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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 Cheriyanunnel

moc_shibu.cheriyankunnel@pastoral.org

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

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

See, your king shall come to you; a just savior is he, meek, and riding on an ass, on a colt, the foal of an ass. (Zec 9:9)

Psalm:

I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God. (Ps 145)

Second Reading:

For if you live according to the flesh, you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. (Rom 8:13)

Gospel:

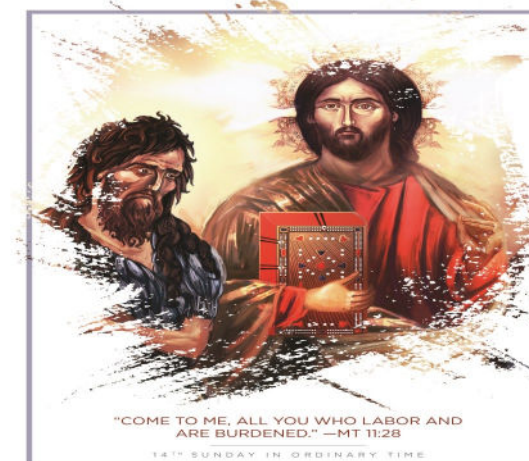
Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. (Mt 11:29)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass



July 9, 2023 14th Sunday Ordinary Time

The Lord lifts up all who are falling and raises those who are bowed down. (Ps.145)



My Dear Parishioners:

If we’re honest, most of us would admit that we’re far from “self-made.” Wherever we have grown beyond our immaturity and our limitations, we have usually grown through another’s personal influence: a parent, a coach, a teacher, a friend. In my experience, these key people almost always manage to combine two seemingly contrary attitudes: 1) fundamental acceptance and 2) ongoing challenge. I find myself most free to change in the presence of someone who loves me as I am, but who desires—by reason of that love—that I become more. The football coach who wins games is the one who loves his players like sons and drives them like mules. The teacher who gets the best results is the one who delights in her students as they are but pushes them toward a common goal. We see then a basic law of human growth: acceptance and judgment, support and challenge, mercy and justice, must meet. Support without challenge is cheap love. Rigor without basic acceptance crushes the spirit and paralyzes with fear. Only when we encounter both sides of love do we really receive the strength to grow. And, deep down, we all long for someone who loves us in this challenging way.

Jesus presents himself in today’s Gospel as the ultimate fulfillment of this longing. And he sharpens our hunger for it through the paradoxical image of the “easy yoke.” How can a yoke ever be easy? The dual purpose of yokes gives us a clue. On the one hand, yokes serve to link a draught animal to a heavy burden, like a plow. In this sense, a yoke seems wholly negative; it only adds to our heaviness and toil. But yokes do not link animals only to their load; yokes also link animals to one another. Yokes don’t just serve to impose burdens; they also serve to distribute burdens. This dual purpose suggests, in turn, two ways of understanding Jesus’ command to take his yoke. We can imagine Jesus strapping the heavy cargo of moral and spiritual perfection to our necks and walking away. And it’s true that it requires effort to be a Christian: Jesus doesn’t hide this fact. There is a second way to imagine taking on Christ’s yoke: namely, becoming Christ’s yokefellow, stepping into the yoke that he already shoulders. Here we imagine Jesus in the yoke alongside us, distributing the weight onto his own shoulders. Both images capture a part of what it means to cooperate with grace in the Christian life. But this second aspect is the one that, in my experience, we most easily forget. Our conscience rarely allows us to forget the first—that Christianity sets a high moral bar. We all know that Jesus didn’t stop at commanding his followers not to commit adultery and not to kill. He went deeper. He insisted that they stop entertaining lustful thoughts, that they let go of grudges. This is all true. But sometimes when we go about tackling our sins of weakness, we forget that we do not face them alone. When temptations of lust, or anger, or laziness beset us, we may grit our teeth and violently mobilize our will against them. But this rarely works all of itself. And Jesus knows this. That’s why he commands us in no uncertain terms: “Come to me all you who labor”

