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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 Cheriankunnel

moc_shibu.cheriyankunnel@pastoral.org

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



**August 27, 2023, 21st Sunday
Ordinary Time.**

**You are Christ,
the Son of the living God. (Matt. 16,15)**

Sunday's Readings:

First Reading:

"I will place the key of the House of David on Eliakim's shoulder; when he opens, no one shall shut, when he shuts, no one shall open." (Is 22:22)

Psalm:

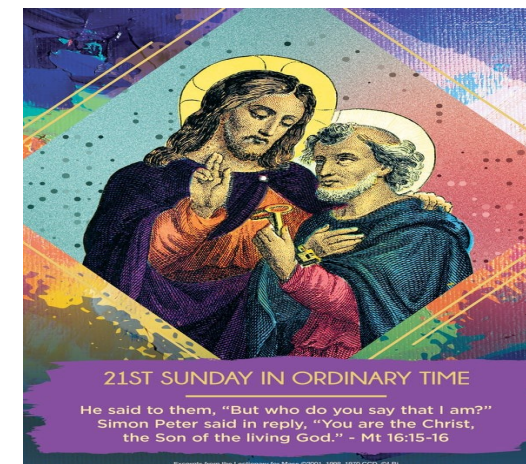
Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands. (Ps 138)

Second Reading:

For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be glory forever. (Rom 11:36)

Gospel:

"And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven." (Mt 16:18-19)



My Dear Parishioners:

There are two ways of knowing people or things. We can either know about them or know them. The former is having facts or information about them. The latter is having a personal experience of them. Before I came to the United States, I had facts about the country, the people, and the weather condition. America has fifty states, ethnically diverse with four seasons. This is not knowledge by experience. I got my information from people, books, magazines, and journals. Upon arrival in the United States, I saw the land, met the people, and experienced the weather. What I have heard and read now I see and touch. It is no longer book knowledge or hearsay. It is a personal experience.

What Jesus wants is not for us to know about him, but to know him. He put this question to his disciples: “Who do people say that I am?” They answered: “Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” Then he personalized the question: “But you, who do you say that I am.” The disciples were all reduced to silence except for Peter who declared: “You are the Christ, the Son of living God.” When Jesus asked the disciples what people thought of him they had no difficulty providing the answers. Knowing about Jesus can be easy. All you need to do is pick up a theology book, or hear a lengthy sermon from the pulpit, or sign up for a course on the Bible. What is difficult is to have your own experience or revelation of Jesus. Peter did not repeat second hand information concerning Jesus. He spoke from his own encounter with Jesus.

I fear that most of us derive our knowledge of Jesus from books or others. Jesus distinguished between knowledge of him from human beings and knowledge of him from God. He said to Peter, “Blessed are you Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my father in heaven.” “Flesh and blood” stands for us human beings. The “father in heaven” refers to God. For Jesus, Peter’s knowledge of his true identity did not derive from human beings but God himself.

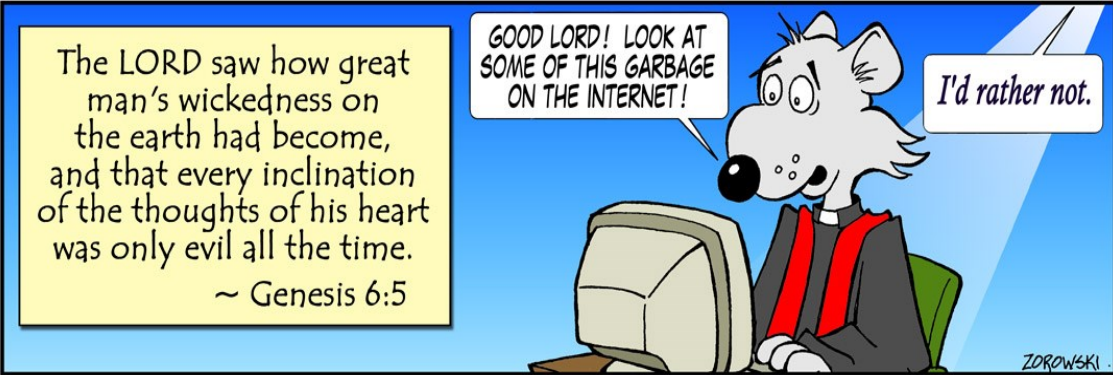
When Jesus said, “Blessed are you Simon son of Jonah,” he was not simply elevating Peter above the other disciples. He was doing something far more important. He was affirming that knowing about him or having some information about his identity is not the ideal. Over and above all, who he is to us as individuals is what really matters. Jesus continues, “You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it.” Notice that Jesus did not say he would build his church upon the twelve apostles but on Peter the rock. There is something special about Peter. He alone correctly understood Jesus’ identity. Building the church on Peter would then mean Jesus established his church not on doctrines or dogmas. Rather, he built his church on the correct understanding of who he was. This correct understanding of Jesus’ identity did not depend on human authority but the power of God who made the revelation to Peter.

