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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 Cheriyanunnel

[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 30, 2023 17th Sunday Ordinary Time**

**Lord, I love your commands. (Ps. 119)**

## Sunday's Readings:

### First Reading:

"Because you have asked for this— not for a long life for yourself, nor for riches, nor for the life of your enemies, but for understanding so that you may know what is right—I do as you requested." (1 Kgs 3:11-12)

### Psalm:

Lord, I love your commands. (Ps 119)

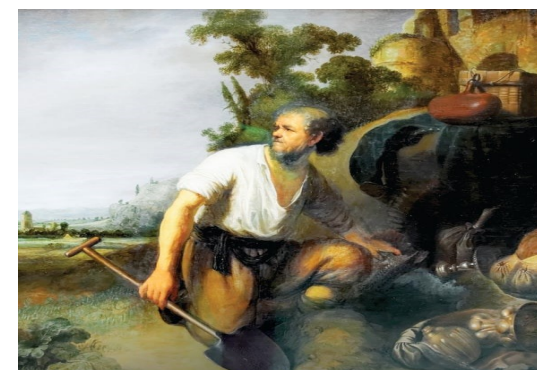
### Second Reading:

All things work together for good for those who love God. (Romans 8:28-30)

### Gospel:

"The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field, which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field." (Mt 13:44)

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



**17<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

"The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field, which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field." - Mt 13:44

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

SLP

My Dear Parishioners:

The kingdom of God was always on the mind of Jesus. There are about 150 references to God’s kingdom in the New Testament, 52 of them in St. Matthew’s Gospel alone. It seems that the more Jesus spoke of the kingdom the more otherworldly it seemed to be. Perhaps that’s because in an insanely self-centered world, sanity seems unrealistic. In today’s Gospel, Jesus called it a hidden treasure, a box filled with golden coins hidden somewhere in a farmer’s field, a jewel found by an astute businessman who sold everything he owned in order to buy it. Elsewhere Jesus spoke of the kingdom as a fishing net filled with fish both good and bad. He called it leaven, light, salt and seed. He called it a ripe harvest, a royal feast, and wedding banquet, and so forth.

But what is the kingdom in everyday terms? What is it in the life we live out this week, next month, next year? Some think the kingdom is a remote and distant heaven that follows our life here on earth. Others think it is an ideal political and economic system. Some think it is exclusively God’s business; some think the kingdom is only within the Church. But what IS the kingdom of God? When did it start? Where did it come into being? The answer is found in the beginning of things. In their genesis God divided light from darkness. Then God divided the land from the waters of the earth. Then He made the earth fertile so that it would grow living things. Then He made the oceans, rivers and lake teem with fish. The air He filled with birds and the ground with animals of all kinds. Then as things evolved God made the likes of you and me. He took the face of a man and then of a woman between His hands, bent their faces back, and blew into them the breath of life saying, “Live! Live you man, live you woman, live as I live. I place you as my agents over all the earth I have made. Have life. Increase life. Give my life to your children.”

Where is the kingdom of God? Jesus tells us it is here on earth; here as it is in heaven. The kingdom is in us as God has made us. It is in human life, that sacred space in which lives the very Spirit of God, the very life of God. That is where it started; that is where it is now. God’s kingdom is discovered and made real in doing God’s will. It is realized in God’s desire for our life, a quality, joy-filled life in you and in those He has put into your life. Whenever we pray the Lord’s Prayer we pray: “Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth...” God’s will is nothing else but our well-being and happiness. God’s will is realized in living a healthy human life. The kingdom of heaven is here on earth, in high quality human life. Jesus was recognized and acknowledged as the Son of God because people saw in Him that divine purpose and God’s divine will in the life Jesus lived.

Stop being deaf, Jesus cried. Listen! Stop being blind. Search and see. Stop being crippled. It’s no good to live a paralyzed life. Move, change, and act. Stop being mute. Speak about what is good, what is beautiful, and what is true! Speak God’s mind and purpose; speak God’s will. When Jesus encountered the widow of Nain with her only child and now dead son, and when He was taken into the room of the dead daughter of Jairus, and when He wept at the tomb of His dead friend Lazarus, He cried out: “Come forth! Get up! Live!” He cried out with the same voice and word of God that in the beginning brought forth everything out of nothing and life out of inert matter. It was God our Creator’s voice calling us through His incarnate Word, Jesus Christ, to live. Jesus gave life; He restored life; He required life, He calls us to life. He lived life with prostitutes, adulterers, outcasts, widows, and He does so today. He lives today in street people, in the homeless, and in migrants. He is present in everyone you meet today, no matter how badly those around you have disfigured and disguised His presence. Jesus changed Zacchaeus, that greedy, grasping, mean little man who sat on his piles of money. Zacchaeus became prodigally generous, insanely generous, as generous as God is generous..

