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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 Fennewald,
 SSND pa@blessedsacramentchapel.org



Sunday's Readings:

First Reading:
 What more was there to do for my vineyard that I had not done? Why, when I looked for the crop of grapes, did it bring forth wild grapes? (Is 5:4)


Psalm:
 The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel. (Is 5:7a)

Second Reading:
 Keep on doing what you have learned and received and heard and seen in me. Then the God of peace will be with you. (Phil 4:9)

Gospel:
 "What will the owner of the vineyard do to those tenants when he comes?" They answered him, "He will put those wretched men to a wretched death and lease his vineyard to other tenants." (Mt 21:41)
 Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998,

October 8, 2023 27th Sunday Ordinary Time

The peace of God ... will guard your hearts and mind in Christ Jesus.



27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone." - Mt 21:42ab

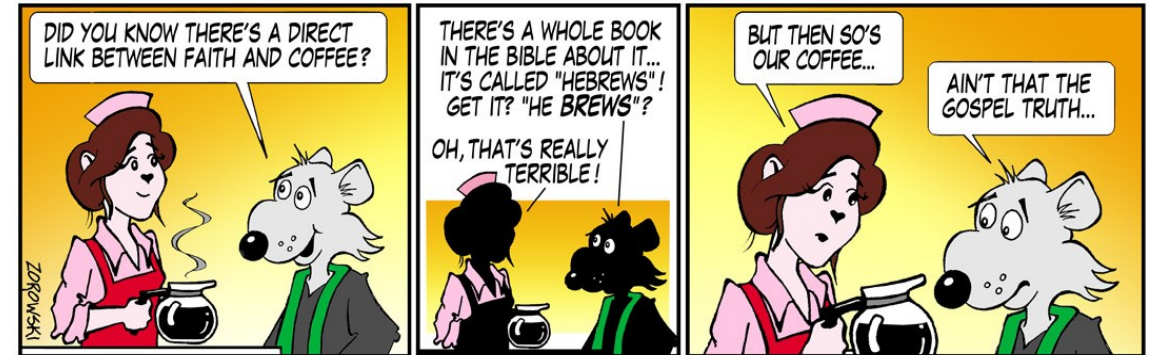
Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970-CCB. GLEP

My Dear Parishioners:

