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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:

Then the LORD said to him, "Go outside and stand on the mountain before the LORD; the LORD will be passing by." (1 Kgs 19:11)

Psalm:

Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation. (Ps 85)

Second Reading:

From the Israelites, with their law and the prophets, comes the Christ. (Romans 9:1-5)

Gospel:

Peter said to him in reply, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." Peter got out of the boat and began to walk on the water toward Jesus. (Mt 14:28-29)

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



August 13, 2023, 19th Sunday Ordinary Time.

Truth shall spring out of the earth, and justice shall look down from heaven



My Dear Parishioners:

Hurricanes, earthquakes, firestorms, storms at sea, famine, poverty, and terrible perils – all appear in today’s readings. In our times we face rogue nations building nuclear weapons, terrorism, suicide bombers, fanatic fundamentalists randomly bombing and killing innocent people riding on subways and buses. In our own personal lives we face other disasters – cancer, terrible diseases, loved ones on drugs, alcoholism in our families, sudden divorces, business collapses, loss of jobs, and so forth. Do we even need to mention PANDEMIC? We find our own lives surrounded by chaos, the winds of change and the earthquakes of our times changing our social order and national culture. Only one in four households today have the typical arrangement of mom and dad living together at home with their children. Stated another way, only one in four children find themselves in typical, normal homes. Drugs, AIDS, absent fathers, divorce, an unstable employment market, and a surrounding culture that’s alien and hostile to the normal family are the earthquakes and our storms that threaten us. Child abuse, pornography, sexual wantonness, and a blatant media exploitation of sex and violence for money assault the moral character of our youngsters and tear away the fabric normalcy. Teen gangs roam our big city streets at will, while our metropolitan law enforcement agencies operate in apparent powerlessness to take back control of our cities from the pimps, prostitutes, pushers, and gangs that rule the streets.

Where, it is asked, is God in all of this? The answers we hear are many and varied. “It’s God’s will,” we are told. There is no God, others tell us. Some ask: “If God is such a good God, why does He allow such things to happen?” Others tell us that God is a myth constructed by weak-minded people to help prop themselves up in the face of suffering, disaster and loss. “How,” some ask, “can you believe in a God that allows such things to happen?” What should we believe? What should we think in this moral storm that surrounds us? To answer, I take you back to the beginning of things, to the Old Testament’s Book of Genesis. There we find God creating order out of chaos. He pushes back the boundaries of chaos into order to create an ordered and purposeful universe. Then God goes on to invest us with the dignity and the task of joining with Him in bringing creation to completion. He charges us to work with Him in pushing back the boundaries of chaos. He puts His faith in us to work with Him in overcoming all that would smother life, charging us to be His stewards over the world He has made and given over to us. Instead of questioning God perhaps we should ask ourselves this question: “How well have we cooperated with God?” In the New Testament we find God in His Christ entering into our broken world share His presence with us. Christ Jesus, God the Son, not only enters into our broken world but also Himself suffers in it. God’s involvement, God’s presence, is with us as we face sin and suffering. God is not a disinterested and aloof God – He shares with us all that we face in a dislocated and incomplete world. Thus it is that we find Peter in today’s Gospel account walking on our world’s stormy waters. Peter relied on God’s presence in Christ – he was walking toward Christ keeping his eyes fixed on Christ. The greater thing was that Peter was not so much walking on those storm-tossed waters as he was keeping his eyes fixed on Christ and was walking toward Him. But while Peter was making his way to Christ, disaster struck. And what was that disaster? Peter allowed fear to take a hold of his heart. Fear made him divert attention away from Christ and he became fixated on the stormy waters.

