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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



Pentecost Sunday May 28, 2023

To each, the manifestation of the Spirit,
is given for some benefit.

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim. (Acts 2:4)

Psalms:

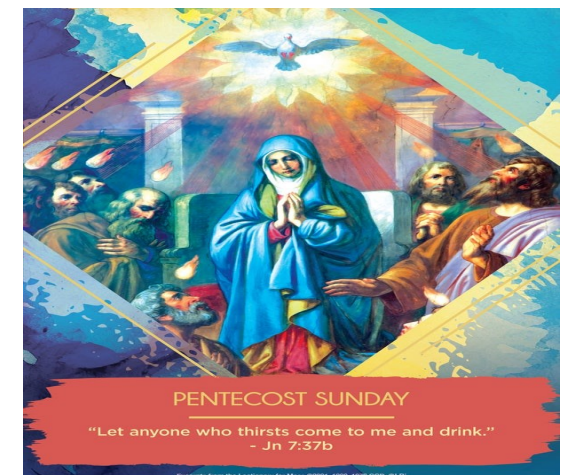
Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth. (Ps 104)

Second Reading:

For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, and we were all given to drink of one Spirit. (2 Cor 12:13)

Gospel:

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit." (Jn 20:21-22)



My Dear Parishioners:

.Today is popularly known as the Birthday of the Church, but this is actually a very weak analogy. The more proper term to encapsulate today’s solemnity is the ‘epiphany of the Church’ as Pope Pius XII hinted in his encyclical *Mystici Corporis Christi*. This is so because, our tradition tells us that the Church was born with the death of Christ and manifested on the day of Pentecost. However, naming the solemnity today is not the main point here. The essence of today’s celebration is that Jesus and the Father have fulfilled their promise to us, that they don’t leave us orphans, that they would send the Holy Spirit to empower us, to enliven us, to guide us to the truth, and today is the day. When Jesus left his disciples for heaven as we celebrated last Sunday, they felt like orphans, abandoned and confused, reserved and more so, they were afraid of the authorities. So they were hiding behind locked doors. That is their comfort zone. And in there, they felt safe, secured and supported. What they were doing though was a direct contrast to what Jesus has entrusted them to do, that is to go out to all the world and proclaim the good news. As human as they are, we can understand their worries and anxieties. We might call it cowardice, but for the disciples in the upper room, they felt safe. But Jesus appeared to them there and his first message was ‘peace’ and then he parted to them his gift, the Holy Spirit. And as we have heard from Luke in the first reading today, the disciples were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak foreign languages as the Spirit gave them the gift of speech. So here is the moment of epiphany, the manifestation of the Church, and the manifestation of her mission to all people. The gift of the Holy Spirit transforms them right there and then, from being cowards to being courageous. And we know the story, they went out proclaiming the message of the gospel, to all people in their own different languages according to the inklings of the Holy Spirit.

Since the event of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit is continuously working more actively in the world, in each believer, and in the Church. Thus, we have thousands of witnesses of the working of this Holy Spirit such as the Saints, the martyrs, the philanthropists, the missionaries, among many others. We have the Holy Spirit working in our world by the move to unite all people in works of social justice, to be advocates of peace, etc. The same Holy Spirit works in the Apostles, down to the Early Fathers, then to the Modern Church. It is also the same message... the message of peace.

The same Holy Spirit is dwelling within each one of us today, empowering us to get out of our comfort zones and to proclaim the message of peace to all people. It is hard, but it is only burdensome if we take the whole credit for ourselves. God wants to channel us his grace. God wishes to make us an instrument of his peace. So why not let him be. It is God’s work, we are just his workers. There are many ways we can preach the message of peace. We do not have to go out to other countries, and go to remote areas and preach the gospel. Do you remember? Many times in my homilies I have spoken about the mission of the church belonging to each and every one of us? When we go out today, just give a genuine smile to a stranger you will meet. Give a call or note to someone whom you were not talking to for a while now. Go out for meal with someone with whom you are not exactly comfortable to be around And so on. This is the message of Pentecost. To embrace the Holy Spirit, to open ourselves to become the temple of the Holy Spirit, where peace, love and joy abide. Especially here at Saint Stephen Cathedral, we should be mindful even more clearly the ways in which the Spirit moves in our community, our families and our city. We reach out to friends and strangers alike.

So, to continue our celebration today, let us pray, *Veni Creator Spiritus* (Come Creator Spirit) and renew the face of the Earth. It is through the gift of the Holy Spirit we are renewed and the Church is alive. Alleluia!

