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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,
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August 6, 2023, Transfiguration

The Lord is King, Let the earth rejoice.

Sunday's Readings:

First Reading:

His clothing was bright as snow, and the hair on his head as white as wool; his throne was flames of fire, with wheels of burning fire.
(Dn 7:9)

Psalm:

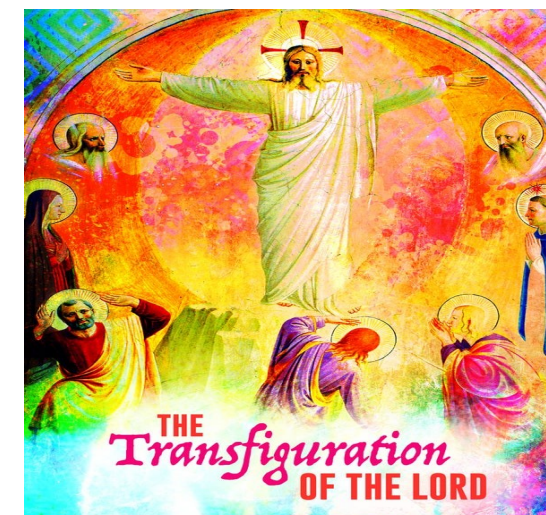
The Lord is king, the Most High over all the earth. (Ps 97)

Second Reading:

When that unique declaration came to him from the majestic glory, "This is my Son, my beloved, with whom I am well pleased." We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven while we were with him on the holy mountain. (2 Pt 1:17-18)

Gospel:

And he was transfigured before them his face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light. (Mt 17:2)



My Dear Parishioners:

Sometimes we can work beside someone without really getting to know the person; then, one day, something happens which causes him to open up, to begin to let us get close to him, and we discover a depth of riches which we didn't know existed. This morning's gospel is about an experience analogous to that, where Peter, James and John are able for a moment to see who Jesus really is. For the three apostles, it is an experience of something beyond words: frightening and yet, at the same time, so wonderful that they would wish to prolong it by building three tents – for Jesus, Moses and Elijah. Reflecting on the experience, years later, Peter would write: “We had seen his majesty for ourselves. He was honored and glorified by God the Father, when the Sublime Glory itself spoke to him” (1 Pet 1:17.)

The gospel mentions the whiteness of Jesus's clothes; Mark says they became “dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them.” Saint Gregory Nazianzen tells us that this whiteness was the Divinity, manifested to the disciples. Traditionally, Moses and Elijah are seen as representing the Law and the Prophets, an interpretation which we find in the preface of today's, Mass. But Moses and Elijah were also people who had encounters with the Divinity. Both had to cross the desert, fast for forty days, and climb the mountain of God. Moses had prayed to God, “Show me your glory.” When God revealed his back (not his face) to Moses, he placed him in the cleft of the rock, and when he came to Elijah as a gentle breeze, it was at the mouth of the cave. Perhaps these two are present as representing all those who desire to see God's glory: “When can I enter and see the face of God?” Is. 42:2) What were Moses and Elijah talking about with Jesus? Luke says they were “speaking of his passing which he was to accomplish in Jerusalem” (Lk 9:31), and indeed it was in his Passion that the face of God was to be revealed, as John would later write: “No one has ever seen God; it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father's heart, who has made him known” (Jn 1:18.)

In the Transfiguration, the Father's voice is heard saying, “This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.” Gregory Palamas says: “The Father by his voice bore witness to his Beloved Son; the Holy Spirit, shining with him in the bright cloud, indicated that the Son possesses with the Father the light, which is one, like all that belongs to their richness.” Just as at the Baptism of Jesus, so also at the Transfiguration, the heavens are opened and we receive a glimpse of the inner life of the Trinity. Jesus is revealed as Son of the Father, who speaks from the cloud of Divine Presence, where in dwells the Spirit.

Blessings, Fr. John

Laudato Si

Each year around 12 million tons of plastic enters our oceans. Plastic waste is a serious symptom of over-consumption. There may now be more than 5 trillion pieces of plastic--both larger pieces to so-called microplastics--floating in our seas, which have devastating effects on marine species and biodiversity. Microplastics particles find their way into our food, water, and even bloodstreams.

