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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 am filled with restlessness until the dawn.  
(Jb 7:4)

## Psalm:

Praise the Lord, who heals the brokenhearted.  
(Ps 147)

## Second Reading:

If I preach the gospel, this is no reason for me to boast, for an obligation has been imposed on me, and woe to me if I do not preach it!  
(1 Cor 9:16)

## Gospel:

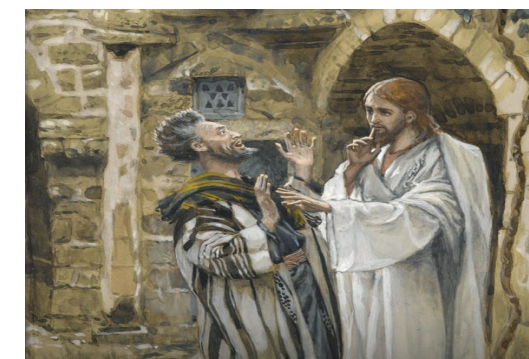
He cured many who were sick with various diseases, and he drove out many demons.  
(Mk 1:34)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001,



**February 4, 2024 5th Sunday--Ordinary Time**

**Praise the Lord for He is good.**



## 5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

When it was evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were ill or possessed by demons. The whole town was gathered at the door. He cured many who were sick with various diseases, and he drove out many demons, not permitting them to speak because they knew him. - Mk 1:32-34

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1996, 1970 CCC.

SILPI

My Dear Friends:

Henry David Thoreau once wrote: “The mass of men lead lives of quiet desperation.” One such person comes to us this morning in today’s first reading. His name is Job. I’m sure most of you are familiar with his story that comes to us from the Old Testament. We enter his story today finding Job as a successful businessman, enjoying good health, some considerable wealth, at the peak of happiness, surrounded by a loving family, and married to a good wife. But good fortune is like the wind. Suddenly everything changes. Savage bandits slaughter his servants, steal his flocks from him. A dreadful desert storm takes the lives of all his children. Under terrible pressure and stress his health fails and his entire body is covered with painful sores, the physical consequences, no doubt, of unendurable inner pain. In the end, his beloved wife tells him to “curse God and die.” And the reaction of his friends? “Well,” they tell him, “God is punishing you for some horrible secret sins in your life.” We hear similar judgments in our own day when misfortune befalls people. But while most of us have not suffered to the extent Job suffered, most of us have experienced what was set forth in today’s first reading -- never-ending sleepless nights filled with fear, anxiety, guilt, and self-punishment. Some have felt tempted to literally curse God and die. And then there are the days that follow those nights... long, long days filled with drudgery, pain, and hopelessness, days that appear one after another without end. Some of you see nothing but those days and nights stretching out endlessly ahead of you.

There’s something special about a man or woman who has been born into great wealth, suffered the loss of it all, and then rebuilt his or her life back up again from nothing. I knew such a person. He was a man acquainted with the task of facing life without hope of ever returning to his original comfortable state in life. Then there’s the loss through sudden death of people whom we love and care for, or loss through lingering illness followed finally by a merciful death. I’m not sure which is more painful, sudden loss of life or loss through long, lingering, and slow diminishment ending in a final death by exhaustion. Many who have greatly suffered have likewise faced the temptation to curse heaven, blame God, and then resolve to die in nothingness. Living life over the long haul while carrying a load of hidden pain and loss that few realize is a daunting challenge to faith. The temptation to blame God and then stoically endure death is a very real temptation for many people you and I have known.

Finally there was Job’s wife, the woman he lived with and loved throughout his entire ordeal. In the end he suffered a pain worse than being impoverished, suffering terrible losses, and then finally turning into a physical wreck covered with sores. The one he trusted, loved, and depended upon, the one he cherished, walked out on him while advising him to “curse God and die.” That’s polite biblical language covering over what she was really saying: “God to hell, Job!” Jesus, whom we find in today’s Gospel, was awash in human pain, suffering, neediness, and loss, set out in the face of it all to pray. He turned directly to God His Father in heaven. Indeed in the Garden of Gethsemane He personally experienced it all, sweating blood because of its intensity.

