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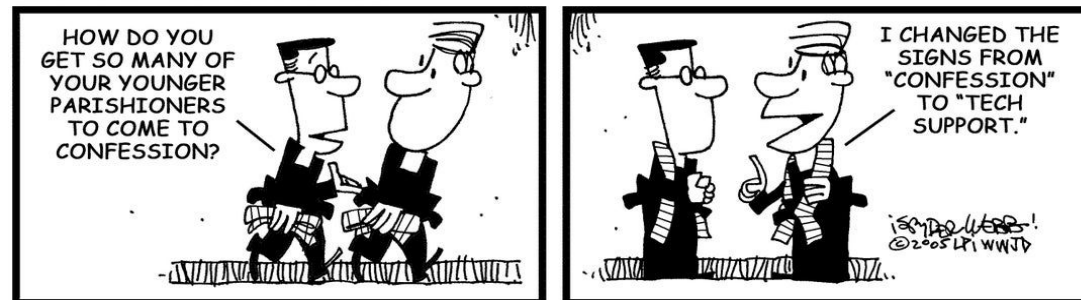
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#### 31ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



#### Bulletin Bloopers

- ◇ The Ladies Bible Study will be held Thursday morning at 10. All ladies are invited to lunch in the Fellowship Hall after the B.S. is done.
- ◆ Next Sunday is the family hayride and bonfire at the Fowlers. Bring your own hot dogs and guns. Friends are welcome. Everyone come for a fun time.
- ◆ The sermon this morning Jesus Walks on the Water. The sermon tonight Searching for Jesus
- ◆ The Rev. Merriwether spoke briefly, much to the delight of the audience.



# 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 Fennwald, SSND  
[pa@blessedsacramentchapel.org](mailto:pa@blessedsacramentchapel.org)

#### Sunday's Readings:

##### First Reading:

You have turned aside from the way, and have caused many to falter by your instruction. (Mal 2:8)

##### Psalm:

In you, Lord, I have found my peace. (Ps 131)

##### Second Reading:

With such affection for you, we were determined to share with you not only the gospel of God, but our very selves as well so dearly beloved had you become to us. (1Thes 2:8)

##### Gospel:

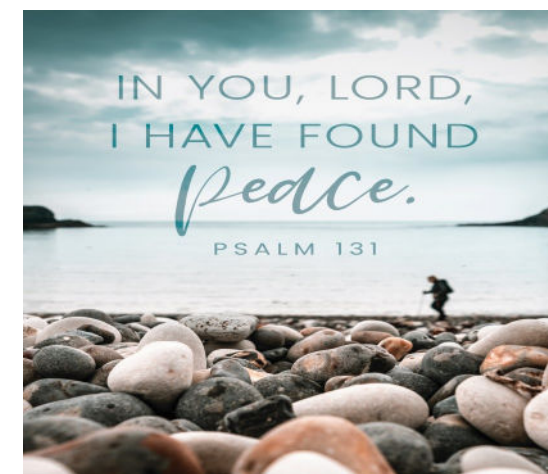
"Therefore, do and observe all things what ever they tell you, but do not follow their example. For they preach but they do not practice." (Mt 23:3)

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



#### Sept. 5 2023 31st Sunday Ordinary Time

The greatest among you must be  
your servant. Matt:23 11



My Dear Parishioners.

Today's second reading issues a challenge to the whole congregation but especially the preacher. We are supposed to live up to what we say we are, followers of Christ. We are, in a single word, called to live by love, love in its deepest sense.

This word "Love" is much bandied about but less frequently understood and practiced. Jesus gave the supreme example of its real meaning in his life, death and resurrection. But he did not die and rise in order to prevent or excuse us from sharing personally in his selfless experience. If we are to be redeemed, if we are to be Christians with Him, we must in our turn undergo death and resurrection. We must practice what we preach! We must mean what we say and do what we mean.

In the play A Man for All Seasons about Sir Thomas More, there is a scene in which Margaret, More's daughter, pleads with her father to stop opposing king Henry VIII and swear to the Act of Succession. Only in this way can he save his life and get out of jail. But More refuses to agree to something he believes is wrong. He says: "If we lived in a State where virtue was profitable, common sense would make us good and greed would make us saintly.. But since we see that anger, envy, pride, sloth, lust and stupidity commonly profit us far beyond humility, chastity, fortitude and justice, if we have to choose to be human at all, then perhaps we must stand fast a little, even at the risk of being heroes." When Margaret still begged him to compromise: "Haven't you done as much as God can reasonably want?" her father gave this answer: "Well.. finally.. it isn't a matter of reason; finally it's a matter of love."