Half of all plastics ever produced have been made in the last 15 years, and production is growing. At each stage of its life cycle, plastic can harm our health, through exposure to plastic particles themselves and the chemicals used in their manufacture.

We need to move beyond consume-and -throwaway systems towards circular approaches that work within ecological limits. This means reusing, recycling, and sharing materials and products. Households and firms should take responsibility for how they dispose of their waste.



Holy Chauffeur

While the pope was visiting the USA, he told the driver of his limo that he has the sudden urge to drive. The driver was a good Catholic man and would not ever dream of questioning the pope's authority. So, the pope sat at the wheel, while his driver got in the back. They were traveling down the road doing between 70 and 80 mph, when a policeman happened to see them. As he pulled them over, he called in to headquarters reporting a speeding limo, with a VIP inside it.

The chief asked, “Who is in the limo, the mayor?”

The policeman told him, “No, someone more important than the mayor.”

Then the chief asked, “Is it the governor?”

The policeman answered, “No, someone more important than the governor.”

The chief finally asked, “Is it the President?”

The policeman answered, “No, someone even more important than the President.”

This made the chief very angry, and he bellowed, “Now who is more important than the President?!”

The policeman calmly whispered, “I'll put it to you this way chief. I don't know who this guy is, but he has the Pope as his chauffeur.”

July Birthdays

30--Yvonne Mundy
31--Gloria Adams

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!

Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless.

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 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 30--\$979

Budget--\$1094

MTD Collection--\$5,645.36

MTD Budget--\$5,470

YTD Collection--\$5,645.36

YTD Budget--\$5,470

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 Transfiguration of the Lord

What is Christianity finally about? These days if you ask almost anyone who doesn't know the Bible you'll probably hear an answer like this: "Being a good person" or "following the golden rule." No offense to the golden rule, but our faith is simply much stranger than that. This week's feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord is a luminous example of this. Jesus becomes radiantly and overwhelmingly beautiful. The glory of God literally shines forth from his body and even his clothes. Here we see that Christianity is not mainly a moral system, but a relationship with God in Christ, one that finally makes human beings gloriously beautiful.

Now we can see our good and bad deeds in a new and de-centered way. Our morality isn't about a heaven or hell scorecard. It's about lives open (or closed) to transfiguration, lives capable of revealing the glory of God in Christ to the world. Spouses, children, friends, co-workers, priests, consecrated women and men, and so on — we are all called to let the beauty of Jesus make our lives beautiful, little by little. His beauty in us is the center of our faith. Father John Muir

SING YOUR SONG:

Alas for those who never sing, but die with their music within them. --Oliver Wendell Holmes

MINISTRY SCHEDULE	
	LECTORS
<u>August 6:</u>	Layson Brooks, Wayne Stephens
<u>August 13:</u>	Jacques Williams, Barbara Bisel
<u>August 20</u>	Greg Gough, Misty Sanford
	Eucharistic Ministers
<u>August 6:</u>	Barbara Bisel, Charlene Meadows, Holly Hollis
<u>August 13:</u>	Denise and Greg Richardson, Kathi Skidd
<u>August 20:</u>	Vivian Higgs, Rita Moorman, Sarah Malone
	Collection & Gifts
<u>August 6:</u>	Fain Family
<u>August 13:</u>	Campbell Family

TOTALITY *Totally love him, who gave himself totally for your love. ...St. Clare*

- SPECIAL BIBLE TEXTS**
 - **When you want Christian assurance, read Romans 8:1-30**
 - **For Paul’s idea of Christianity, read 2 Corinthians 5:15-19**
 - **For Paul’s rules on how to get along with men, read Romans 12**
 - **When you think of investments and returns, Mark 10:17-31**
 - **For the prophet’s picture of true worship, Isaiah 58:1-2**

Transfigured

We have all had moments when we seem to get a glimpse of Heaven.

