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# 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)

## First Reading

"I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their kin, and will put my words into his mouth; he shall tell them all that I command him." (Dt 18:18)

## Psalm:

If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts. (Ps 95)

## Second Reading:

An unmarried woman or a virgin is anxious about the things of the Lord, so that she may be holy in both body and spirit. (1 Cor 7:34)

## Gospel:

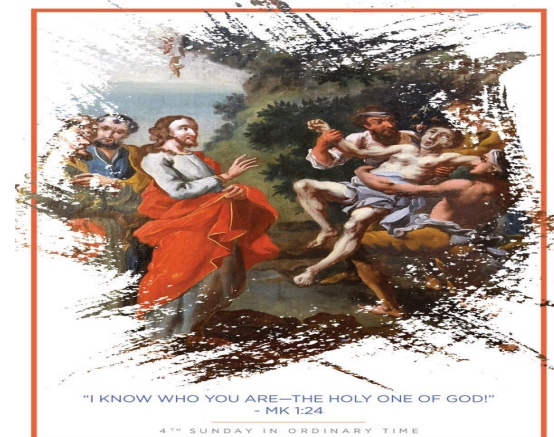
The people were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes. (Mk 1:22)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001



**January 28--4th Sunday--Ordinary Time**

**Let us come into his presence  
with thanksgiving. Ps. 95:2**



My Dear Friends:

We have all had teachers in the course of our lives, at primary school, at secondary school, at third level or in other less formal educational contexts. Some of those teachers we might prefer to forget, but others we remember with great fondness. Some of them had a significant influence for good on us. They inspired us with a love for the subject that they taught, and we may have gone on to study it ourselves. They shared some expertise with us and encouraged us to head off in a direction of our own. In today’s gospel the people of Capernaum recognize Jesus who had come to their synagogue as a teacher, and not just another teacher but a teacher who was very different to the teachers they had grown used to, the scribes, the experts in the Jewish Law. His teaching, we are told, ‘made a deep impression on people, because, unlike the scribes, he taught them with authority.’ The people in the synagogue exclaimed, ‘Here is a teaching that is new and with authority behind it.’ This journey of Jesus to the synagogue where he taught with authority and healed a man with an unclean spirit is the first public act of Jesus in Mark’s gospel. According to Mark, Jesus first appeared on the scene as an authoritative teacher, as someone whose teaching, whose word, could deliver people from their demons, from the forces that were oppressing them and leaving them diminished as human beings.

Jesus was recognized as someone who taught with authority. The word ‘authority’ has received a rather negative press in recent times. Various ‘authority figures’ have been criticized, often with good reason. Yet, in Jesus people experienced an authority that they found attractive, an authority that, in the words of the gospel, left them so astonished that they started asking each other what it all meant. Jesus was recognized as a person of authority because of the word that he spoke and the impact for good of that word on others. Ultimately, his authority was rooted in God, in the Spirit of God that descended upon him at his baptism. The first public words he spoke after his baptism were, ‘the reign of God, the power of God, is at hand.’ God’s life-giving, liberating power was working through him, and, so, he was recognized by others as authoritative. The power of God’s love working through him gave him that authority which people found so attractive and so new.

Jesus defines authority as the exercise of God’s life-giving and liberating power, the power that raises the lowly and fills the hungry with good things, the power that forgives those who have done nothing to deserve forgiveness. This is the power of the good Samaritan who took care of his fellow traveler even though he was a Jew; it is the power of the Father who welcomed his returning son, the prodigal, who had messed up; it is the power of the widow who in giving two copper coins to the temple treasury gave everything she had. Not all power is worthy of being recognized as authoritative. The imposing figure of G.K. Chesterton, the English writer and wit, was, apparently often seen squeezed behind a table in London restaurants. During one of his literary lunches, Chesterton was expounding on the relationship between power and authority. He described the difference in these terms: ‘If a rhinoceros were to enter the restaurant now, there is no denying he would have great power here, but I should be the first to rise and assure him that he had no authority whatever.’

For us as Christians, Jesus remains the ultimate authority. Like the people of Capernaum, we recognize his authority, the authority of his teaching and his deeds, the authority of his life, death and resurrection. That is why we confess Jesus not just as our teacher but as our Lord. We are happy to submit to his authority, to his lordship, because we recognize that in doing so we will have life to the full, and, like the man in the gospel, be freed of those spirits that prevent us from becoming the person God intends us to be. There can be great reluctance today to submit to anyone. The value of personal autonomy is highly prized and sought after. Yet, it is not possible to live without submitting to some authority even if it is the authority of the self. What matters is to submit to the right authority and this morning’s gospel suggests that such authority is to be found in the person of Jesus. Blessings, Fr. John

**CELEBRATING THE LORD’S DAY**

*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. (Ps118:24) 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 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 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. 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*

**TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION**

Forty days after Christmas, this week’s ancient feast of the Presentation of the Lord is an extension of the shining days of Christ’s coming into the depths of winter. This is the day when, for a thousand years, the Church has blessed a year’s supply of candles. In many places, a procession forms outside the church. The core memory is of Simeon and Anna’s meeting with the infant Jesus and his parents outside the temple on the fortieth day after the child’s birth, and the delight of going to the table of the Lord for the Eucharist, a foretaste of our final meeting with Christ.

