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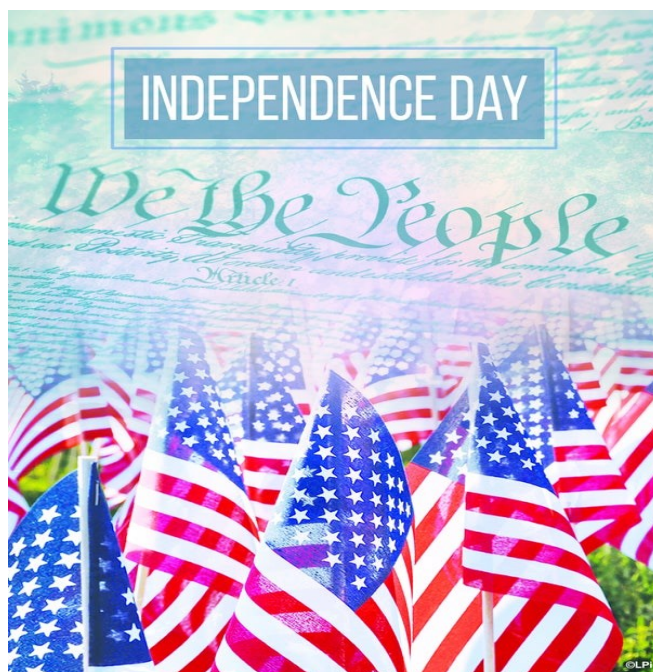
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Prayer for Our Nation

Dear Lord,
Thank you for our nation.
Thank you for the natural
beauty of this country,
the people who serve
our nation, and free-
doms we have been given.
Help us to seek your will
in our laws and culture.
Amen.



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 Cheriannkunel

mocshibu.cheriyankunel@pastoral.org

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

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

Elisha promises a baby son to the hospitable woman. (2 Kgs 4:8-11, 14-16)

Psalm:

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.
(Ps 89)

Second Reading:

Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesu were baptized into his death? Just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life. (Rom 6:3-4)

Gospel:

"Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me." (Mt 10:40)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.



July 2, 2023 13th Sunday Ordinary Time

The promises of the Lord
I will sing forever. Ps. 89



The Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist is not a thing but a living divine and human Person. It is Jesus Christ, Risen in glory. To receive Holy Communion is to welcome Jesus Christ within oneself, acknowledged as Lord and God. Individually and together Christ joins us to himself as his Body, the Church. We become one risen flesh and blood with him, sharing Christ's mission from the Father. To be faithful to this communion is a discipleship, that is, a discipline. Since this Communion means one Body and one Mission in the Church, as well as one Eucharistic and Apostolic faith, it would be a falsehood for Christians separated from the Catholic Church to participate in it. Out of compassion, the Church does make some strictly controlled exceptions to this rule. While all Catholics are nonetheless sinners on the paths of conversion, venial sin does not break one's communion in the Church. Mortal sin does. Holy Communion received with a contrite heart experiences Jesus Christ taking our venial sins away. But one who has rejected God's grace by the choice of deadly or grievous sin must repent of that sin and be absolved sacramentally in Reconciliation before once more approaching Holy Communion. In extreme circumstances when Confession is not possible for an extended period of time, one may approach Holy Communion if one is deeply contrite and has the real intention of confessing as soon as possible. Otherwise, one mocks Jesus and his sacrifice and commits the further deadly sin of sacrilege.

