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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 Fennwald,
SSND pa@blessedsacramentchapel.org

First Reading:

The LORD came and revealed his presence, calling out as before, "Samuel, Samuel!" Samuel answered, "Speak, for your servant is listening." (1 Sm 3:10)

Psalm:

Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will. (Ps 40)

Second Reading:

Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? But whoever is joined to the Lord becomes one Spirit with him. (1 Cor 6:15, 17)

Gospel:

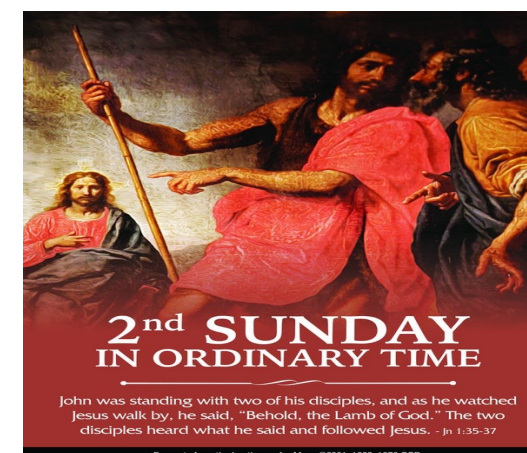
So they went and saw where Jesus was staying, and they stayed with him that day. (Jn 1:39)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001



January 14, 2024 2nd Sunday--Ordinary Time

Your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you. (1 Cor.6:19)



My Dear Friends:

Today's first reading gives us a beautiful and simple story from the Old Testament's First Book of Samuel. A young boy, Samuel, apprenticing with an old priest, Eli, is awakened by a voice, a voice he heard perhaps in a dream. He thinks Eli is calling him. Eli is wise. Thinking it to be an illusion he tells the boy to go back to sleep. The voice calls a second time. After the third time Eli begins to realize that God is really calling the boy and so tells him "If you are called again reply "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening." Once again we see that God takes the initiative. This is the first and most fundamental realization we must all have. God offers, we respond. We may not understand why but we must always be open to God's initiatives. And God's initiatives come in unexpected ways to unexpected people. For even though young Samuel was just a kid, a kid who was "not familiar with the Lord," who was not particularly "religious," he became God's first Old Testament prophet, the first in a long line of prophets. Similarly with St. Peter. He wasn't particularly religious. He was brash, presumptuous, and unreliable, and yet became the chief among the other Twelve Apostles, not by his choice and certainly not by theirs. He became the "Rock" who turned out to be so by God's choice. Just why God chose him remains a mystery. For Eli, for Samuel, and for Peter, the critical thing was in the fact of their response and in the quality of their response. They were open to the belief that God acts in human history and that God acts in human lives.

Is there such a thing as destiny, or is everything what it is, and is everyone who they are, simply because of blind chance? Simply by accident? Cynics and fatalists claim that to be so. People of faith see purposefulness in life. The awesome reality is that God wanted to be personally involved with Samuel. And the equally awesome reality is that God wants to be personally involved with you, in all that you think and say and do. He wants to be so involved with you that you become an actual source of His presence, His power, and His love in our world. It's not easy to discern our destiny and to feel with certainty that our lives are important to God and that we play a significant role in His plans and purposes for those around us. God makes us temples of His Holy Spirit. Our culture tells us that our bodies are to be used as temples of pleasure. We believe in the resurrection of our bodies and life everlasting in them forever. And while the world tells us otherwise we believe that our bodies and souls are a part of God's plans. Samuel's call is your call. My call is your call. We stand on the same ground and occupy the same place in the eyes of God. He wants us all for something. He wants to be with us so much that when we speak He speaks, when we touch He touches, when we bless He blesses, when we love He loves. What that means is that if you work in health care you bring Christ the Healer to the sick in your artful and compassionate caring for them. If you are a husband or a wife, a mother or a father, and employee or an employer, a student or a teacher, you bring the closeness of God into whatever endeavor you are about. In every field in which you work you, like Samuel, are called to touch others with the presence of God and to be a part of finishing the unfinished work of His creation. If you are a doctor, what is there in your practice or in your artful caring that remains to be touched by God? If you are a lawyer or a judge, what is there in your work that needs to be brought under the judgment of God? If you are a teacher, what is there in your school that needs to be touched by the Truth that is God? No matter what your calling may be, nor matter how high or lowly your occupation, your profession, or your job, no matter who you may be in this world of ours, some things and some people stand in need of the presence of God and you may be the only source or agent available to accomplish that purpose and meet that destiny. The big issue for us is not whether God speaks to us. It is rather seeing the hand of God and the presence of God in people and in events. He uses them as His means of reaching us. The most critical issue for us is whether and how we respond. It's the question of our willingness to respond. God has a Word for you... He has something to say to you. God has something in mind for you – personally and individually. Are you willing to listen up and pay attention to Him

