

 **AnITConsultant** LLC

Whaylon Coleman
Chief Technology Officer

Office : PO BOX 22998
Owensboro, KY 42304-2998
Phone : 270-883-1450
Email : it@anitconsultant.com

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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:

In those days, God delivered all these commandments: "I, the LORD am your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that place of slavery. You shall not have other gods besides me." (Ex 20:1-3)

Psalm:

Lord, you have the words of everlasting life. (Ps 19)

Second Reading:

We proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are called, Jews and Greeks alike, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. (1 Cor 1:23-24)

Gospel:

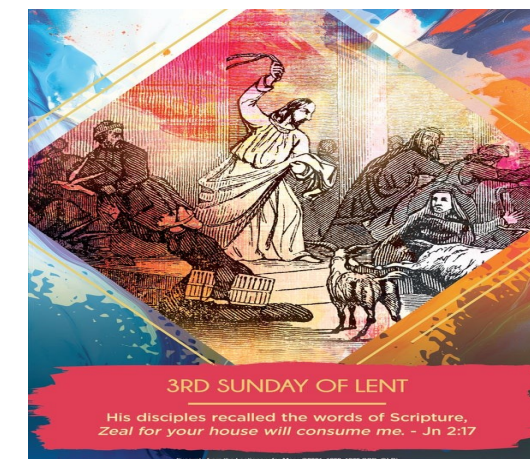
Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up." (Jn 2:19)

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



March 3, 2024 3rd Sunday of Lent)

I am the Lord, your God...You shall not have other gods besides me. Ex. 20:2-3



My Dear Parishioners:

Among us at today’s liturgy are those who are about to be baptized or confirmed and thus become Catholics, those whom now know of as the Elect. They are undergoing their final scrutinies and so are taking a good look at what they are doing. It’s interesting to note that while these Elect are undergoing a special scrutiny, and while they themselves are putting their own faith under scrutiny, the account in this Gospel presents Jesus being put under scrutiny by the Samaritan woman. On the surface, the story appears to be a typical man meets woman story. A man, the hero -- a shepherd, a teacher and an extraordinary leader -- arrives at a famous well and meets a woman who has come to fetch water. The caring hand of a woman and the helping hand of a man are repeatedly found in bible accounts, particularly in those dealing with Jesus. This particular account recalls the story of Abraham who was in search of a woman for his son Isaac. His most trusted servant whom he sent out to search for a wife for his son Isaac arrives at a well where he knew that in the evening the local girls would come to draw water. He prayed to God, saying: "God of Abraham, here I stand at this well, where the women will come to fetch water. God of Abraham, I will ask those women to give me a drink, and the one who cares.... she will be the one." Rebecca responds to his request for a drink and Abraham's servant immediately brings out golden earrings along with golden rings, and the marriage of Abraham’s son is thereupon arranged. Also there is the biblical story of Jacob meeting Rachel at this very same well which was at that time covered with a tremendously heavy stone lid. When Jacob's eyes fall upon Rachel he becomes filled with such manly strength that he is transformed into a power-filled champion who then all by himself lifts the enormous stone lid off of the well.

In the Gospel account we just heard, the well is the same well. This time, however, the man is Jesus. The woman is a non-Jew, foreigner, one who is "unclean" according to Jewish ritual laws. Jesus shocks everyone by deliberately speaking to her. Rabbis, we recall, did not converse with women in public. Not only was she a woman, she was an outcast woman. Not only was she an outcast but she had been sleeping around with at least five men. And not only did the dialogue just reported take place between them, but Jesus actually took her cup and put it to his own lips, thereby making her "uncleanness" His own. This encounter blasted all Jewish customs, laws, and religious barriers to smithereens. Also notice that it was the Samaritan woman who was scrutinizing Jesus. THAT should excite our attention. At first she recognizes Him as a Jew. "You are a Jew," she declares. "How can you ask me, a Samaritan and a woman, for a drink?" Jesus responds by asking her to see more than simply the appearances, recognize more than their ethnic and gender differences. "If only you recognized God's gift...," He tells her, suggesting that she could receive living water.