The Church encourages frequent Eucharistic Communion, even daily. The friend of the Lord wants to be with him as closely as possible and only the Beatific Vision will be a more intimate union with God than the Holy Communion already available to us in the Sacrament of the Lord's Body and Blood. At a minimum, the Church teaches as a precept that, except for those penalized by excommunication or those restricted from communion because of improper marriage, each fully initiated Catholic must receive Holy Communion at least once a year and during Easter time at that. This is called the "Easter duty." Easter time runs from Ash Wednesday through Trinity Sunday, the major liturgical period devoted to renewed conversion. Of course, if one goes so rarely it is recommended that one should also go to Confession. The latter Sacrament of Reconciliation is only required when one is conscious of serious (deadly, mortal, grievous) sin. The Church also prescribes a one hour fast from food and beverages (other than water) prior to Eucharistic Communion. The fast is not required of those who are ill, in the hospital, home-bound, or of those caring for them. The fast is a serious matter of concern, for it is a focal manner of preparing to meet the Lord Jesus Christ. For practical purposes (medicine excluded) one should not enter church chewing gum. Candy, condiments, gum, drinks, all should be avoided by about a half hour before the scheduled time of Mass. That would allow for the minimal time of the fast. One may fast longer than an hour, but never to the point of illness.

Roman Catholics have prescribed reverences in recognition of our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. Upon entering or leaving a room in which the Eucharist is reserved a Catholic (whose knees work) ought to genuflect on the right knee before Christ sacramentally present as a form of devout greeting and as a sign of our corporate faith. When unable to genuflect, one makes a profound bow, again as able. The Bishops of the United States have determined that Catholics, when approaching the Blessed Sacrament for communion, are to bow the head and then to respond, "Amen," to the declaration of the sacrament, e.g., "The Body of Christ" or "the Blood of Christ." To be faithful to this reverence is a form of liturgical obedience and communion. To opt for an exception is a form of idiosyncrasy contrary to the spirit of the communion procession. The norms of our Church are clear. We are given a choice as to whether we wish to receive Holy Communion on the tongue or the hand. We are brought together in our common journey toward the Altar. Our posture during Mass signifies unity. We sit, stand, kneel, and 1 procession, we are moving together TOWARD SOMETHING. It is this common action that speaks of our desire to encounter Jesus; indeed to devour Him; to become one with Him and He with us. We are welcoming the King, the Just Judge, the Lord, the Son of God, our Redeemer, our Friend. Love counsels great care and sincere devotion.

Blessings, Fr. John

TREASUES FROM OUR TRADITION

It’s Independence Day week, and there is a link worth tracing between the Declaration of Independence and the language of liturgy. One of the signers of the Declaration on that July 4 long ago was Charles Carroll, probably the wealthiest man in the colonies and one of the few Catholics on the political scene. As a flourish to his signature, he sought to distinguish himself from other prominent citizens bearing the same name by penning “Charles Carroll of Carrolltown”-- a defiant “come and get me if you dare” postscripts aimed at he British.

Carroll’s brother John was a priest and patriot who in 1789 was given the task of organizing the Catholic Church in this country. By 1791 he had assembled a synod, or assembly of delegates, to launch that task formally. Archbishop Carroll wanted to gain acceptance of our faith by American people who mistrusted our customs and could not comprehend our liturgy. He made the amazing proposal to Rome that our liturgy should be prayed not in Latin, but in the vernacular, English. His wish was denied, but one hundred sixty years later, his deep desire helped the American bishops and scholars at the Second Vatican Council to win the vote in favor of the vernacular not just for the United States, but for the Church throughout the world.

Rev. James Field, copyright JSPaluch Co.

.PICNIC August 5, 2023 12-2 pm

Dinner—Drive-thru only 5

50-50 Raffle \$5 per ticket---sell, sell—
start week of June 18

(Drawing Sunday morning—August 6
after Mass)

Pre-sales—begin week of July 9

Ribs \$25/\$13

Chicken \$12/\$7

Pulled pork \$12

Dinner—drive through

Menu: 1/4 chicken, potato salad, baked

beans, bread \$12

Sandwich: pulled pork (onion, pickle)

June Birthdays

28--Cassidy Campbell
30--Trent Hatchett, Father Sinoj

July Birthdays

3--Ray Higgs
8--Alexis Hatchett, Calvin McHenry
10--Chelis Carmona
12--Darlina Etienne



