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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



Nov. 12, 2023 32nd Sunday Ordinary Time

Stay awake

for you know neither the hour nor the day.

Sunday's Readings:

First Reading:

Resplendent and unfading is wisdom, and she is readily perceived by those who love her, and found by those who seek her. (Wis 6:12)

Psalm:

My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God. (Ps 63)

Second Reading:

For if we believe that Jesus died and rose, so too will God, through Jesus, bring with him those who have fallen asleep. (1 Thes 4:14)

Gospel:

"Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour." (Mt 25:13)

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



My Dear Parishioners.

The refusal of the wise virgins to share may appear selfish. But here we are not talking really about lamps and oil but about people and life. There are certain things you cannot borrow or inherit. Your parents or my parents may have been the best people in the world. If so, that is a blessing beyond measure. But for all that it cannot be taken for granted that we will automatically become decent caring men and women. We can learn from one another, be inspired by one another, but in the last analysis we shape our own destiny. Character cannot be transferred or borrowed. We must build it for ourselves.

The same is true of the faith. Parents and other people are reminded that it is their responsibility to hand on the faith to the younger generation. But again, faith is not like a farm of land or a legacy. It cannot be given by a parent to a child. Yes, all kinds of encouragement and good example can help enormously, but in the end, the young person as they grow up to maturity must accept or reject the invitation in his or her own heart.

The arrival of children of their own can often be a decisive moment for young parents as regards the faith. Some never seem to come back, but always remember God has his own way of welcoming people home even if along unexpected routes.

Blessings, Father John

A horrible mistake: “Father, I have a besetting sin, and I want your help. I come to church on Sunday and can’t help thinking I’m the prettiest girl in the congregation. I know I ought not to think that, but I can’t help it. I want you to help me with it.” The pastor replied, “Mary, don’t worry about it. In your case it’s not a sin. It’s just a horrible mistake

CELEBRATING THE LORD’S DAY

On Sunday, we gather as the Body of Christ to celebrate the Lord’s Day, the day of Christ’s Resurrection: As “the first day of the week” (Mk 16:2) it recalls the first creation; and as the “eighth day,” which follows the sabbath, it symbolizes the new creation ushered in by the Resurrection of Christ. Thus, it has become for Christians the first of all days and of all feasts. It is the day of the Lord in which he with his Passover fulfilled the spiritual truth of the Jewish Sabbath and proclaimed man’s eternal rest in God (Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 452) The Scriptures tell us that Jesus rose on the first day of the week—the day following the Jewish Sabbath. Shortly after daybreak, the women found the tomb empty and Jesus risen from the dead. Jesus’ death and Resurrection opened for us the doors of salvation. Sharing in Jesus’ death in Baptism, we hope to share in his Resurrection. We become a new creation in Christ. It is that new creation which we celebrate on Sunday: This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice in it and be glad. (Ps 118:24) Each Sunday is a “little Easter”—a celebration of the central mysteries of our faith.

THE SUNDAY EUCHARIST

The primary way in which we celebrate the Lord’s Day is with our participation in the Sunday Eucharist. What better way to celebrate the Resurrection of the Lord than by celebration of the memorial of his Passion, death, and Resurrection? This celebration is not a solitary, private event. Instead, we come together as the People of God, the Church, to worship with one heart and one voice. The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) teaches that “participation in the communal celebration of the Sunday Eucharist is a testimony of belonging and of being faithful to Christ and to his Church” (CCC, no. 2182). When members of our church community are absent from this gathering, they are missed. No member of the faithful should be absent from the Sunday Eucharist without a serious reason. The Liturgy should be the first thing on Sunday’s schedule, not the last. We should arrive on time, prepared in mind and heart to fully participate in the Mass. Those who cannot attend because of illness or the need to care for infants or the sick deserve our prayers and special attention. Often, people will suggest that going to Sunday Mass is not necessary. After all, they can pray at home just as well. This has clearly been an issue in the Church for more than a millennium. In the fourth century, St. John Chrysostom addressed this problem directly: You cannot pray at home as at church, where there is a great multitude, where exclamations are cried out to God as from one great heart, and where there is something more: the union of minds, the accord of souls, the bond of charity, the prayers of the priests. (CCC, no. 2179, quoting St. John Chrysostom, *De incomprehensibili* 3, 6: PG 48, 725) Private prayer, though essential to the spiritual life, can never replace the celebration of the Eucharistic Liturgy and the reception of Holy Communion. In some communities, the lack of priests makes it impossible to celebrate the Eucharist each Sunday. In such instances, the bishop may make provision for these parish communities to gather and celebrate the Liturgy of the Word or the Liturgy of the Hours. These Sunday celebrations in the absence of a priest may or may not include the reception of Holy Communion. Still, these celebrations allow the People of God to gather and keep holy the Lord’s Day.

