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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 Cheriankunnel  
[moc\\_scheriyankunnel@sscobo.org](mailto:moc_scheriyankunnel@sscobo.org)

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



## Sunday's Readings:

### First Reading:

"You shall not wrong any widow or orphan.  
If ever you wrong them and they cry out to me, I will surely hear their cry. (Ex 22:21-23)

### Psalm:

I love you, Lord, my strength. (Ps 18)

### Second Reading:

For they themselves openly declare about us what sort of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God and to await his Son from heaven. (1 Thes 1:9-10)

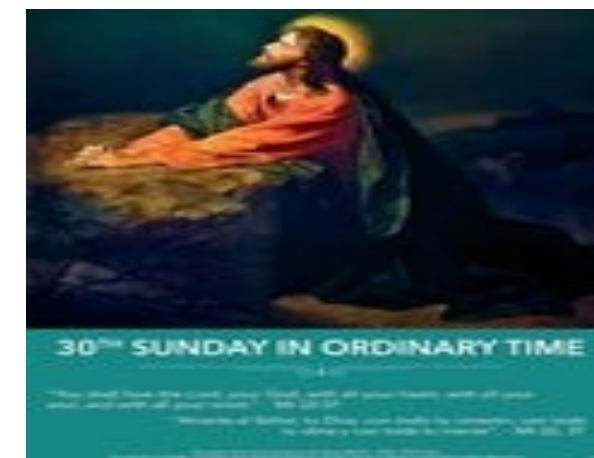
### Gospel:

"You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." (Mt 22:37)

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

## October 29, 2023 30th Sunday Ordinary Time

If he cries out to me, I will hear him;  
for I am compassionate. (Ex. 22:26)



My Dear Parishioners.

There are some people for whom we simply cannot feel any love at all, or so we tell ourselves. Too much resentment, too much distrust... some people are just “too much” for us. Take, for instance, a relative who is arrogant, self-centered, opinionated, and who is totally given over to his own pleasure and comfort. He thinks everyone else is stupid. We feel sure that when he dies and meets Jesus Christ face to face he will manage to tell Christ that he could have redeemed the human race in a much better way. He will likewise point out all of God's faults and failures, particularly how God botched the job in creating human beings. At best we can only tolerate this sort of person. The greater the distance between us we feel, the better.

What, then, is the meaning of Christ's mandate to us, telling us to love everyone as we love our selves? How can we possibly love such a person? First of all, we should take it for what it is - a mandate, a command, something that has nothing to do with feelings. No one can command you to have warm fuzzy feelings toward another. Not even God commands that of us. We cannot even tell ourselves to do so. Even if we could, would it be worth doing? I daresay it wouldn't. Even abusers of women tell us that they have powerful emotional feelings of affection for the women they abuse... along with overpowering lust, envy, jealousy and possessiveness. No, Jesus is not speaking of emotions and feelings. He knows how absolutely fickle and unreliable feelings are. Feelings come and feelings go as they wish leaving us quite alone with ourselves after they have vacated our hearts, alone with the wreckage they leave behind. Please don't get me wrong. "Falling in love" is a wonderful thing, even a beautiful thing. Young boys and girls fall in love. Young mothers and young fathers fall in love with their newborn babies. The emotions of affection and the feelings of love are beautiful things,-the stuff of novels, movies, love songs, and poems. There's nothing wrong with them. But they shouldn't control us. Love is a choice, not a feeling. Feelings come and go, commitments do not.