Often, when we struggle with a pattern of sin, it’s because there’s a deeper cause, some fear that we have not yet brought to Christ for healing. I know of a woman who had a terrible problem with gossip. She worked as a parish secretary, knew a lot about the comings and goings of parishioners, and related these facts almost compulsively to whomever would listen. She knew it was wrong; but she couldn’t stop. One day she admitted her problem to a priest. The priest simply asked her what she feared would happen if she stopped gossiping. After reflecting for a moment, she finally replied, “I’m afraid that I’ll be boring, that people will lose interest in me.” Deep down, she was afraid that she was not lovable in her own right. The priest then suggested that she bring this fear to Christ in prayer. When this woman did so, she sensed Christ telling her, “Fear not.” She felt Christ loving her, giving her strength. She kept the practice up; she kept going to Christ with the root of her temptation; she kept receiving his assurance. Little by little she was transformed. Because she became convinced that she was loved quite apart from her gossip, she gradually let go of the habit. This is what it means to take on Christ’s yoke: to strive to live the fullness of the law’s demands—yes—but never to do so alone. It means to allow Christ to stand in the yoke alongside us, to allow him to shoulder the greater part of the burden. Christ’s yoke is easy because, at heart of Christian discipleship, we find not a person, a person who loves us and shoulders our load. Blessings, Fr. John

VENERABLE JOHN AUGUSTUS TOLTON

Venerable John Augustus (Gus) Tolton was born into slavery and escaped with his mother early in his life. He went to seminary in Rome and returned to the U.S. to form a black national church in Chicago. He is considered to be the first priest in the USA who was publicly known to be black.

John Augustus (Gus) Tolton was born on April 1, 1854, to parents who were enslaved by a white Catholic family in Missouri. Early in his childhood, the Civil War broke out and his father, Peter Paul Tolton, escaped slavery to join the Union Army. John and his mother remained enslaved until 1862 when they escaped by crossing the Mississippi River into Illinois.

Tolton attended an all-white school in Illinois, St. Peter’s Catholic School, where he was noticed and mentored by the school’s pastor, Fr. Peter McGirr. As he matured, he intended to go to seminary, but no American seminary would accept him due to the color of his skin. With Fr. McGirr’s support, Tolton attended seminary in Rome, instead, and was ordained. To his surprise, he was sent back to the United States where he celebrated his first public Mass at St. Boniface church in Quincy, Illinois. He is considered to be the first priest in the USA who was publicly known to be black. He became the pastor of St. Joseph Catholic Church.. After racial tension continued to escalate in the area, he transferred to Chicago where Tolton led the development of St. Monica’s Catholic Church in Chicago’s South Side. It was the first Catholic church to be constructed in this State and probably the only Catholic church in the West that has been built by colored members of that faith for their own use. Tolton served the poor, fed the hungry, ministered to formally enslaved families, shared his beautiful singing voice and talent for playing the accordion, and led many to the faith. Locally he was known as Father Gus and his congregation grew rapidly. In 1897, at age 43, Fr. Augustus Tolton died of heat stroke. The sudden tragedy left his whole community shocked and saddened. His legacy, however, lives on and he was declared Venerable by Pope Francis in June of 2019.

.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

July Birthdays

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



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(See Luke 6:31) 01-15-2002

HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU
TO LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF?

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, 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,**

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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 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



July 2--\$662

Budget--\$1094

MTD Collection--\$662

MTD Budget--\$1094

YTD Collection--\$662

YTD Budget--\$1094

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

Do you ever feel restless? I certainly do. Daily tasks and challenges, but also the more basic demand of simply existing — sooner or later, this can all feel crushing and tire us out.

Which is why Jesus' words are such stunningly good news: "Come to me all you who labor and are burdened and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). How vastly weird that this man speaks as though he is capable of giving us the deep repose we desire. Is his claim the height of absurd grandiosity? No, because next he immediately proclaims that he is "meek and humble of heart." We here touch a mystery: Jesus is capable of giving us rest because he is the one who forever reposes in the heart of God the Father. He is "yoked" to the Father in his divinity. But he is humbly "yoked" to us, sharing in our humanity.