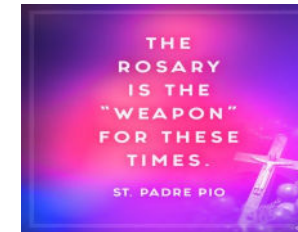
What's the one thing you most fear in life? What's the one thing that has preoccupied you since you were a child and throughout all of the years that have followed? Isn't it fear of rejection? Recall your early days as a child. Even as a tiny baby you screamed, shrieked and cried if you were not held, cuddled, kissed, and loved by your mother and your father. As a child you craved to play with playmates and you were miserable if they didn't want to play with you. And when you were a teenager... well, words can't begin to describe the pain and fear a teenager experiences when threatened by rejection. If your parents divorce, isn't your primal fear and first thought that one or the other is rejecting you, particularly the parent who because of the divorce is forced to leave your home? Sometimes we're so obsessed with the fear of rejection that we treat others badly. We treat them as if we were already rejected. Then, because we're so sulky and isolating, they quite naturally don't want to be around us. And then there's that horrible experience of rejection when a parent is confronted by a son or daughter who is on dope or alcohol, a child who is running around, who's hardly ever at home except to eat, get cleaned up, and then leave again. With all of the rejection we give each other, and in the midst of all of the rejection we ourselves experience, do we ever stop and consider how God has been hurt by our rejection of His love for us? Jesus presented us with today's parable just before He entered Jerusalem for the last time. The crowds were about to spread palms in front of Him. Shortly thereafter He would go up on the Mount of Olives, there to weep and cry out in pain when He looked out over Jerusalem and cried: "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you that kill the prophets and stone those who are sent to you! How often have I longed to gather your children, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you refused!" Then they crucified Him. We don't like to admit it, but many times we reject God. Oh, we deny that... but in fact we do. How many times has there been when we just couldn't be bothered by God. How many people act as if God simply doesn't matter? How many times does His still, inner voice call us to do something and we refuse to listen to Him whisperings within us? Then there's the matter of rejecting God's forgiveness. We are simply ignorant of the horrific sin that it is, declaring that God, God's love, God's forgiveness, simply doesn't matter; that we can't be bothered with it. The pain of rejection is horrible. That pain is made crystal clear and perfectly evident when we take a good look at the crucifix and understand its profound message, namely our rejection of God's love for us. That's why there's a human body hanging on it. It's not an empty cross, it's a cross loaded to the full with rejection, the worst kind of pain that any of us can ever experience. The crucifix presents us with God nailed and immobilized because we won't listen to him! There's no defense against rejection. No words can deal with rejection. There's nothing we can do against it -- which is perhaps why Jesus stood before Pontius Pilate, the personification of human judgment and rejection, and stood there in utter silence. Words simply cannot deal with the reality of rejection. Nothing can. The parable heard in the Gospel is not just a parable about us. It is, rather, a glimpse into God's heart. It tells us about how He feels, the hurt and pain He experiences at our hands. During Good Friday services it was once common to hear the Reproaches. They were words placed in the mouth of God and directed at us. Perhaps some of you may remember them: My people, what have I done to you? How have I offended you? Answer me! I led you out of Egypt; but you led your Savior to the Cross. For forty years I led you safely through the desert, But you led your Savior to the Cross. O, My people! What have I done to you that you should testify against me? Answer me! One may wonder whether or not God can suffer. It seems to me that He does. In Christ Jesus, God the Son made human for us, He certainly did. And nothing caused Him more pain than our rejection of him. So when you are experiencing rejection, and when the fear of rejection is overpowering within you, give some time to being alone with Christ. He's here for you all of the time, twenty-four hours a day. He's here in the Mass. He's here in the Blessed Sacrament. Why not pay Him a visit from time to time? He'd love that, you know. He'd love to have someone come and give Him some time alone with Him, along with some words of love for Him. He knows rejection, and in His infinite love and caring for us, He gives us His power to overcome rejection and know what it is to love and be loved in return. Blessings, Fr. John

Church Mice

Karl Zorowski



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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).

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

October Birthdays

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



LIFE AND DIGNITY OF HUMAN PERSON

The Catholic Church proclaims that human life is sacred and that the dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society. This belief is the foundation of all the principles of our social teaching. In our society, human life is under direct attack from abortion and euthanasia. The value of human life is being threatened by cloning, embryonic stem cell research, and the use of the death penalty. The intentional targeting of civilians in war or terrorist attacks is always wrong. Catholic teaching also calls on us to work to avoid war. Nations must protect the right to life by finding increasingly effective ways to prevent conflicts and resolve them by peaceful means. We believe that every person is precious, that people are more important than things, and that the measure of every institution is whether it threatens or enhances the life and dignity of the human person.

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 1--\$976
 Budget--\$1094
 MTD Collection--\$976
 MTD Budget--\$1094
 YTD Collection--\$16,397.30
 YTD Budget--\$15,316

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

Jesus' parables are much stranger than most people realize. This week is an attention-getting example. He tells the religious leaders a parable about a completely absurd situation. Blood-thirsty and insane tenants violently abuse and kill the servants of their landlord. Inexplicably, the owner keeps sending them more victims of increasing value — up to and including his own son. Weird.

Usually, we hear this parable and assume it's an allegory: Jesus is the murdered son, the servants the prophets, etc. Fair enough. But notice — and here is where the weirdness deepens — Jesus seems to disagree with the Pharisees' interpretation that the landowner should and will punish the inheritance-obsessed murderers. So, is Jesus praising the psychotic and greedy murderers?! You can imagine the furrowed brows and deriding laughter as the scoffing crowd shuffles away.

If we stay with this tough parable, perhaps this truth emerges: God wants us to have an over-the-top obsession with a *totally undeserved inheritance*. Of course, we are forbidden to use violence. But the parable's violence gets our attention because it highlights the crazy goodness of the landowner. Jesus reveals that God is not merely in the business of rewarding the good and punishing the bad. He is playing a much stranger game — one marked by a kind of over-the-top mercy, a breathtaking giving of what is *not* deserved. What would our week look like if we embraced this kind of desire for God's kingdom on earth, even if others think we're nuts? This week let's seek God's kingdom with a passionate confidence in God's desire to give the good things we don't deserve.

