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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  
[jthomas@sscobo.org](mailto:jthomas@sscobo.org)

**Parochial Vicar:** Father Shibu Cheriannunel  
[moc\\_scheriyannunel@sscobo.org](mailto:moc_scheriyannunel@sscobo.org)

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



## Sunday's Readings:

### First Reading:

Thus says the LORD to his anointed, Cyrus, whose right hand I grasp, subduing nations before him. (Is 45:1)

### Psalm:

Give the Lord glory and honor. (Ps 96)

### Second Reading:

We give thanks to God always for all of you, remembering you in our prayers, unceasingly calling to mind your work of faith and labor of love. (1 Thes 1:2-3)

### Gospel:

"Then repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God." (Mt 22:21)

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

**October 22, 2023 29th Sunday Ordinary Time**

**I am the Lord, there is no other. (Is. 45:6)**



**29<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

"Repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God." - Mt 22:21

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

GLP

My Dear Parishioners.

.Every three years we are presented with today's gospel, one that interests many of us because it deals with the question of separation between Church and State. The first thing we should note is that the question put to Jesus was a tricky lawyer's question. It was not a question that sought enlightenment; it was not put to Jesus in order to learn from Him. No. It was put to Jesus to trap Him. Was He to be seen as an insurrectionist revolutionary and an enemy of the State or was He to be seen as a collaborator with the hated Roman authorities who so brutalized the Jewish people? The Pharisees, the religious fundamentalists of the day, hated the Roman tax. The Herodians, those Jews who supported the Roman puppet King Herod, supported the tax. Both groups, the Pharisees and the Herodians, hated each other. But here we find them joined together in a combined effort to trap Jesus, to discredit Him, and thus do away with Him, each trying to trap Jesus for their own reasons (nothing like a common enemy to bring warring parties together).

With a canny response Jesus discredits them both. Both the Pharisees and the Herodians were Jews. Both groups, as Jews, rejected graven images as violations of the First Commandment. No Jew of any stripe would countenance the idea that idols were to be worshipped. Statues and images were totally forbidden as false, man-made gods. Here we find Jesus in His response to their tricky question asking them for a coin, which they gave Him. Note that both they and Jesus were in the Temple area when this incident took place. Note, too, that the Roman coin had carved upon it the image of the infamous Tiberius Caesar, the one who had so desecrated the Jewish Temple. The coin also bore the inscription: "Tiberius Caesar – Son of the Divine Augustus". On the coin's other side it designated him as "Pontifex Maximus", supreme priest. For Jews, this was blasphemous idolatry. The fact that they had carried that coin with them into the Temple precincts tells us that they thereby discredited themselves. No good Jew would be caught with such a coin on the Temple's grounds. Furthermore, we need to realize that Jesus' response was directed at the precise issue of whether or not the Roman taxes should be paid. Jesus said nothing about the autonomy of Caesar in his secular role. Nor was Jesus making any statement at all about separating religion from society.

So these questions remain: What is Caesar's, and what is God's? Is there anything at all that is not God's – is there anything at all in human activity that does not stand under God's judgment? Are we, as modern day Americans, exempting anything from God's purview? Separation of church and state has served us well here in the United States. We have a democracy, not a theocracy, and that has served us well. We do not have a state religion; we have freedom of religion. We are free to practice our religious beliefs as we choose. But where is it written that freedom of religion means freedom from religion? Are people of faith obliged not to express their beliefs and put them into practice in the public domain? We must remember that while rendering to Caesar what is Caesar's we must still render to God what is God's. Does God have expectations of us with regard to our civic order? Are our public policies to be exercised freed from God's norms and apart from God's will? What is to be kept from God's purview?

What, then, is Caesar's and what is God's? That question is being argued out in our times in a great debate over the importance and value of religion in our society. Reasonable people may differ in the application of answers to that question. But however much they may differ it is unreasonable to assert the notion that our American republic was built on a secularist mantra that freedom of religion in these United States means freedom from religion in our public affairs. What is Caesar's and what is God's? The question is just as important to us now as it was when it was put to Jesus. And so is its answer. What is your answer? Blessings, Fr. John

