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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,
SSND pa@blessedsacramentchapel.org



Sunday's Readings:

First Reading:

If I tell the wicked, "O wicked one, you shall surely die," and you do not speak out to dissuade the wicked from his way, the wicked shall die for his guilt, but I will hold you responsible for his death. (Ez 33:8)

Psalm:

If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts. (Ps 95)

Second Reading:

Love does no evil to the neighbor; hence, love is the fulfillment of the law. (Rom 13:10)

Gospel:

"If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have won over your brother." (Mt 18:15)

September 10, 2023, 23rd Sunday Ordinary Time.

Where two or three of you are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them.



23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have won over your brother." - Mt 18:15

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1996, 1979 CCB

GLPI

My Dear Parishioners:

In spite of all of their fame and notoriety, many of our media stars, our top corporate leaders, and our governmental figures yearn for home. At home they are simply “dad”, or “honey” -- the person who takes out the garbage and who helps with the dishes. No one asks for their autograph there; no interviewer seeks their views on any and all topics. At home, his or her value is measured by simply listening to the others in the family, caring for them, loving them, and doing nothing more than being mom or dad. Families are where we’re no longer alone, living just for ourselves. Family is where we learn to listen and to love. It’s where we get a good picture of our real selves, and where we learn how to fight fairly. There we are hurt and healed, nurtured, given sound advice, and there at home we learn about forgiveness. Our accomplishments are acknowledged, and our failures are accepted. We do not lose our place in our family because of our faults and failures. We don’t shape our characters and our personalities all alone, all by our selves. Paradoxically we find our individuality by living among others. We don’t find courage and strength all by our lonesome selves. We don’t know how to live and love unless we learn it from being loved by others -- and by loving them in return. One of the most powerful realities in our life is the family. Is it any wonder, then, that many businesses, sports teams, and other organizations speak about being a family? “We have a family here,” they say. God’s fundamental nature is to be a family of Persons – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Christ Jesus uses the family model to mold His Church. He founded His Church in family dynamics, calling His followers “brothers”, teaching us to call God “Abba”, Father, making us His heirs. While He was dying, He gave us His mother, too.

Families live in love. But family members also fight. It’s inevitable. Any time you get two or more living together you’ll eventually have a disagreement, a fight. And when we do, Jesus calls us to remember that we are nonetheless brothers and sisters. We still belong. So why should we be surprised when we find conflicts within the Church? Read the epistles of the New Testament and ask yourself how many times those letters of St. Paul, St. Peter, and St. John deal with conflicts and disagreements...fights within those early Church communities. Families are not places where we decide who is to be thrown out, who is to be excommunicated, who is to be no longer considered “family”. Perhaps that’s why the Catholic Church these days no longer talks very much, or very forcefully, about excommunicating folks. Healthy families are places where, when there is conflict, we all decide that we need to talk some more. Oh, to be sure, some families are places where we find the silent treatment, where we give each other the deep freeze, where we can shun, be cold, and use silence as a weapon. Unfortunately and sadly, passive aggression is also learned in families.

The main ministry of Jesus was that of reconciliation. He came to teach us the tactics of conflict resolution, about reconciliation and forgiveness. He came to show us the power of openness, speaking the truth to one another, dealing with issues openly, directly, and in God’s good graces. Didn’t He tell us that the truth would set us free? All that having been said, who should take the initiative in making things right -- the one who has done the hurting or the one who is hurt? Who needs to take the first step? I would say we all should. First of all, note that it was God, the one whom we sinned against, the one who was hurt by our sins and our rejection of His love, who first came to us. He sent His only Son to us to tell us that He loves us. His main mission was to forgive us our sins and take us back home to our Father. Do we do that for each other? Or do we sit and pout, rehearsing all of our resentments, mulling over how so-and-so has hurt us, waiting in stony and angry silence for the one who has hurt us to crawl back to us, groveling and begging for our forgiveness? If that’s our attitude nothing much usually happens. Many times the one who has hurt us doesn’t even know what they’ve done to us, while we toss and turn in sleepless nights replaying all of our hurts and our resentments toward them. If you would be like God, then you need to tell the other that he or she has hurt you. We need to let the other know that they’ve done damage, that they’ve wronged us.

