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Blessed Sacrament

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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 Cheriannunel
moc_scheriyannunel@sscobo.org

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

First Reading:

God said to Noah and to his sons with him:
"See, I am now establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you and with every living creature that was with you." (Gn 9:8-10)

Psalm:

Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant. (Ps 25)

Second Reading:

It is not a removal of dirt from the body but an appeal to God for a clear conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. (1 Pt 3:21)

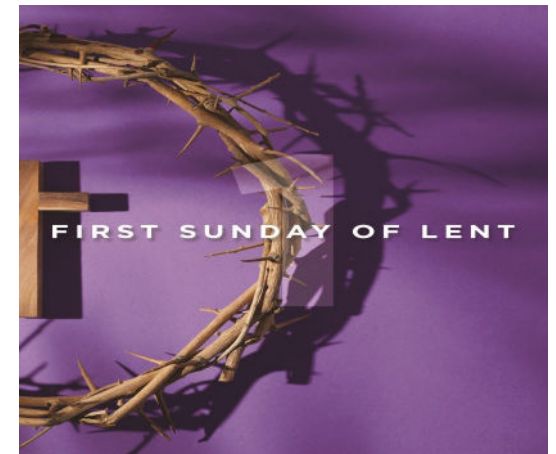
Gospel:

He was among wild beasts, and the angels ministered to him. (Mk 1:13)
Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001,



February 18, 2024 1st Sunday of Lent)

One does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from God's mouth.



My Dear Parishioners:

Time is a problem for us. We live lives filled with multiple options, with an array of many things to do, and opportunities to engage ourselves in any number of tasks. Sometimes, maybe most of the time, we have so many things to do we don't know which ones to tackle first. Our attempts to organize our time seem to be continually frustrated, frustrated by the many new things that come to us each and every day. Consider, for instance, what happens to us when we're on vacations. It isn't long before we're organizing our vacation times with things to do, sometimes so much so that when we return home we're exhausted by what we've done on our vacations, times spent away during which we found anything but rest. We come home from our vacations in order to rest!

Clearly, time is a problem for us. I marvel often at what is required of mothers and fathers each and every day. I find myself asking, "How do they do it?" How do they manage their lives with all that seems to be required of them in caring for their children, getting their children to and from so many commitments, neglecting even the time they, as parents, need for each other. Are there any families left in which everyone shares a Sunday dinner together? Do husbands and wives have much time, any time, badly needed time, for themselves -- for the health and development of their own relationships with each other as husbands and wives? What has happened to intimacy? Does it have much content anymore? Remember several weeks ago I spoke in my homily about the FIRST vocation of many; marriage. I spoke about the fact that for many, after children come into the union, the focus of their life and time is children. And, of course, children require time and attention and often times sacrifice. But parents must never forget their first vocation is marriage. Their SECOND vocation is children. If you wish to be 'good parents' then be a 'good spouse'. Love your wife. Love your husband.

In today's gospel account we find Jesus in kairós time (occurrence of events of significance and meaning). After His baptism by John the Baptist in the river Jordan Jesus, instead of immediately embarking on His public ministry, Jesus puts himself in a place where time doesn't matter. He goes out into the desert for forty days and forty nights, there to come to terms with who He is and what His life is to be all about, and what sort of Messiah His Father has called Him to be. He needed to do that in order to maintain a steady balance when He began His public ministry following that time in the desert. He needed to have within himself a clear understanding of just what He was about when He faced diseased, spiritually and physically diseased, people who would press in on Him all of the time in the subsequent days to come. He knew He faced living with no place to call home, no home to return to when things got really tough. He knew He needed to have a clear head when He had to face down the religious and political establishment that would seek to hound Him down.

Occasionally He would steal some time and go back out into deserted places to do some more praying, getting back in touch again with His Father in heaven. The forty days of Lent, which the Church offers you and me, is much the same. These forty days of Lent are so that we can get in touch with who we are, what our lives are all about, as well as get in touch once again with our heavenly Father. There's no fast-forward for our own personal, spiritual development. There's no "plop, plop – fizz, fizz" Alka-Seltzer for our souls, giving them instant relief. We don't have spiritual food that we can pop into a microwave oven and serve ourselves as a fast food delicacy. Lent doesn't last only forty days so we can get right back into our rat racing lives. The Church isn't a Big Mac eatery giving you the Bread of Life as a fast food item. The big problem, of course, is that we want the Church to be that way for us. The quicker we "get Mass over with" the better! We even want God to give us happiness like that. The big problem is that God respects our choices. He respects our freedom of choice so much that He allows us to suffer the consequences of our own choices, along with the consequences of the choices others around us have made.

The forty days of Lent are now upon us. Or better said, we are in them. The Church's Liturgical Year is such that we move from Christmas, to Ash Wednesday, to the Great Three Days of Easter, to Pentecost, a time of meaning and purpose, a time of significance and consequence, periods of time in which eternal time and temporal time briefly intersect. For when we were conceived we began to live in eternal time. When we are born we begin to interact with each other in eternal time. When we are baptized we begin a new lifetime living in relationship with God in eternal time. And when we die -- time, for us, does not stop, in only changes.

What are the times of your life? Do you see them as times filled with eternal meaning and purpose? I'm glad you and I are here together during this time when we celebrate the gift God has given us, the gift of sitting at God's table, the Eternal Messianic Banquet during which we celebrate the Wedding Feast of the Lamb, that moment when we celebrate our nuptials with God as He marries Himself to us forever in Jesus Christ, His gift of Himself to us in our time and place right now. May this time of Lent be meaningful and significant for all of us. Father John

LENT

During Lent, the Church asks us to surrender ourselves to [prayer](#) and to the reading of Scripture, to [fasting](#) and to [giving alms](#). The fasting that all do together on Fridays is but a sign of the daily Lenten discipline of individuals and households: fasting for certain periods of time, fasting from certain foods, but also fasting from other things and activities. Likewise, the giving of alms is some effort to share this world equally—not only through the distribution of money, but through the sharing of our time and talents.

As a Catholic we are obligated to fast and abstain during Lent. **Abstinence** is not eating meat. Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and all Fridays in Lent are days of abstinence. The obligation to abstain begins at the age of 14. **Fasting** means we eat only one full meal on the fast day. Two other light meals are permitted but eating between meals is not permitted. You are obliged to fast (unless excused on account of health reasons) between the ages of 18 and 60. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days when we are obliged to fast.

Here are three tips to deepen your relationship with God during the 40 days of [#Lent](#).
1) Participate in the sacraments. 2) Help those in need around you. 3) Sacrifice something that's hard for you.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

9--Beau Bisel
 12--Dominic Campbell
 23--Larry Allen
 24--Yasmeen Williams
 27--Sondra Hibbs

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

2-- Marsha Allen
 6-- Elizabeth Hatchett, Jax Malone
 7--Britney Carmona



LOOKING FOR WAYS TO FAST?

- ◆ **Fast from hurting words and say kind words**
- ◆ **Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude**
- ◆ **Fast from anger and be filled with patience**
- ◆ **Fast from worries and have trust in God**
- ◆ **Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity**
- ◆ **Fast from bitterness and be filled with joy**
- ◆ **Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others**
- ◆ **Fast from grudges and be reconciled.**

Mass Intentions

February 4--Charlie Winstead
 February 11--Freddie Payne
 February 14--Kenneth Higgs
 February 18--Sandra Brown
 February 25--Donald Moorman

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: Susan Hall, Larry Allen, Charlie Brown Sr, Jim Fennewald 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 to register. Thanks to each of you for your support.

Coming Events



Blessed Sacrament Chapel

- February 23--Scripture 10:45
- February 24--Italian Dinner 6:30 pm
- March 1--Fish Fry--St. Stephen 5-7 pm
- March 22--Fish Fry--BSC 5-7 pm
- March 26--Chrism Mass 6:30 pm
Sports Center
- March 28--Holy Thursday 7 pm Mass



Feb. 11--\$771.50
 Budget--\$1094
 MTD Collection--\$2734.50
 MTD Budget--\$2,188
 YTD Collection--\$44,879.84
 YTD Budget--\$36,072

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 feel down, I sometimes watch the famous "Double Rainbow" video on YouTube to feel better. It's hilarious. A young man camping in Yosemite Park sees two rainbows stretching across the sky. He bursts into a kind of ecstasy. "Double rainbow, all the way! Oh my God!" he announces. Then he starts to weep. He cries out, "What does it mean?" Beneath the humor of his glorious overreaction is the deep intuition we all have, I think, when we see the colorful bow in the sky. This Sunday, God sends a rainbow to Noah, and to us. What does it mean?

Long before YouTube had the double rainbow, Dante's medieval poem *The Divine Comedy* featured one in his image of paradise. Seeing two rainbows, he muses that one is born of the other. The bow is God's promise of peace. For Dante, it's even more: nature's encrypted image of the Trinitarian God. One visible rainbow (God the Son) is begotten of another usually invisible one (God the Father) united by invisible light between them (God the Spirit). Like invisible light, Trinitarian glory surrounds us in every moment — but Jesus has made it visible in his glorious body.

Lenten challenge: This might seem silly, but this Lent I invite you to find a rainbow and meditate on it. You might have to make one yourself, like this current desert-dweller will. Gaze on it. See there a natural gift from the Creator, saying to you, "Here I am! I will love and protect you, surrounding you in My glory." This Lent let's embrace that with confidence, rain, or shine.