Jesus also said to Peter, “Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” True, Jesus has given Peter the power to bind and loose. It is important, however, to realize the basis of this power. It was not dependent on Peter’s person or personality. The power to bind and loose was given to Peter on the basis of his accurate understanding of Jesus. On another occasion, when Jesus told his disciples how he was going to suffer and die, Peter opposed the whole idea of a suffering Messiah, saying that this must not happen to Jesus. Jesus condemned Peter, telling him, “Get behind me Satan.” When Peter had an accurate understanding of Jesus’ messianic identity, Jesus declared him blessed, and gave him power over his followers. But when Peter was wrong concerning Jesus’ vocation by opposing his suffering and death, Jesus referred to Peter as Satan. From this it follows that Peter’s authority came, not so much from his office or personality as from his proper understanding of Jesus. May God help us to make the transition from knowing about Jesus to knowing him. Blessings! Father John

Safe Environment The safety of our children is the responsibility of every Christian. Anyone aware of the abuse of a person under the age of eighteen is required by law to report this to the proper state authorities (800-422-4453); local law enforcement (800-752-6200); or the Kentucky Child Abuse Hotline (toll-free: 1-877-597- 2331). To report abuse to the diocese, current or past, by anyone acting in the name of the Church (paid or volunteer), call Louanne Payne, Pastoral Assistance Coordinator (English) on the confidential phone line: 270-852-8380, or Susan Montalvo-Gesser/Miguel Quintanilla, Pastoral Assistance Coordinators (Spanish): 270-880-8360. The Diocese of Owensboro’s sexual abuse policy is available at this parish (in the bookshelf in back of the church), in the parish office and hall, and on the diocesan website (<https://owensborodiocese.org/safe>). To make a report of sexual abuse of a minor and related misconduct by bishops, go to ReportBishopAbuse.org or call 1-800-276-1562

Church Mice

Karl Zorowski



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PICNIC RECAP

Thanks to each of you who helped in any way to make the picnic a success. Selling/buying raffle tickets, donating food for the lunch, and all the help before and during the picnic are most important . The picnic could not take place without that. At the parish meeting this past Sunday we evaluated the picnic and made suggestions for next year. Our netted figures are:

50-50 raffle	\$2204.26
Meat/dinners	\$2474.45
Net profit:	\$4678.71

Phase 3--painting the body of the church--is completed. So many of you have been part of making this possible. We are looking forward to moving ahead with the flooring and seating. We invite anyone who has not been part of the updating/renovations to become part. When it is completed, we want you to be able to claim ownership in the beautifying of your church.

August Birthdays

- 24--Celena Hagan
- 25--Denise Richardson
- 30--Hank Pardon

September Birthdays

- 1--Wonet Taylor
- 2--Emma Latta
- 3--Venice Higgs
- 6--Shelby Webster
- 7--Aubrey Ottofy
- 8--Mary Hagan, Mamie Farish



The Greedy Man and the Genie

A man is walking down the beach and comes across an old bottle. He picks it up, pulls out the cork and out pops a genie! The genie says, “Thank you for freeing me from the bottle. In return I will grant you three wishes.” The man says, “Great! I always dreamed of this and I know exactly what I want. First I want one billion dollars in a Swiss bank account.” Poof! There is a flash of light and a piece of paper with account numbers appears in his hand! He continues: “Next, I want a brand new red Ferrari right here.” Poof! There is a flash of light and a bright red, brand new Ferrari appears right next to him. He continues, “Finally I want to be irresistible to women.” Poof! There is a flash of light and he turns into a box of chocolates.

Mass Intentions

- August 27--Louis Moorman
- September 3---Frances Johnson
- September 10--June and Bill Johnson
- September 17--Burnell and Joseph Hamilton, Robert and Elizabeth Johnson, Theresa Hill
- September 24--Bern Tooley

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**
September 10--Religious Ed classes begin
Sophia Award 2 pm
Cindy Clark honored
- September 14--McDonald’s Night
W. Parrish Ave. 5-7 pm



- August 20--\$1723.96
- Budget--\$1094
- MTD Collection--\$4,481.46
- MTD Budget--\$3,282
- YTD Collection--\$10,126.82
- YTD Budget--\$8,752

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

Isn’t it a bit weird that Catholics call the Pope “papa,” father? This Sunday provides us with essential Scriptural background on the papacy, the petrine office. Jesus gives Peter the “keys to the kingdom of heaven,” after witnessing to the special grace Peter has to know Jesus’ true identity. Many have pointed out that the “keys” refer back to the figure of Eliakim, King David’s prime minister. True enough. But notice this is not mere authority or power. It’s a family relationship. The Lord says to Eliakim, “He shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem” (Isaiah 22:21). David’s prime minister was a spiritual *father* to the family of Israel. Peter, and his successors, will be spiritual fathers in the family of the Church.