In today's Gospel account Jesus is talking about love as something we do, not something we feel. He knew full well that affection is something we feel, He looking for us to love. Love is a choice, a commitment to do things; that is why Jesus is commanding us to love others. It's what we do for them, not what we feel toward them, that is the point. I recently heard of a couple who were celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary, their Golden Jubilee. A friend asked them how they did it. "Did you ever think about getting a divorce?" "No", said the bride of fifty years, "I never thought about that. I didn't consider divorce to be an option." Then, with a twinkle in her eye, she added, "But a few times I have thought about murder!" When two people marry they promise to act toward each other in ways they will not act toward anyone else. Feelings come and feelings go - we have little control over them. Love and commitments, however, are choices. Furthermore, as psychologists tell us, feelings can be shaped by the way we act. This is why Jesus commands us to act toward others in a loving way regardless of how we feel. Love makes commitments; feelings can follow along. All of us have feelings of fondness toward others. Even pagans feel fondness and affection. So there's no particular Christian virtue in feeling fondness and affection for another. Consequently, there is no sin in feelings of fondness toward another. Virtue and sin are found, however, in what we choose to do with other people. Which is why Jesus always placed His emphasis, not on how we feel toward others, but how we act toward them.

We need to pay attention to the Last Judgment scene depicted in Matthew's gospel account. That last judgment all has to do with deeds - feelings are entirely omitted. God does not say: "I was hungry, and you felt sorry for me. I was naked, and you felt embarrassment. I was sick, and you had feelings of sympathy toward me." All of which would have been simply nice. And many churches preach a gospel of nice feelings - religion is only a matter of feeling nice toward others. But Christianity is more than being nice or simply having nice feelings. When did Jesus ever mention being "nice" toward others? The only thing that counted with Him was that the hungry were fed, the naked were clothed, and that the lonely and abandoned were sought out and cared for.

Jesus Christ is the ultimate realist. He commands us, He mandates us to love our neighbors as we love our selves... even those who are unlovable. Perhaps He even means particularly those who are unlovable. He closes our little loopholes and presents us with the most demanding of all Gospel messages, allowing us no compromises, no human "wiggle room". It was a call to get extremely serious about what we do, not what we feel. And it was an utterly simple mandate, no complexities whatsoever. It's sort of like the proposed new federal income tax that can be sent in on a postcard - 9% of your taxable income... no deductions, no exemptions, no depreciation formulae, no wiggle room - simple, direct, straightforward and to the point. I don't care how you feel, Jesus says; just love your neighbor, all of your neighbors no matter who they are and in how you act toward them. All of those complicated feelings of yours will eventually follow along. Religion is a matter of what you do, how you act. Jesus isn't inventing something new. No, He's giving us the mandate of our Father in heaven, one that was expressed to us long, long ago in the Book of Exodus. The challenge has always been before us, a challenge as old as the Bible, one that we just heard from the first Book of Exodus: Thus says the LORD: "You shall not molest or oppress an alien, for you were once aliens yourselves in the land of Egypt. You shall not wrong any widow or orphan. If ever you wrong them and they cry out to me, I will surely hear their cry. My wrath will flare up, and I will kill you with the sword; then your own wives will be widows, and your children orphans. "If you lend money to one of your poor neighbors among my people, you shall not act like an extortioner toward him by demanding interest from him. If you take your neighbor's cloak as a pledge, you shall return it to him before sunset; for this cloak of his is the only covering he has for his body. What else has he to sleep in? If he cries out to me, I will hear him; for I am compassionate." Love, then, is not simply a nice feeling, it is a challenge. Blessings, Fr. John



**TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION** This week we have in All Soul's Day a commemoration that is linked to the Halloween custom. Thursday is a grateful remembrance of the souls who are hidden from our sight, but alive to Christ. Old pagan superstitions might find us holding our breath when going by the graveyard, whereas others might actually go to the cemetery to the family graves, to share good food, and remember dear ones. No where does a culture embrace this day as fully as in Mexico. The "Day of the Dead" is a national holiday that unfolds over three days. To the Aztecs, life was a dream, and death was the entry into full life. Skulls were thus a symbol of joy and release from life's sorrows. Today graves are decorated, altars are built in the home to honor the family dead, children feast on candy skulls, and people dress up in elaborate skeleton outfits. The devout spend hours in the cemetery and there is a lively sense of the communion of saints, the living and the dead.

--Rev. James Field, Copyright J.C. Paluch Co.



