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# Blessed Sacrament

602 Sycamore Street • Owensboro, KY 42301 • 270-926-4741

[www.blessedsacramentchapel.org](http://www.blessedsacramentchapel.org) or email at [pa@blessedsacramentchapel.org](mailto: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](mailto:john.thomas@pastoral.org)

**Parochial Vicar:** Father Shibu Cheriyanunnel

[mocshibu.cheriyankunnel@pastoral.org](mailto:mocshibu.cheriyankunnel@pastoral.org)

**Parish Life Coordinator:** Sr Jeannette Fennwald,  
SSND [pa@blessedsacramentchapel.org](mailto:pa@blessedsacramentchapel.org)



## Sunday's Readings:

### First Reading:

But if he turns from the wickedness he has committed, he does what is right and just, he shall preserve his life. (Ez 18:27)

### Psalm:

Remember your mercies, O Lord. (Ps 25)

### Second Reading:

Have in you the same attitude that is also in Christ Jesus. (Phil 2:5)

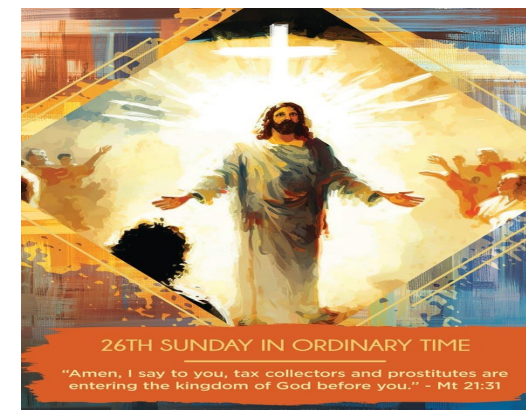
### Gospel:

Jesus said to them, "Amen, I say to you, tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God before you." (Mt 21:31)

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

October 1, 2023 26th Sunday Ordinary Time

Humbly regard others as more important than yourselves, ...looking out for the interests of others. Phil 2:3



My Dear Parishioners:

In Today’s Gospel, Jesus says the tax collectors and prostitutes will enter God’s kingdom before the chief priests and elders. As you can imagine, the chief priests and elders were probably not very happy when they heard this.

As the spiritual leader of the Jewish people, the chief priests officiated at worship on Jewish holy days, was the main religious teacher, and had the responsibility of protecting the law. Because the chief priest represented the entire community, the Jewish people believed he should be holier than anyone else.

The elders were older Jewish men respected for their wisdom. They usually made up the town council, the city’s main governing body. Also known as the Sanhedrin, the town council passed laws, enforced these laws, and even tried those who were accused of breaking the laws. The Jerusalem Sanhedrin is the group that arrested Jesus and determined he should die.

So, it appears Jesus was aiming his comments at the Jewish people’s religious leaders, who were regarded as very holy men and were supposed to be the example to the ordinary Jewish person. Because of their holiness, most people believed the chief priest and elders would occupy the places of honor in God’s kingdom.

The prostitutes and tax collectors were viewed as the exact opposite. As public sinners, despised by their fellow Jews, they were to occupy the lowliest spots if they ever made it to the kingdom of heaven. They certainly weren’t in the same league as the chief priests and elders.

We are now ready to understand the meaning of Jesus’ comments. The chief priests and the elders said they were holy, but like the first son in the parable they did not back up their words with actions. They refused to repent when John the Baptist urged them to do so. The tax collectors and prostitutes who accepted John’s teaching and reformed their lives are like the second son who ended up doing his fathers will. Because of this, Jesus says they (not the chief priests and the elders) will have a prominent place in the kingdom of heaven, implying that the tax collectors and prostitutes are holier than the chief priests and the elders. As you can imagine, Jesus angered the Jewish leaders so much they began to look for a way to put him to death.