For me, they come with the sacraments: in the pew following my First Communion, kneeling before the bishop as he sealed my forehead with oil at my Confirmation, standing opposite my husband on our wedding day, cradling my newborns as the priest poured holy water over their little foreheads, claiming them for Christ.

Moments when the veil between this world and the one to come is pulled away, and our hearts cry out: “Lord, it is good we are here.”

Like Peter at the Transfiguration, we desperately wish the feeling would last forever. We want to hang onto the certainty, the confidence and the joy that radiates from our souls. We want to spend forever looking upon the transfigured face of Christ.

But we are not in heaven yet. We raise our eyes, seeing only this world before us, the words of Jesus ringing in our ears: “Rise, and do not be afraid.”

“His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not be taken away, his kingship shall not be destroyed.” — Daniel 7:14
By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

On the Feast of the Transfiguration

You shed light for your disciples, Lord Jesus, on the way of the Cross, when they contemplated you on the mountain. Lead us today along this way of lowliness and glory, for you are the Beloved Son, who has the words of eternal life, and reigns for ever and ever. (Proclaiming All Your Wonders)

Readings for the Week

.Monday: Nm 11:4b-15/Ps 81:12-17/
 Mt 14:13-21

Tuesday: Nm 12:1-13/Ps 51:3-7, 12-13/
 Mt 14:22-36

Wednesday: Nm 13:1-2, 25—14:1, 26--35/
 Ps 106:6-7,13-14/Mt 15:21-28

Thursday: 2 Cor 9:6-10/Ps 112:1-2, 5-9/
 Jn 12:24-26

Friday: Dt 4:32-40/Ps 77:12-13-16
 and 21/Mt 16:24-28

Saturday: Dt 6:4-13/Ps 18:2-4, 47 and
 51/Mt 17:14-20

Observances for the Week of August 6

Monday: St. Sixtus II, Pope, St. Cajetan,

Tuesday: St. Dominic, Priest

Wednesday: St. Teresa Benedicta of the
 Cross, Virgin and Martyr

Thursday: St. Lawrence, Martyr

Friday: St. Clare, Virgin

Saturday: St. Jane Frances de Chantal,

THE HOLY SPIRIT ANNOYS US

The Holy Spirit annoys us, because he moves us; he makes us travel; he pushes the Church forward. And we are like Peter at the Transfiguration: “Oh, how wonderful it is for us to be here, all together!” as long as it does not inconvenience us.

We would like the Holy Spirit to doze off. We want to subdue the Holy Spirit. And that just will not work. For he is God, and he is the wind that comes and goes, and you do not know from where. He is the strength of God; it is he who gives us consolation and strength to continue forward. To go forward! And this is bothersome. Convenience is nicer. ---Pope Francis

EYEWITNESSES

Today the Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord, is a day of eyewitness accounts. The first, a vision reported by the prophet Daniel, was well known to Jesus and his apostles. The vision account was written in quite mystical and figurative language. It is a vision of heaven, powerful and memorable. There are flames of fire, burning wheels, the Ancient One, and a Son of Man. Clearly, Daniel saw something. But was it a dream? Was it real? Was it merely a clever myth?

Peter wants no such confusion about his vision! We are told in Matthew’s Gospel what he and his friends James and John saw when they went up on the mountain with Jesus one day. Jesus warned the three witnesses to tell no one until “the Son of Man has been raised from the dead” (Matthew 17:9). Lest readers of one of the Gospels discount the story or simply write it off as a pious myth, Peter gives his own account of the Transfiguration of Jesus in his second letter to the church. He writes with authority, as an eyewitness. He reports this message from God concerning Jesus: “This is my Son, my beloved, with whom I am well please,” and he assures us that the message is “altogether reliable.” (2 Peter 1:17, 19)

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- BULLETIN BLOOPERS**
 - * For those who have children and don’t know it, we have a nursery in the basement.
 - * The Low Self-esteem Support Group will meet Tuesday at 7 pm. Please use the back door.
 - * Ladies, remember the rummage sale which is coming up in two weeks. It’s good chance to get rid of some things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands..