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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



August 20, 2023, 20th Sunday Ordinary Time.

My house shall be called a house of prayer
for all people..

Sunday's Readings:

First Reading:

All who keep the Sabbath free from profanation and hold to my covenant, them I will bring to my holy mountain and make joyful in my house of prayer (Is 56:6-7)

Psalm:

O God, let all the nations praise you! (Ps 67)

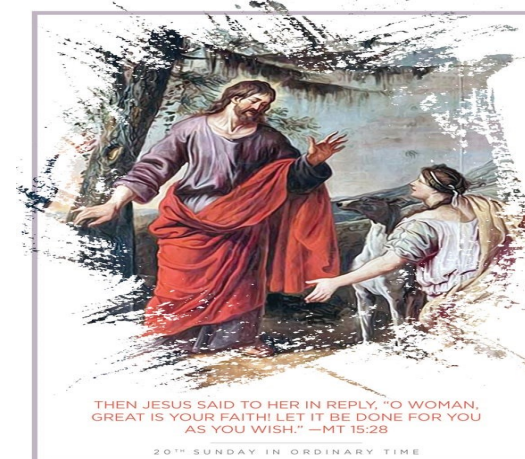
Second Reading:

For God delivered all to disobedience, that he might have mercy upon all. (Rom 11:32)

Gospel:

Then Jesus said to her in reply, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." (Mt 15:28)

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



My Dear Parishioners:

Today's Gospel account contains one of the most memorable verbal duels recorded in the four Gospels, and one of the most important. We need to pick it apart and draw some golden nuggets out of this wonderful passage. First of all, it is important to note that Jesus is speaking here to a woman, something rab-bis back in those days did not do in public. Not only that, but she was a foreigner, a Canaanite woman from the area that these days we call Lebanon. Like the Magi, those wise men from the East that we find at Christ's birth, this non-Jew present herself to Jesus and addresses him as "Son of David" as she begs His help for her daughter who is possessed by some mysterious, inner demonic force. In this account there are three movements. The first involves Canaanite woman's journey of faith. Leaving her own religious tradition behind, she turns to a Jewish rabbi, Jesus, and places her faith in Him. She looks to Him for a miraculous cure for her daughter. For her trouble, she received silence from Jesus. She was re-buffed, humiliated, and given a cold shoulder from Him. His disciples, annoyed by the fact that she was bothering Him with her loud crying, seek to get rid of her. They want Jesus to send her away. So Jesus says to her, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. Then comes the second movement. The woman presses in on Jesus and falling on her knees in front of Him she cries out, "Lord, help me." For her second effort Jesus tells her, "It is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs." How utterly humiliating. In effect He was calling her a dog! Her humility was turned into what appeared to be a terrible humiliation. People in the Middle East are very sensitive to such things. Then comes the final movement. Now, in abject humility with her face in the dirt, stripped of her dignity, having abandoned her own religious background, she has nothing left, not even her pride. "Please, Lord," she softly insists, "even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table of their masters." What the Canaanite woman is saying is that she doesn't deserve anything, "but how about giving me scraps that accidentally fall from your abundance?" With that, the heart of Jesus is vanquished.

The scene would be repeated later at the end of His life. His own humiliation and abandonment would, connected as it was with the Last Supper, play out in a way strikingly similar to this account. The key that unlocks the mystery contained in this verbal duel is to recognize that Jesus saw in this Canaanite woman a reality that she didn't even see herself. He saw in her a faith that could withstand any assault; a love that was divine; a hope that could not be shaken. He tested her mettle and she found something within herself that she didn't know even existed. Joined into the humiliation of Christ, she transcended ordinary humanity and came into a level of life that was God's. Her three-step journey in faith mirrored Christ's. The critical point of it all is that Jesus sees the same thing in you and in me. For He has an unrealized dream about who you really are and what you're really made of. In Christ's life, passion, and death we find the stuff of our real humanity, particularly so when we share in His suffering, passion, and death. If Jesus had granted her request right away, this woman would never have ascended to the heights of glory that she did. We must see that in the divine scheme of things, the more we lose the more we win. The more we give away, the more we gain. The more we go down, the higher we ascend. In that, we pass from what is human into what is divine. It's the path of Jesus. Should Jesus grant our prayer requests right away, we would never ascend to the heights of glory that are hidden within your destiny and mine. That is why, when in the Garden of Gethsemane Jesus prayed that His Father rescue Him, and His Father did not. The answer to Jesus' prayer was not rescue, it was resurrection. We can expect that our prayers will be answered in the same way. St. Paul presents this journey in three parts in his Letter to the Philip-pians. In Chapter two we find that threefold movement in Christ's own life when Paul writes: His state was divine, yet he did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are; and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him on high and gave him a the name which is above all other names so that all being in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the same of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