7 RULES OF LIFE

- 1. *Make peace with your past so it won't disturb your present*
- 2. *What others think of you is none of your business.*
- 3. *Time heals almost everything. Give it time.*
- 4. *No one is in charge of your happiness, except you.*
- 5. *Don't compare your life to others and don't judge them, you have no idea what their journey is all about.*
- 6. *Stop thinking so much. It's alright not to know the answers.*
- 7. *Smile. You don't own all the problems of the world. IGI Follow@inspire*

Mass Intentions

June 25--Danny Stevens
July 2--Raymond Nichols
July 9--Savellia Epison, Mary Aurielis McHenry, Beverly Chilton
July 16--Mike Coakley

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: Ruth Coble, Steven Moorman, Rachel Mattingly Katya Winchell, Mike Lewis, 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, Pam Wilson, Frank & Gloria Adams, Shelby Webster, Louise Johnson, Larry Conder, Andy Evans, Gary Moorman, , If you know of anyone who is in need of prayer or visitation, please notify the office.

IMP—Kroger

Thank you to everyone who has designated Blessed Sacrament as your community reward partner. We have 38 households that designate Blessed Sacrament as their community partner. Our last quarterly check is \$146.68. 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.

Coming Events



Blessed Sacrament Chapel

July 14 10:45 Scripture Sharing
July 15-16--Raffle ticket sales at St. Stephen Cathedral after Masses: 4:30 Sat., 8:30 and 11 Sun.
August 5--Parish picnic



June 25--\$1192
Budget--\$1058
MTD Collection--\$4721.61
MTD Budget--\$4232
YTD Collection--\$66,817.39
YTD Budget--\$56,586.02

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).

GOSPEL MEDITATION

As a boy my favorite board game was “Chutes and Ladders.” The players roll dice to move from the start to the finish, from the bottom of the board to the top. If you land on a chute, you slide back and down. It was a bummer. Land on a ladder, and you jump well up the board and near the goal. It was a thrill to find a ladder and draw closer to the goal. That’s life, isn’t it? At every moment, we’re either moving closer or farther from the goal of our lives.

How do we win? Jesus tells us the secret of life’s chutes and ladders hinges on getting our loves rightly ordered. What we love in life is meant to be a ladder, drawing us up into God’s love — including our family, friends, work, play, food, and drink. Even to give your water to someone out of love for Christ leads to a sure reward.

But those ladders of our loves can become chutes. If we love even our family members more than Christ, we slide down and back. If we love the persons and things in our life for the sake of Christ, He says we “surely will not lose our reward.” The key difference between a chute and ladder, between our spiritual regression and advancement, is our willingness to renounce everything — even our own life — for the love of Jesus. To allow everything and everyone we love to draw us to love him more — that’s the difference between chutes and ladders.

— Father John Muir

MINISTRY SCHEDULE	
	LECTORS
<u>July 2:</u>	Barbara Bisel, Greg Gough
<u>July 9:</u>	Layson Brooks, Misty Sanford
<u>July 16:</u>	Alexis Hatchett, Jacques Williams
	Eucharistic Ministers
<u>July 2:</u>	Sarah Malone, Charlene Meadows, Lori Robinson
<u>July 9:</u>	Barbara Bisel, Janet Clark, Holly Hollis
<u>July 16:</u>	Vivian Higgs, Greg Gough, Misty Sanford
	Collection & Gifts
<u>July 2:</u>	Lad and Aubrey Ottofy
<u>July 9:</u>	Joyce and Ron Moorman
<u>July 16:</u>	Alizabeth and Alexis Hatchett

FREEDOM
*Those who deny freedom to others
deserve it not for themselves and un-
der a just God cannot long retain it.*
--Abraham Lincoln



Thanks to Michelle Jones, Ethan and Greg Gough, Mark Payne, and Greg Richardson who took down the southeast wall in the back of church so windows could be installed soon.
Stewardship: Sharing of time and talent!!!!

A Prophet’s Reward

“Move back in with us until you save enough for a decent house,” my mother told me over and over again as the birth of my second child neared.