Blessings, Fr. John

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Before there was water, there was fire. Once in a while, a volcano hints at the sizzling magma upon which the whole human enterprise floats. Over eons, the surface cooled off a bit, and rain sizzled down for thousands of centuries, filling the oceans and sculpting the earth. We Christians can catch God’s glory in a shimmering pool of water, but we can also capture God’s burning desire to fan the tiny flames of our baptismal candles into something that will make a difference.

In Sicily to this day, there is a custom of scattering rose petals down from the ceiling of church on the heads of the faithful, an effective reminder of the “tongues of flame” descending on the apostles, and a sign that the Holy spirit still is poured out on the baptized. It is not merely a quaint custom, but a fairly potent sign of what baptism does.. An interesting sidebar: if you have traced the Epiphany blessing on your doorway in chalk, Pentecost is the day to erase it. From now on, no need to rely on the “wise men”--you are alive in the Spirit.

J.S. Paluch Co.

Laugh of the Week

Kids of Israel When Mr. Smith finished his Sunday school lesson, it was time for questions and answers. Up shot little Tony’s hand. “According to the bible Mr. Smith, the children of Israel crossed the Red Sea. Right?” “Right.” “An’ the children of Israel clobbered the Philistines, right?” “That’s right Tony.” “An’ the children of Israel built the Temple right?” “Right again.” “An’ the children of Israel fought the ‘gyptians, an’ the children of Israel fought the Romans, an’ the children of Israel wuz always doin’ something’ important, right?” “All that’s right too,” agreed Smith. “So what’s your question?” “What I wanna know is this,” demanded Tony. “What wuz all the grown-ups doin’?”

PENTECOST

*Unless the eye catch fire
God will not be seen.
Unless the ear catch fire,
God will not be heard.
Unless the tongue catch fire,
God will not be named.
Unless the heart catch fire,
God will not be loved.
Unless the mind catch fire,
God will not be known.*

--William Blake

Church Mice



May Birthdays

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
9--Alvin Leachman
16--Sister Jeannette
23--Michelle Jones, Pam McCarter
27--Leland Herzog
28--Cassidy Campbell
30--Trent Hatchett, Father Sinjo



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 to register. Thanks to each of you for your support.

Mass Intentions

May 21--Lucian Moorman, Sandra Brown
May 28--Bobby Hardin
June 4--Aaron Fennewald
June 11--Frances Johnson
June 18--Brian Bumm

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: Steven Moorman, 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.

PENTECOST PRAYER

By your spirit of freedom, Lord our god, you transformed the Apostles. From being afraid, they boldly preached the Kingdom; from being imprisoned, they joyfully went out. Pour our this same Spirit on your Church at prayer. Grant that it may be today a sign of new freedom, for all the world, in Jesus, the Christ, our Lord.
--Proclaiming All Your Wonders

Coming Events



Blessed Sacrament Chapel

May 28--Pentecost--Lad Ottofy’s Confirmation at St. Stephen-11am
June 1--Scripture reflection 10:45
June 4--Important parish meeting--Picnic, chapel update, Corpus Christi
June 11--Parish Feast Day
Corpus Christi procession 4 pm



May 21--\$1,484.11
Budget--\$1058
MTD Collection--\$4,253.71
MTD Budget--\$3,174
YTD Collection--\$60,211.82
YTD Budget--\$48,578

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).

Pentecost Sunday

I hope you’ll acknowledge with me a simple fact: it’s not normal to have tongues of fire “part and come to rest” on people. It is actually pretty strange. Yet that is precisely what we celebrate in this feast of Pentecost. How can this mean something to us in our daily lives?

Jews had a tradition that heaven is a temple made of bricks of fire. So, through the apostles, the heavenly temple is coming to earth. But this fire looks like tongues, not bricks. That means that heavenly speech will be crucial to building a dwelling place for God on earth among men and women. So, it’s no surprise when the apostles begin to speak in a miraculous way that is understood by all language groups. They are speaking of what God has done in and through Jesus: bringing heaven to earth and uniting all peoples to God and to each other.

How often our speech divides: gossip, slander, insults, and so on. How strange and rare it is when people speak in ways that truly unite instead of divide. Imagine how powerful it would be if you and I began to speak at home, at work, and in our community in a way that made people hear heavenly speech. Imagine if you spoke of the mighty deeds of God in a way that everyone could understand. That’s precisely what the Holy Spirit descends upon us to do. Ask Him to come as a tongue of fire to you once again, and He will. Then speak!
— Father John Muir

THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Knowledge, Fortitude, Piety, Fear of the Lord.