For some Christians, today is known as “The Meeting,” suggesting not only the encounter in the temple, but also our assembly at the Lord’s table and our longing for the kingdom. One story suggests that the commotion made by so many candle-bearing, hymn-singing faithful in the wintry fields of Germany on their joyful way to Mass stirred the badger from hibernation to examine this promise of springtime. The interrupted nap of the groundhog is amazingly linked to the light of Christ driving away the shadows of the world’s darkness. This beautiful feast only rarely falls on a Sunday. What better reason could there be for candles at dinner tonight? James Field copyright J.S. Paluch Co.



### JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

20--Janet Clark  
22--Vaughn Williams  
26--Frank Adams  
27--Sarah Malone, Lilly Malone  
30--Pam Wilson

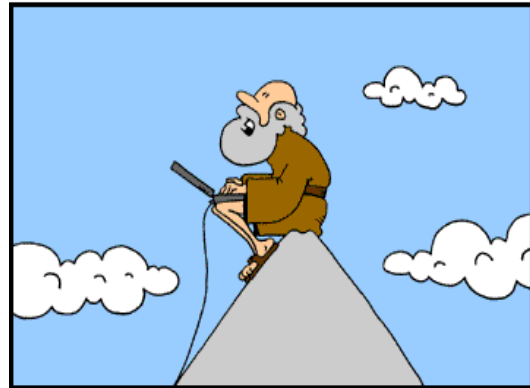
### FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2--Nancy Bumm, Natalie Clark  
3--Jacques Williams Sr.  
6--Philip Moorman  
8--Karen Terry



TODAY IS A GOOD DAY  
TO HAVE A GOOD DAY

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### Mass Intentions

January 21--William Tapp  
January 28--David "Smokey" Millard  
February 4--Charlie Winstead  
February 11--Freddie Payne

*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.**

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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](http://krogercommunityrewards.com) to register. Thanks to each of you for your support.

## Coming Events



### Blessed Sacrament Chapel

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

February 14--Ash Wednesday  
6 pm Mass

February 24--Italian Dinner 6:30 pm

March 22--Fish Fry 5-7 pm

March 26--Chrism Mass 6:30 pm  
Sports Center



Jan. 21--\$641

Budget--\$1094

MTD Collection--N/A

MTD Budget--N/A

YTD Collection--N/A

YTD Budget--N/A

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

I love movies about exorcisms. Apparently, so do many others. The 2023 movie "Nefarious" features a possibly possessed inmate on death row. Critics were not impressed, but audiences scored it at 97% on the website Rotten Tomatoes. Most people have an appreciation for the demonic realm, even if cultural elites are generally embarrassed about it. As is standard in exorcism movies, the afflicted person (in this case, a man named Edward Brady) thinks and acts like *multiple* persons. He is someone besides himself. We know what that is like. We feel *fake* sometimes, not ourselves.

The same dynamic is on dramatic display this week in the Gospel. Jesus the Exorcist approaches a possessed man who utters, "**What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth?**" Notice the plural, *us*. The basic effect of the demonic is division. The man's identity is fractured, divided, and thus many. Jesus powerfully expels the spirit by saying, "**Quiet! Come out of him!**" Jesus' word has the power to restore the man's singularity — *him* — and indeed it does.

All this helps us to dismiss childish images of demons sporting red goat tails. Equally, it overcomes the cultured aloofness that dreams demons are mere metaphors for evil. We see instead that fallen angels are conscious and intelligent beings who orient their agency toward division. They bring about schism where there should be unity, e.g., in persons, families, communities, politics, and so on. Thankfully, Jesus commands demons to flee from all these places to restore wholeness and peace. What if we made room for his word where we need it?

— Father John Muir

MINISTRY SCHEDULE LECTORS	
<u>January 28:</u>	Wayne Stevens, Katie Goins
<u>February 4</u>	Leland Herzog, Barbara Bisel
<u>February 11</u>	Greg Gough, Misty Sanford
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	
<u>Januuary 28:</u>	Sarah Malone, Rita Moor- man, Denise Richardson
<u>February 4:</u>	Cindy Clark, Holly Hollis, Greg Richardson
<u>February 11:</u>	Barbara Bisel, Katie Goins, Janet Clark
<b>Collection &amp; Gifts</b>	
<u>January 28:</u>	Jacques and Whitney Williams and sons
<u>February 4:</u>	Burnell Hamilton, Ron Moorman
<u>February 11:</u>	Kelly, Holly, Samuel Hollis

**Laugh of the Week**

Two men were shipwrecked on a desert island. One was a churchgoer and the other wasn't. The minute they arrived on the island, the non-churchgoer began screaming and yelling,

"We're going to die! There's no food! No water! We're going to die!"

The other man was calmly propped against a palm tree, which drove the other guy crazy.

"Don't you understand? We're going to die! What's wrong with you?"

"You don't understand," said the churchgoer, "I make one hundred thousand dollar a week."

"What difference does that make?" said the non-churchgoer. "We're on a desert island. We're going to die!"

The churchgoer smiled, "You just don't get it. I make one hundred thousand dollars a week, and I tithe. My pastor will find me

**What Have You to Do with Me, Jesus of Nazareth?**

Inevitably, when we read the story of the Garden of Eden, my children try to imagine what life would be like if Adam and Eve had not sinned against God.

"Would we have to go to school?" they ask me. "Would we get sick? Could we eat whatever we want? Would we get older?" I tell them the only thing I know for sure about a world without sin is that we would be happier. I can see confusion in their faces — *Why? How?* — but I have none of the concrete answers they want. I don't know how to describe a happiness untouched by sin.

The moment sin entered the world, a chasm erupted between God and mankind. There is now a space between humanity and the divine, a cavernous and seemingly impassable void into which God calls for us, unendingly. And because we are lost in the dark, and miserable, instead of following his voice when we hear it, instead we reply: "What do you want?"

*"What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth?"*

Did the unclean spirit know, when he cried out all those thousands of years ago in Capernaum, that he was giving voice to a question which defined the human condition? They are the words of a demon, yes, but they are also my words. Far, far more often than I care to admit, when God is reaching for me, I look upon His hand with contempt and confusion. When I am grappling with a problem or a sin which overwhelms me, again and again I forget that I already know the solution. The tragedy of original sin is not that we live in a world where we cannot eat what we want, where we age, and where we become sick and die. The tragedy of sin is that we have forgotten how to be happy. We look at happiness and we think: "What do you want with me?"

*"If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts."* — *Psalm 95:7*  
By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

**Readings for the Week**

- Monday: 2 Sm 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13/Ps 3:2-7/Mk 5:1-20
- Tuesday: 2 Sm 18:9-10,, 24-25, 30—19:3/Ps 86:1-6/Mk 5:21-43
- Wednesday: 2 Sm 24:2, 9-17/Ps 32:1-2, 5, 6, 7/Mk 6:1-6
- Thursday: 1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12/1 Chr 29:10-12/Mk 6:7-13
- Friday: Mal 3:1-4/Heb, 2L 14-18 Ps. 24:7-10/Lk 2:22-40
- Saturday: 1 Kgs 3:4-13/Ps 119:9-14/Mk 6:30-34

**Observances of Week of January 28**

- Wednesday: St. John Bosco, Priest
- Friday: The Presentation of the Lord, World Day for Consecrated Life
- Saturday: St. Blaise, St. Ansgar,

We celebrate the feast of Saint Blaise, who was bishop of Sebaste in Armenia in the fourth century. Before being martyred, he is said to have healed a boy who was choking. Since the eighth century, Saint Blaise has been venerated as the patron of those who suffer from diseases of the throat. We pray in a special way for protection from afflictions of the throat and from other illnesses. The blessing of Saint Blaise is a sign of our faith in God's protection and love for us and for the sick.

**THANKS**  
**To Neil at Neighborhood Mart**

For the pizzas for the  
last parish meeting

**FALSE PROPHETS, TRUE PROPHETS**

In Deuteronomy today we hear that God's very words will fill the month of a true prophet, but a false prophet will, in a manner of speaking, put mere mortal words into God's mouth. In Mark's Gospel, we see Jesus teaching and healing as a true prophet, one filled with the authority of God's own voice. The whole history of our church is filled with both true and false prophets. Some false prophets were extremely popular and quite well-versed in scripture and even held positions of authority. But in today's Gospel we learn that Jesus' fame spread because he taught with authority; he wasn't an authority because he was popular or famous. Elsewhere, we also learn from him, in his desert temptation confrontations with Satan, that anyone can quote scripture, even against God's purposes. Today we hear that his authority was not like that of other scribes who held the official positions of religious authority in his day. Our work is to do our best to discern the true prophets in our midst, and to be true prophets as well. The psalmist tells us how to do this: by not hardening our hearts when God speaks. If we truly listen to God, it will be God's very words filling our mouths. Copyright J.S. Paluch Co.

**PRAY FOR THE UNBORN**

*In a frail human being, each one of us is invited to recognize the fact of the Lord, who in his human flesh experienced the indifference and solitude to which we so often condemn the poorest of the poor, whether in developing countries or in wealthy societies. Every child, who, rather than being born, is condemned unjustly to being aborted, bears the face of Jesus Christ, bears the face of the Lord, who even before he was born, and then just after birth, experienced the world's rejection.*

Pope Francis

**NOT WITHOUT LOVE**

**The soul cannot live without love.**

--St. Frances de Sales