All of us need to pay attention to our fears. But we must remember that fear controls our choices more than any other force in our lives. Think of the decisions you have made, the actions you have taken, that were based more on fear than on confidence, choices that were based more on fear than on love. Fear is a powerful tool in the hands of the Evil One. Fear is one of the greatest weapons of the devil. In the mind of Jesus, it is fear that is the opposite of faith, not doubt. Questions are quests. People who question have faith that there is an answer; they believe that there is an answer to their question. Fear, on the other hand, brings with it despair. That is the opposite of faith, not questioning. Blessings, Fr. John

Confidence is the word we need to take into our hearts and souls today. Confidence! Confidence comes from a Latin word that means, “to believe with.” We cannot have confidence when we’re isolated and all alone. We cannot have confidence all by ourselves. No, we can only have confidence when there’s another near us. And that’s the point of today’s readings. One can find confidence, even in the worst of storms, even in the most chaotic of earthquakes. You can go through the worst that life can throw at you only IF you keep up your contact with God. No prayer? No confidence. No coming to Mass? No confidence. No sharing in the life of the Church, in the Body of Christ? No confidence. Soon you’ll take your eyes off of Jesus, and just like Peter, you’ll sink. Soon you’ll only be able to hear the screaming wind, the awful noise, and the deafening roar of the storms and winds that shake the very foundations of your life. And without the voice of God and the eyes of Jesus to hold you steady, you’ll either be blown away or you’ll drown. Confidence, con-fidere, means to believe with. To believe with whom? With Jesus. “Place not your trust in men who have power,” says the Psalmist in Psalm 146, “or in any mortal man. He cannot save, he yields his breath and goes back to the earth from whence he came, and on that day all his scheme shall perish.” Where is God in all of this? He is here. He is here in His Christ. Do we have faith? If so, we will have the confidence and the strength that comes with Christ’s presence in our lives. With that we can face anything life throws at us. Blessings, Fr. John



The Friday Crews working and building and deepening friendships. For some reason pictures did not get taken of the hard working Saturday crowd.

Thanks to everyone who participated in any way to make the picnic a success.



August Birthdays

- 21--Kyler Carmona
- 24--Celena Hagan
- 25--Denise Richardson
- 30--Hank Pardon



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!

PRAY If you pray, you are sure of saving your soul. If you do not pray you are just as sure to lose your soul.
--St. Alphonsus Liguori

Mass Intentions

- August 6--Tom Riney
- August 13--Frances Johnson
- August 14--Ron Sullivan
- August 20--Betty Wimsatt
- August 27--Louis Mooorman

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 to register. Thanks to each of you for your support.

Coming Events



Blessed Sacrament Chapel

- August 14--6 PM Mass Feast of Assumption (Holyday)
- August 20--Parish meeting--recap/ suggestions for picnic. Renovations



- August 6--\$1760.50
- Budget--\$1094
- MTD Collection--\$1760.50
- MTD Budget--\$1094
- YTD Collection--\$7405.86
- YTD Budget--\$6564

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

A man at my parish was struggling to overcome a habitual sin. He said to me, “Father, I know the chance that I will commit sin again is really high. Why should I keep confessing my sins? Isn’t that dishonest?” Anyone who has felt the tyrannical power of sin — and who hasn’t? — has pondered this kind of question.

I responded to him, “What was the probability Peter would walk on the stormy water?” After some silence, he said, “Zero. But when Jesus called, he did it.” I could tell my penitent friend was re-framing the question from his own weakness to the greatness of the Lord’s love for him. The question for us should not be one of human probabilities about our sin, but rather whether or not we will trust the Lord’s grace in our lives.

This week the Lord is calling you and me to do the impossible: overcome sin with love. The only way to do that is to trust *he* is calling, and then to walk with the eyes of faith locked on him. And if we sink, he will raise us up again and again. Of that, we can be 100% sure.
— Father John Muir

Prayer for Discernment

Dear Lord,
We’re seeking your voice today.
Through the winds, quakes, and fires of our days, help our hearts to be attuned to your gentle whispers. Help us to hear. Help us to listen.
Help us to move and act, boldly and bravely.
Help us to not be afraid. Amen.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

LECTORS

August 13: Jacques Williams, Barbara BiseL
August 20: Greg Gough, Misty Sanford
August 27: Alexis Hatchett, Kathi Skidd

Eucharistic Ministers

August 13: Greg Richardson, Vivian Higgs, Kathi Skidd
August 20: Denise Richardson, Rita Moorman, Sarah Malone
August 27: Cindy Clark, Greg Gough, Misty Sanford

Collection & Gifts

August 13: Campbell Family
August 20: Fain Family
August 27: Burnell Hamilton, Yvonne Mundy

LAUGH OF THE WEEK

Coming out of church, Mrs. Peterson asks her husband, “Do you think the Johnson girl is putting a rinse on her hair?” “I didn’t even see her,” Mr. Peterson admits.
“And the dress Martha Hansen was wearing,”Mrs. Peterson continues, “really, don’t tell me you think that’s the proper outfit for the mother of two.” “I’m afraid I didn’t notice that, either,” Mr. Peterson says.
“Oh for heaven’s sake,” Mrs. Peterson snaps, “a lot of good it does for you to go to church”

God and the Good Strong Wind

My only real memory of the Mackinac Island ferry was the physical sensation of the wind against my face. I remember, distinctly, that it hurt.

It surprised and confused me because wind had never felt painful before. Looking back now, I realize that it wasn’t just the wind but the spray from the waves that crashed against the side of the ferry — that was what produced the sharp, biting sensation on my skin. But I couldn’t have known that then, because my eyes were clamped shut. I refused to open them, even if I had, I would not have seen much, because my long hair was blown straight across my face.

I was four years old, and it was, in the immortal words of Winnie-the-Pooh, a very blustery day as my family made our way to Mackinac Island. I remember thinking I was going to die. I’m positive now that it wasn’t really all that dramatic, but at four years old, you’re awfully scared of a good strong wind.

Deep inside, aren’t we all, really? I think of the apostles who cannot recognize Christ — their friend — because he is doing something new. Something impossible. They are so sure he is a ghost, a sinister thing — children are always frightened of what they cannot understand.

And even when he reassures them, still Peter is not convinced. He demands, essentially, a miracle. He demands that Christ make him do what only Christ can do.

And even when the miracle takes place — he walks on water, he defies physics — still he is human. Scared, doubtful, distractible. No match for a good strong wind.

“Immediately Jesus stretched out his hand and caught Peter...” Matthew 14:31
By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

FROLICSOME

Anyone who wished to frolic with the devil cannot rejoice with Christ. St. Peter Chrysologus

Readings for the Week

.Monday: Dt 10:12-22/Ps 147:12-15, 19-20/Mt 17:22-27
Tuesday: Vigil: 1 Chr 15:3-4, 15-16; 16:1-2/Ps 132:6-7, 9-10, 13-14/1 Cor 15:54-57/Lk 11:27-28 ..
Wednesday: Dt 34:1-12/Ps 66:1-3, 5 and 8, 16-17/Mt 18:15-20
Thursday: Jos 3:7-10, 11, 13-17/Ps 114:1-6/Mt 18:21—19:1
Friday: Jos 24:1-13/Ps 136:1-3, 16-18, 21-22 and 24/Mt 19:3-12
Saturday: Jos 24:14-29/Ps 16:1-2, and 5, 7-8, 11/Mt 19:13-15

Observances for the Week of August 13

.Monday: St. Maximillian Kolbe, Priest and Martyr
Tuesday: The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Wednesday: St. Stephen of Hungary
Saturday: St. John Eudes, Priest



To : Bill Terry
(wife: Mary Ann)

On winning the 50-50 pot of
\$2267.50.

Thanks to everyone who sold
and bought tickets.

NOTHING TO FEAR

A rabbi was asked why God sends trials and troubles into human lives. “Because God get lonely for his people” was the reply. There is some resonance with this wisdom in today’s Gospel, as Jesus makes his disciples get into a boat without him and goes off alone while they venture into stormy waters. Of course, neither Jews nor Christians believe that the Almighty plays this sort of whimsical game with them, but there is some truth in the statement that we don’t turn to God for saving help until we’re in a bind. Peter’s role today, as it is throughout the New Testament, is to be a sign or to represent each member of the church and the whole church. Our story is the tale told about Peter’s faith today. What can bolster our faith is that even when Christ calls us to face bravely the tempests of life, if we are walking through them with our eyes fixed on him in faith, we have nothing to fear. Even when we falter or sink, simply crying “Lord, save me!” is enough to help us know the steady grasp of God’s hand. Then sheltered inside the walls of faith, the storms we endure lose their power over us.



Cindy Clark, raffle chair and Samuel Hollis who drew the winning raffle ticket. Mary Ann Terry is holding the winning ticket.

