

 **AnITConsultant** LLC

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Chief Technology Officer

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Owensboro, KY 42304-2998
Phone : 270-883-1450
Email : it@anitconsultant.com

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Teacher Hair-pullers

Teacher: How old is your father? Boy: 6 years old. Teacher: What? How is that possible?
Boy: He became father only when I was born.

Teacher: Maria , go to the map and find North America. Maria: Here it is.
Teacher: Correct. Now class who discovered America? Class: Maria

Teacher: Glenn, how do you spell "crocodile"? Glenn: K-R-O-K-O-D-I-A-L
Teacher: No, that's wrong. Glenn: Maybe it is wrong, but you asked me how I spell it.

Teacher: Donald, what is the chemical formula for water? Donald: H I J K L M N O
Teacher: What are you talking about? Donald: Yesterday you said it was H to O

Teacher: Clyde, your composition on "My Dog" is exactly the same as your brother's. Did you copy his? Clyde: No, sir. It's the same dog.



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 Cheriankunel
moc_scheriyankunel@sscobo.org

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



Sunday's Readings:

First Reading:

She brings him good, and not evil, all the days of her life. She obtains wool and flax and works with loving hands. (Prv 31:12-13)

Psalm:

Blessed are those who fear the Lord. (Ps 128)

Second Reading:

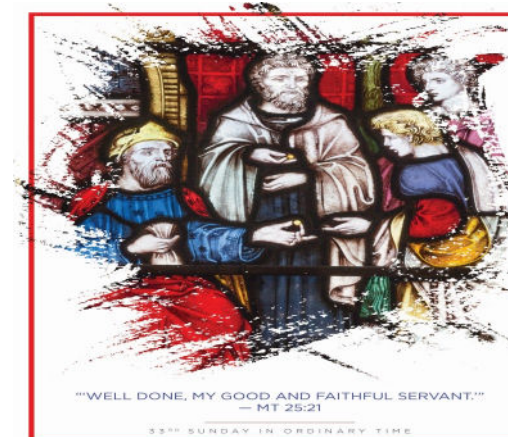
But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness, for that day to overtake you like a thief. For all of you are children of the light and children of the day. (1 Thes 5:4-5)

Gospel:

"Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come, share your master's joy." (Mt 25:21)
Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

Nov. 19, 2023 33rd Sunday Ordinary Time

You are children of the light
and children of the day. ! Thess 5:5



My Dear Parishioners:

I want to begin today by noting that in Jesus’ time a talent was a huge amount of money. The coin de-nominated as a talent was very valuable indeed. For us today we think of talents not as money but as special personal gifts we may have. We may have a musical talent; we may be a talented writer, artist, or entertainer; we may have intellectual talents, and so forth. We speak of such persons as “gifted.” We are not all equally gifted; obviously some of us are more gifted than others. Just as in the parable, some may have five, some two, some just one.

Today’s gospel parable is one of a three part series of Gospel parables dealing with the use of our God-given talents. Two Sundays ago we heard of the wily servant who was crooked with His master’s accounting books and the wise and foolish bridesmaids. Today we hear about the servant who, out of fear, did nothing with His God-given talent except to bury it. In other parables we hear about servants who fail to be profitable servants and who suffer the consequences.

Today’s parable opens by noting that our Father in heaven has given us various talents in varying amounts while expecting that we wisely use whatever He has given us in order to develop His kingdom here on earth. In the parable we heard: While the servants who received the five and the two talents used them wisely and doubled their holdings, the third servant left His talent unused and buried in the ground.

I want to highlight here the beautiful picture painted in today’s first reading, the reading about the good wife who is not only a good wife but also a successful businesswoman, a productive and generous businesswoman who employs her talents well and who reaches out to the poor and extends her hands to the needy. She knows what to do with her profits – she cares for her family while at the same time she generously cares for the poor and needy.

The challenge that faces you and me in today’s parable is where we hear that on His return, the master, a true businessman, questions each servant as to the use he has made of the money given to him and wants to know what profit they had gained. What return was made on their master’s investments in them? As in all such cases, as well as in what we have done with our lives, there is an eventual accounting. The parable goes on to instruct us that those who acted wisely, like the good wife in today’s first reading, were praised and then promised that even more would be coming to them. Furthermore they would no longer be servants or slaves but would instead have honored places in their master’s household. Then comes the part that ought to concern us the most. The servant who had not used the talent given to him tried to excuse his negligence by saying that he knew how hard and demanding the master was and therefore did not risk investing His money out of fear that he might lose it. But was it fear? Perhaps. I think, however, it could also be that the master knew that the real reason why this servant did not invest His talent was because of His own sinful neglect and sloth. The servant claimed he knew the master was demanding and exacting but likely thought he was safe during His master's absence. Maybe he even convinced himself that His master would never return.