To take a good look at what He's trying to say to you? God has a Word for you. He has something He wants to say to you. To be aware of what God wants to say to you requires that you find some time and make some space in your world in which you can be quiet and reflective. The Evil One will try to fill you ears with noise and your mind with distractions. You will find yourself in a religious battle, one that's not easily won. But do not easily give up – Jesus has promised to be with you. And do not worry about what to say – the Holy Spirit will give you what you need. The big question is not how -- the big question is whether. Will you be like Samuel? The next time you pray, be sure to say, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening." Blessings, Fr. John

“My flesh for the life of the world.”

Our bishops of the United States are calling for a three-year grassroots revival of devotion and belief in the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. They believe that God wants to see a movement of Catholics across the United States, healed, converted, formed, and unified by an encounter with Jesus in the Eucharist—and sent out in mission “for the life of the world.”

The [National Eucharistic Revival](#) started in 2022 and will be continuing over these next few years, in hopes of restoring and strengthening our faith in Jesus Christ and the Eucharist. Together, we are reflecting on the Blessed Sacrament and the importance it holds in our Catholic faith as the precious Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, given to us as a gift of love and nourishment. Through the Eucharist, we are united with Christ and with one another as members of His mystical body, the Church.

This will all lead up to the first [National Eucharistic Congress](#) in the United States in almost fifty years, where an estimation of 80,000 Catholics will gather in Indianapolis for a once-in-a-lifetime pilgrimage toward the “source and summit” of our Catholic faith July 17-21, 2024. From this journey we will follow with a year of going out on mission “for the life of the world.”

We are asking you to be a part of this historic event. Participate within your parish, deepen your hearts in prayer through Adoration, find spiritual growth in your community. Invite your friends and neighbors. This revival is meant to foster a spirit of unity, love, and compassion extending out past our parishes and families and into our daily lives. In rejoicing in the gift of the Eucharist and celebrating our Catholic heritage, may it strengthen you as you live out your faith in this world.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

3--Parker Malone
7--Jacques Williams II
10--Whitney Williams
14--Burnell Hamilton
17--Adaira Hatchett
20--Janet Clark
22--Vaughn Williams
26--Frank Adams
27--Sarah Malone, Lilly Malone
30--Pam Wilson



MORNING PRAYER

Lord, a new day dawns and with it more opportunities to love. May I cherish the loved ones you have given me, and the newcomers you will place in my path today. Create in me a clean heart to love you more and more, and, with your divine help, to learn anew that when I love and serve others, I am loving you Amen..

EVENING PRAYER

Lord, it's been a busy day. Before I rest, may I draw near to you to thank you for the blessings I can count, and for those I may have missed amid the day's activities. As I approach day's end and wait for sleep to come, send your peace and protection upon me, and on this home. May I trust in your Divine Providence for a restful night, and please grant me your strength for the coming day. Amen.

Mass Intentions

January 7--Sandra Brown

January 14--Kenneth Higgs

January 21--William Tapp

January 28--David "Smokey" Millard

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:
Larry Allen, Charlie Brown Sr, Jim Fennwald, Karl Herzog, Steven Moorman, Rachel Mattingly, Gina Kirby, Philip Moorman, Jr., Yuri Phen, Larry Clark, Ruth Coble, Shaun Winchell, Jeeriah Cruite, Carol Hatchett, Teresa Woods, Jordan Gertisen, Buddy Adcock, Debbie Moseley, Donna Kaelin, Janice Taul, Pam Wilson, Frank & Gloria Adams, Shelby Webster, 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 \$152.22. 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

January 14--Parish Meeting

January 19--Scripture sharing 10:45

February 4--St. Blase Blessing of Throats at 10 am Mass

February 14--Ash Wednesday 6 pm Mass



Jan. 7--\$1626

Budget--\$1094

MTD Collection--\$1626

MTD Budget--\$1094

YTD Collection--\$38,259.19

YTD Budget--\$30,602

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

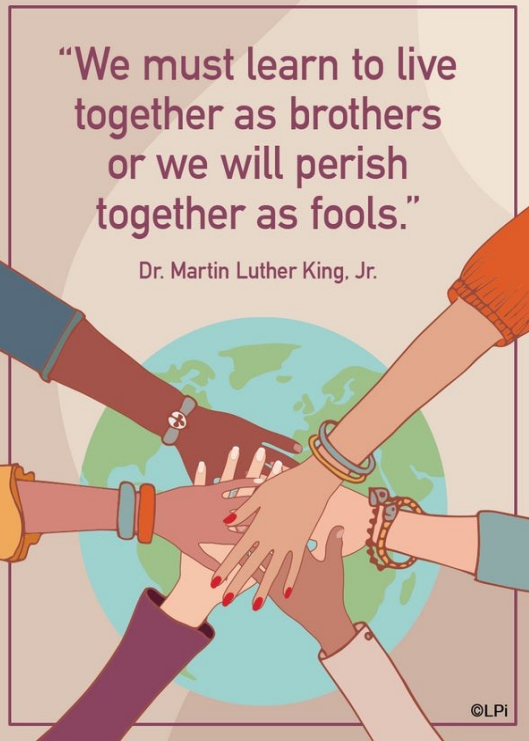
As a priest, I'm amazed how happily married couples remember the tiniest details of their earliest encounters. They effortlessly report things like: "he wore a blue shirt," "we ordered brussels sprouts," "her hair was up in a bun," and "he spilled shrimp cocktail sauce at my family's open front door when it was ten degrees below zero," (that one's courtesy of my mom). We delight in remembering and speaking of when our new life of love began. The little details are glorious reminders that it's all *real*.

It's similar for John the Apostle. He tells us of the two disciples who followed Jesus into his house, "...they stayed with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon." Why does that tiny detail matter? Because *that's the time of day when they encountered the love of Jesus the Messiah in their lives*. Our religion is not primarily about abstract truths about God, no matter how true or sublime. It is about God meeting and saving us in our human nature. It's about a *human* relationship.

What was the time of day when you first recall encountering Christ and his Church? Who was there? What did you feel? How did things look and smell? What happened? Take some time to recall it in detail. For me, it was inside an old, rickety church on a hillside in Jerome, Arizona. It was about 9 p. m. on a Saturday evening. I was with my friends Jenny, Brad, and Laura. We were praying, singing, and laughing. When was it for you? Remembering the details isn't empty nostalgia

— Father John Muir

MINISTRY SCHEDULE	
LECTORS	
<u>January 14:</u>	Alexis Hatchett, Jacques Williams
<u>January 21:</u>	Layson Brooks, Sarah Malone
<u>January 28:</u>	Wayne Stevens, Barbara Bisel
Eucharistic Ministers	
<u>January 14</u>	Greg Gough, Barbara Bisel, Misty Sanford
<u>January 21:</u>	Janet Clark, Katie Goins, Vivian Higgs
<u>January 28:</u>	Sarah Malone, Rita Moor man, Denise Richardson
Collection & Gifts	
<u>January 14:</u>	Campbell Family
<u>January 21:</u>	Jacques and Whitney Williams and sons
<u>January 28:</u>	Jamie Bisel and sons



Those Who Seek the Truth

In my work as a freelance writer, I have a regular column in the archdiocesan paper writing profiles of ordinary people in the local church. Laity, religious, and clergy alike — I hound them all to give me an interview, and when I do, the answer is almost always this: “You don’t want to talk to me. There’s nothing special about me.”

