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# 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 Cheriankunnel

[moc\\_shibu.cheriyankunnel@pastoral.org](mailto:moc_shibu.cheriyankunnel@pastoral.org)

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



**July 16, 2023 15th Sunday Ordinary Time**

**My word shall achieve the end  
for which I sent it. (Is. 55:11)**

## Sunday's Readings

### First Reading:

The rain and snow come down and do not return there till they have watered the earth, making it fertile and fruitful. (Is 55:10)

### Psalm:

The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest. (Ps 65)

### Second Reading:

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us. For creation awaits with the revelation of the children of God. (Rom 8:18-19)

### Gospel:

[And he spoke to them at length in parables, saying:](#) "A sower went out to sow. (Mt 13:3)



My Dear Parishioners:.

When it comes to facing failures in life, the farmer in today's Gospel parable sounds a lot like many of us. We work hard, and only sometimes succeed. Most of the best things that we give to others are not by them well received. Most of what we want to plant in the lives of those around us doesn't "take"; it doesn't become rooted and permanently planted in their lives. All of us have to deal with failure, those areas where the best we've given to others comes up lacking, falling short of our hopes, our dreams, and our great expectations. There are some biblical commentators who suggest that the parable of Jesus we've just heard was autobiographical. That may well be true. Jesus certainly had to face a whole lot of apparent failure. He knew full well the pain of failure: - He was born and raised in Nazareth, and his own hometown folks rejected Him. - His own Hebrew countrymen rejected His message. - His handpicked twelve apostles? Well, one of them sold Him out for thirty pieces of silver and the others fled when He was crucified. - Peter wasn't too swift to take His message to heart, Thomas was the doubter, and the others weren't much better, either. Elijah, long before Christ, along with Jeremiah and other prophets as well, were notable failures, most of them being taken outside the walls of Jerusalem and then stoned to death.

Up to this point my remarks all sound terribly dismal and discouraging. But my point today is that we need to remember that Jesus did not let apparent failure stop Him. In His parable, Jesus went on to speak about a crop that yielded a harvest in successful amounts, some yields bringing spectacular success. Today's Gospel parable is not a dirge - it is a celebration; it is a story of hope, not of despair. Crisis is made up of both danger and opportunity. True there are evils that surround us, but many of those evils are slowly being overcome. God is at work among us bringing good out of evil. We must remember that in the hands of God the slightest good can be multiplied to feed thousands if we but hand our efforts into His care and providence.

You and I, like all good farmers who continually face floods and disasters of every sort, need to seriously engage ourselves in the enterprise of faith and hope, planting what we have, planting the best of what we have, and then letting God's sun, wind, and gentle rains do the rest. God's only-begotten Son, along with the gentle breath of His Holy Spirit, provide waters of grace to nourish and sustain what He has planted in the lives of those we love. The best years of our lives, and the best that we have given to others in them, or are giving right now, or will give in the future, will not be fruitless.

Many times I am called upon to console distraught parents who poured out all of their love and faith into their children, taught them the Catholic faith, sent them to religious education classes, or to Catholic schools, only to have them, as adults, leave our Church and go elsewhere, many times to a type of religion that requires little if any faith but which gives good feelings. We must remember in such cases that the love and the faith that we've planted in the hearts of those around us, particularly in the hearts and souls of our children, will eventually blossom. The hopes and dreams that we've planted in others, even when they seem to be buried under too much dirt, will germinate, grow, and yield a harvest of some extent, even if our efforts do not now appear to be unqualified successes. But that is life - and Jesus knew it. His parable could well have been autobiographical. Sure, our world is a mess now, but it always has been. We need to see that there is also an amazing amount of goodness in it. The greatest miracle of all isn't found at Lourdes, or Fatima, it's found in those around us, in those who are, in spite of terrible odds, yielding up love, kindness, caring, and sensitivity thirty, sixty and a hundred fold.

We have our modern day heroes among us who are leading us as never before in efforts to rid our world of oppression, racism, and injustice. And so, I encourage, keep on planting God's good seeds in the lives of those near to you. For God Himself has said through His prophet Isaiah that His Word shall go forth from His mouth " ... and it shall not return to me void, but shall do my will, achieving the end for which I sent it." (Isaiah 55:11) Faith and hope are what should be in our hearts, not defeat and despair.

Blessings, Fr. John

A SOWER:

We all know the parable where Jesus speaks of a sower who went out to sow seeds in the field; some seed fell on the path, some on rocky ground, some among thorns, and could not grow; other seed fell on good soil and brought forth much fruit. (Matthew 13:18-230.