The saying ‘actions speak louder than words’ can sum up today’s Gospel reading. We say we believe in Jesus. What are some of the actions in our own lives that back up these very words?  
Blessings! Fr. John

.The Mysteries of the Rosary

Have you ever wanted to explore the life of Jesus and Mary in a deeper way? Each decade highlights a sacred episode:

**Joyful Mysteries:** Through the Annunciation (1) and Visitation (2), we get a glimpse at Mary’s joyful yes to God. She gives birth to Jesus in the Nativity (3). Mary and Joseph present their son at the temple (4) and bring him there again when he is a teenager (5).

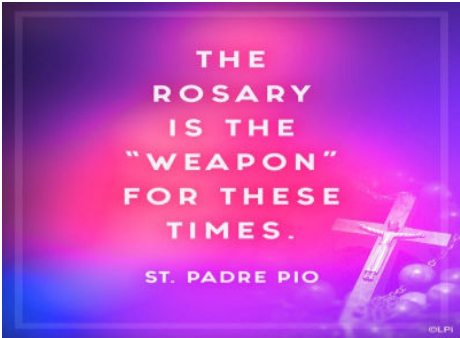
**Luminous Mysteries:** Jesus is baptized in the Jordan River (1) before Mary gives him a nudge to his first miracle at Cana (2). Jesus proclaims the Gospel (3), is transfigured on Mount Tabor (4), and institutes the Eucharist (5). The light is shining!

**Sorrowful Mysteries:** Jesus prays in agony in Gethsemane (1), knowing his hour of suffering has come. After his betrayal and arrest, Jesus is scourged (2) and crowned with thorns (3). He carries his cross (4), and Mary stands at the foot of the cross as he is crucified (5).

**Glorious Mysteries:** Christ is risen in glory (1)! After appearing to those he loves, he ascends into heaven (2). Jesus’ followers receive the Holy Spirit at Pentecost (3). Mary, unaffected by original sin, is assumed body and soul into heaven (4), where she is crowned queen, humble mother of Christ the King (5).

The History of the Rosary

Although a longstanding tradition attributed the rosary to Saint Dominic and the Dominican Order, the practice of using beads to count prayers predates the Dominicans by a few hundred years. In fact, it seems that what we now think of as the rosary (which means “garland of roses”) was first developed by illiterate peasants and religious brothers and sisters as a way of offering 150 “Our Fathers” to replace the praying of the 150 psalms in the Divine Office.



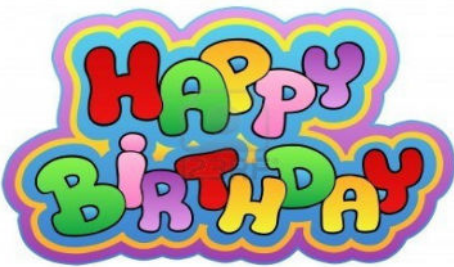
The practice of reciting 150 Hail Marys (which was later subdivided into 15 decades of 10 Hail Marys) arose during the late Middle Ages. Devotion to the rosary began to flourish in the nineteenth century, especially as new devotions to Mary began to spread throughout Europe and the New World. An annual liturgical celebration of Our Lady of the Rosary was introduced into the Church calendar in 1573 and it has been observed on the date of October 7 since 1913.

In the apostolic letter On the Most Holy Rosary, Pope Saint John Paul II not only added five new mysteries to the traditional fifteen, but he also reminded Catholics that the rosary is, at its core, an opportunity to go deeper into the life of Jesus: “The rosary, though clearly Marian in character, is at heart a Christocentric prayer ... It has all the depth of the Gospel message in its entirety, of which it can be said to be a compendium. It is an echo of Mary’s prayer, her perennial Magnificat ... With the rosary, the Christian people sit at the school of Mary and are led to contemplate the beauty of the face of Christ and to experience the depths of his love



October Birthdays

- 6--Jarrod Malone, Holly Hollis
- 10--Jacques Williams III
- 13--Vicki Leonard
- 17--Kelly Hollis
- 20--Dorothea Melton



Laugh of the Week  
“Is there baseball in Heaven”

Two old men had been best friends for years, when one of them suddenly fell deathly ill. His friend comes to visit him on his death bed and they’re reminiscing about their long friendship, when the dying mans friend asks, “Listen, when you die do me a favor, I want to know if there’s baseball in heaven.” The dying man said, “We’ve been friends for years, this I’ll do for you.” Then he dies. A couple of days later, his surviving friend is sleeping when he hears his friends voice, “I’ve got good news and bad news. The good news is there is baseball in heaven, the bad news is you’re pitching on Wednesday.”