My little family was quickly outgrowing our rented space, but the housing market in our area was a nightmare for first-time homebuyers. As appealing as the offer was, I kept refusing, convinced that my mother didn’t understand the chaos, disruption, and loss of personal space that such a move would mean for her and my dad.

I was wrong — she did. And eventually she wore me down. When my son was three months old my family of four moved back into my old bedroom. My parents made an office space for my husband in the basement, and they converted their den into a playroom for two of the loudest children you will ever meet. They told us we could stay as long as we needed to (it ended up being two years). They greeted us with love and warmth every morning and never made us feel like we were an inconvenience.

Today’s first reading always reminds me of my mom, not because I consider myself a prophet (hardly) but because of the way she received me — specifically, in whose name she received me.

I’ve always tried to understand exactly what makes my parents’ acts of love — toward me, toward each other, toward perfect strangers — feel so genuine. I think, after more than 30 years, I’ve finally realized the secret: my parents love God more than they love me. They love God more than they love anyone.

Like making room in their life and their home for me and my boisterous family, these acts originate in sacrifice. They don’t come cheap. They come from the cross.

“Whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.” — Matthew 10:39

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Readings for the Week	
.Monday:	Eph 2:19-22/Ps 117:1-2/ Jn 20:24-29
Tuesday:	Gn19:15-29/Ps 26:2-3, 9-12/ Mt 8:23-27
Wednesday:	Gn 21:5, 8-20/Ps 34:7-8, 10-- 13/Mt 8:28-34
Thursday:	Gn 22:1-19/Ps 115:1-6, 8-9/ Mt 9:1-8
Friday:	Gn 23:1-4, 19; 24:1-8, 62-67/ Ps 106:1-5/Mt 9:9-13
Saturday:	Gn 27:1-5, 15-29/Ps 135:1-6/ Mt 9:14-17
Observances for the Week of July 2	
Monday:	St. Thomas, Apostle
Tuesday:	Independence Day
Wednesday:	St. Anthony Zaccaria, Priest; St. Elizabeth of Portugal
Thursday:	St. Maria Goretti, Virgin. Martyr

7 RULES OF LIFE

- 1. Make peace with your past**
so it won’t disturb your present
- 2. What others think of you**
is none of your business.
- 3. Time heals almost everything.**
Give it time.
- 4. No one is in charge**
of your happiness, except you.
- 5. Don’t compare your life to others**
and don’t judge them, you have no
idea what their journey is all about.

THE RICHNESS OF LIFE IN CHRIST

Today we have the beautiful story of the woman promised child, the wonderful exhortation about life in Christ, and a powerful instruction from Jesus. An embarrassment of riches/ Not if we take Jesus’ words about “welcome” to heart. The many challenges and blessings offered to us today by Elisha, Paul, and Jesus should b cause for rejoicing, and welcomed heart-ily into our lives. And, like the great treat that they are, they should be enjoyed and shared generously with others.

Today’s readings from Romans was chosen very early in the liturgical life of the Church to be the sold apostolic instruc-tion received by candidates for baptism at the Easter Vigil. This illustrates its im-portance as a core belief, and as a means of comprehending the story of the Resur-rection. Christ’s resurrection is not merely a story about something that he underwent once upon a time, but it is our story, the story of how we joined the others mem-bers of the one Body of Christ, the church. We were not only dead, but wee were bur-ied; not ultimately buried, but raised to eternal life with Christ.

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Laugh of the Week A Penny Saved

Hoping to help his church save money, Pas-tor Jones decided to paint the church exteri-or himself, but all he had on hand was one bucket of paint. So he collected a bunch of empty buckets and some water, which he used to thin the paint enough to cover the building. Then he spent the whole day painting. That night it rained and washed off all the paint. The pastor was so discour-aged and asked God, “Why...why Lord , did you let it rain and wash away all my hard work?” To which God replied, “Repaint and thin no more.