Today...every day, but today in a particular way, Jesus is sowing the seed. When we accept the Word of God, then we are the Field of Faith! Please, let Christ and his word enter your life; let the seed of the Word of God enter, let it blossom, and let it grow.

--Pope Francis

*Reflection: What kind of soil are you? Where do you have rocky ground or thorns? Where do you need the Word of God to enter your life?*



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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) \$6



July Birthdays

- 13--Francine Epison
- 15--Georgia Holland
- 17--Wayne Stephens
- 18--Lori Carman
- 21--Meredith Fain
- 22--Marcia Wilhite
- 24--Lori Robinson
- 27--Robert Hagan
- 29--Hugh Moorman
- 30--Yvonne Mundy
- 31--Gloria Adams



Gone to the Dogs

Muldoon lived alone in the Irish countryside with only a pet dog for company. One day the dog died, and Muldoon went to the parish priest and asked, “Father, me dog is dead. Could ya' be saying' a mass for the poor creature?”

Father Patrick replied, “I'm afraid not, we cannot have services for an animal in the church. But there are some Baptists down the lane, and there's no tellin' what they believe. Maybe they'll do something for the creature.”

Muldoon said, “I'll go right away Father. Do ya' think \$5,000 is enough to donate to them for the service?”

Father Patrick exclaimed, “Sweet Mary, Mother of Jesus! Why did ya' not tell me the dog was Catholic?”

Mass Intentions

- July 2--Raymond Nichols
- July 9--Savellia Epison, Mary Aurielis McHenry, Beverly Chilton
- July 16--Mike Coakley
- July 23--Frances Johnson
- July 30--Iona Simon

*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, Yvonne Mundy, 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. 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.

Coming Events



- Blessed Sacrament Chapel**
- July 15-16--Raffle ticket sales at St. Stephen Cathedral after Masses: 4:30 Sat., 8:30 and 11 Sun.
- August 5--Parish picnic
- August 6--Drawing for 50-50 raffle 11 am



- July 9--\$1470.75
- Budget--\$1094
- MTD Collection--\$2132.75
- MTD Budget--\$2,188
- YTD Collection--\$2132.75
- YTD Budget--\$2,188

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

It’s not uncommon to hear people complain that we Catholics often fail in communicating our faith. Fair enough. We can and should improve there. But it’s interesting to notice that Jesus himself was implicitly accused by his disciples of a similar failure. This week in Matthew’s gospel they are perplexed that he speaks to the crowds in ambiguous parables. The Lord’s riddles leave many people more confused than before. He responds by pointing out that his parables have an intentional dual purpose: to hide (for some) and to reveal (for others) his Gospel: “Because knowledge of the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven has been granted to you, but to them it has not been granted” (Matthew 13:11). Is Jesus being unnecessarily difficult, obscurantist, or, worse, elitist?

No. We have to remember that all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge lie hidden in him (c.f., Col. 2:3). He is the word of God from heaven to be planted in the earth of our humanity to bear great fruit. However, like a lover delicately pursuing his beloved, we’re dealing with a *relationship*, not new data. When we aren’t willing to personally accept Jesus into our lives, the “info” of the Gospel will simply not make sense to us. It’ll seem bizarre, esoteric, or like incoherent religious-speak. But when we are willing to accept Jesus into our lives, everything else starts to make sense. When others don’t understand the Church or the Lord, let’s be patient. Love is patient. Sometimes it has to hide before it is revealed. --Father John Muir

LIVE TODAY

**Live today the way you will wished you had lived when you stand in judgment before God.**

MINISTRY SCHEDULE	
	<b>LECTORS</b>
<u>July 16:</u>	Alexis Hatchett, Jacques Williams
<u>July 23:</u>	Sarah Malone, Barbara Bisel
<u>July 30:</u>	Greg Gough, Misty Sanford
	<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>
<u>July 16:</u>	Vivian Higgs, Greg Gough, Misty Sanford
<u>July 23:</u>	Rita Moorman, Denise Richardson, Greg Richardson
<u>July 30:</u>	Cindy Clark, Sarah Malone, Janet Clark
	<b>Collection &amp; Gifts</b>
<u>July 16:</u>	Alizabeth and Alexis Hatchett
<u>July 23:</u>	Williams Family
<u>July 30:</u>	Hollis Family

- SPECIAL BIBLE TEXTS
- When in sorrow, read John 14
  - When men fail you, read Psalm 27
  - When you have sinned, read Ps. 51
  - When you are in danger, read Ps. 91
  - When you have the blues, read Ps. 34
  - When you worry, read Matt. 6:19-34
  - When you are discouraged, read Isaiah 40
  - When God seems far away, read Psalm 139
  - When doubts come on you, read John 7:17
  - For Jesus idea of a Christian, Matt. 5

Soil Conditions

I am a hopeless gardener. I never met a plant I couldn’t swiftly kill with good intentions and poor understanding of soil conditions.