	LECTORS
<u>May 28:</u>	Greg Gough, Misty Sanford
<u>June 4::</u>	Alexis Hatchett, Alizabeth Hatchett
<u>June 11:</u>	Connie Clary, Barbara Bisel
	Eucharistic Ministers
<u>May 28:</u>	Barbara Bisel, Cindy Clark, Sarah Malone
<u>June 4:</u>	Rita Moorman, Lori Robin son, Greg Richardson
<u>June 11:</u>	Greg Gough, Vivian Higgs, Holly Hollis
	Collection & Gifts
<u>May 28:</u>	Wonet Taylor, Barbara Hammond
<u>June 4:</u>	Alvin and Karen Leachman
<u>June 11:</u>	Jacques & Whitney Williams and sons

.NATIONAL BLACK CATHOLIC CONGRESS XIII

The National Black Catholic Congress will be held July 20-23 at the Gaylord National Resort in National Harbor, Maryland.

Key Participants include noted figures in U.S. Catholic history.

For more information or to register, contact Veronica Wilhite at veronica.wilhite@pastoral.org or the National Black Catholic Congress at nbcc@nbccongress.org

The Fame Communicated

“Fire! Fire! They’re all gonna die! They’re all gonna burn up!”

I had absolutely no hope of restoring order as I read the story of Pentecost with my young children last year. As soon as they glimpsed the tongues of fire hovering over the foreheads of the apostles, they were lost to giggles and shrieks. I sighed, sipped my coffee, and wondered resentfully why the Holy Spirit couldn’t have chosen to be a dove on that particular day. Just a nice, peaceful dove.

I’ll say this, though: the fire left an impression. It usually does, doesn’t it? Fire consumes. It renews. It illuminates. It leaves you breathless with fear and awe. The memory and scent and impact of a flame lingers long after it is extinguished.

When I am trying to explain theology to my kids, I have an awful habit of overcomplicating things. I’d had a whole speech prepared for them about what the Holy Spirit is, but it went out the window as soon as they saw the flames. And you know what? It’s probably for the best. They wouldn’t have remembered that speech. The flames, though? The flames they remembered. The flame communicated.

As a result of Pentecost, the apostles suddenly had the ability to give the truth to foreigners. Aliens. People who were heretofore beyond their reach, isolated by language. The flame communicated.

God’s sense of timing is impeccable, and His delivery is carefully crafted. And on Pentecost, the Holy Spirit did not descend as a dove or pour forth as water.

On Pentecost, the Holy Spirit burned.
“Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.” — Psalm 104
 By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

THE GIFT

Ask nothing of God then, but this gift of divine Love, that is the Holy Spirit.

--Walter Hilton

Readings for the Week	
Monday:	Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 87:1-2, 3-7/ Jn 19:25-34
Tuesday:	Sir 35:1-12/Ps 50:5--8, 14 and 23/Mk 10:28-31
Wednesday:	Zep 3:14-18/Is 12:2--6/ Lk 1:39-56
Thursday:	Sir 42:15-25/Ps 33:2-3, 4-9/ Mk 10:46-52
Friday:	Sir 44:1, 9-13/Ps 96:10-13/ Mk 11:11-26
Saturday:	Sir 51:12-20/Ps 19:8-11/ Mk 11:27-33
Observances for the Week of May 28	
Sunday:	Pentecost Sunday
Monday:	Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church; Memorial Day
Tuesday:	World Day of Prayer for Vocations
Wednesday:	The Visitation of Mary
Thursday:	St. Justin, Martyr
Friday:	Sts. Marcellinus and Peter, M
Saturday:	St. Charles Lwanga and Companions, Martyrs
Next Sunday:	The Most Holy Trinity



RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT

At last! The power hinted at and the Spirit promised are unleashed on this holy day. We call it the birthday of the church. Try to listen to today’s scripture passages with some sense of how electrifying these events must have been to those who lived through them. Up until now, they have been waiting in the upper room. In today’s first reading, that room is filled with wind and fire and bold proclamations in foreign tongues.

In the second reading, Paul describes the Pentecost event, too. His description includes all of us. The spirit lives on in the church in each of us who are members of the Body of Christ, given different gifts from the same Spirit. Only after Pentecost could the apostles look back and understand what Jesus meant when he said, as reported in today’s Gospel reading, “Receive the Holy Spirit. Copyright J.S. Paluch



Congratulations to our three young parishioners who made their First Holy Communion on May 21st: John Carson Malone, Marshall Williams, Lennox Williams.