— Father John Muir

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Lectors

<u>February 18</u>	Layson Brooks, Alexis Hatchett
<u>February 25:</u>	Greg Gough, Sarah Malone
<u>March 3:</u>	Wayne Stephens, Barbara Bisel

Eucharistic Ministers

<u>February 18:</u>	Greg Gough, Janet Clark, Katie Goins,
<u>February 25:</u>	Rita Moorman, Denise Richardson, Vivian Higgs
<u>March 3:</u>	Cindy Clark, Holly Hollis, Sarah Malone

Collection & Gifts

<u>February 18</u>	Cindy Clark, Michelle Jones
<u>February 25</u>	Alexis, Alizabeth Hatchett
<u>March 3:</u>	Kathi Skidd, Emma Latta

LENTEN PENANCE SERVICES

March 4	St. Pius X	6:30 pm
March 10	Blessed Mother	2 pm
March 13	Sts. Joseph and Paul	6 pm
March 17	Lourdes	2 pm
March 18	Immaculate	6 pm
March 24	St. Stephen Cath	2 pm
???	Precious Blood	
Every Wed.	Sorgho	5 pm

40 DAYS

In Genesis, the flood that destroyed the earth was brought on by 40 days and 40 nights of rain

The Israelites spent 40 years in the desert

Moses fasted for 40 days before receiving the Commandments.

Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness

Lent and the Flood

I would bet money that somewhere in your church this Lent, there's a bare tree branch draped in purple fabric and an empty bowl filled with rocks.

I'm not poking fun, the desert imagery that surrounds the season of Lent isn't a cliché — or if it is, it's only because clichés are essentially true. Lent *is* the dessert. Lent is the wilderness. Lent is the time of less.

But what if Lent was also the flood?

It seems counterintuitive, floods are excessive, and we don't think of Lent as a time for superabundance. Lent is when we limit experiences outside of ourselves in order to limit proclivities within ourselves. Lent is not a time for anything to be washing over us, consuming us, carrying us away on a tide. Unless...it is.

Consider the flood of the Old Testament. An act of destruction, yes, but also an act of purification. An endurance test for the soul, an epic trust fall exercise between God and Noah in which Noah had to ride the literal waves, clinging to life as God wiped away everything familiar. Everything sinful.

In Lent, we relinquish our weaknesses and our infirmities to the flood. It's frightening, certainly. But it's also exciting. Because just as the flood destroys everything, it also makes everything possible. It is a baptism.

Lent, like the flood, makes the world new.

"Put to death in the flesh, he was brought to life in the Spirit." — 1 Peter 3:18

©LPi

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Readings for the Week

Monday:	Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Ps 19:8-10, 15/Mt 25:31-46
Tuesday:	Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-7, 16-19/Mt 6:7-15
Wednesday:	Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19/Lk 11:29-32
Thursday:	1 Pt 5:1-4/Ps 23:1-6/Mt 16:13-19
Friday:	Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-8/Mt 5:20-26
Saturday:	Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8/Mt 5:43-48

Observances of Week of February 18

Monday:	Presidents' Day
Wednesday:	St. Peter Damian, Bishop
Thursday:	The Chair of St. Peter
Friday:	St. Polycarp, Bishop, Martyr

LAUGH OF THE WEEK

A bartender notices that every evening, without fail, one of his patrons orders three beers.

After several weeks of noticing this pattern, the bartender asks the man why he always orders three beers.

The man says, "I have two brothers who have moved away to different countries.

We promised each other that we would always order an extra two beers whenever we drank as a way of keeping up the family bond."

Several weeks later, noticing that the man only ordered two beers, the bartender says, "Please accept my condolences on the death of one of your brothers. You know, the two beers and all..."

The man replies, "You'll be happy to hear that my two brothers are alive and well. It's just that I, myself, have decided to give up drinking for Lent

REPENT, BELIEVE IN THE GOSPEL.

Lent is the time of year we devote to scrutinizing our lives in the light of our baptism into the death and resurrection of Jesus. Today's readings are a nice shorthand catechism of what our baptized lives mean. As Noah passed through the waters of the flood to a covenant with God, so did we enter into a covenant, a promised relationship with God through our baptism.

Peter's letter gives an explicit explanation of what our baptism means: it is an appeal we make to God for a clear conscience. How do we obtain this clear conscience? The words proclaimed by Jesus immediately following his temptation show us the way: "Repent, and believe in the gospel". (Mark 1:15) It might be a good spiritual exercise to keep these readings before us throughout the entire season of Lent, a means to help us return to a life lived by our baptismal promises.

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Scripture Reflection

On our website, you can find a link to www.formed.org. This website has links to many Christian sites--movies, talks, reflection on Eucharist (Daily Bread), saints. One link that might be one that feeds you spiritually during Lent is Daily Reflections. Dr. Tim Gray gives about a 3 minute reflection on the Scripture readings of the day. Easy to listen to, short. Check out the site and see what it has to offer.

PLASTIC SMILES

Lent comes to us with its shout of truth and hope. It tells us that we do not have to slap on makeup and draw plastic smiles as if nothing were happening...God invites us to...admit that something inside us is not well and that something in society or in the Church is not well. He invites us to change, to turn around, and to be converted. --Pope Francis