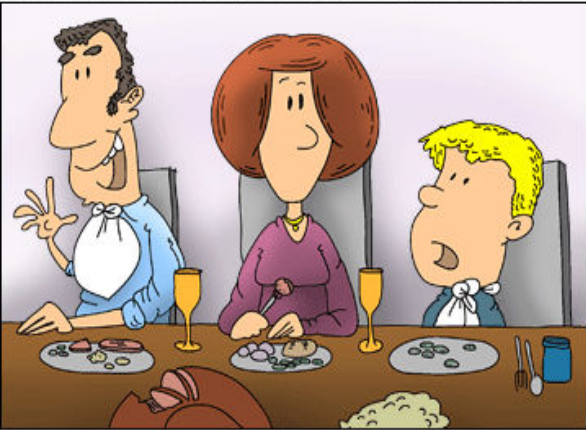
Now His troubles really begin. The master instructs that the talent he had failed to use be taken from him and given to servant who had five talents and who had earned five more. Because of this unproductive servant’s refusal to earn anything for a master he called hard and exacting he is not admitted to the master's household. Was the master to be feared? Was he hard of heart and exacting, as the unproductive servant claimed? Or was the unproductive servant using that as an excuse? We shouldn’t overlook the fact that the master generously allowed the productive servants to keep what had been given to them as well as keep what they had earned. On top of that the master brought them into His own household, and made them a part of His own family. He was in fact very generous.

God will not be outdone in generosity. If we are faithful and loyal to Him we will be greatly rewarded, while the disloyal will lose even the original gifts given them because they did not use them as they should. Instead of being received into the household of the master unfaithful servants will be cast into the "outer darkness," a metaphor to describe the lot of those who exclude themselves from heaven by the choices they made. In hell’s darkness they will weep and gnash their teeth in bitter disgust with themselves, a self-inflicted torture for those who have ignored their real purpose in life.

Is God harsh? Is God unfair? Many atheists or agnostics make that claim. But the evidence of God’s love and mercy demonstrates that the opposite is true. Moreover if we end up in the same place as the unproductive servant we will have no one to blame but ourselves. Why? Because God respects us enough not to control us but rather to honor our choices. That, I think, is the scariest characteristic of God... He utterly respects our decisions and will not cancel them out. If you think that your decisions don’t matter, then your soul is in peril. If you think that in the end God is going to overlook your choices, then your soul is in peril. If you think God is a harsh task-master, exacting and lacking in generosity, then your soul is in peril. If you think that God has not given you any talents and that you are good for nothing, then your soul is in peril. God is not interested in being a punishing God... the greatest punishment we face is self-punishment, self-punishment expressed in our own weeping and gnashing of teeth over the choices we have made, choices that have rejected the love of God.

God never rejects us. It is we who ignore His love. It is we who have ignored God’s gifts of the friends He has given us, the members of our family He has given us, the beauties of the world He has given us, and especially the gift of His Christ present to us in His sacraments. God will not be outdone in generosity. But while that is true, it is likewise true that a gift is not a gift until it is received and valued. Your talents are God’s gift to you. What you do with them is your gift to God, a gift that will result in immeasurable happiness for you in God’s very own household. So live, give, love, and pray. Then when your day of accounting arrives you will be taken by Christ into the home prepared for you by the God who is love. We came into being by Love and it is to Love that we are called and gifted as we make our passage through life back home in the household of God. Blessings, Fr. John

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I WOULD BE ABLE TO GIVE A LOT MORE THANKS IF I DIDN'T HAVE TO FINISH OFF THESE LIMA BEANS

THANKS

- ◇ **To God for giving us life, mercy, and His love**
- ◇ **For the Eucharist which nourishes us as no earthly food can**
- ◇ **For our family and friends who are with us in the good times and hard times.**
- ◇ **(Finish with your own litany of thanks.)**

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



I DON'T HAVE TIME

Someone might say to me: “But, Father, I don’t have time. I have so many things to do; it is difficult. What can I do with my feebleness and my sins, with so many things?” We are often satisfied with a few prayers, with a distracted and sporadic participation in Sunday Mass, with a few charitable acts; but we do not have the courage “to come out” to bring Christ to others.
---Pope Francis

Our understanding of time is relative to our desires. We don’t have time for important things, but we are distracted by trivial forms of media that waste our time and don’t fulfill us.
Where do you need to make time for God? Where does he want you to serve?

Mass Intentions

November 5--Patricia Lett
November 12--Kenneth Higgs
November 19--Donald Moorman
November 26--Sandra Brown
December 3--Emma Lou Marrett

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.

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

November 19--Thanksgiving Free
Community Dinner 12-2 pm
December 1--Scripture Reflection 10:45
December 7--Immaculate Conception
6 pm Mass



Nov. 12--\$703.50

Budget--\$1094

MTD Collection--\$2,473

MTD Budget--\$2,188

YTD Collection--\$23,525.81

YTD Budget--\$21,850

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

When I was a kid, I hated playing Monopoly because my siblings and friends always seemed to win. But worse was how it happened. Scared to risk my fake money on buying properties, I’d hold on to it. My opponents hungrily bought up the various real estate squares on the board. Then, inevitably, my poor, low-equity self would land on their spots, pay them rent, and my money would drain to zero. It seemed so unfair. The rich get richer, and the poor get poorer. I had to learn that monopoly money is meant to be spent. I was scared to lose some of it. So, I lost all of it.