November Birthdays

- 1--Father John Thomas, Austin Gough
- 5--Michael Bogdan, Jamie Bisel
- 7--Hank & Quinn Fain, Lennox Williams
- 11--Jeff Sanford
- 16--Joyce Moorman, Greg Gough, Brynn Campbell
- 19--Barbara Bisel, Ron Moorman
- 22--Trey Hatchett
- 25--Payton Sanford



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, 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

- Nov. 1--All Saints Day--6 pm Mass
- November 4--Black Catholic History Month Mass at St. Stephen Cathedral 11:30 Luncheon to follow
- November 10--Scripture sharing 10:45
- November 11--Ladies’ Breakfast 9:30 at BSC Hall
- November 19--Thanksgiving Free Community Dinner 12-2 pm



- October 22--\$1432.51
- Budget--\$1094
- MTD Collection--\$4,878.01
- MTD Budget--\$4,376
- YTD Collection--\$20,299.31
- YTD Budget--\$18,568

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


In our secularized culture, we all struggle with belief in God, at least to some degree. An atheist man named Robert Bridges once wrote to his friend, the Jesuit poet Gerard Manley Hopkins, asking how he could possibly learn to believe in God. Hopkins pithily responded: “Give alms.” Would that help someone tempted by atheism today, like you and me? I think so, and here’s why. This week Jesus speaks of love for God and neighbor. These dual commands were nothing new when Jesus used them to sum up the Jewish law. What is new is the way he links them together in mutual dependency. In Jesus, God and man have become one. Human-love and God-love are now inseparably married forever. The newness of the God-man means that there is now a permanently counter-intuitive way into the knowledge and love of God: love of our neighbor. To experience charity is to know God. That’s what Hopkins was getting at for his friend. How we treat our fellow human beings is inseparable from faith in God. Do you want to have a stronger sense of God’s loving presence and goodness? Commit to serving someone today and this week. Love him or her. Don’t wait for love for God to appear in your heart before loving others. Jesus has united divine and human love. If you want to believe more in God, give alms. — Father John Muir LPi

GOOD EXAMPLE:

A good example is the tallest kind of preaching. African saying.



MINISTRY SCHEDULE	
LECTORS	
<u>October 29:</u>	Layson Brooks, Misty Sanford
<u>November 5:</u>	Katie Goins, Sarah Malone
<u>November 12:</u>	Alexis Hatchett, Barbara Biisel
Eucharistic Ministers	
<u>October 29:</u>	Barbara Bisel, Greg Richard son, Katie Goins
<u>November 5:</u>	Cindy Clark, Greg Gpugh, Charlene, Meadows
<u>November 12:</u>	Janet Clark, Lori Robinson, Holly Hollis
Collection & Gifts	
<u>October 29:</u>	Jacques, Whitney Williams and sons
<u>November 5:</u>	Kelly , Holly, Samuel Hollis
<u>November 12:</u>	Wonet Taylor, Barbara Ham

Clean Heart Initiative – “Safe Haven Sunday”  
The Office of Marriage & Family Life launched the Clean Heart Initiative in 2019 to bring to light the issue of pornography, equip marriages and families with the tools they need to restore their homes as safe havens. To re-launch the Clean Heart Initiative, many parishes in the Diocese are designating October 29 th as “Safe Haven Sunday.” One of the resources we are making available is a free, digitaleBook called “Equipped” that parents can download using this QR code.



**CLEAN  
HEART**  
INITIATIVE  
DIOCESE OF OWENSBORO

Download the Free Ebook ‘Equipped’  
by scanning the QR Code.



**27 Words That Matter**  
One of the quickest things you learn as a parent is how dangerous it is to explain too much, especially when your kid is teetering on the brink of a rebellion. The fewer words you use, the more power they have. A kid who is about to be carried away by their feelings needs to be brought back to earth with a tether made of short, succinct directions.

There are a lot of similarities between the Pharisees of Scripture and a toddler on the edge of a melt-down. Stay with me — this will make sense, I promise. Think about it: both toddlers and Pharisees have lots of feelings and lots of opinions. Both toddlers and Pharisees think you’re out to get them. Both toddlers and Pharisees keep trying to trick you to get what they *think* they want.