.The first movement is His abandonment of His proper place, His native place at the right hand of His Father in heaven. He moves from His Father's side into a place of separation, into total immersion with us where we are at, more importantly into who we are. The second movement is downward into our sinful humanity, and not only that but to a level below that which we are usually willing to accept. He is spit upon, humiliated, and stripped naked of all His dignity. He face is rubbed in the dirt, as was the Canaanite woman's face. The third movement is upward. He rises from the dead into a new Spirit-filled, resurrected life and then ascends into glory, back to His Father's side.

Victorious over all that is demonic within our humanity he heals far more than the Canaanite woman's daughter – He gives His healing power to us all. In the divine scheme of things, the more we lose the more we win. The more we give, the more we receive. The more we go down, the higher we ascend. Ask anyone who has ever successfully completed a recovery program, they will tell you that you find power over whatever demons beset you when you surrender to your Higher Power. God came among us with healing power and He is looking for our faith. The Canaanite woman came to God in faith and in search of healing and found it. Your task, and mine as well, is to live a life-story just like hers. Can you? Can I? Yes, we can, because Jesus lived it first and give you the power and the capacity to live lives like that. The question is not: Can we? The real question is: Will we? Blessings, Fr. Joh



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
22--Emma Goins
24--Celena Hagan
25--Denise Richardson

Mass Intentions

August 14--Ron Sullivan
August 20--Betty Wimsatt
August 27--Louis Mooorman
September 3---Frances Johnson
September 10--June and Bill Johnson



Prayer for Students & Teachers

Lord our God, in your wisdom and love, you surround us with the mysteries of the universe. You sent us your Son to teach us by word and example that true wisdom comes from you alone. Send your Spirit upon students and teachers and fill them with your wisdom and blessings. Grant that during this academic year they may devote themselves to their studies and share what they have learned from others. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Summer Is Over Break

The summer holiday was over and young Jack returned to school. Only two days later his teacher phoned his mother to tell her that Jack was misbehaving. 'Wait a minute,' his mother said. 'I had Jack with me for two months and I never called you once when he misbehaved.'

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 20--Parish meeting--recap/suggestions for picnic. Renovations
September 10--Religious Ed classes begin
September 14--McDonald's Night 5-7



August 13--\$988

Budget--\$1094

MTD Collection--\$2748.50

MTD Budget--\$2188

YTD Collection--\$8,393.86

YTD Budget--\$7,658

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

The suffering of a child symbolizes uniquely terrible evil as well as despair about the future. This week's Gospel gives a "limit" case in which Jesus encounters this evil in the form of a mother with a suffering daughter. What he does is stunning and massively helpful for us if we bravely ponder the details.

The Canaanite woman comes to Jesus and begs his mercy. "My daughter is tormented by a demon," she declares to him. Shockingly, he responds first with silence, then with a dismissive comment, and only then finally accedes to her third request. Is this simply a lesson in perseverance in our petitions to God, who is like a genie in a bottle? Does that justify the humiliation and pain this woman suffers? Is the Lord cruel?

I don't think so. Notice how the encounter ends. She compares herself to a dog at the table of a master. Jesus responds by praising her great faith and fulfills her deep desire. Somehow this non-Israelite woman intuits that this harrowing situation is not dumb suffering. She senses that the door of God's family is, in Jesus, being opened to her and her loved ones. She trusts she is at the Lord's table, and her desires will be fulfilled and that all her sufferings — and her daughter's, too — will lead a great banquet. In our sufferings this week, the Lord wants us to treat him less like a genie in a bottle and more like the Master who has taken us — lost little dogs that we are — into his home forever. Trust that and keep praying in the face of evil. — Father John Muir

GRATITUDE

O Thou who has given us so much, mercifully grant us one thing more--a grateful heart.