**EVERY THOUGHT IS A SEED. IF YOU PLANT CRAB APPLES,
DON’T COUNT ON HARVESTING GOLDEN DELICIOUS.**

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

Mass Intentions

- November 1--Angela Clark
- November 5--Patricia Lett
- November 12--Kenneth Higgs
- November 19--Donald Moorman
- November 26--Sandra Brown

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, Susan Hall, 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.

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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

Coming Events



Blessed Sacrament Chapel

November 19--Thanksgiving Free Community Dinner 12-2 pm

December 3--1st Sunday of Advent

December 7--Immaculate Conception 6 pm Mass



Nov. 5--\$1769.50

Budget--\$1094

MTD Collection--\$1769.50

MTD Budget--\$1094

YTD Collection--\$22,822.31

YTD Budget--\$20,756

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

Lately I've been enjoying the deep meaning of Eastern icons. I love how they express a tapestry of meaning in a way that can surpass the written or spoken word. Today's parable of the ten virgins from Jesus is a good example. Try googling "wise and foolish virgins icon" and you'll see an image of how our Christ meets our heart's deepest needs if we attend to him with the proper attitude.

I'm serious. Take a moment to google and look at it. See how it depicts the risen Jesus behind a closed door with the five wise virgins with lighted lamps. He gazes with them toward the five foolish and lamp-less virgins, symbolizing the outward looking of divine love for the lost. Moreover, the wedding feast is no ordinary one. It takes place in a walled city and garden, indicating it's a new Jerusalem and a return to Eden. The table isn't typical, either. It's a Eucharistic feast. Now we see that the door in Jesus' parable is the way into the church, where Christ is the new light burning amidst the dark midnight of this world.

The richness continues. We notice, too, that the foolish virgins look *exactly* the same as the wise ones in their clothes, hair, and expressions. The only difference is they departed to buy oil and now they are sadly excluded. We often act like consumers in the marketplace to fulfill our need for love and mercy. We'll *always* end up disappointed if we shop around. Jesus sums up the moral of the story this way: **"Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."** Watch, remain, don't spiritually shop. It is *always* better to quietly remain close to the Eucharistic community of the Church, even if we feel like our oil has run out. This week let's consider placing the icon of the wise and foolish virgins on our phone lock screen or computer desktop to help us remember to stay close to him, especially when life feels dark.

— Father John Muir LPi

**MINISTRY SCHEDULE
LECTORS**

November 12: Alexis Hatchett, Barbara Bisel
November 19: Greg Gough, Kathi Skidd
November 26: Misty Sanford, Wayne Stephens

Eucharistic Ministers

November 12: Janet Clark, Lori Robinson, Holly Hollis
November 19: Vivian Higgs, Rita Moorman, Denise Richardson
November 26: Katie Goins, Sarah Malone, Kathi Skidd

Collection & Gifts

November 12: Wonet Taylor, Barbara Hammond
November 19: Mary Katherine and Ethan Gough
November 26: Jamie Bisel and sons

Church Collections

Question:

Where does the money go that is collected each week at Church?

Answer:

This is a good question! Every parish has financial obligations, including the basic operation of the buildings, salaries, maintenance, and improvements. In addition, there are schools to support, programs to run, charities to be funded, and operational expenses like hosts and wine for Mass, music books, vestments, and so on. In some cases, cemeteries and other buildings need attention. Finally, there is the diocesan assessment that each parish pays to help run the diocese and the support services provided to each parish.