A thorough Google search informs me that there are about 80,000 words in the Torah. Eighty-thousand words, and Jesus can boil it all down to 27: “You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind” and “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

It doesn’t make the excess words untrue; it doesn’t even make them unnecessary. Sometimes I need the long explanation, the full and complete picture.

Because sometimes, as much as I hate to admit it, I act like both a toddler and a Pharisee. I am carried away by my feelings. I don’t trust God. I am about to bolt.

When that happens, I need to be told in short and simple terms what my salvation means. I need a tether made of short, succinct directions.

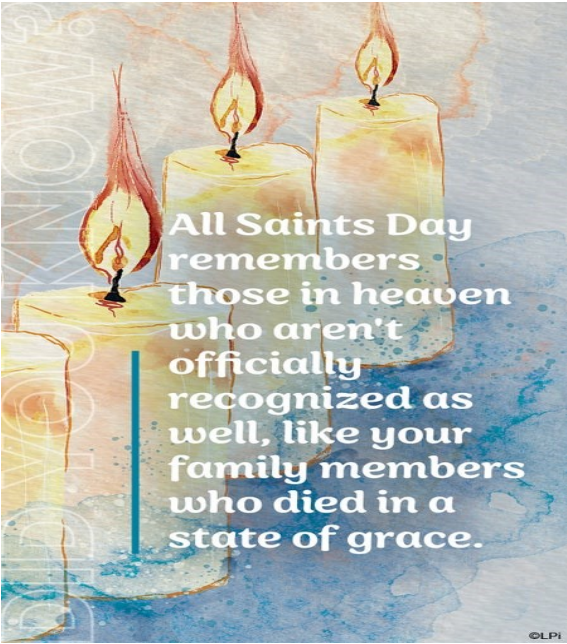
*“The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments.” — Matthew 22:40*

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Readings for the Week	
Monday:	Rom 8:12-17/Ps 68:2 and 4, 6-7, 20-21/Lk 13:10-17
Tuesday:	Rom 8:18-25/Ps 126:1-6/Lk 13:18-21
Wednesday:	Rv 7:2-4, 9-14/Ps 24:1-6/1 Jn 3:1-3/Mt 5:1-12
Thursday:	Wis 4:7-14/Ps 25:6-7, 17-18, /Rom 5:17-21/Mt 11:25-30
Friday:	Rom 9:1-5/Ps 147:12-15, 19-20/Lk 14:1-6
Saturday:	Rom 11:1-2, 11-12, 25-29/Ps 94:12-15, 17-18/Lk 14:1, 7-11

**Observances for the Week of October 29**

Tuesday:	All Hallow’s Eve
Wednesday:	All Saints
Thursday:	All Souls’ Day
Friday:	St. Martin de Porres, Religious
Saturday:	St. Charles Borromeo, Bishop
Next Sunday:	Daylight Saving Time Ends;



**LOVE SHOWN IN ACTION**  
Do you receive the word of God with joy as the Thessalonians did? Their faith sowed in their actions. They became models for other believers.

The first reading tells us to put our faith into action. This passage is part of a long list of ordinances God commanded the Israelites to observe. God will judge us by how we treat our neighbors. God will hear the cries of any whom we neglect or mistreat and will come to their defense.

In today’s Gospel the Pharisees put the question of God’s law to Jesus. “Which commandment of the law is the greatest?” (Matthew 22:36) How could he possibly choose from all the detailed commandments the Jews observed? He was sure to offend someone by his answer! Of course, Jesus went right to the heart of the matter. Love is the greatest commandment—love of God and love of neighbor. Everything else is based on this.  
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**Prayer for Our Deceased**  
Dear Lord,  
Comfort us in our grief as we mourn those no longer with us on earth. Free those in purgatory quickly, and guide us in Your will, so that one day we may all be united with You, for eternity. Amen.

