Reading:

When he had said this, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight. (Acts 1:18)

### Psalm:

God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord. (Ps 47)

### Second Reading:

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a Spirit of wisdom and revelation resulting in knowledge of him. (Eph 1:17)

### Gospel:

Then Jesus approached and said to them, "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations." (Mt 28:18-19)



My Dear Parishioners:

Throughout most of the Catholic Church we celebrated the Ascension of the Lord this past Thursday. In some places, the Feast is transferred to this Sunday. Sadly, the Feast seems to have lost its depth and meaning in the experience of too many Catholics and other Christians. Does the Ascension affect our lives in the here and now? Is it a commemoration of an event which occurred 2000 years ago? Or, could it be the key that helps unlock the very meaning of our lives and the plan of God for the entire created order?

The great western Bishop Augustine proclaimed these words on the Feast: "Today our Lord Jesus Christ ascended into heaven; let our hearts ascend with him. Listen to the words of the Apostle: If you have risen with Christ, set your hearts on the things that are above where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God; seek the things that are above, not the things that are on earth. For just as he remained with us even after his ascension, so we too are already in heaven with him, even though what is promised us has not yet been fulfilled in our bodies."

When we went down into the Font of Baptism, we were incorporated into Jesus Christ, made members of His Body, the Church. Therefore, as Augustine also wrote, "Where the Head is, there is the Body, where I am, there is my Church, we too are one; the Church is in me and I in her" In other words, we have ascended with the Lord! He is the Head and we are members of His Body. We cannot be separated. Augustine, reflecting the clear teaching of the early Church Fathers reminds us that the Head and the Body are the "One Christ." So, this is our Feast as well!

The Ascension does not mark the end of Jesus' relationship with the Church but the beginning of a new way of His relating to the world, in and through the Church. This way includes every one of us who bear His name. You see, we have also ascended with the Lord. When viewed with the eyes of Resurrection faith the Ascension is capable of transforming the way we view ourselves and live our daily lives. We are joined to Him and He to us!

Jesus Christ bridged heaven and earth. Through His Incarnation, His Saving Life, Death and Resurrection, we have been set free from the consequences of sin, including the sting of death. We are being created anew in Him daily as we freely cooperate with His grace. One of the Catechism's definitions of grace is "a participation in Divine Life". It calls to mind the wonderful words of the Apostle Peter in his second letter. He reminded the early Christians that they were "participants in the Divine Nature". So are we!

This Divine Life is mediated to us through the Word and the Sacraments - in the Church. We are incorporated into the Trinitarian communion of love, beginning now. The Church is not some "thing", the Church is Some-One, the Risen Christ truly present in the world which was created through Him and is being re-created in Him. The Church is the new Israel sent into the world to continue His redemptive mission until He comes again. Then He will complete the work of Redemption. The Church, as the fathers were fond of saying, is the new world, and the world in the course of transfiguration. The Christian vocation is about learning to live this new relationship in Christ together, with the Father, through the Holy Spirit and for the sake of a world that still awaits its full redemption.

The Ascension of the Lord is not a final act in the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ. Nor is it some kind of "intermission" to be concluded upon Christ's Bodily return - which will most certainly occur. Rather, it is about a new way of being, living in Christ in the here and now.

The Apostle Paul wrote to the early Christians in Galatia: "No longer do I live but Christ lives in me and the life I now live I live by faith in the Son of God." (Galatians 2:19, 20) That is how we are invited to live, now. Jesus said "Abide in me as I in you" (John 15:4). These are not mere sentiments of piety but meant to become reality, now. Christians can live differently - now - because we live "in" Jesus Christ. We can love differently now - because we love "in" Jesus Christ. We can "be" differently - now - because, as St. Paul wrote to the Colossians, "For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God". (Coll. 3:3) Our lives are "hidden in Christ"- now.