George Herbert

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

LECTORS

August 20 Greg Gough, Misty Sanford
August 27: Alexis Hatchett, Kathi Skidd
September 3: Connie Clary, Sarah Malone

Eucharistic Ministers

August 20: Denise Richardson, Rita Moorman, Sarah Malone
August 27 Cindy Clark, Greg Gough, Misty Sanford
September 3: Janet Clark, Holly Hollis, Kathi Skidd

Collection & Gifts

August 20: Fain Family
August 27: Burnell Hamilton, Yvonne Mundy
September 3: Malone Family

Acts 2:42

The early Christians “devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers.”

Small groups will begin to meet in September with the goal of “helping people see what it means to receive and live the Eucharist.”

Sessions include prayer, reading Scripture excerpts and passages from various documents of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and a prerecorded video reflection given by Bishop Medley.

These sessions are designed to take lace in people’s home once a month. If you are interested in hosting a session or joining one, please contact Janet Clark or Sister Jeannette.

The Prayers God Always Answers

When I was a child, my mother bought a book called “The Prayers God Will Always Answer.” I remember my anticipation as I cracked the spine and turned to the first page. I had been spending a lot of time asking God — begging God, actually — over and over again for some specific things that were not materializing. Frankly, it was beginning to feel a lot like that time I asked Santa Claus for a new house, only to wake up on Christmas morning to find ordinary, non-house-shaped presents under the tree — and a growing sense of suspicion that my faith had been ill-placed.

To the great disappointment of my pre-teen heart, my mother’s book was not a directory of magical phrases God is compelled to obey. It was a list that included things like “Forgive me” and “Help me.” I tossed it aside, disappointed.

I marvel at the wisdom and the confidence of the Canaanite woman who persists in begging Jesus to heal her daughter. She is ignored, and still she will not be deterred. The disciples try to dismiss her — still, she presses on. Christ himself challenges her, and her faith makes her ready with a reply. Somehow, I am sure that even if Christ had said, “No, it cannot be done for you as you wish,” she would have still dropped to her knees and worshiped him, because she knew what I did not: God is not a vending machine, and he’s not the genie from “Aladdin.” Prayer is not a negotiation, but a relationship.

The story of the Canaanite woman is not a story about how to get God to give you what you want. It is a story about the prayers God always answers.

“Then Jesus said to her in reply, ‘O woman, great is your faith!’” — Matthew 15:28

POWER OF PRAYER

Much prayer, much power!
Little prayer, little power!
No prayer, no power!

Readings for the Week

.Monday: Jgs 2:11-19/Ps 106:34-37, 39-40, 43--44/Mt 19:16-22
Tuesday: Jgs 6:11-24a/Ps 85:9, 11-14/Mt 19:23-30
Wednesday: Jgs 9:6-15/Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mt 20:1-16
Thursday: Rv 21:9-14/Ps 145:10-13, 17-18/Jn 1:45-51
Friday: Ru 1:1, 3-6, 14-16, 22/Ps 146:5-10/Mt 22:34-40
Saturday: Ru 2:1-3, 8-11; 4:13-17/Ps 128:1-- 5/Mt 23:1-12

Observances for the Week of August 20

Monday: St. Pius X, Pope
Tuesday: The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Wednesday: St. Rose of Lima, Virgin
Thursday: St. Bartholomew, Apostle
Friday: St. Louis; St. Joseph Calasanz, .



To : Bill Terry
(wife: Mary Ann)

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

Thanks to everyone who sold
and bought tickets.

CALLED TO ACT IN GOD’S NAME

“Let all the nations praise you!” (Psalm 67:4) today’s psalm response exclaims. In the psalms and other Hebrew scriptures, this kind of invocation is actually an invitation to God to act, to intervene in human lives in a manner that will cause everyone--not just the Chosen People--to give praise. Stated a bit more strongly, it is something of a “put up or shut up” challenge to God, the sort of strong statement the psalmists of Israel, trusting in their intimate and loving relationship with Go, were not afraid to make.

The Gospel has its own exclamation , announcing the appearance of the Canaanite woman with “Behold!” (Matthew 15:22) “Behold!” is a scriptural flag that tells us individual or a situation. IN the case of Jesus, God was going to act through this woman, whom nobody among Jesus’ followers would have believed to be an agent of the divine will. Like the psalmists, we might passively inform or perhaps even actively challenge God to do something so that everyone will come to belief, but God will always turn the tables on us. It becomes our calling, our duty (as it was for Jesus) to behold the situations and persons of our daily lives so that god can act through us, so the Kingdom can be announced through our living.
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Mary Ann Terry is holding the winning ticket. Pictured with her is Samuel Hollis who drew the winning ticket.

