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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
jthomas@sscobo.org

Parochial Vicar: Father Shibu Cheriankunnel
moc_scheriyankunnel@sscobo.org

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



Sunday's Readings:

First Reading:

The Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from every face. (Is 25:8)

Psalm:

I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life. (Ps 23)

Second Reading:

I have learned the secret of being well fed and of going hungry, of living in abundance and of being in need. I can do all things in him who strengthens me. (Phil 4:12-13)

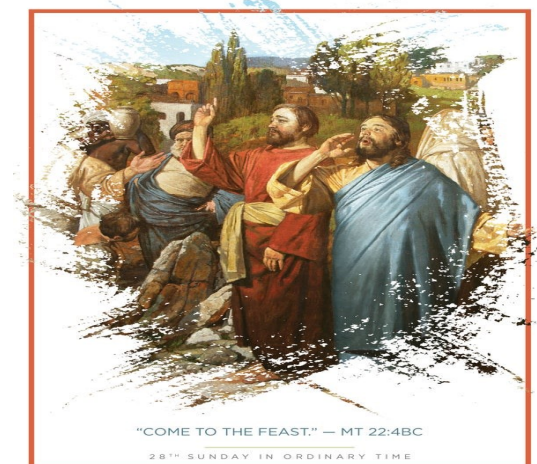
Gospel:

["Go out, therefore, into the main roads](#)
and invite to the feast whomever you find." (Mt 22:9)

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

October 15, 2023 28th Sunday Ordinary Time

I can do all things in him who strengthens me.
Phil. 4:13



My Dear Parishioners:

For a moment I would like you to imagine yourself at a party, maybe a party that you have been to, or one that you have given for friends and acquaintances. Let's say it's a costume party and people are there with altered ways of seeing each other. Everyone has a fresh start and a new beginning at being different persons. Past histories are forgotten. The guests present themselves, and are seen by others, as new persons. Everyone at the party is having a wonderful time, chatting, laughing, enjoying each other, and sharing the happiness of a really good time. But then you notice someone over in the corner, all alone and sulking... miserable in his isolation and loneliness. You go over and try to talk with him but all you get for your trouble are a few grunts and a sour look. The more you try to break through his isolation the more you discover that he is disgusted with people who have a good time and resentful that you have even given a party. It's almost as if everyone else doesn't have a right to have a good time because he is miserable and he wants everyone else to be miserable also. No amount of coaxing moves him out of his protective and miserable shell. He absolutely refuses to receive the good time you wish to give him. There is nothing that you can do, nothing you can give him that will make him happy. Let me now point out that God is throwing a party for us. He made the earth a garden of beauty. Even when in the Garden of Eden things didn't turn out right God started over. And He did so again and again. Finally He sent his Son to throw us a party, a celebration in a new garden, the Garden of the Resurrection.

Listen again now to the prophet Isaiah: On this mountain the Lord of hosts will provide for all peoples a feast of rich food and choice wines, juicy, rich food and pure, choice wines. On this mountain he will destroy the veil that veils all peoples, the web that is woven over all nations; he will destroy death forever. In St. Matthew's Gospel we hear: The servants went out into the byroads and rounded up everyone they met the bad as well as the good. This filled the wedding hall with banqueters. When the king came in to meet the guests, however he caught sight of a man not properly dressed for a wedding feast. The point of it all is that we come to God's party, His banquet life, not because we have earned a right to be there, not because we can buy an invitation, not because our friends have good political influence with Him, but simply because He gives us entrance out of His free generosity. The enjoyment of life comes to us from God's free choice and totally because of His sheer generosity.