On this Feast of the Ascension, we should ask ourselves this question, "How are we doing?" The Feast presents us with an invitation to assess the relationship between our profession of faith and its manifestation in our daily lives. St. Paul encouraged the Christians in Corinth in his second letter to take such an examination: "Examine yourselves to see whether you are living in faith. Test yourselves. Do you not realize that Jesus Christ is in you? Unless, of course, you fail the test. I hope you will discover that we have not failed" This Feast also gives us insight into the Feast of Pentecost which we will soon celebrate. The "breath" of God, His Spirit, has been breathed into this Church - and thus into each one of us - in order to capacitate us to live this way and engage in His ongoing work of redemption. That work will not be complete until the One who ascended returns and hands the re-created cosmos back to the Father. That is "the plan", the "mystery" now revealed in Jesus Christ. That is what I meant as I began this reflection when I asked whether the Ascension is the key that helps unlock the very meaning of our lives and the plan of God for the entire created order? As we now prepare to move to the end of the celebrations of the Easter Season, we recall Christ's saving work in the past - - but remembering it is happening today as well. We are part of His story. How are we doing? Father John



**TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION**

There was a curious custom years ago that perhaps developed in an age when Easter was seen less as a baptismal season than as a kind of tour through the deeds of the Risen Christ. The paschal candle, sign of Christ's presence, was removed from public view on Ascension Thursday, banished to the baptistery. Ascension day does speak of the hidden aspects of Christ's life among us, but it does not have much to do with God's absence. Christ has not shed his human life like an inconvenient shell, but rather has taken humanity into heaven. The theologian Karl Rahner said that it is a festival of "the nearness of God." In vanishing from our sight, Christ has become utterly available to all at every time and every place, and is "closer to us than he ever was." Today is the feast of believing that beyond our final breath is a presence that waits for us, a tender homecoming embrace. Rev. James Field J.S.Paluch



### May Birthdays

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 Brook

### June Birthdays

2--Anthonia Hagan  
4--Larry Leachman



### IMP—Kroger

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.

### Mass Intentions

May 14--Frances Johnson  
May 21--Lucian Moorman, Sandra Brown  
May 28--Bobby Hardin  
June 4--Aaron Fennewald  
June 11--Frances Johnson

*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, 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](http://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--**Parish Feast Day**  
Corpus Christi procession  
(BSC a blessing site)



May 14--\$1431.10

Budget--\$1058

MTD Collection--\$2769.60

MTD Budget--\$2116

YTD Collection--\$58,727.71

YTD Budget--\$47,520

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

*Thanks to everyone who practices stewardship on a regular basis. An active parishioner attends Mass regularly and practices stewardship (time, talent, treasure).*

### The Ascension of the Lord

Have you ever noticed how often we use “up” and “down” to judge things? Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony is “high” art, while professional wrestling is “low.” If I’m having a good day, I’m on “cloud nine.” A bad day means I am “down in the dumps.” A successful career is “moving up the ladder.” Failure in work or personal life can be “falling from the heights.” Life is filled with “ups and downs” — no one has the slightest problem understanding that means life has both “good and bad.”

Now consider Jesus’ ascension. He ascends not just to some level slightly higher of goodness, but “above all the heavens,” to use the words of Saint Paul (Eph.4:10). That expression means to the source of all goodness. He has gone all the way down — to the farthest depths of human suffering, and death. And now he has taken our humanity all the way up into God. In doing so he has demonstrated what he says in the Gospel of John to the Father: **“Everything of yours is mine.”** He now reigns over every possible aspect of creation in and through his human nature. That’s what the ascension is all about.

So what? No matter what the lows and highs, ups and down we face this week, we are totally encompassed by the one who descended and ascended. So, we should happily and confidently entrust ourselves to him. He has shown us not only his power, but especially his love, in filling all our ups and down with his presence. — *Father John Muir*

### BIG MOUTHS

**What should not be heard by little ears should not be said by big mouths.**

	<b>LECTORS</b>
<u>May 21</u>	Sarah Malone, Jacques Williams
<u>May 28:</u>	Greg Gough, Misty Sanford
<u>June 4::</u>	Alexis Hatchett, Elizabeth Hatchett
	<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>
<u>May 21:</u>	Kathi Skidd, Denise Richardson, Misty Sanford
<u>May 28:</u>	Barbara Bisel, Cindy Clark, Sarah Malone
<u>June 4:</u>	Rita Moorman, Lori Robin son, Greg Richardson
	<b>Collection &amp; Gifts</b>
<u>May 21:</u>	Lennox, Marshall, John Carson
<u>May 28:</u>	Wonet Taylor, Barbara Hammond
<u>June 4:</u>	Alvin and Karen Leachman

**.SHARE THE HOPE**

The readings for today’s celebration of the Ascension once again remind us that as Saint Paul eloquently exhorts the Ephesians to enlighten their hearts so that they will know the hope and glory that come from being people who place their trust in the Lord Jesus. In the story of the Ascension, recounted in the first reading, the Lord Jesus assures the disciples that the Holy Spirit’s power will come upon them. Finally in the Gospel, the Lord lets the disciples know that their mission is to spread the hope of the gospel to all the nations.