This is the unconditional love that Christ spoke about and practiced. In the end we shall be judged on that standard alone. Our own efforts to bring direction and meaning to the "animated aimlessness" of our lives will, if touched by the love of God and expressed through love of our fellow human beings, have an eternal value. Blessings, Father John

## TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

What is the name of the pope's cathedral? If you said the Vatican or St. Peter's, you were off by a few miles, since the answer is the Basilica of St. John, the Lateran, the "Mother Church" of all the churches of the world and the cathedral of the Diocese of Rome. It takes its name from the Lateran family, the Trumps of their day, who somehow ran afoul of the Emperor Nero. He seized all their property, including their vast Roman palace and estate. We don't know how Plautius displeased Nero so badly, but eventually all the Lateran property came to Constantine, the first Christian emperor, though his wife Fausta. Early in the fourth century, when Christianity was at last legalized, Constantine gave the property to the church. Soon the great meeting halls were expanded and adapted.

Over the centuries, the church building has been sacked by armies, ruined by fire, torn down, and rebuilt. The oldest and most unchanged part of the Lateran is a vast, separate baptistery with steps leading down to a huge green basalt pool. Imagine what a triumphal moment the dedication of this public church building was for a community that had worshiped in secret for so long! This Thursday's feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica is really about the tradition of consecrating space for worship, and so by extension, a feast for your parish church building and, given the beautiful second reading, for its baptistery as well.

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

## Church Mice



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## Everyday Stewardship

Over the years we have had many great social events in our parish community. We have had socials for New Year's Eve, St. Patrick's Day, Mardi Gras, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Valentine's Day, and so many more. It seems we will use any excuse to have a party and enjoy each other's company. And for more than the last decade, my pastor has been present at most of these events. What always tickles me is to see him in his clerics going around with a tray of entrees or desserts as he seeks to serve his parishioners. We have joked that his clothing does resemble that of a waiter in a fine restaurant. The only difference is no tips! Sorry, Monsignor.

To see a shepherd serve his sheep causes me to reflect on how we are all called to serve one another. We are called to a life of humility and service, giving of ourselves for the greater glory of God. When we seek to serve our brothers and sisters, the Jesus in us meets the Jesus in them. In our everyday lives we can find ways of serving others if we are mindful of the opportunities all around us. We must never fall into the trap of seeing others in terms of "us and them." In Christ, there is only US. In Christ, there is no Greek or Jew, servant or free. We are one. On this day, who will God place on your path for you to serve? Don't be fooled into thinking that all calls are for something grand. Sometimes, even a little desert might be all it takes to show others they are loved. -Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



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

- 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.

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

- November 10--Scripture sharing
- November 11--Ladies’ Breakfast 9:30 at BSC Hall
- November 19--Thanksgiving Free Community Dinner 12-2 pm



- October 29--\$753.50
- Budget--\$1094
- MTD Collection--\$5,631.50
- MTD Budget--\$5,470
- YTD Collection--\$21,052.81
- YTD Budget--\$19,662

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

Last Easter season a new convert to Catholicism at my parish asked me with a grave tone in her voice: “Why do we call priests ‘father’ if Jesus says, ‘Call no man on earth your father, for you have one Father, who is in heaven?’” Thinking myself clever, I asked, “Do you think it’s okay to call someone your ‘teacher’ or ‘mister’ or ‘dad’?” She said, “Yes, I do.” I responded, “Well, Jesus seems to forbid that, too. So, it’s obviously hyperbole that he’s using.” She thought for a moment and declared, “Then I will stop using those words, too!” And she walked away. Not the outcome I was seeking.

We shouldn’t be too hasty in dismissing this complaint voiced by many non-Catholics. The expression “father” for ordained priests is not honorary for the individual man. The priest’s fatherhood doesn’t begin or end in him at all. Rather, the title “father” indicates that he is a sacramental sign of God’s Fatherhood revealed in Jesus. I can tell you, as a very unworthy bearer of that title, we should give and receive that title with some trepidation (because of God’s awesomeness) and with a little sense of humor (because of the lowliness of the men with the title).

The longer I’m a priest, the more I’m comfortable with people not using the title “father” and just calling me “John.” After all, only God is Father in the truest sense. At the same time, Jesus has brought the Father close to us, very close. We honor this closeness in some men with the title “father.” Who are the priests in your life whom Christ has sent to you? How wonderful that Christ has surrounded us with humble signs of his Father’s love. It’s good to celebrate that love with gratitude for the priests in our lives. Father John Muir

MINISTRY SCHEDULE	
LECTORS	
<u>November 5:</u>	Katie Goins, Sarah Malone
<u>November 12:</u>	Alexis Hatchett, Barbara Bisel
<u>November 19:</u>	Greg Gough, Kathi Skidd
Eucharistic Ministers	
<u>November 5:</u>	Cindy Clark, Greg Gough, Charlene, Meadows
<u>November 12:</u>	Janet Clark, Lori Robinson, Holly Hollis
<u>November 19:</u>	Vivian Higgs, Rita Moorman, Denise Richardson
Collection & Gifts	
<u>November 5:</u>	Williams Family
<u>November 12:</u>	Wonet Taylor, Barbara Hammond
<u>November 19:</u>	Mary Katherine and Ethan Gough



Picture of Blessed Sacrament Chapel when the bell was blessed. This picture has been greatly enlarged and hangs in the lower level of the McRaith Catholic Pastoral Office. Anyone who is in the lower level for meetings or gathering can see us. We are famous!!

**A Heavy Burden, Hard to Carry**

“Mommy, you haven’t been making any sacrifices.”

My daughter was peering through the little opening in the plastic cover of the “sacrifice jar” we made for Lent this year. The repurposed oatmeal container, jazzed up with glitter glue and pictures of St. Therese of Lisieux, was more than half-filled with little slips of paper bearing descriptions of the various sacrifices family members had made for one another.

But she was right: every piece of paper bore the childlike scrawl of herself and her brother. I had not added anything to the sacrifice jar.

“If I wrote down every sacrifice I made for you in just a single day, the jar would explode,” I retorted, and even though my daughter giggled, I instantly regretted the comment, sighing as I realized I did it again. I let a snide, self-pitying thought form on my lips and make its way into the world because for a brief moment I thought someone didn’t appreciate my (imagine me sniffing injuredly here) *hard work*.

We sneer at the scribes and the Pharisees as Jesus describes them in the Gospel, lengthening their phylacteries and coveting the places of honor. But then I remember: nobody starts out *meaning* to be a jerk. We want to do good things. We try to be holy. But it’s hard, that burden weighs heavy on our back.

So, we murmur about it here and there. We stop to catch our breath. We glimpse other people looking at our burden with approval and admiration, and we breathe a little harder, groan a little deeper. And somewhere along the way the burden becomes an idol and our labor a performance. We dare not ask for help bearing it, for we prize too greatly the sweat of our own brow.

“*The greatest among you must be your servant.*” — Matthew 23:11©LPi By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Readings for the Week	
Monday:	Rom 11:29-36/Ps 69:30-31, 33-34, 36/Lk 14:12-14
Tuesday:	Rom 12:5-16/Ps 131:1-3/Lk 14:15-24
Wednesday:	Rom 13:8-10/Ps 112:1-2, 4-5, 9/Lk 14:25-33
Thursday:	Ez 47:1-2, 8-12/Ps 46:2-9/1 Cor 3:9-17/Jn 2:13-22
Friday:	Rom 15:14-21/Ps 98:1, 2-4/Lk 16:1-8
Saturday:	Rom 16:3-9, 16, 22-27/Ps 145:2-5, 10-11/Lk 16:9-15

Observances for the Week of November 5	
Sunday:	National Vocation Awareness Week
Tuesday:	Election Day
Thursday:	The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica
Friday:	St. Leo the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church
Saturday:	St. Martin of Tours, Bishop; Veterans Day



**RIGHT AND WRONG**

What is morally wrong can never be politically right. --Anthony Ashley Cooper

**THE GREATEST AMONG US**

Whom do you admire? Is it the President of the United States or a movie star or a billionaire? These are people whom the world exalts as great. Like the Pharisees in today’s Gospel, they have places of honor wherever they go. Would you like to follow in their footsteps?

The scriptures for today offer different examples for us to follow. Jesus tells us that the greatest among us are the servants. These are the people we are to honor and imitate. We are called to be like Paul, who worked hard to serve the needs of his communities, and Jesus, who gave his life in service to the world.

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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.