Most parishes manage to get by with the collection, a few fundraisers and endowments. But contrary to popular opinion, cash flow is also a problem, and many parishes operate in the red. The Finance Committee is responsible for assisting the pastor in fiscal management, and good stewardship is the basis for successful programs.

Seeking Wisdom

I think if any of us were asked the question, “Do you love wisdom? Do you seek wisdom?” we would, at first, be a little taken aback. And then we would answer quickly “Of course!” with absolutely no doubt in our minds.

But a different way of asking the question is this: “Are you making wise choices?” That’s a question that would put a fair few of us on the back foot.

The virgins who went out to meet the bridegroom were all the same. They had the exact same intentions. They had the exact same stamina, or lack of it. They had the exact same knowledge of the night being dark and lamps being necessary.

What made five foolish, and five wise? It was their choices. Only their choices set them apart.

We may rely upon the wisdom of another — the parent who reminds us to go to confession, the friend who demurs when we start speaking gossip, the priest who preaches boldly from the pulpit against an injustice we lack the courage to denounce ourselves. But even if we feel safeguarded by their good influence, their wisdom won’t save us.

We may possess a little wisdom ourselves — we may know well that a dark night is hard to navigate, and that we need the assistance of a lamp. We may go to Mass once in a while, read the Bible when we have time and serve others when it’s convenient.

But a lamp needs oil to burn in the darkness, just as wisdom requires action to be brought forth into the world. We may love God just as much as we should — our flesh may pine, our soul may thirst. But a parched field never brought rain on itself just by being dry. We must make the choice.

“Thus will I bless you while I live; lifting up my hands, I will call upon your name.” — Psalm 63:4

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Readings for the Week

Monday: Wis 1:1-7/Ps 139:1-10/
Lk 17:1-6
 Tuesday: Wis 2:23—3:9/Ps 34:2-3, 16--
19/Lk 17:7-10
 Wednesday: Wis 6:1-11/Ps 82:3-4, 6-7/
Lk 17:11-19
 Thursday: Wis 7:22—8:1/Ps 119:89-91,
130, 135, 175/Lk 17:20-25
 Friday: Wis 13:1-9/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5/
Lk 17:26-37
 Saturday: Wis 18:14-16; 19:6-9/Ps 105:2
-3, 36-37, 42-43/Lk 18:1-8

Observances for the Week of November 12

Monday: St. Frances Xavier Cabrini,
 Wednesday: St. Albert the Great, Bishop
 Thursday: St. Margaret of Scotland; St.
Gertrude, Virgin
 Friday: St. Elizabeth of Hungary,
 Saturday: The Dedication of Basilicas of
Sts. Peter and Paul, Apostles;

Pride is a Killer: The story has been told of a lion who was very proud. He decided to take a walk one day to demonstrate his mastery over all the other creatures. He strutted his way through the forest until he came across a bear. “WHO IS THE KING OF THE JUNGLE, BEAR?” “Why of course you are, mighty lion.” He went on until he found the tiger. “WHO IS THE KING OF THE JUNGLE, TIGER?” “Why you are, great lion.” Next the lion found the elephant. “WHO IS THE KING OF THE JUNGLE, ELEPHANT?” The elephant instantly grabbed the lion with his trunk and spun him around a few times and slammed him to the ground. He then stepped on him a few times, picked him up and dunked him in the water and then threw him up against a tree. The lion staggered to his feet and said, “LOOK, JUST BECAUSE YOU DON’T KNOW THE ANSWER, YOU DON’T HAVE TO GET SO UPSET!”

WISDOM

We consider wisdom today. The first reading from the book of Wisdom presents this precious gift as a feminine spirit, a very desirable virtue sought by many and graciously present to all who seek her. In Today’s Gospel, Jesus tells a parable to illustrate wisdom in a practical, measurable way. The wise will conserve their resources, use them prudently, and mark the passing of time. The foolish, on the other hand, not planning ahead, will be in the dark. Both of these readings tell us how accessible wisdom is to all who simply and honestly seek it.

Paul’s words to the Thessalonians are not about wisdom, but describe one result of true wisdom: to the wise person of faith even death holds no terror. Our faith in Jesus’ resurrection tells us we will all one day rise to new life in Christ.

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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.