Job is a prefiguring shadow of Christ before Christ came among us to take on our suffering. Job, in the end, kept his faith in God. At the end of the Book of Job we find him talking with God, saying: “I had heard of you by word of mouth, but now my eyes have seen you.” At the end of Christ’s life we find Jesus surrendering Himself to His Father in heaven, trusting and believing in His Father through horrible suffering unto death. He challenges us to seek God and find Him, to hear God, to trust in His Word, and to receive His love in good times and in bad. Jesus challenges us to do that in the midst of whatever life throws at us, in success and in failure, in gain and in loss, in sickness and in health, in happiness and in suffering. Jesus reveals to us that God our Father is with us in it all and through it all, in spite of our pathetic complaints about where God is while we suffer, along with our observations about other people’s sins and our petty judgments about who is saved and who is damned.

Job and Jesus give us testimony. They are witnesses to the presence of God in the core of our humanity and in all of life. So when you are tempted to despair, remember Job and receive Jesus. For Christ Jesus, our Savior, gives us this day, right here on this altar, our daily bread, the Bread of Life that will sustain us as we face all that this world would strip away from us. It is bread made of ground kernels of wheat, along with wine that comes from smashed grapes. It is given to us in our human brokenness, a brokenness that Jesus entered into all the way through death itself. It is the Bread of Life given to us by our Father to nourish our starving souls and thirsting hearts, given to us by Christ Jesus, a man acquainted with suffering, our suffering, and whose life even death itself could not extinguish. That life, my brothers and sisters, is yours! Job believed in it. Jesus gave it to you. And it’s yours. It’s all yours for the taking.

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 of the Word or the Liturgy of the Hours. These Sunday celebrations in the absence of a priest may or may not include the reception of Holy Communion. Still, these celebrations allow the People of God to gather and keep holy the Lord’s Day.*



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

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



GOD ACCOMPANIES US

Ask yourselves: “How much space do I give to the Lord? Do I stop to talk with him?” Ever since we were children, our parents have taught us to start and end the day with a prayer, to teach us to feel that the friendship and the love of God accompanies us. Let us remember the Lord more in our daily life! Pope Francis

*Reflection:* Try to recall the presence of God in your life throughout the day and say a short prayer when you do. Aim for three times today.

Mass Intentions

February 4--Charlie Winstead  
February 11--Freddie Payne  
February 14--Kenneth Higgs  
February 18--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: **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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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. 28--\$1090  
Budget--\$1094  
MTD Collection--\$4,792.15  
MTD Budget--\$4,376  
YTD Collection--\$42,145.34  
YTD Budget--\$33,884

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

Maybe I’m weird, but I like spending time in doctor’s offices, confession lines in churches, auto repair shops, prison cells, and support groups of various kinds. It’s refreshing to be with people who humbly admit something is wrong and forthrightly set out on a path toward a solution. When we ignore what is off kilter, we become alone and fragile. In places where people are honest and hopeful about brokenness, sturdy if subtle fellowship usually ensues.

Consider the image we see of Jesus in the Gospel of Mark. “...they brought to him all who were ill or possessed by a demon. The whole town was gathered at the door.” The entire human community is afflicted in various ways, and so it gradually forms a strange new community around Jesus. The healer from Nazareth is like a sun of health around which orbits a throng of humanity absorbing his healing rays. These blessed souls can’t fix themselves and become healthy, and they know it. But they have found in him the living source of all imaginable healing.

It’s the Church, isn’t it? A sin-sick community gathered and healed is what happens at the beginning of every Mass. We shuffle in through the door from everywhere and announce that we are not okay, and we can’t fix it. In doing so, we are drawn into the orbit of the healing power of Christ — and into a renewed community with the whole human family. It’s nothing to fear or rush. Maybe we can even learn to enjoy more how good it is to be in such a happy place.