Because really, it’s all about the soil conditions — at least, that’s what Google tells me when I helplessly search phrases like “Why aren’t any of my seeds sprouting? Please, I tried so hard.” I can never seem to match the right type of soil offering the right type of drainage and texture with the right plant. I can’t understand why it’s not enough to bury the seed in whatever ground is available, sprinkle some water and ask it, very nicely, to grow.

This is also a quality that makes me a poor evangelist to people who do not share my beliefs. How many times have I encountered a friend or loved one who left the faith, and I tried to coax them back by hurling Catechism passages in their direction, offering advice they never asked for and are ill-equipped to understand? I sow these seeds of witness and bang my fists in frustration that they rot where I plant them, never realizing that *it’s all about the soil.*

It is Christ, and Christ alone, who works within the heart. It is Christ who is the sower of the seed, not me. When I leave him out of the equation, when I fail to offer the Person and instead only offer the teaching, I can anticipate that any witness I have to offer will rot where it is planted just as sure as a tulip bulb in a bed of clay.

*“...my word shall not return to me void, but shall do my will, achieving the end for which I sent it.” — Isaiah 55:11* By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

God the Artist

Bobby and his grandmother were looking at vacation pictures. “It looks like an artist painted this scenery,” Grandma said. “Did you know God painted it all for you, Bobby?” “Yes,” Bobby said. “God did it with his left hand.” This confused his grandmother a bit, “What makes you say God did it with his left hand?” “Well,” said Bobby, “we learned at Sunday school last week that Jesus sits on God’s right hand.”

Readings for the Week	
Monday:	Ex 1:8-14, 22/Ps 124:1-8/Mt 10:34—11:1
Tuesday:	Ex 2:1-15/Ps 69:3, 14, 30-31, 33-34/Mt 11:20-24
Wednesday:	Ex 3:1-6, 9-12/Ps 103:14, 6-7/Mt 11:25-27
Thursday:	Ex 3:13-20/Ps 105:1, 5, 8-9, 24-27/Mt 11:28-30
Friday:	Ex 11:10—12:14/Ps 116:12-13, 15-18/Mt 12:1-8
Saturday:	Sg 3:1-4b or 2 Cor 5:14-17/Ps 63:2-6, 8-9/Jn 20:1-2, 11-18
<b>Observances for the Week of July 16</b>	
Tuesday:	St. Camillus de Lellis, Priest
Thursday:	St. Apollinaris, Bishop, Martyr
Friday:	St. Lawrence of Brindisi, Priest and Doctor of the Church
Saturday:	St. Mary Magdalene

TOWARDS HEAVEN

Think well. Speak well. Do well. These three things through the mercy of God, will make a person go to heaven. --St. Camillus

Laudato Si

(Care of our common home)

A hotter world will harm crop yields and ecosystems, so we must act on climate change. Avoiding food waste would ease pressure on land and water and feed more people. Choosing diets with less dairy and meat would also reduce pressure on land while cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

How can you reduce food waste?

FRUIT OF THE WORD

The seed is the word of God. The agricultural metaphors in all of today’s readings give richness to the message that the word of God, cultivated in our hearts, bears much fruit in our lives. Creation itself awaits the redemption of all, even as out bodies await the resurrection. Just as we will rejoice in the fulfillment of God’s word, so will all of creation sing for joy in the Reign of Gd. The word of God is effective and holy; it brings about exactly what it says. It is not futile or empty, but rich in meaning for those who hear and are healed. Those who hear the word of God and keep it will, with all creation, bear much fruit and sing for joy.

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Mother St. Teresa of Calcutta Quotes

- ◇ Life is beauty, admire it.
- ◇ Life is a dream, realize it.
- ◇ Life is a challenge, meet it.
- ◇ Life is a duty, complete it.
- ◇ Life is a game, play it.
- ◇ Life is a promise, fulfill it.
- ◇ Life is sorrow, overcome it.
- ◇ Life is a song, sing it.
- ◇ Life is a struggle, accept it.
- ◇ Life is a tragedy, confront it.
- ◇ Life is an adventure, dare it.
- ◇ Life is luck, make it.
- ◇ Life is life, fight for it.