## Prayer for the Eucharistic Revival

Lord Jesus Christ, you give us your flesh and blood for the life of the world, and you desire that all people come to the Supper of the Sacrifice of the Lamb. Renew in your Church the truth, beauty, and goodness contained in the Most Blessed Eucharist.  
Jesus living in the Eucharist, come and live in me.  
Jesus healing in the Eucharist, come and heal me.  
Jesus sacrificing yourself in the Eucharist, come and suffer in me.  
Jesus rising in the Eucharist, come and rise to new life in me.  
Jesus loving in the Eucharist, come and love in me.  
Lord Jesus Christ, through the paschal mystery of your death and resurrection made present in every Holy Mass, pour out your healing love on your Church and on our world. Grant that as we lift you up during this time of Eucharistic Revival, your Holy Spirit may draw all people to join us at this Banquet of Life. You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mother of the Eucharist, Pray for us.

**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](https://ReportBishopAbuse.org) or call 1-800-276-1562

## Church Mice

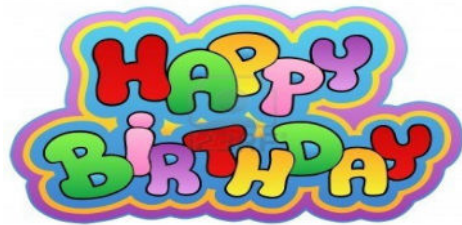


### October Birthdays

17--Kelly Hollis  
20--Dorothea Melton

### November Birthdays

1--Father John Thomas, Austin Gough  
5--Michael Bogdan, Jamie Bisel  
7--Hank & Quinn Fain, Lennox Williams



### PRAYER FOR PEACE

*God of our longing, remember those who wait and hope for peace. Hear our prayer and our lament for our brothers and sisters in Israel and Palestine. With them we share a common story set in a common homeland. Make common also a will to forgive, to reconcile, to make a just peace for the sake of the ancestors, for the sake of the children. Open our ears, eyes, and hearts and make a way toward justice in our war-torn world. God, all merciful, you dwell in human hearts and the Holy Land is where ever you make your home. Heal these broken places where prophets preached, where Moses and Jesus and Muhammad kept faith with you. And make us all, however far away, steadfast in their cause.*

--Catholic Relief Service

### Mass Intentions

October 22--Margaret O'Bryan Mills  
October 29--Bern Tooley  
November 1--Angela Clark  
November 5--Patricia Lett  
November 12--Kenneth Higgs

*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, Gina Kirby, Philip Moorman, Jr., Yuri Phen, 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, Wynter Keller, 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](http://krogercommunityrewards.com) to register. Thanks to each of you for your support.

### Coming Events



#### Blessed Sacrament Chapel

**October 22--**Parish meeting 11 am  
**October 27--**Sunday reflection 10:45  
**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 15--\$1569.50  
Budget--\$1094  
MTD Collection--\$3,445.50  
MTD Budget--\$3,282  
YTD Collection--\$18,866.80  
YTD Budget--\$17,504

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

With little more than a year until the United States' national elections, I find myself feeling, like many Catholics, both dread and energized. Dread, because our democratic republic can be a messy endeavor and campaigns a long, nasty, and unedifying slog; energized, because hope for positive societal change can be enticing and engaging. As a pastor, I see similar conflicting attitudes in those whom I serve. How can Catholics best engage our political arena in a way which is truly helpful and worthwhile?

This week's gospel reading offers wisdom in this regard. Jesus says, **"Render therefore to Caesar the things are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."** This riddle forces us to answer for ourselves a hidden question: what is the relationship between political and divine authority? Two common but false answers lead to mischief. If we answer that the two are equivalent, politics becomes our absolute authority. This happens whenever religion is slave to the state, as in the travesty of the pro-Nazi German Christian movement in the 1930s and 40s. It also usually occurs when there is an official state religion. If we answer that the two are totally unrelated, we end up with an unchecked aggressive secularist state as we often experience now. Thus, religion becomes a weak and private pastime. What's a better alternative? At our best, Christians hold that political authority does indeed have its own legitimate autonomy but is nested within God's all-encompassing authority. Think, for example, of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s respect for politics while also being able to criticize unjust human laws because he recognized a higher heavenly law. In other words, Caesar owns politics — *and God owns Caesar*. So, we should allow Jesus' words to lead us to have a deep respect and willingness to peacefully engage in politics without making that engagement our religion. We bring our faith to bear on our politics knowing confidently that Caesar isn't God — but he is indeed God's. --Father John Muir