I always try to convince them that there is something remarkable about everyone who is searching for the truth. It is easy to think we are not made for holiness because we are ordinary people with ordinary habits, ordinary abilities, and ordinary sins. It is easy (and very convenient) to designate holiness as something belonging to Better People. People like the saints. People like the Disciples.

The Bible gives us next to no personal information about the disciples. There is no archdiocesan newspaper profile on Andrew and Simon that can give us insight into who they were before they became St. Andrew, Inaugural Disciple and Announcer of the Messiah, and St. Peter, First Pope and the Rock-Upon-Which-Christ-Built-His-Church.

Yet I find myself insatiably curious about it. What was their childhood like? What games did they play with each other as the sun set, before their mother called them into bed? What did they think of as they fell asleep at night? What secret jokes did they share to make each other laugh? What were they afraid of? What did they hope for? Who did they want to be?

Before they were towering figures of salvation history, Simon and Andrew were just two men searching for the truth. When they looked at Christ, there was something that made it click. Perhaps they themselves could not identify what it was, but their hearts whispered it nonetheless: *There it is. We finally found it.* Isn’t that the best we can all hope for?

“Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, ‘What are you looking for?’” — John 1:38

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Readings for the Week	
Monday:	1 Sm 15:16-23/Ps 50:8-9, 16-17, /Mk 2:18-22
Tuesday:	1 Sm 16:1-13/Ps 89:20-22, 27-28/Mk 2:23-28
Wednesday:	1 Sm 17:32-33, 40-51/ Ps 144:1-2, 9-10/Mk 3:1-6
Thursday:	1 Sm 18:6-9; 19:1-7/Ps 56:2-3, 9-13/Mk 3:7-12
Friday:	1 Sm 24:3-21/Ps 57:2-4, 6 and 11/Mk 3:13-19
Saturday:	2 Sm 1:1-4, 11-12, 23-27/Ps 80:2-5-7/Mk 3:20-21

Observances for the Week of January 14	
Monday:	Martin Luther King Day
Wednesday:	St. Anthony, Abbot
Thursday:	January 18-25 is the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Prayer of Discernment

Dear Lord,
Here I am! Help me to know the path You would have me walk, to speak the words You would have me speak, to love and serve those You put in my path. Amen.

Laugh of the Week

A rather stingy man died and went to Heaven. He was met at the front gate by St. Peter, who led him on a house tour down the golden streets. They passed mansion after beautiful mansion until they came to the end of the street and stopped in front of a tiny shack without gold paving in front.

“And here is where you’ll be living, sir,” Peter announced.

“Me live here?” the stingy man yelled. “How come?”

Peter replied, “I did the best I could with the money you sent us

SPEAK, LORD, WE ARE LISTENING

In today’s first reading God keeps calling out in the night to a sleeping boy. Neither the boy, Samuel, nor his teacher, Eli, understands who is calling. But God’s persistence convinces them. Samuel is then ready--not ready yet to do anything, but ready to listen. “Speak, for your servant is listening.” (1 Sam. 3:10)

In the gospel Jesus is out teaching. Various people notice him and begin to gather around. They soon become disciples and, like the young Samuel, are ready--not ready to do anything, but ready to listen. “Speak,” they say, “we are listening.”

God’s voice is always with us, awake or asleep. It swirls around us like fog on a water-front, enveloping us, gently urging us to wake up, to listen. Awareness of the vice comes first; then willingness to listen; then, in time, the decision to act, to live according to God’s word. Let’s ask today for the ability to keep our ears open so we don’t miss God’s voice.

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Gift

What I am is God’s gift to me;
What I become is my gift back to God.