There is a more subtle point. The bad as well as the good are at the party. All are predestined to attend. All are there with new faces, as new persons with new beginnings because the forgiveness of God has made them new again, new persons with new histories and new beginnings. All of our past mistakes and our sins are blotted out because we are wearing new visages, new costumes, because we are wearing His wedding garments, clothed with His gifts. God's judgment is His mercy. Our predestination allows is to be made over again, the bad as well as the good, in the new creation that is given us by the Son of God. Now the difficulty comes in our response to God's invitation to His party. After all is said and done, God offers and we respond. He wants us to have a good time, a joyful time with Him in His world, in the life He has given us. The difficulty is found in those who sit off in the corner sulking, muttering to themselves, and hating all of those who are enjoying themselves in God's party. There are people who do not like to receive anything at all, even gifts. We all know of them. Perhaps we may even see them in ourselves. They are the ones who tell us: "I can earn my way and I don't need anybody's charity; I can take care of myself." That attitude is particularly noticeable when it comes to receiving forgiveness. Many people just cannot say that they are sorry, or confess their sins. They simply cannot receive the gratuity and the sheer gift of forgiveness. Why? Well for a lot of reasons I suppose, but I think a big reason is pride. It's found in the fact that receiving forgiveness means an admission of need; the fear of being dependent upon another's love; and so forth. Many reasons. But they all mean that such persons come to God's party, God's celebration of life, without a wedding garment, the garment that is being clothed with Christ. They cannot rid themselves of their past and be seen in a new light, as new persons. It means they can't join the party and are bitterly resentful of those that do.

Receiving a sheer free gift is difficult. One immediately feels an obligation. One feels that one simply has to give in return; feels indebted; feels a sudden loss of independence and self-sufficiency. It happens at Christmas, birthdays. It happens in moments of crisis. It happens when one needs forgiveness. I know of several bad marriages when I could have helped the couples involved but was not able to because one or both of the parties would not come to me for help. They could not admit they needed help or admit that they could not take care of their problem all by themselves.

God has given us life and He wants us to enjoy ourselves in this life. By giving us life He is throwing a banquet for us, a feast of rich food in choice wines, juicy, rich and pure. He knows that we will make mistakes and so He is prepared to reconcile us in the death and resurrection of His only Son. Ultimately, when at the end of our lives we are judged by God, He will see our humanity in the humanity of his Son. He will judge us in that way. But that means that we have to come to God's banquet table of life properly dressed, dressed that is in the wedding garment offered us by his Son. We have only to examine the pattern of our daily living and our willingness to receive the gifts of God, the gifts of life and the gifts of others that come to us in this life. It means putting on the wedding garment of acceptance, acceptance of ourselves in the limitations and imperfections we have, acceptance of our need for forgiveness, acceptance of the gift of His Son offered to us by God our Father. Our destiny is there. But the consequence of our life rests in our own decisions. What will be the sum total of our life's decisions when we die? Blessings, Fr. John

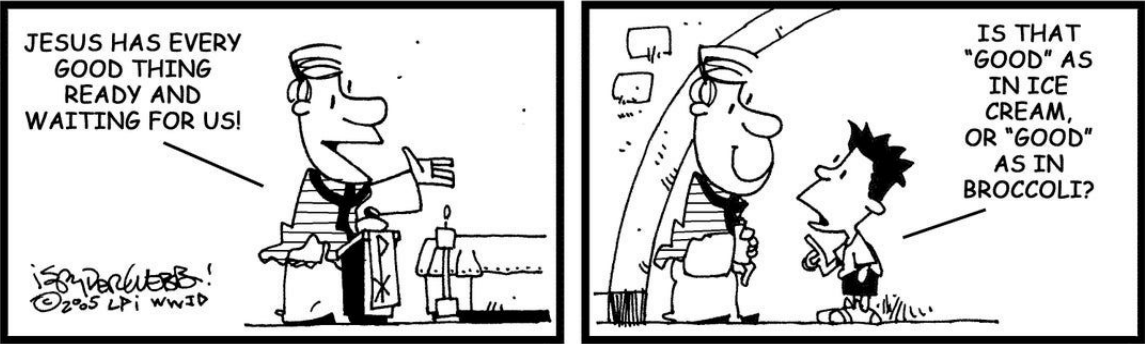
OWENSBORO CATHOLIC SCHOOLS PTO FUNDRAISER--ACES NIGHT OUT

It's the biggest fundraiser of the year! Saturday, November 11th 6:30-10:30 pm at Brescia University. Cash bar, Hor D'oeuvres, and more! Tickets are \$50 and can be purchased online at Owensboro Catholic Schools!