How do we see what we possess? Jesus’ parable about the talents is not really about economics but about the investability of everything he entrusts to us. How marvelous that everyone in the fable who places talents in the open market doubles their investment. The only one who doesn’t is the man who fearfully buries his one talent. Jesus’ success strategy for us seems to be, whatever we have, *get it out of our possession*. Risk it as quickly and as fully as we can.

You and I have precious gifts. We have valuable things to invest — time, talents, treasure. The Lord invites us to be brave and even somewhat reckless, to give as much away as possible. If we give it away in the direction of love and truth, it will grow. If we hold on to it in fear, the little we have will be taken away. Let me challenge you this week: find something in your life you’re holding on to, and risk it by giving it away. It won’t double if you hold on to it.

— Father John Muir LPi

MINISTRY SCHEDULE	
LECTORS	
<u>November 19:</u>	Greg Gough, Kathi Skidd
<u>November 26:</u>	Misty Sanford, Wayne Stephens
<u>December 3:</u>	Layson Brooks, Katie Goins
Eucharistic Ministers	
<u>November 19:</u>	Vivian Higgs, Rita Moorman, Denise Richardson
<u>November 26:</u>	Katie Goins, Sarah Malone, Kathi Skidd
<u>December 3:</u>	Barbara Bisel, Greg Gough, Lori Robinson
Collection & Gifts	
<u>November 19:</u>	Mary Katherine and Ethan Gough
<u>November 26:</u>	Jamie Bisel and sons
<u>December 3:</u>	Steven, Meredith, Hank, Quinn Fain



The ladies who attended the breakfast did eat!! They are just enjoying each other’s company.

If you were unable to join us, maybe you can be with us the next time.



USING TALENTS

If we use God’s talents, we shall find that they become multiplied in the use. We thought we had two; we find we have five. Richard Meux Benson

What Remains

When my grandfather died, my parents, siblings, and I were left with the question: what’s to become of the house?

Anyone who has inherited property knows that it’s not simply a matter of assuming ownership of a plot of land upon which sits four walls and a roof. Those four walls and a roof usually contain memories and objects — an enormous volume of both, in the case of my grandfather. When they’re left to you, you have to sift through them, the memories and the objects, and with each one you have to think: *Is it worth it? Do I keep it? Will I need it?*

And slowly, painfully, you disassemble the physical existence of the person who lived here. You accept, with a pang, that most of it must be given away or discarded. You cry when you bag up the clothes to take to Goodwill. You can’t even bear to look when they break the piano into a hundred pieces and throw it in a dumpster, realizing that no one wants or has a use for something that was once so precious.

But when you come upon a rosary that was used so many times it has begun to fall apart, you don’t even think twice before keeping it, and not because you need the rosary. You need what it means. You need what it reminds you of.

When all is said and done, each of us will be called before our master to settle accounts, just as my grandfather was.

“Where are the gifts I gave you? What remains of the fortune to which I entrusted you?” he will ask us. “What have you done with the peace? What have you done with the love? What have you done with the mercy?”

“You yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief at night.”
1 Thessalonians 5:2

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Readings for the Week	
Monday:	1 Mc 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63/Ps 119:53, 61, 134, 150, 155,/Lk 18:35-43
Tuesday:	2 Mc 6:18-31/Ps 3:2-7/Lk 19:1-10
Wednesday:	2 Mc 7:1, 20-31/Ps 17:1, 5-6, 8 and 15/Lk 19:11-28
Thursday:	1 Mc 2:15-29/Ps 50:1-2, 5-6, 14-15/Lk 19:41-44
Friday:	1 Mc 4:36-37, 52-59/1 Chr 29:10-12/Lk 19:45-48
Saturday:	1 Mc 6:1-13/Ps 9:2-4 and 6, 16 and 19/Lk 20:27-40

Observances for the Week of November 19

Tuesday:	The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Wednesday:	St. Cecilia, Virgin and Martyr
Thursday:	St. Clement I, St. Columban, Bl. Miguel Agustin Thanksgiving Day
Friday:	St. Andrew Dũng-Lạc, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs
Saturday:	St. Catherine of Alexandria, Virgin and Martyr

Prayer for Thanksgiving

Dear Lord,
We raise our thanks to You, the giver of every good gift. Thank You for the ways You have blessed, guarded, and guided us this past year and always. Keep us in Your hands, and close to Your heart. Amen.

SHARING OUR GIFTS

Autumn is the season for harvesting and sharing the fruits of our labors. This week’s Scriptures use images of the harvest, family life, pregnancy, and investment to describe the abundant harvest in the reign of God. We discover that sharing the gifts we have been given brings eternal rewards for everyone.

In the Gospel parable a master entrusts his possessions to three servants before going on a journey. Each is given some talents. What they do with those talents determines what the master will do with them when he returns. How about us? What are we doing with our talents? How will our Master treat us when he returns?

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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.

Blessed Sacrament Chapel

ANNUAL THANKSGIVING MEAL
FREE AND EVERYONE IS WELCOME

NOVEMBER 19TH
602 SYCAMORE ST.
SERVING WILL BEGIN AT 12:00PM
DINE IN