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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 Cheriyankunnel

moc_shibu.cheriyankunnel@pastoral.org

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

Sunday's Readings:

First Reading:

And you taught your people, that those who are just must be kind; and you gave your children good ground for hope that you would permit repentance for their sins. (Wis 12:19)

Psalm:

Lord, you are good and forgiving. (Ps 86)

Second Reading:

The Spirit comes to the aid of our weakness; the Spirit himself intercedes with inexpressible groanings. (Rom 8:26)

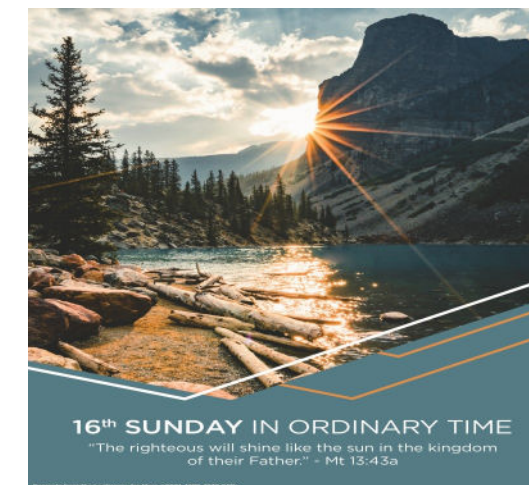
Gospel:

"Let them grow together until harvest; then at harvest time I will say to the harvesters, 'First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles for burning; but gather the wheat into my barn.'" (Mt 13:30)

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



July 23, 2023 16th Sunday Ordinary Time
You have crowned the year
with your bounty. (Ps. 65:12)



My Dear Parishioners:

So many people begin things with good intentions, wonderful visions, and really want to make things better, both in their own lives and in the lives of others. Marx and Lenin, the fathers of communism, really wanted to make the lives of their countrymen better. We went to war in Vietnam with good intentions. Atomic energy was supposed to make the world a better place. But, as in so many great efforts, things are likely to eventually go wrong. The same is true in our own personal lives. People fall in love and get married with nothing but the best of intentions, with high hopes, with hearts filled with love,. Then, somewhere along the line, things turn sour. Life is a mixture of good and evil.

We are imperfect people living in an imperfect world. There's much in our nation that is both good and bad. Our governmental officials are both good and bad. There's much in our Church that is good, and there are some bad things in it too. Everywhere we look we find this strange mixture of what's right and what's wrong. The world of great literature and the world of great art try to help us deal with this mixture of good and evil. The famous Star Wars movie series presents good people who, for some mysterious reason, go over to the Dark Side. The authors and producers of Star Wars don't give us an explanation of why this happens, they give us only the epic struggle of good trying to overcome evil. The Bible tells us that Lucifer was one of the greatest of all God's angels. His name, Lucifer, means "Light Bearer." He was one of highest of God's creatures; he bore God's own light. And yet... for some reason he became the Prince of Darkness. The reason? Lucifer put his will before God's will. He refused to obey God. He opted to go his own way. He defied God. The mystery is: Why did he do that?


As followers of Jesus Christ, what do we do with the problem of evil? That's the question raised in today's readings. Answering the question is a big problem for all of us. Just what do we do when it comes to ridding ourselves and our world of evil? The Scripture passages in today's first reading and today's gospel account suggest that we deal with evil as God deals with it, with patience and forbearance. Evil will eventually reveal itself and evil will eventually suffer the consequences it brings down upon itself. Sin brings with it its own suffering and punishment.

There are a couple of interesting points about the parable of Jesus we just heard that I want to point out to you. One is that when He was asked where the weeds came from Jesus replied: "An enemy has done this." He doesn't tell us why God has enemies; He simply takes it as a fact. He is a realist, not a dreamy eyed idealist. To take a realistic view of life we simply must begin with the facts – evil exists and it comes from people who have chosen to defy God. People, of their own free will, choose to defy God and do things quite apart from Him. In the world of human choices, things are not as they ought to be, things are quite apart from what God intended them to be. The price of human freedom of choice is terribly costly, not only to us, but to God. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, had to pay that price. Why, we ask, doesn't God simply pull up all of evil's weeds? Why doesn't God, with fire and brimstone, simply blast evil off the face of the earth? Well, that's a lot easier said than done. Suppose God did, what would happen? What would happen to each one of us? Aren't we all a mixture of good and evil? Wouldn't we get caught up on their firestorm of evil's destruction? Which brings me to the second point, namely the fact that so very often what is evil appears to be good, and what is good appears to be evil.

We can't make the sorting, only God can. In today's parable Jesus speaks of the weeds are dandelion. Now at the beginning of the growing process dandelion looks just like wheat. It's only as harvest time approaches that the difference between the two becomes apparent. We know that to be true, don't we, when it comes to the great enterprises we begin. It's only after the passage of time that we find out what's really good and what's really bad in our marriages. It was only after communism matured that we came to know just how evil it was.

And the same principle applies in so many areas of our lives. Everything has something wrong within it. We certainly know that's true in our own Church, in our nation, in our world, and in our own personal lives. There are no "quick-fix" and easy solutions. Patience and forbearance are necessary, and to have patience and forbearance one must have faith. This is what Jesus is calling us to have – faith in His heavenly Father's plan, faith in His heavenly Father's ultimate ways of dealing with us and with our world. We have to believe in God's goodness and believe in His love for all that is good in our world. Isn't that the faith Jesus had when we suffered His agony in the Garden of Gethsemane and as He hung dying on the cross? The Evil One tempted Him to despair, tempted Him to go over to the Dark Side. But Jesus remained steadfast, confident that in the end, at harvest time, His Father in heaven would harvest the good wheat and burn the darnel. Dying, Jesus handed over His fate to His Father in heaven.

Church mice




THE APOSTLE PAUL WRITES, "FORGETTING WHAT IS BEHIND AND STRAINING TOWARD WHAT IS AHEAD, I PRESS ON TOWARD THE GOAL TO WIN THE PRIZE FOR WHICH GOD HAS CALLED ME HEAVENWARD IN CHRIST JESUS..."

OR IN OTHER WORDS...

DON'T LET THE PAST HOLD YOU BACK... YOU'LL MISS ALL THE GOOD STUFF!

Karl Zorowski



THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE PHILIPPIANS

1 Paul and Timothy, servants^a of Christ Jesus,
To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bish-
ops^b and deacons:^c

2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

3 I thank my God every time I remember you,⁴ constantly praying
without ceasing⁵ for all of you,⁶ because of your sharing
in the gospel from the first day until now.⁷ I am confident of this, that
whoever is joined to me will share in the glory to be with me at the time of my
re-
turn.⁸

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Sandwich: pulled pork (onion, pickle) \$6

July Birthdays

- 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



Laugh of the Week

Jamie was attending his first wedding. After the service, his cousin ask him, “How many women can a man marry?” “Sixteen” was Jamie’s quick answer. “How do you know that?” his cousin asked. “Easy,” Jamie answered. “All you have to do is add it up, like the pastor said: Four better, four worse, four richer, four poorer. “

THANKS

To our ticket sellers at St. Stephen this past weekend: Layson Brooks, Kelly Hollis, Denise and Greg Richardson, Misty and Jeff Sanford, Cindy Clark, Janet Clark, Rita Moorman, Michelle Jones, Brenda Clark. You did a great job. Really helped boost the 50-50 pot.

Mass Intentions

- July 16--Mike Coakley
- July 23--Frances Johnson
- July 30--Iona Simon
- August 6--Tom Riney
- August 13--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: Ruth Coble, Steven Moorman, Rachel Mattingly, 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 to register. Thanks to each of you for your support.

Coming Events



Blessed Sacrament Chapel

- July 28--Scripture reflection 10:45.
- August 5--Parish picnic
- August 6--Drawing for 50-50 raffle 11 am
- August 13--Parish meeting--recap/ suggestions for parish picnic



- July 16--\$992
- Budget--\$1094
- MTD Collection--\$3,054.75
- MTD Budget--\$3,282
- YTD Collection--\$3054.75
- YTD Budget--\$3,282

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

Patience is rooted in Hope (an image of a bush filled with birds would be great) Life, like the church, is often burdened with evil, smallness, and impurities. The Lord’s parables give us a hope-filled perspective on all three.

Evil: in Jesus’ parable about the good farmer whose enemy plants weeds at night, Jesus tells us that God is not the cause of evil but permits evil to exist with good out of his patient love. He *will* finally deal with it, but his love lets things stay messy for a time.

Smallness: It’s funny that Jesus says his kingdom looks like ... wait for it ... a bush. What a let-down! Yet this little shrub still somehow has room for all the birds of the sky. The smallness of the Church, and even our own little lives, still provides plenty of room for all whom God sends.

Impurities: divisions and hypocrisies in the Church and our own hearts exasperate us. Recall that Jesus compares his kingdom to a lump of dough with impure leaven eating away at it and therefore making it expand. It’s the secret of the Cross. Not how we’d prefer it. But finally, great news.

The field, the bush, the loaf: all three parables invite us to embrace a patience rooted in hope: one day the field will be weeded, the bush filled with birds, and the risen loaf leaven-free. — Father John Muir

My doctor told me to start my exercise program very gradually. Today I drove past a store that sells sweat pants.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE	
	LECTORS
<u>July 23:</u>	Sarah Malone, Barbara Bisel
<u>July 30:</u>	Greg Gough, Misty Sanford
<u>August 6:</u>	Layson Brooks, Wayne Stephens
	Eucharistic Ministers
<u>July 23:</u>	Rita Moorman, Denise Richardson, Greg Richardson
<u>July 30:</u>	Cindy Clark, Sarah Malone, Janet Clark
<u>August 6:</u>	Barbara Bisel, Charlene Meadows, Holly Hollis
	Collection & Gifts
<u>July 23:</u>	Williams Family
<u>July 30:</u>	Hollis Family
<u>August 5:</u>	Fain Family

- SPECIAL BIBLE TEXTS**
- **When you are lonely or fearful, read Psalm 23**
 - **When you forget your blessings, read Psalm 103**
 - **When your faith needs stirring, read Hebrews 11.**
 - **When you feel down and out, read Romans 8:31-39**
 - **When you want courage for your task, read Joshua 1**
 - **When you leave home for labor or travel, Psalm 121**
 - **When your prayers grow narrow or selfish, Psalm 67**

The Catholic Bubble

There’s a dangerous myth that exists among pockets of faithful, observant Catholic families. I call it the Legend of the Catholic Bubble.

Here’s how the legend goes: you find a devout Catholic parish and a devout Catholic community filled with devout Catholic people who care about devout Catholic things, and you stay away from everything and everyone else, you and your children will be safe from the influence of the evil one. Your children will never fall away from the faith, or even be tempted, and your own faith will stay steel-strong amidst the many tempests and trials of this earthly life.

But like the Loch Ness Monster and the Abominable Snowman, it’s all made up. Don’t misunderstand me: I *love* a good devout Catholic parish. I *live for* a supportive, devout Catholic community. It’s one of the biggest blessings in the Christian life, and I cannot overstate how helpful it is to raise children in an environment that upholds your Catholic faith and does not denigrate it.

But. *But.*
Make no mistake: the Catholic Bubble will not save you. The trials and the temptations will find you there, too: on the parish council, at Catholic school, in your Catholic moms’ group. No community on earth is so supportive that it mimics Heaven. The weeds have been sown with the good seed, and the harvest time is not yet upon us.

Cherish your community, certainly — but beware of the lure of the Catholic Bubble. We are called to be yeast in a loaf of bread; yeast is nothing on its own.

“And the one who searches hearts knows what is the intention of the Spirit, because he intercedes for the holy ones according to God's will.” — Romans 8:27 by Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

WORDS AND WEEDS
*A man of words and not of deeds
Is like a garden full of weeds*

Readings for the Week	
Monday:	Ex 14:5-18/Ex 15:1-6/ Mt 12:38-42
Tuesday:	2 Cor 4:7-15/Ps 126:1- 6 Mt 20:20-28
Wednesday:	Ex 16:1-5, 9-15/Ps 78:18-19, 23-28/Mt 13:1-9
Thursday:	Ex 19:1-2, 9-11, 16-20/Dn 3: 52-56/Mt 13:10-17
Friday:	Ex 20:1-17/Ps 19:8-11/ Mt 13:18-23
Saturday:	Ex 24:3-8/Ps 50:1-2, 5-6, 14- 15/Jn 11:19-27 or Lk 10:38-42
Observances for the Week of July 23	
Monday:	St. Sharbel Makhlûf, Priest
Tuesday:	St. James, Apostle
Wednesday:	Sts. Joachim and Anne, Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Saturday:	Sts. Martha, Mary and Lazarus

Laudato Si

Laudato Si movement is sponsoring a plastic-free July challenge.

How can you take concrete steps to reduce your plastic consumption and protect our planet?
From bringing cloth bags to the grocery store to using reusable bottles, every action counts and brings us closer to a more sustainable world.

LOVING SOMEONE:

*To love someone deeply gives you strength.
Being loved by someone gives you courage.*

THE MERCY, POWER, AND LOVE-OF GOD

The first reading today, from the book of Wisdom, makes its point over and over, at least five times in five verses! God is mighty, but lenient to all. God’s power is shown in kindness and clemency, not in harshness and condemnation, and those who govern God’s people must govern in the same way, with kindness. This loving kindness and gentleness is not contrary to God’s might, but is a direct result of God’s primacy over all. Who are we, then, to judge what is in the hearts of our fellow Christians and all people, when God commands justice with love and clemency?

Likewise, the Holy Spirit makes up for our ignorance of what we need, speaking in a language we do not yet understand. But God knows our needs before we do, understands the intercessions of the Spirit, and helps us in our weakness. This is our hope: God’s mercy, power, and love. Copyright J.S. Paluch

Prayer of Healing of Racism
*O God,
Your children of all colors
Have been hurt by racism.
Help us heal together.
Help us do the inner work
To be open to your grace
And to the “balm in Gilead”
So our hearts are converted,
And we can join hands
To do the constructive work
Of love and justice. Amen*
--Jane Deren