CASH RAFFLE- Owensboro Catholic Schools Aces Night Out Cash Raffle tickets are \$50 each. Only 300 tickets will be sold. Drawing will be held on November 11th at the Aces Night Out event at Brescia University. Need not be present to win. 1st Prize--\$5000 2nd Prize--\$1500 3rd prize--\$1000

TRUE WEALTH: Measure wealth not by the things you have, but by the things you have for which you would not take money. Anonymous

28TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



October Birthdays

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



Laugh of the Week

A nun living in a convent next to a construction site noticed the harsh language of the workers and decided to spend some time with them to correct their ways. She decided to take her lunch over and sit with the workers to talk to them. She put her sandwich in a brown bag and walked over to where the men were eating. Sporting a big smile, she walked up to the group and asked, “Do you men know Jesus Christ?” They shook their heads and looked at each other confused. One of the workers looked up into the steel work and yelled out, “Anybody up there know Jesus Christ?” One of the steelworkers yelled down, “Why?” The worker yelled back, “Cause his wife’s here and she has his lunch.”

Mass Intentions

- October 1--Angela Clark
- October 8--Emma Lou Marrett
- October 15--Mike Whitfield
- October 22--Margaret O’Bryan Mills
- October 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, Gina Kirby, 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.

IMP—Kroger

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 to register. Thanks to each of you for your support.

Coming Events



Blessed Sacrament Chapel

- October 12--Scripture 10:45
- October 22--Parish meeting 11 am
- Nov. 1--All Saints Day--6 pm Mass
- November 4--Black Catholic History Month Mass at St. Stephen Cathedral 11:30 Luncheon to follow



- October 8--\$900
- Budget--\$1094
- MTD Collection--\$1876
- MTD Budget--\$2188
- YTD Collection--\$17,297.30
- YTD Budget--\$16,410

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

I confess that I have a soft spot for the scary things Jesus says because they are usually ignored. But there’s gold in them thar hills, if we have courage to look. This week Jesus gives us a terrifying warning in his parable about the king who gives a marriage feast for his son and promptly goes berserk when people don’t respond. The point: those who do not properly respond to God’s generous invitation will face totally devastating consequences. The invitees who don’t show up get their city burned to the ground. The poor homeless man is tortured for not wearing the correct clothes. Scary indeed.

Is Jesus trying to intimidate or bully us into following him? No, because that is certainly not how he treats anyone in the Gospels. A better view is this: to Jesus, your life *matters*. The universe is not an empty wasteland where anything goes. It is a theater of love offered and either accepted or rejected. How easy it can be to glide through life thinking my life doesn’t make a difference. But it does. It really does.

This should not only be sobering but exhilarating. The positive side of the negative in Jesus’ scary parables is the thrill and joy that he is inviting us, therefore our lives matter a great deal. There is a reason to get up in the morning. God’s generous love is relentlessly calling us. True, obstinately saying no through our indifference is a catastrophe for us and those around us. But how wonderful must the consequences of our ‘yes’ be?

— Father John Muir

MINISTRY SCHEDULE	
LECTORS	
<u>October 15:</u>	Jacques Williams, Barbara Bisel
<u>October 22:</u>	Alexis Hatchett, Greg Gough
<u>October 29:</u>	Layson Brooks, Misty Sanford
Eucharistic Ministers	
<u>October 15:</u>	Rita Moorman, Misty Sanford, Kathi Skidd
<u>October 22:</u>	Vivian Higgs, Sarah Malone, Denise Richardson
<u>October 29:</u>	Barbara Bisel, Greg Richardson, Katie Goins
Collection & Gifts	
<u>October 15:</u>	Aubrey and Lad Ottofy
<u>October 22:</u>	Fain Family
<u>October 29:</u>	Jacques, Whitney Williams and sons

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 Wedding Garment

I like to think that any self-respecting doomsday prepper would find something to admire in my van’s stores of extra clothes, snacks, boredom-busting toys, sunscreen, and seasonal outerwear. You never know when you’re going to pass a free splash pad or a particularly amazing sledding hill. And you never know when one of the kids is going to find the world’s most irresistible mud pile or fall into a river.

All this pre-planning for fun and disaster, and still, I usually devote a fraction of that effort to spiritual preparedness.

I swap out my traveling first-aid kit every season, imagining hypothetical emergencies — and I push confession off another week. “I haven’t committed any mortal sins,” I tell myself, “And I’m just so busy.”

I shove extra outfits into my car’s trunk on the off-chance my son decides to paint himself in Go-Gurt — and I shrug off the daily examinations of conscience that could help me overcome a persistent sin.

I stock my purse with bags of Cheerios to ward off sneaky attacks of kid hunger — and I fall asleep without saying the Rosary, murmuring to myself: “I’m so tired. Mary understands.”

I am overwhelmed by the here-and-now, consumed by the minutiae of earthly life, that I forget there is only one eventuality I — or any of us — can expect with any certainty. We will all be invited to the feast.

Is my van stocked for that?

“The king said to him, 'My friend, how is it that you came in here without a wedding garment?’” — Matthew 22:12

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Readings for the Week

Monday:	Rom 1:1-7/Ps 98:1, 2-4/ Lk 11:29-32
Tuesday:	Rom 1:16-25/Ps 19:2-5/ Lk 11:37-41
Wednesday:	2 Tm 4:10-17/Ps 145:10-13, 17-18/Lk 10:1-9
Thursday:	Rom 3:21-30/Ps 130:1-6/ Lk 11:47-54
Friday:	Rom 4:1-8/Ps 32:1-2, 5, 11/ Lk 12:1-7
Saturday:	Rom 4:13, 16-18/Ps 105:6-9, 42-43/Lk 12:8-12

Observances for the Week of October 15

Monday:	St. Hedwig, Religious; St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, Virgin
Tuesday:	St. Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop
Wednesday:	St. Luke, Evangelist
Thursday:	Sts. John de Brébeuf and Isaac Jogues, Priests, Companions, Martyrs
Friday:	St. Paul of the Cross, Priest

SAVE THE DATE

Black Catholic History Month is November. Bishop Medley will celebrate Mass on Saturday, Nov. 4 at 11:30 at St. Stephen Cathedral. There will be a luncheon afterwards. Special guests will include representatives of the historic organization of the Knights and Ladies of St. Peter Claver. Volunteers for choir, liturgical dancing, Eucharistic ministers, greeters and food prep and serving are needed.

To volunteer contact Veronica at Veronica.wilhite@pastoral.org Or 270-683-1545

COME TO THE FEAST

“On this mountain the Lord of Hosts will provide for all people a feast of rich food and choice wines” (Is.25:6). That’s what Isaiah tells us today. God is putting together a huge party for “all people,” to “wipe away the tears from every face.” (Is/ 25”8)

And what does Jesus tell us? The reign of God, he says, “may be likened to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son” (Matt.22:2). When the guests didn’t come, the king had his servants go out “into the main roads and invite to the feast whom-ever you find” (Matt. 22:9). We are called to deliver that invitation.

One of the themes woven into today’s liturgy is that of divine generosity. Asleep to reality, people often think they have “earned” what they have. In our better moments, though, we know that all our gifts--even the spiritual gifts--come through God’s generosity. Our vocation is to invite people, to remind them the tickets aren’t for sale. We can only show up and say thank you.

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At our recent Share Night at McDonald’s we netted \$326. This will go into our Capital Campaign fund. Thanks to all who supported the night by your purchases and especially by your help in the restaurant.