**The rich and the poor:**  
One day, a rich dad took his son on a trip to a village. He wanted to show him how poor someone can be. They spent time on the farm of a poor family. On their return from the trip, the father asked his son, “How was the trip?” “It was great, Dad”. Did you see how poor people live?” the father asked. “Oh yes”, said the son. So, tell me, what did you learn from the trip?” asked the father. The son answered: We have one dog, they have four, We have a pool, they have rivers, We have LED-lights at night, they have stars, We buy foods, they grow theirs, We have walls to protect us, they have friends. We have television, they spend time with family and relatives. The boy’s father was speechless. Then his son added: “Thanks, Dad, for showing me how poor we are. Moral of the story is that It is not about money that makes us rich, its simplicity, love, compassion, friendships, values, family that makes our lives rich.

**. Safe Environment**

The safety of our children is the responsibility of every Christian. Anyone aware of the abuse of a person under the age of eighteen is required by law to report this to the proper state authorities (800-422-4453); local law enforcement (800-752-6200); or the Kentucky Child Abuse Hotline (toll-free: 1-877-597- 2331). To report abuse to the diocese, current or past, by anyone acting in the name of the Church (paid or volunteer), call Louanne Payne, Pastoral Assistance Coordinator (English) on the confidential phone line: 270-852-8380, or Susan Montalvo-Gesser/Miguel Quintanilla, Pastoral Assistance Coordinators (Spanish): 270-880-8360. The Diocese of Owensboro’s sexual abuse policy is available at this parish (in the bookshelf in back of the church), in the parish office and hall, and on the diocesan website (<https://owensborodiocese.org/safe>). To make a report of sexual abuse of a minor and related misconduct by bishops, go to [ReportBishopAbuse.org](https://ReportBishopAbuse.org) or call 1-800-276-1562

	<b>Readings for the Week</b>
Monday:	Acts 19:1-8/Ps 68:2-7/ Jn 16:29-33
Tuesday:	Acts 20:17-27/Ps 68:10-11, 20 -21/Jn 17:1-11a
Wednesday:	Acts 20:28-38/Ps 68:29-30, 33 -36/Jn 17:11b-19
Thursday:	Acts 22:30; 23:6-11/Ps 16:1-2 and 5, 7-11/Jn 17:20-26
Friday:	Acts 25:13-21/Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20/Jn 21:15-19
Saturday:	Acts 28:16-20, 30-31/Ps 11:4, 5 and 7/Jn 21:20-25

	<b>Observances for the Week of May 21</b>
Sunday:	The Ascension of the Lord; World Communications Day
Monday:	St. Rita of Cascia, Religious
Thursday:	St. Bede the Venerable ; St. Gregory VII, Pope; St. Mary Magdalene de’Pazzi,
Friday:	St. Philip Neri, Priest
Saturday:	St. Augustine of Canterbury,
Next Sunday:	Pentecost Sunday



**Looking to the Sky**

In the past, I have been guilty of being a little depressed by the Ascension. Looking at it from a certain angle, it has the feel of a party that’s coming to an end. The important guests have gone home and now it’s time to turn the lights back on, switch off the music and start cleaning up.

Of course, if I view the Ascension in this light, I’m not really paying attention. I’m lingering on the mountain, staring at the sky, wondering where God went and when He’s coming back.

Christ, of course, is very much the “main event” of the Gospels, and so when he is no longer a physical, visible presence on earth — teaching, preaching, curing, dying, rising — we can be forgiven for feeling a little deflated. But the life of Christ is not a season of our favorite show. It’s not a chapter in a book. It doesn’t exist for consumption and entertainment, and it certainly doesn’t come to an end.

It’s easy to think of Christ at Mass when he is there before me in the Eucharist. It’s easy to be about the work of God during Lent or Easter. But what about the dreaded “Ordinary Time”? As full as the sky is of clouds, so the world is full of distractions: work, finances, health, politics. I struggle to see where God has gone in the midst of it all.

In reality, He is still here. He is here in the person I choose to love or to abandon. He is here in the truth I choose to embrace or to reject. He is here, waiting for me in the sacraments I all too often take for granted.

*“Behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.” — Matthew 28:20*

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman