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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

mocshibu.cheriyankunnel@pastoral.org

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



**September 3, 2023, 22nd Sunday
Ordinary Time.**

The Son of Man will come and repay all according to their conduct. **Matt 16:27**

Sunday's Readings:

First Reading:

Whenever I speak, I must cry out, violence and outrage is my message; the word of the LORD has brought me derision and reproach all the day. (Jer 20:8)

Psalm:

My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God. (Ps 63)

Second Reading:

I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship. (Rom 12:1)

Gospel:

"Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.

For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." (Mt 16:24-25)



22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." - Mt 16:24b-25

Excerpt from the Lectionary for Mass (©2001, 1996, 1970 CCC)

68/01

We’ve all heard the expression “When the going gets tough, the tough get going.” Easily said, hard to do. What do we do? Sometimes the cost of “staying in there” is a terrible cost, one that makes us question whether it’s worth it. Pain, suffering, loss, agonizing disappointment... they all put us to the test; they all test our mettle. This is particularly so when it comes to sustaining our relationships with others, even our relationship with God, or our Church, or our country, or our marriages, our careers, our jobs. No one escapes these trials. No one sails through life without these kinds of testings. You and I have watched wives stay with husbands that have been unfaithful, husbands that have been boorish, insensitive, uncaring, and totally self-centered. We’ve seen husbands stay with wives who have, for all intents and purposes, shut them out of their hearts, turned into cold, unforgiving, complaining, and accusing women who make life hellish for their husbands. We’ve seen parents who have continued to love and care for teenage kids who have completely ridiculed, rejected, defied, and denied any respect or consideration toward their mothers and fathers. Is there any suffering quite like that when you discover your son has given himself over to drugs, who has died his hair orange, pierced his body parts with rings, needles and the most offensive and even obscene tattoos? Is there any pain quite like that of seeing a young daughter flaunt and use her body in order to be noticed, and usually noticed by young men who are little more than users of girls? Each of us here today could present stories of excruciating loss, pain and suffering. But what’s new about that? What’s new in observing that life is hard, that bad things happen to good people?

So, in talking about loss, pain, suffering, and terrible challenges, the question isn’t why, or how all of this happens. The question is “what do we do about it?” It’s our response that is at issue, not who is responsible or what they’re going to do about it. The fundamental question is not whether we’re going to call a hotshot lawyer and start suing anybody and everybody. No. The first and foremost question is whether or not we are going to flee, to escape into some form of denial, or simply give up, quit, opt out, and leave the scene. Some parents fantasize about the day when the last of their children will leave the home, and when the kids go those same parents miss them and regret their loss. People who have difficult jobs may fantasize about the day they no longer have to work, and then miss that work one month after they’ve retired or gone elsewhere. What former, non-practicing Catholic does not have a still, small voice within them that calls them back to the Church and the Holy Communion that they’ve left. What priest, teacher or coach hasn’t considered quitting, yet each Monday morning they’re back at their posts? There is compelling power in a life filled with purpose. For it is love that puts fire in our bones. Love has a seductive power to it, one that will not let us go. We yearn for freedom and then when we have it we yearn for belonging along with the commitments that are inherently within any belonging. One cannot belong and be free of loss, pain or suffering. All belonging costs. Belonging to God costs. Belonging to the Catholic Faith costs. Being a loyal citizen of these United States, being an American, costs. Loyalty isn’t something that’s cheap. Faith is never easy, nor is faith’s sibling, namely love. Anything of great value costs. Oh, we can (and do) from time to time lapse into escapism and denial. We can (and do) allow anger to replace patient and enduring commitment. We can flee or we can feel -- feel the pain, that is. Simon Peter sought to flee, to escape, and to deny. He’s a great figure for us to contemplate. How many times did Simon Peter waffle? How many times did he deny? And yet Christ named him Cephas, Rock, Peter. In the end we must remember it was Simon Peter who declared, “Lord, you have the words of eternal life. To whom else can we go?” He knew that he couldn’t go it alone. He knew that without the Bread of Life, he would grow weak. We, too, know that we can’t “go it alone”, that we need our daily bread, the Bread of Life that comes to us from God to nourish, sustain and strengthen us. We need its sustenance in order to sustain our commitments amidst life’s costs -- sometimes terrible costs. I’m always grateful to enter a church and see a cross with Christ’s human body hanging on it. It shows me the cost God paid in order to stay with us. It causes me to ask myself how far I will go to maintain my commitments, to sustain my “being there” for others. When the going gets tough, God doesn’t flee. He hangs in there. And “hanging in there” is what the crucifix and what love is all about. 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



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
- 9--Luke Bisel
- 18--Samuel Hollis
- 20--Mary Katherine Gough



Laugh of the Week

A Guy stood over his tee shot for what seemed to be an eternity, looking up, looking down, measuring the distance, figuring the wind direction and speed... driving his partner nuts. Finally his exasperated partner says, “What is taking so long? Hit the ball!” The guy answers, “My wife is up there watching me from the clubhouse. I want to make a perfect shot.” “Give me a break! You don’t stand a chance of hitting her from here.”

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 27--\$644
- Budget--\$1094
- MTD Collection--\$5,125.46
- MTD Budget--\$4,376
- YTD Collection--\$10,770.82
- YTD Budget--\$9,846

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 easy to relate to Peter? One moment Jesus announces Peter’s deep communion with God the Father. The very next, when he rejects the logic of Jesus’ suffering and death, Jesus calls Peter Satan. We Christians shouldn’t be too shocked when we experience both spiritual highs and lows, when we perceive breathtaking contradictions in our hearts.

Like the great apostle, you and I are recipients of unfathomable graces. God dwells in us, calls his beloved children, and takes care of our every need. And we also continually fail to embrace our sufferings with trust in Jesus. We know the truth of the creed, but we easily scorn the weight of the cross.

The good news is that, like Peter, we are never abandoned by the Lord even at our worst moments. Peter will eventually learn the beauty of the cross when he is willingly crucified. But it took time for him to get there. And it takes time for us, too. This week let’s not be too shocked at these divisions in our hearts but accept them and patiently seek to be more obedient to Jesus’ cross-shaped plan for us.
— Father John Muir

Laudato Si

Outdoor air pollution kills more than 4 million people each year. The main types of outdoor air pollution are smog and soot. These are released from burning fossil fuels in motor vehicles and in industry, and to generate power. In fast-growing cities, open burning of waste is often a major problem. Breathing the particles released by these activities is a health risk for all, causing heart disease, stroke, and lung cancer. But people in low and middle income regions are especially exposed. Some air pollutants are also major contributors to global warming.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE	
	LECTORS
<u>September 3:</u>	Layson Brooks, .Barbara Bisel
<u>September 10:</u>	Jacques Williams, Katie Goins
<u>September 17:</u>	Greg Gough, Kathi Skidd
	Eucharistic Ministers
<u>September 3:</u>	Janet Clark, Holly Hollis, Kathi Skidd
<u>September 10:</u>	Rita Moorman, Charlene Meadows, Greg Richardson
<u>September 17:</u>	Sarah Malone, Barbara Bisel, Denise Richardson
	Collection & Gifts
<u>September 3:</u>	Connie Clary, Emma Latta
<u>September 10:</u>	Jacques & Whitney Williams family
<u>September 17:</u>	Fain 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 place 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.

Choosing the Cross

I’ve been called a lot of things in my life, but I’ve never been called “Satan,” at least not to my face.

It seems to me the worst name you could call a person, and today we hear it straight from the lips of Jesus. It’s just one of the many small reminders strewn throughout Scripture that Jesus preaches meekness, but he is not mild — not when mildness serves no purpose, anyway.

And here, when Peter is trying to deter Jesus from making the right choice, mildness serves no purpose at all.

Can we blame Peter? I certainly can’t. I’m sure I would have said the same thing to my own dear friend. He is, in today’s Gospel, wholly unwilling to embrace the cross — he’s afraid of it, even — but aren’t we all, in the end, afraid of our cross? I am. It’s no sin, it’s only human. Fear is natural. Self-preservation is a reflex.

What Christ speaks of today is a choice, one we are all faced with, again and again, just as Peter is. We will not always respond perfectly; Peter does not respond well today. He does not respond well on Holy Thursday.

But on his last day, on the day of the ultimate choice? On that day, he chooses the cross.

We marvel at first responders who put themselves in harm’s way for the sake of others, because to do so is not human, it is divine. I have to believe that if even a firefighter’s loved one threw themselves in his way, he would still charge toward the flames, crying, “Get behind me.”

Christ runs into the burning building for us, shaking off not only his own fear (and he had it, I promise you — he was human, too) but the fear of everyone who loved him.

“Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God...” — Romans 12:1

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Readings for the Week	
Monday:	1 Thes 4:13-18/Ps 96:1 and 3, -5, 11-13/Lk 4:16-30
Tuesday:	1 Thes 5:1-6, 9-11/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Lk 4:31-37
Wednesday:	Col 1:1-8/Ps 52:10, 11/Lk 4:38 -44
Thursday:	Col 1:9-14/Ps 98:-6/Lk 5:1-11
Friday:	Mi 5:1-4/Ps 13:6/Mt 1:1-16, 18-23
Saturday:	Col 1:21-23/Ps 54:3-4, 6 and 8/Lk 6:1-5
Observances for the Week of September 3	
Monday:	Labor Day
Friday:	The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Saturday:	St. Peter Claver, Priest



Prayer for those who Labor

Dear Lord,
Please bless and protect the men and women whose work contributes to the labor force and supports families and those in need. Give them strength when they face challenges, grace in times of stress, and renewal as they rest. Amen. ©LPI

FOLLOWING CHRIST

If you’ve ever had an unpleasant but somewhat amusing practical joke played on you, then you have some understanding of how Jeremiah feels today when he tells God “good one--you duped me.” We can almost see him shaking his head with a bit of a rueful smile, but an angry undertone in his voice. In similar fashion, Peter thinks Jesus is “duping “ him when Jesus starts to explain that being a follower of the Messiah means taking up a cross and doing the same. Jeremiah tries to deny God’s will for him by trying to shut up. Peter--who has just been made the foundation of the church--out and out denies the teaching of Jesus, for which he is named “Satan” today. Fortunately for us, Jeremiah comes to realize that to have the word of God placed in your heart means that it will be futile to try and keep silent, even if it means scorn and derision from those around you. Luckily Peter ultimately returned to the faith he professed in last week’s Gospel and came to understand our need as baptized followers of Christ to follow in his way, even when it means following him to our very death.

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GENNESARET RETREAT

The Gennesaret Retreat is designed for persons living with chronic, serious, or terminal illness. It provides rest, prayerful reflection and daily conferences. The next one sponsored by the diocese will be September 29--October 1 at Gethsemani Abbey. If you or a loved one are interested in taking part in the retreat as a guest or a host team member (medical personnel, music, hospitality, personal assistance,) please contact Tom or Amy Payne (270-316-0403). Thanks to past grants and generosity of supporters, there is no charge.