Mass Intentions

- October 1--Angela Clark
- October 8--Emma Lou Marrett
- October 15--Mike Whitfield
- 22--Margaret O’Bryan Mills
- 29--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: Randy Taylor, Charlie Brown Sr, Steven Moorman, Rachel Mattingly, Philip Moorman, Jr., Jim Fennewald , Wynter Keller, Larry Clark, Ruth Coble, 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.**

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Thank you to everyone who has designated Blessed Sacrament as your community reward partner. We have 39 households that designate Blessed Sacrament as their community partner. Our last donation was \$149.70. If you do not have a community reward partner, please designate Blessed Sacrament. Blessed Sacrament’s # is WX799. Go to [krogercommunityrewards.com](http://krogercommunityrewards.com) to register. Thanks to each of you for your support.

Coming Events



Blessed Sacrament Chapel

- October 22 Parish Meeting
- November 4--Black Catholic Mass at St. Stephen Cathedral 11:30 Luncheon to follow
- Needed: servers, dancers, Eucharistic ministers, greeters, and food prep and servers. Contact Veronica to volunteer.*



- September 24--\$684
- Budget--\$1094
- MTD Collection--N/A
- MTD Budget--\$
- YTD Collection--N/A
- YTD Budget--\$

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 life-long Catholic friend of mine recently mumbled to me, “I can’t stand all these converts to the faith. They’re always rocking the boat.” It surprised me because he is dedicated to evangelization, and yet he struggles with openness to new Catholics. It made me realize how easily I close my heart to those whom I perceive to be outsiders who become new members of the Catholic community. Almost unconsciously I reduce the world to the categories of “us” and “them.” The result is that meaningful community silently shrinks in my life. Don’t we all do that to some degree?

This week Jesus’ punchy parable about the two sons blows up that black and white world. One son said he wouldn’t get to work, and then did. The other said he would, and then he did not. **“Which did the will of his father?”** asks the Lord. Like so many of us, in identifying the first as the answer, the religious authorities manifest hidden hypocrisy in refusing to follow Jesus. They — like us — intuit the correct path but simply won’t do it. The tax collectors and prostitutes are indeed following Jesus and thereby getting to work in the kingdom of God. *Everyone* is called to do God’s will regardless of the labels we may apply to them.

This week let’s reject the convenient but damaging categories of “insiders” and “outsiders.” Instead, let’s embrace a grateful attitude that Jesus is calling fallen, weak, and broken men and women like you and me. Then we begin to see that the tax collectors and prostitutes aren’t *them*. They are *us*. And Jesus wants all of us working in his boat, no matter the rocking. — *Father John Muir LPi*

GUARDIANS FOR VALUABLE SOULS

So valuable to heaven is the dignity of the human soul that every member of the human race has a guardian angel from the moment the person begins to be. St. Jerome

MINISTRY SCHEDULE	
	<b>LECTORS</b>
<u>October 1:</u>	Layson Brooks, Sarah Malone
<u>October 8:</u>	Wayne Stephens, Kathi Skidd
<u>October 15:</u>	Jacques Williams, Barbara Bisel
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	
<u>October 1:</u>	Greg Richardson, Lori Robinson, Greg Gough
<u>October 8:</u>	Janet Clark, Charlene Meadows, Holly Hollis
<u>October 15:</u>	Rita Moorman, Misty Sanford, Kathi Skidd
<b>Collection &amp; Gifts</b>	
<u>October 1:</u>	Fain Family
<u>October 8:</u>	Michelle Jones, Emma Latta
<u>October 15:</u>	Aubrey and Lad Ottofy

**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.

**The Vineyard**

The second son never showed up to the vineyard. Did he get lost? Did he get tired? Did he not know where to begin?