In this age when so many have shut down what we call conscience, we need to awaken their consciences and let them know just what they’ve done. Observe, too, that the one who has done the wrong, the one who has done the hurting, also needs to take the initiative. On one occasion when Jesus was teaching us about forgiveness He said: “So, then, if you are bringing your offering to the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar, go and be reconciled with your brother first, and then come back and present your offering.” All relationships are two-way streets; the traffic doesn’t run just one way. All relationships take effort on the part of both parties involved. That is never truer than when we are dealing with sin, hurt, forgiveness and reconciliation. Both the one doing the hurt and the one who has been hurt must take the effort to make things right.

Here again, as with so many other things in our spiritual lives, humility is something that’s not just “nice” – it is essential. Religion isn’t about being “nice,” or about nice things that really don’t matter. Religion is about things that are essential to living lives of happiness, lives of meaning and purpose, lives that God wants us to live as He himself lives life. Do you want to live in the way, the truth and the life of Christ Jesus, God’s only Son whom He sent to save us from our self-delusions? Well, then, deal with forgiveness and reconciliation the way He did. If you’ve been hurt, don’t just brood over it. Bring it out into the open, into honesty. Conversely, if you’ve hurt someone else, be open and honest about it. Go to them and tell them you’re sorry for what you’ve done to them. That’s what home and family are all about, and home is where we learn to truly live life successfully, learn about true love, and find some happiness and peace here on earth as it is in heaven. That was the main mission of Jesus Christ, and that’s what Church is all about. Blessing. Father John



Thanks to Wayne Stephens our parking lot has been sealed and re-stripped. Pictured are Wayne and his brother Warren looking over the finished lot.

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



SEASON OF CREATION

Each year on September 1, the Catholic Church commemorates the [World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation](#). This day of prayer also marks the beginning of a month-long ecumenical awareness initiative known as the “Season of Creation,” which concludes on October 4 with the feast of Saint Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology. The theme chosen for this year’s Season of Creation is “Let Justice and Peace Flow,” and it calls on the faithful to reflect on the relationship between justice and creation. We are called to seek environmental justice in public policy.

The ecological conversion of hearts and changes in lifestyles are important for us as individuals and our holiness, but it is the public policy decisions about collective impacts that will significantly change our environmental future.

Mass Intentions

- September 3---Frances Johnson
- September 10--June and Bill Johnson
- September 17--Burnell and Joseph Hamilton, Robert and Elizabeth Johnson, Theresa Hill,, Mary Ruth Simmons
- 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, Steven Moorman, Rachel Mattingly, Philip Moorman, Jr., Jim Fennewald , Wynter Keller, Larry Clark, Livie Gentges, Ruth Coble, Gloria Savet, Shaun Winchell, Mike Lewis, 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



- September 3----\$1,412.11
- Budget--\$1094
- MTD Collection--\$1,412.11
- MTD Budget--\$1094
- YTD Collection--\$12,182.93
- YTD Budget--\$10,940

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

What are you supposed to do about the bad behavior of the people around you? You know who I’m talking about. That family member, friend, coworker, or acquaintance who is quite immoral. On this front there are two lively options in our culture: bash the person to others (probably online) or pretend everything’s fine. The former damages the person. The latter ignores reality. What to do?

Jesus’ strategy in the Gospel of Matthew is as wise as it is difficult: go directly to the person, and then gradually expand the circle of intervention. Simple, often effective, and hard. But what we often miss is the context of the Lord’s strategy, “If your *brother* sins against *you*...” Notice the italicized words. Is the person in a Christian familial bond with you? And was the action in question against *you*? If so, proceed with the plan. Fine. But how often we fret over the sins of those who either aren’t our spiritual siblings or have done nothing directly to us. This is not an invitation to ignore injustice in the world. Rather, we should build bonds of fraternal love, and carefully discern when and how others’ sins are indeed our concern. Sometimes they are. Other times — frequently, perhaps — they simply are not.