Jesus detested injustice; He hated unfairness; He was revolted by sickness, deformity and disease. He set His face against oppressors. When the Prince of Darkness, our Ancient Enemy and the Father of Lies tempted Him to do things other than in God’s ways, He stood His ground. When Pilate condemned Him, Jesus stood in simple silence, grounded as He was in His Father’s kingdom.

We must all ask ourselves whether we are living in God’s kingdom. Do we sacrifice our comfort and convenience for the sake of those around us? Does our work add value to the value of human life around us? Do our choices, our attitudes, and our decisions contribute to the wellbeing of those around us? Do we give life and add to life, or do we drain it out of others? Do we give joy to others, or do we ignore them or even cause them God’s will, and you will have a very valuable life in His kingdom. Fr. John



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.PICNIC August 5, 2023 12-2 pm

Dinner—Drive-thru only

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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

- 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



SOPHIA AWARD

Cindy Clark has been chosen to receive the Sophia Award on September 10. Cindy is a Eucharistic minister and has been one of the chairs of our renovation project. She is also active on the picnic committee, heading the raffle sales and contributes her time and talents to other projects around Blessed Sacrament. Well-deserved!

Congratulations!

We know only too well that what we are doing is nothing more than a drop in the ocean in the whole scheme of things, but not for the people we serve. So our work may be just a drop in the ocean, but if that drop were not there, the ocean would be missing something.

-- Mother St. Teresa of Calcutta

Mass Intentions

- July 23--Frances Johnson
- July 30--Iona Simon
- August 6--Tom Riney
- August 13--Frances Johnson
- August 14--Ron Sullivan

*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: **Charlie Brown Sr, Ruth Coble, Steven Moorman, Rachel Mattingly, Mike Lewis, Philip Moorman, Jr., Danny Stevens, Wynter Keller, Larry Clark, Gloria Savet, Shaun Winchell, Jeeriah Cruite,** 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

- August 5--Parish picnic
- August 6--Drawing for 50-50 raffle 11 am
- August 14--6 PM Mass Feast of Assumption (Holyday)
- August 20--Parish meeting--recap/ suggestions for picnic. Renovations



- July 23--\$1611.61
- Budget--\$1094
- MTD Collection--\$4,666.36
- MTD Budget--\$4,376
- YTD Collection--\$4,666.36
- YTD Budget--\$4,376

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

Our culture seems more polarized and divided than ever. Into this wounded situation, our Catholic faith has a healing remedy to offer: the gift of wisdom. When the Lord offers to give King Solomon anything the monarch desires, he requests “an understanding heart” (1 Kings 3:9). In his polarized situation, the King doesn’t ask for power to defeat his enemies. He asks for a wise and understanding heart to judge right from wrong. This wisdom is elevated and fulfilled in Jesus who teaches us to bring forth “both the new and the old” (Matthew 13:52).

In our fractured society, we Christians should stop pining for political power to crush our perceived enemies. That often just makes things worse. Rather, it’s much more useful to beg for the grace of true wisdom which transcends both sides of the aisle. This places us in a fresh position from which we can help our culture see what is true and good all across the ideological spectrum. Sometimes we’ll look like liberals (e.g., in our love for the poor and marginalized) and other times like conservatives (e.g., in our sexual ethics and views on religious freedom). Because this wisdom is free from ideological narrowness, it will help to heal these painful fractures. Lord Jesus, this week, pour into us your healing wisdom.

— Father John Muir

Kind words are like honey--sweet to the soul and healthy for the body.

Proverbs 16:24

MINISTRY SCHEDULE	
	<b>LECTORS</b>
<u>July 30:</u>	Greg Gough, Misty Sanford
<u>August 6:</u>	Layson Brooks, Wayne Stephens
<u>August 13:</u>	Jacques Williams, Barbara Bisel
	<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>
<u>July 30:</u>	Cindy Clark, Sarah Malone, Janet Clark
<u>August 6:</u>	Barbara Bisel, Charlene Meadows, Holly Hollis
<u>August 13:</u>	Denise and Greg Richardson, Kathi Skidd
	<b>Collection &amp; Gifts</b>
<u>July 30:</u>	Hollis Family
<u>August 6:</u>	Fain Family

- SPECIAL BIBLE TEXTS**
  - **For St. Paul’s secret of happiness, read Colossians 3:12-17**
  - **When you grow bitter or critical, read 1 Corinthians 13**
  - **When the world seems bigger than God, read Psalm 90.**
  - **When you want peace and rest, read Matthew 11:25-30**
  - **For a great invitation and a great opportunity, read Isaiah 55**
  - **For Jesus idea of prayer, Luke 11: 1-13, Matthew 6:5-15.**

**The Falling Action and the Field**

In my freshman year of high school, I was fairly miserable at identifying the five essential elements of plot (exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution).

To this day, the only reason I remember anything about them at all is because my English teacher used episodes of Scooby Doo to illustrate the different elements. Falling action vs. climax is where I got tripped up, the two are similar, and only discernible if you examine them relative to each other.

Every Scooby Doo episode has a big dramatic sequence (the climax) where the ghost/monster/zombie chases The Gang through the haunted mansion. The falling action is what comes immediately after: searching for her glasses that she lost during the chase, Velma bumps into a pulley wheel disguised behind a tapestry and realizes the ghost/monster/zombie is actually the janitor in a costume, hooked up to an elaborate cable system jerry-rigged throughout the mansion. Meddling kids. I confused the two because, to me, they are *both* equally dramatic: the chase and the fallout.

It occurs to me that, if you look at the course of salvation history, we are living in the falling action, not the climax. Take the parable of the treasure in the field: we have found the treasure. But we haven’t yet bought the field.

I often make the mistake of thinking I am still lost in the climax, searching for the truth. But I know exactly where the truth is.

What I need to be concerned with is this: am I doing what I need to do to buy the field?  
*“Wonderful are your decrees; therefore I observe them. The revelation of your words sheds light, giving understanding to the simple.” — Psalm 119*

*If you put a crouton on your sundae instead of a cherry, it counts as a salad.*

Readings for the Week	
Monday:	Ex 32:15-24, 30-34/Ps 106:19-23/Mt 13:31-35
Tuesday:	Ex 33:7-11; 34:5b-9, 28/Ps 103:6-13/Mt 13:36-43
Wednesday:	Ex 34:29-35/Ps 99:5, 6, 7, 9/ Mt 13:44-46
Thursday:	Ex 40:16-21, 34-38/Ps 84:3-6 and 8, 11/Mt 13:47-53
Friday:	Lv 23:1, 4-11, 15-16 34-37/Ps 81:3-6, 10-11/Mt 13:54-58
Saturday:	Lv 25:1, 8-17/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 7-8/Mt 14:1-12
<b>Observances for the Week of July 30</b>	
Monday:	St. Ignatius of Loyola, Priest
Tuesday:	St. Alphonsus Liguori, Bishop
Wednesday:	St. Eusebius of Vercelli, Bishop; St. Peter Julian Eymard
Friday:	St. John Vianney, Priest
Saturday:	The Dedication of the Basilica of St. Mary Major

**LIVE THE LITURGY**  
Following Christ will take everything we have. Are we ready to give it all? At the end of our lives, let us hope we can say truthfully that we sold all we had in order to purchase the field which contained the great treasure.

**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.

**JACKPOT**

In our lottery and sweepstakes-obsessed culture, it is common to ask ourselves or others what they would do if they won. In today’s first reading, Solomon certainly hits the jackpot. What prize could be greater than having God Almighty agree to give you whatever you ask for?

Out of all the things he could have asked for, Solomon chose to ask for understanding, and was rewarded with it. We would do well to wonder what we would ask for if God made us the same offer. Actually God does make us the same offer each and every day, by granting us another day of life, a bit of the earth’s goods, some gift or ability, some call to goodness, some portions of the divine will. Each of these is a “prize.” We should stop and examine what we are going to do with our prize: keep it or use it selfishly, or put it at the service of the spread of the gospel?

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**LAUGH OF THE WEEK**

The church choir was putting on a car wash to raise money for their annual tour. They made a large sign which read, “Car wash for choir trip.” On the given Saturday, business was terrific, but by two o’clock the skies clouded and the rain poured, and there were hardly any customers. Finally one of the girl washers had an idea. She printed a large card- board poster which read, “We Wash and God Rinses.” Business boomed.

**Please turn in raffle tickets ASAP. If you can sell more, that would be great. You may have the winner!!!**