## MINISTRY SCHEDULE

### LECTORS

October 22: Alexis Hatchett, Greg Gough  
October 29: Layson Brooks, Misty Sanford  
November 5: Katie Goins, Sarah Malone

### Eucharistic Ministers

October 22: Vivian Higgs, Sarah Malone,  
Denise Richardson  
October 29: Barbara Bisel, Greg Richardson,  
Katie Goins  
November 5: Cindy Clark, Greg Gpugh,  
Charlene, Meadows

### Collection & Gifts

October 22: Fain Family  
October 29: Jacques, Whitney Williams  
and sons  
November 5: Kelly, Holly, Samuel Hollis

## 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 Tax of Caesar

Too often, I confuse this world with the next.

Every day has its set of problems that need dealing with. Some are very easily discernible as problems of this world: I am tired, and I need a nap and a latte. Some are very obviously problems of eternity: I need to ask for forgiveness, but I’m not ready to admit it.

Most problems are a subtle, maddening mix of the two: my body feels tired, obscuring how tired my soul also feels, while making me very cranky, which is keeping me from asking for the forgiveness I need.

It’s not that the nap and the latte *aren’t* solutions. Heaven forbid! I would never propose such a thing. Sleep and coffee, I am confident, can fix almost any problem in this world. *This* world.

Too often, I slap a one-size-fits-all earthly band-aid on all my problems and rush on to the next thing. But if the problem is an issue of my soul, I may as well pay for a parking ticket in Monopoly money.

I render unto Caesar, and I forget about what is owed to God. I apply solutions meant for the here and now to problems that have eternal consequences. The spiritual problems are dismissed, shoved to the back of my mind. *For when I have time*, I tell myself. *For when I am ready*.

But the only time we have is now. God is no king of this earth, and he does not ask for a tax offering. He asks for our heart. He doesn’t want us for minions but for children.

*“I have called you by your name, giving you a title, though you knew me not.” — Isaiah 45:4*

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## Readings for the Week

Monday: Rom 4:20-25/Lk 1:69-75/  
Lk 12:13-21  
Tuesday: Rom 5:12, 15, 17-21/Ps 40:7-  
10, 17/Lk 12:35-38  
Wednesday: Rom 6:12-18/Ps 124:1-8/  
Lk 12:39-48  
Thursday: Rom 6:19-23/Ps 1:1-4 and 6/  
Lk 12:49-53  
Friday: Rom 7:18-25/Ps 119:66, 68,  
76, 77, 93, 94/Lk 12:54-59  
Saturday: Eph 2:19-22/Ps 19:2-5/  
Lk 6:12-16

## Observances for the Week of October 22

Sunday: 29<sup>th</sup> Sunday World Mission Sunday  
Monday: St. John of Capistrano, Priest  
Tuesday: St. Anthony Mary Claret,  
Saturday: Sts. Simon and Jude, Apostles

## 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

## FAMILY;

As the family goes, so goes the nation  
and so goes the whole world in which  
we live. St. John Paul II

## EVERYTHING BELONGS TO GOD

The first reading from the prophet Isaiah concerns the Persian King Cyrus, called the Lord’s “anointed.” Cyrus deserve this title because he ended the Babylonian captivity of the Jews. However, Isaiah reminds us that it was God who gave Cyrus his power. He may be a great king, but “I am the Lord and there is no other,” says God (Isaiah 45:5)

Today’s Gospel is also concerned with worldly power. In the passage from Matthew, the Pharisees try to trick Jesus into speaking against the emperor. His famous answer is the perfect reply. Like the kings of old, Caesar can be given the respect due his position, but everything belongs to God.

In the second reading Paul gives thanks for all who are faithful to Jesus and his gospel. He, too, reminds us that our call and the power to be faithful come from God. Copyright J.S. Paluch

## How to Get to Heaven

*A teacher asked the children in her Sunday School class, “If I sold my house and my car, had a big garage sale, and give all the money to the church, would I get into heaven?”*

*“No!” The children all answered. “If I cleaned the church every day, mowed the yard, and kept everything neat and tidy, would I then get into heaven?” Again, the answer was “NO!” “Well,” she continued, “then how can I get into heaven?”*

*In the back of the room, a five year-old boy shouted, “You gotta be dead*

## Companionship:

Take my hand and walk along with me,  
not ahead of me; otherwise I may not  
follow you.