— Father John Muir

Laudato Si

Since 1970, global wildlife populations have declined by two-thirds. In the same period, plant and animal life in freshwater has fallen by 84 per cent. Bees and other pollinators are in serious decline, directly threatening supplies of important staple foods, fruits, and vegetables. Without action on climate deforestation, the Amazon rainforest could collapse into a dry and scrubby landscape within 50 years. Our soil is also under serious threat; the ecosystems they support cannot survive. Healthy ecosystems also protect against the impacts of climate change, such as extreme heat and storm surges.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE	
	LECTORS
<u>September 10:</u>	Jacques Williams, Katie Goins
<u>September 17:</u>	Greg Gough, Kathi Skidd
<u>September 24:</u>	Alexis Hatchett, Misty Sanford
	Eucharistic Ministers
<u>September 10:</u>	Rita Moorman, Charlene Meadows, Greg Richardson
<u>September 17:</u>	Sarah Malone, Barbara Bisel, Denise Richardson
<u>September 24:</u>	Cindy Clark, Vivian Higgs, Misty Sanford
	Collection & Gifts
<u>September 10:</u>	Jacques & Whitney Williams family
<u>September 17:</u>	Fain Family
<u>September 24:</u>	Campbell 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.

Love and Truth

I think even the most devout, the most pious Catholic reading this could summon to mind, if asked, one or even two examples of Catholic teaching for which they have desperately looked for a loophole.

Don’t worry, I won’t make you share with the group. But bring it to your mind now: the doctrine you once resented, or perhaps still do. The commandment you don’t fully understand, the one you bristle against. The rule you find the hardest to follow. The belief you hate explaining to your friends.

If it disappeared from scripture or dropped out of the catechism, would your life really be easier? Would you be happier?

I am thinking of mine. For a long time, I searched high and low for a way around this particular teaching. I read books and Scripture and tradition, I prayed and reflected and tried to argue with myself. For a time, I gave up complying with it entirely. I threw it to the wind, with a shoulder shrug and a self-satisfied assurance to myself that God, being a loving father, does not want his child to be unhappy.

But reader: I was miserable. I was so, so miserable, and I stayed that way until I finally accepted that God is, indeed, a loving father, and desires nothing less than the unhappiness of his children. And so, to ward it off, he has given us the truth, and asked us to share it amongst ourselves like a cherished heirloom, a priceless inheritance.

To share truth, you must show love. To show love, you must share truth. One demands the other. Because this is what Christ does for us, and this is the mission of the Church in this world. Loosening and binding. Bearing witness. Giving testimony. Speaking truth, and in speaking truth, showing love.

“If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.” — Psalm 95

Readings for the Week	
Monday:	Col 1:24—2:3/Ps 62:6-7, 9/ Lk 6:6-11
Tuesday:	Col 2:6-15/Ps 145:1b-2, 8-9, 10-11/Lk 6:12-19
Wednesday:	Col 3:1-11/Ps 145:2-3, 10-13/ Lk 6:20-26
Thursday:	Nm 21:4-9/Ps 78:1-2, 34-38/ Phil 2:6-11/Jn 3:13-17
Friday:	1 Tm 1:1-2, 12-14/Ps 16:-2, 5, 7-8, 11/Jn 19:25-27
Saturday:	1 Tm 1:15-17/Ps 113:1b-2,-7/ Lk 6:43-49
Observances for the Week of September 10	
Monday:	Patriot Day
Tuesday:	The Most Holy Name of Mary
Wednesday:	St. John Chrysostom, Bishop
Thursday:	The Exaltation of the Holy Cross
Friday:	Our Lady of Sorrows
Saturday:	Sts. Cornelius, Pope, and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs

HAPPY GRANDPARENTS DAY.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DEDICATION AND LOVE.

Prayer for Grandparents

Dear Lord,

What a beloved idea you had with grandparents, relationships of care and support that bridge generations.

Bless those in this role today, biological or beyond, all those who care for little ones with patience, wisdom, and love.

St. Anne and St. Joachim pray for us!

Amen. ©LPi

SPEAKING OUT IN LOVE

In the final verses of today’s Gospel reading Jesus says that when two or three are gathered in his name “there am I in the midst of them” (Matt. 18:20) . So we understand that fraternal correction is always undertaken in the presence of Jesus Christ.

Likewise, encouraging the good in others is not only the right thing for us to do, it is a necessity. The Lord tells the prophet Ezekiel that if he does not speak out to dissuade a person from evil, then he too will be held responsible.

We live in a “do your own thing” age where moral objectivity is often ignored. Clearly when the message we share with others is rooted in love, our motives cannot ever be misinterpreted. As St. Paul writes, “Love does no evil to the neighbor; hence, love is the fulfillments of the law.” (Romans 13:13).

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Happy people: The happiest people don’t necessarily have the best of everything. They just make the best of everything.