— Father John Muir LPI

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

LECTORS

October 8: Greg Gough, Kathi Skidd
October 15: Jacques Williams, Barbara Bisel
October 22: Alexis Hatchett, Greg Gough

Eucharistic Ministers

October 8: Janet Clark, Charlene Meadows, Lori Robinson
October 15: Rita Moorman, Misty Sanford, Kathi Skidd
October 22: Vivian Higgs, Sarah Malone, Denise Richardson

Collection & Gifts

October 8: Michelle Jones, Emma Latta
October 15: Aubrey and Lad Ottofy
October 22:

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 Gift that Gives Back

It never ceases to amaze me how often I fall into the trap and end up grumbling about the greatest gifts in my life. A husband, children, a life that is full almost to bursting: these are things for which I once begged God. These are the jewels in the crown of my life.

Oh, but the children need care. Constant care. And a husband — a real flesh-and-blood creation of God, entrusted to me by God, to help me be holy and relying on me for holiness in turn — well, that relationship is a lot of work, isn’t it? And a “full life” — I laugh to think of it, and then I blush with shame, because I admit sometimes, I do yearn for a life that is a little less ... *full*. A full life can leave you awfully tired at the end of the day.

I would imagine it’s the same for everyone, no matter your life circumstances or vocation. Your greatest blessings are also those things that require much of you, more than you imagined you would ever be asked to give. The biggest jewels make the crown heavy.

But if we had any of these gifts without the effort it takes to maintain them, would they be half as sweet?

In this same way, the work of the vineyard is opened to us through baptism; we are given the chance to produce fruit for the kingdom. It’s a chance we never dared to dream would be given to us.

It’s a gift. But just like with any gift worth having, it requires effort. Upkeep. Work.

It requires that we give in return. And it’s the giving that somehow, mystically, transforms us. It’s the giving that turns into the gift itself.

“...the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that will produce its fruit.” — Matthew 21:43

©LPi

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Readings for the Week

Monday: Jon 1:1—2:2, 11/Jon 2:3-5, 8/
Lk 10:25-37
Tuesday: Jon 3:1-10/ Ps 130:1b-2-4, 7-
8/Lk 10:38-42
Wednesday: Jon 4:1-11/Ps 86:3-6, 9-10/
Lk 11:1-4
Thursday: Mal 3:13-20/Ps 1:1-4 and 6/
Lk 11:5-13
Friday: Jl 1:13-15; 2:1-2/Ps 9:2-3, 6
and 16, 8-9/Lk 11:15-26
Saturday: Jl 4:12-21/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-
12/Lk 11:27-28

Observances for the Week of October 8

Monday: Columbus Day; St. Denis, Bishop, and Companions, Martyrs; St. John Leonardi, Priest
Wednesday: St. John XXIII, Pope
Saturday: St. Callistus I, Pope and Martyr

Kitchen Signs

A balanced diet is a cookie in each hand.

Thou shalt not weigh more than thy refrigerator.

Help keep the kitchen clean— eat out. Housework done properly can kill you.

My next house will have no kitchen— just vending machines.

A husband is someone who takes out the trash and gives the impression he just cleaned the whole house.

A messy kitchen is a happy kitchen and this kitchen is delirious

IN THE VINEYARD

As usual, today’s first and third scripture readings re obviously related, with the second one of Paul’s letters--these days, the Letter to the Philippians. The vineyard stories from Isaiah and Matthew both talk about evildoers coming to a bad end.

In Isaiah, it’s the vineyard itself that produces “wild grapes” instead of the crop the owner dreamed of and worked for. So it will be “trampled” and “overgrown with thorns”. In Matthew, those to whom the owner leased the vineyard destroy the dream. So the owner “will put these wretched men to a wretched death and lease his vineyard to other tenants.” (Matt. 21:41)

Yes, if we reject divine love we come to a bad end. And with all this talk of the unfaithful being trampled and thrown out, it’s consoling to hear Paul’s message to the Philippians, who were by no means perfect. “Have no anxiety at all,” Paul said. “Then will the God of peace will be with you”. (Philippians 4:6-9)

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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.