This means we have a serious obligation to not only recognize the Pope’s authority, but also to love him with the affection of children for their papa. We should never speak about him with disrespect or rancor. We should listen to him with trusting hearts, and ignore the slander thrown at him in various media. When we show the world we are loving and obedient to our Holy Papa, perhaps they’ll see more clearly that the Church is indeed God’s beloved family. — *Father John Muir*

Laudato Si

Around 4 billion people suffer water scarcity for at least one month each year--especially in poorer countries and in rural areas. Fast-growing cities around the world also face severe water shortages, and often divert freshwater away from rural lands. Water pollution from pesticides and chemical fertilizers is a major problem, while wasteful use of water and global warming also threatens supplies. Currently 3.6 billion people live without safely managed sanitation and 1.7 billion lack even basic sanitation. This exposes them to cholera and other deadly waterborne diseases.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

LECTORS

August 27: Alexis Hatchett, Kathi Skidd
September 3: Connie Clary, Sarah Malone
September 10: Jacques Williams, Wayne Stephens

Eucharistic Ministers

August 27: Cindy Clark, Greg Gough, Misty Sanford
September 3: Janet Clark, Holly Hollis, Kathi Skidd
September 10: Rita Moorman, Charlene Meadows, Greg Richardson

Collection & Gifts

August 27: Burnell Hamilton, Yvonne Mundy
September 3: Malone Family
September 10: Jacques & Whitney Williams 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.

Who Do You Say That I Am?

I once knew a very devout woman whose adult godchild had fallen away from the practice of the faith. This godchild still believed in God, and even felt a sense of belonging in the Church. He was a good and kind person. But poor catechesis and a society that confuses pleasure with joy had left him lax in practice, without an appreciation of the sacraments. He was making choices that threatened his soul.

His godmother wanted more for him. She planned to speak with him about his life, hoping to encourage him to return to the practice of the faith. She knew that, when she brought this up, he would reply that it wasn’t important to attend Mass or to receive the Eucharist, that was all just “extra.”

She told me that she was going to begin their conversation by asking him the question Jesus poses to Peter in Matthew 16:15 — the critical question in all our lives, the question whose answer will define what we become in this world and the next.

Her godson knew the answer. She was confident, unshakably, that he did. He may have forgotten it or ignored it. He may have tried to convince himself he wasn’t entirely sure. He may have refused to give an answer. But he knew it. He knew the answer.
There is a reason that, after Peter’s response, Jesus gives him the keys to the kingdom of heaven.

“Who do you say that I am?”
Let our whole lives be our answer.
“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” — Matthew 16:16

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

THE TRUE MEASURE

When I die, God won’t measure my head to see how clever I was. God will measure my heart to see how loving I was.

Readings for the Week

Monday: 1 Thes 1:1-5, 8-10/Ps 149:1-6 and 9/Mt 23:13-22
Tuesday: 1 Thes 2:1-8/Ps 139:1-6/ Mk 6:17-29
Wednesday: 1 Thes 2:9-13/Ps 139:7-12/ Mt 23:27-32
Thursday: 1 Thes 3:7-13/Ps 90:3-5, 12-14 and 17/Mt 24:42-51
Friday: 1 Thes 4:1-8/Ps 97:1 and 2, 5-6, 10-12/Mt 25:1-13
Saturday: 1 Thes 4:9-11/Ps 98:1, 7-9/ Mt 25:14-30

Observances for the Week of August 27

Monday: St. Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Tuesday: The Passion of St. John the Baptist

PRUNING OUR LANGUAGE

There is no need to go to a psychiatrist to know that when people put someone else down, it is because they themselves are unable to develop and need to feel that the other is less important in order for them to feel they count. But Jesus said: “Do not speak badly of others, do not belittle them, do not discredit them.”

It is not that we are wicked; we are weak and sinful. It is far easier to solve situation with an insult rather than with kind words. We must start by pruning our language a little, by cutting back a bit our comments about others or the explosions that lead us to insulting them and flaring up in anger. ---Pope Francis

THE ROCK

Peter was Jesus’ choice to lead the fragile band of apostles. In today’s Gospel, Simon is given a new name--Peter, the ”rock.” In John’s Gospel, Peter is called to be a shepherd. He is expected to lay down his life for his sheep. And tradition tells us that he did just that. But today we think about the durable rocklike quality that Jesus needed in a leader.

Peter was appointed to his leadership position for reasons we are not able to fathom. God knows,, and Jesus knew well, that Peter was flawed. We cannot mistake his enthusiasms, though, his manifest love, and his great, exuberant faith. Those virtues saw him though. They are durable, tough, beautiful virtues. They make Peter a sympathetic and lovable person. They provide us with the balance and humor that we need as we consider our own roles in the universal church. Copyright J.S. Paluch Co.

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Thanks to Mrs Andree Gendron 08-19-2002

I'M JUST KIDDING FOLKS ... THERE ISN'T ANY SUPER-SECRET PASSWORD