— Father John Muir

MINISTRY SCHEDULE	
Lectors	
<u>February 4</u>	Leland Herzog, Barbara Bisel
<u>February 11</u>	Greg Gough, Misty Sanford
<u>February 18</u>	Layson Brooks, Alexis Hatchett
Eucharistic Ministers	
<u>February 4:</u>	Cindy Clark, Holly Hollis, Greg Richardson
<u>February 11:</u>	Barbara Bisel, Charlene Meadows, Misty Sanford
<u>February 18:</u>	Greg Gough, Janet Clark, Katie Goins,
Collection & Gifts	
<u>February 4:</u>	Burnell Hamilton, Ron Moorman
<u>February 11:</u>	Kelly, Holly, Samuel Hollis
<u>February 18</u>	Cindy Clark, Michelle Jones

*You cannot always depend on prayers to be answered the way you want them answered but you can always depend on God. God, the loving Father, often denies us those things which in the end would prove harmful to us. Every boy wants a revolver at age four, and no father yet has ever granted that request. Why should we think God is less wise? Someday we will thank God not only for what He gave us, but also for that which He refused. ---Fulton Sheen*

**NOT WITHOUT LOVE**  
**The soul cannot live without love.**

**Purpose and Pride**

Father, forgive me. Today’s Gospel made me want to fight somebody. If you want to make me really, really angry, you are sure of doing so if you tell me about an old woman who was sick, but felt a little better, and then her son-in-law and all his buddies showed up, so she cooked them a bunch of food and cleaned up after them.

We all project our own feelings, fears, insecurities, and desires onto the word of God. I certainly do. And most of my feelings, fears, insecurities, and desires spring from my current role as a tired mom of little kids.

I think there is a fear inside many of us of God’s purpose for our lives. What if it’s not aligned perfectly with what we think we need, or what we imagine we want? Most of the time, I think I need a nap, and I imagine that I want absolutely no one asking me for any kind of help. And here I am, perpetually napless and always being called on to render assistance.

The actions of Peter’s mother-in-law were the only actions we would expect of a woman who had just received a miracle. She jumped up, and with bravery and boldness she served the Lord.

But couldn’t she rest? Couldn’t she serve him later? Couldn’t she thank him with a smile and take a nap? Well, I suppose. But is that how you react to a miracle?

I have received my miracle — my family. My purpose. So why am I still lying down?

*“He approached, grasped her hand, and helped her up. Then the fever left her and she waited on them.” — Mark 1:31*

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Readings for the Week

- Monday: 1 Kgs 8:1-7, 9-13/Ps 132:6-10/Mk 6:53-56
- Tuesday: 1 Kgs 8:22-23, 27-30/Ps 84:3-5, 10, 11/Mk 7:1-13
- Wednesday: 1 Kgs 10:1-10/Ps 37:5-6, 30-31, 39-40/Mk 7:14-23
- Thursday: 1 Kgs 11:4-13/Ps 106:3-4, 35-36, 37, Mk 7:24-30
- Friday: 1 Kgs 11:29-32; 12:19/Ps 81:10-15/Mk 7:31-37
- Saturday: 1 Kgs 12:26-32; 13:33-34/Ps 106:6-7/Mk 8:1-10

**Observances of Week of February 4**

- Monday: St. Agatha, Virgin,Martyr
- Tuesday: St. Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs
- Thursday: St. Josephine Bakhita,
- Saturday: St. Scholastica, Virgin

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.



**Josephine Bakhita**, was a Sudanese-Italian religious sister who lived in Italy for 45 years, after having been a slave in Sudan. In 2000, she was declared a saint, the first black woman to receive the honor in the modern era.

**THE GOOD NEWS**

Today’s readings begin with a few verses from the book of Job. First Job complains that his nights dry n endlessly. Ten, worse yet, “My days are swifter than a weaver’s shuttle/they come to an end without hope.” Not exactly encouraging, these lamentations, not when taken alone.

Most of us have been there, though, and the antidote is the “good news” that Paul found so compelling that “an obligation has been imposed on me, and woe to me if I don’t preach it!” Paul felt driven to announce the gospel to as many peoples as possible, “to save at least some.”

This good news is the mystery of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, who lifted Simon Peter’s mother-in-law from her sickbed with a mere touch of his hand. “The whole town was gathered at the door. He cued may who were sick with various disease, and he drove out many demon.” Our woes and demons are as real as Job’s and Jesus is our savior.

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**SMILE OF THE WEEK**

The Sunday School teacher was describing that when Lot's wife looked back at Sodom she turned into a pillar of salt, when Bobby interrupted. "My mommy looked back once while she was driving," he announced, "and she turned into a telephone pole."