When it comes right down to it, good intentions amount to very little. We all know this, don’t we? “Show me, don’t tell me.” “I’ll believe it when I see it.” It’s as true in the workplace and in relationships as it is in the life of the Christian disciple.

It doesn’t matter if we *intend* to work in the vineyard. It doesn’t matter if we promise to, if we think about it a lot, or if we make grand plans for what we will accomplish there. None of that matters if we don’t show up. Before we show up, we have to find the way.

Showing up is the whole point. The work is the point, not the intention.

But all this begs the question: what does *the work* mean for us as baptized Catholics in the modern world? Spending our Saturdays in soup kitchens and homeless shelters? Standing on a street corner shouting out the words of the Gospel?

Our baptismal call is to the vineyard. Where is our vineyard? How do we show up? *We are ready, Lord, we say. We intend to work. But where do we go?*

My vineyard is not your vineyard, and so it’s not my place to tell you how to get there. I am glad you want to go, but you’ll have to find your own way, just like I will. But I can tell you this: only one voice will lead you there. If you listen to it, you will find your vineyard.

“Good and upright is the LORD; thus he shows sinners the way.” — Psalm 25:8

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Readings for the Week	
Monday:	Zec 8:1-8/Ps 102:16-21, 29 and 22-23/Mt 18:1-5, 10
Tuesday:	Zec 8:20-23/Ps 87:1-7/ Lk 9:51-56
Wednesday:	Neh 2:1-8/Ps 137:1-6/ Lk 9:57-62
Thursday:	Neh 8:1-12/Ps 19:8-11/ Lk 10:1-12
Friday:	Bar 1:15-22/Ps 79:1-5, 8, 9/ Lk 10:13-16
Saturday:	Bar 4:5-12, 27-29/Ps 69:33-37/Lk 10:17-24
<b>Observances for the Week of October 1</b>	
Monday:	The Holy Guardian Angels
Wednesday:	St. Francis of Assisi
Thursday:	Saint Faustina Kowalska, Virgin; Bl. Francis Xavier, Priest
Friday:	St. Bruno, Priest; Bl. Marie Rose Durocher, Virgin
Saturday:	Our Lady of the Rosary

**NECESSARY REPETITION**

Spiritual teachers tend to repeat themselves, and to repeat other teachers. Maybe there really aren’t that many different truths to tell. Just a lot of slow, sleepy human beings--like us--who need to hear the basics over and over. Consider today’s readings.

People complain that God isn’t “fair,” and Ezekiel answers that God is more than fair. People choose their own fates, and people can change. Even evildoers can turn, do right, and live. “Actions speak louder than words.” A fresh new insight? Hardly.

Paul tells the Philippians he would truly be encouraged if those who claimed to be believers would, in fact, look to others’ interests and not their own. “The proof of the pudding is in the eating.” A novel idea? I don’t think so.

In Jesus’ story of the farmer and his sons, everyone knows the one who said he wouldn’t work--but did--is way ahead of the one who said he would work, but didn’t. “Talk is cheap.” Heard that before?


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### Church Mice

Karl Zorowski

#### Temptation

Another in a Series of Mice-Sized Sermonettes by Rev. Cheese




Genesis 3:1-7

The serpent tempted Eve with some fruit upon a tree, but Satan uses other things to tempt both you and me...

Earthly pleasure, wealth and fame, Satan offers us with haste as modern-day forbidden fruit in hopes we'll take a taste...

BUT SATAN CANNOT **MAKE** YOU SIN... THOUGH HE TEMPTS WITH ALL HIS MIGHT... FOR YOU'LL NEVER TASTE FORBIDDEN FRUIT UNLESS YOU **CHOOSE** TO TAKE A BITE!



ZOROWSKI

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**GUARDIAN ANGELS** *On the journey and in the trials of life, we are not alone; we are accompanied and sustained by the angels of God, who offer, so to speak, their wings to help us overcome the many dangers, to be able to fly above those realities that can make our lives difficult or drag us down. --Pope Francis*

*What role do angels play in your faith life? Catholics believe that each person has a guardian angel. Have you ever prayed to yours? Ask your guardian angel for help, protection, and guidance.*