The good news, my fellow tired-out friends: we don't have to despair in our burdens and exhaustion, no matter how heavy they feel. This week, join me in opening our hearts to hear him say to us, "Come! I will give you rest." We come to him in the Church, Eucharist, the Scriptures, prayer, in the poor. There he will give us rest.
— *Father John Muir*

DESPERATION

The kingdom of God is not for the well-meaning but for the desperate. --James Denney

If you want peace, work for justice.

Pope Paul VI

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

LECTORS

July 9: Layson Brooks, Misty Sanford
July 16: Alexis Hatchett, Jacques Williams
July 23: Sarah Malone, Barbara Bisel

Eucharistic Ministers

July 9: Barbara Bisel, Janet Clark, Holly Hollis
July 16: Vivian Higgs, Greg Gough, Misty Sanford
July 23: Rita Moorman, Denise Richardson, Greg Richardson

Collection & Gifts

July 9: Joyce and Ron Moorman
July 16: Alizabeth and Alexis Hatchett

Prayer for Rest

Dear Lord,
Please carry the concerns we hold with us today.
Help us to rest in your assurance
that you will good things for your children.



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 Ballad of Flesh and Spirit

“My yoke is easy and my burden is light,” says the man hanging from a cross. And if we only went on what we see with our eyes — flesh driven through by nails and sword, swollen from beating and inches from expiration — it would seem like a joke.

I’ll tell you something we all know: this life on earth is hard. It’s either too long or it’s too short. It’s frequently painful. It’s riddled with problems that seem to make no sense. It is, as Dickens wrote, “made of ever so many partings welded together.”

But it’s also shockingly, senselessly beautiful. It is full of physical experiences of love, joy, and peace that are so powerful they leave you breathless.

It is both these things — good and bad, hard and wonderful, just as we are both body and soul, spirit and flesh.

No one knows the Father except the Son, who entered into our bodily existence to free us from enslavement to it. No one knows the Son except the Father, and the means by which they know one another — the love passing between them, the Third Person himself — has been shared with us, has made its dwelling within us through baptism.

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

FREEDOM: What does freedom mean? It is certainly not doing whatever you want, allowing yourself to be dominated by the passions, to pass from one experience to another without discernment, to follow the fashions of the day. Freedom does not mean, so to speak, throwing everything that you don’t like out the window. No, that is not freedom! Freedom is given to us so that we now how to make good decisions in life.

Pope Francis

Freedom isn’t freedom from something, but freedom for something.

Readings for the Week

Monday: Gn 28:10-22/Ps 91:-4, 14-15/Mt 9:18-26
Tuesday: Gn 32:23-33/ Ps 17:-3, 6-7, and 15/Mt 9:32-38
Wednesday: Gn 41:55-57; 42:5-7, 17-24/Ps 33:2-3, 10-11, /Mt 10:1-7
Thursday: Gn 44:18-21, 23-29; 45:1-5/Ps 105:16-21/Mt 10:7-15
Friday: Gn 46:1-7, 28-30/Ps 37:3-4, 18-19, 27-28, /Mt 10:16-23
Saturday: Gn 49:29-32; 50:15-26/Ps 105:1-4, 6-7/Mt 10:24-33

Observances for the Week of July 9

Tuesday: St. Benedict, Abbot
Thursday: St. Henry
Friday: St. Kateri Tekakwitha, Virgin
Saturday: St. Bonaventure, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Hope

Never deprive someone of hope--it may be all they have.

Anonymous

SETTING ASIDE THE WEAPONS OF WAR

Why, we might ask the prophet Zechariah today, would God want to banish chariots and horses? The answer follows: because we they are used to violate God’s reign of peace, along with the warrior’s bow. In the days of Zechariah, chariots and horses were high-priced items used only for war-making. They were the aircraft carriers and nuclear missiles of his day. And for his culture, which thought of any kind as being a military leader first and foremost, a king riding on a lowly beast of burden to proclaim peace without horses, chariots, and bows would have set his listeners topsy-turvy.

This lowly, beast-riding king of peace, we believe, was fulfilled in Jesus, gentle and humble of heart. In a world torn by military strife often generated by differing religious views, and even in our own lives and homes where we are often at “war” over the tiniest things, we would do well to stop and consider to what degree we are willing to be like that “king” whose way of gentleness and humility is the way for us to find rest for our weary souls.

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Church Mice

Karl Zorowski



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