For the people in that region of the world, "living water" was flowing water, not well water. So the Samaritan woman asks Jesus where He expects to get some flowing water. “Besides,” she says, "just who do you think you are? Surely you don't pretend to be greater than Jacob?" In response, Jesus ups the ante by speaking about water that, if received, will end all thirst, and at the same time will give eternal life in place of the kind of life we're now living. Additionally, Jesus discloses just what kind of a life she's living by pointing out that she's been sleeping around. Well, instead of getting all huffy and offended, the Samaritan woman starts a discussion about who is really religious and who's just following rules and imposing them on everyone around. "I can see you're a prophet," she declares, and then she begins talking about true worship, giving Jews a backhanded slap in the face as she does. In response Jesus doesn't get all huffy and offended either. Instead He starts talking about worshipping the Father in Spirit and in truth. Note that the conversation has come a long way by now from the initial request for a cup of water and the verbal sparring between a Jewish rabbi and a Samaritan woman. In fact the conversation has become so elevated that the Samaritan woman admits the she has faith in a coming Messiah. "I know there is a Messiah coming," she says, "and that when he comes he'll tell us everything."

Jesus had just told her everything.... everything about who she really is and what her life is really all about, as well as announcing to her "I who speak to you am he." The words He used were unmistakably the same is the divine name: "I Am Who Am". Jesus was not only declaring that He is the Messiah, but that He is divine, using the very name of God "I am" with which to identify Himself. “I who speak to you am he.” The conversion of the Samaritan woman was instantaneous. She leaves her cup and her water jar on the spot, presumably for Him to drink from, and goes off to evangelize the inhabitants of her village. One wonders if Christ drank from that cup? If He did, did He see in it the eventual Cup of Suffering from which He would drink – His passion and death? At the beginning of this account Our Blessed Lord arrived at Jacob's well with a thirst and the Samaritan woman gave Christ that which He was seeking. Later on, as He hung upon the Cross, we will hear Christ cry out: "I thirst!" Who, we must ask ourselves, has satisfied His thirst?

But what was, in fact, His thirst? In our hearts we all know the answer. He thirsts for our love, our response to His searching quest for His bride. He thirsts for your soul. In the Garden of Eden, God came in search of Adam and Eve. Thus from the beginning it has been God the Lover in search of His bride, our humanity. This same Christ would turn Cana's wine into His very own Precious Blood at the Last Supper, sometimes referred to as The Wedding Feast of the Lamb. Immediately following that in the next day while hanging on the Cross water and blood would flow from His pierced side to slake the thirst in our hearts for God's love. All of this leads me to point out to you, my friends, that here before us we have those seeking union with us at Easter, those thirsting for the love of God which we will share with them in Holy Communion at Easter. They are being scrutinized, and they are scrutinizing their own faith. More importantly, they are the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well, scrutinizing Christ, the Bridegroom that is God searching for an everlasting marriage with us, His beloved Bride. It is we who should be scrutinizing our own faith. What will God see in us? Will we satisfy His thirst? Only you can give the answer to that question. Blessings, Father John



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 2-- Marsha Allen
- 6-- Elizabeth Hatchett, Jax Malone
- 7--Britney Carmona
- 18--Jean Higgs
- 24--Clint Campbell
- 25--Carol Hatchett
- 31--Cameron Malone Frank Fulton,



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

- March 3--Hugh Moorman
- March 10--Freddy Payne
- March 17--Charlie Winstead
- March 24--David “Smokey” Millard
- March 28--Freddy Payne
- March 31--Fennewald Family

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, Dana and Danny Maloney, Steven Moorman, Rachel Mattingly, Philip Moorman, Jr., Sheila Thomson, Larry Clark, Ruth Coble, Shaun Winchell, Jeeriah Cruite, Carol Hatchett, Teresa Woods, Jordan Gertisen, Buddy Adcock, 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. 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.



Blessed Sacrament Chapel

- March 8--Scripture 10:45
- March 11--Parish meeting 11 am
- March 22--Fish Fry--BSC 5-7 pm
- March 26--Chrism Mass 6:30 pm Sports Center
- March 28--Holy Thursday 7 pm Mass
- March 29--Good Friday service 6 pm
- March 31--Easter Mass--10 am



- Feb. 25--\$935.50
- Budget--\$1094
- MTD Collection--\$5091
- MTD Budget--\$4,376
- YTD Collection--\$47,236.44
- YTD Budget--\$40,166

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 am the Lord your God ... You shall not have other gods beside me. —Ex 20:2-3

One of the greatest golfers of all time — if not the greatest — was Jack Nicklaus. Which is why it is baffling that at the beginning of each season he would return to his childhood coach and re-learn how to grip the golf club. It’s like Shakespeare re-learning the alphabet and grammar. Why would he do that? Because Jack knew that the fundamentals are always relevant. Perfecting and obsessing over his grip allowed him to do everything else in the game well. In sports and life, the best ones love the basics.

Similarly, as we begin Lent, we re-learn the spiritual basics in the Ten Commandments. Consider the first, to “have no other gods besides me.” This is our “grip.” Is our connection to God one of absolute fidelity and exclusive worship? Am I willing to let go of my precious idols, the things I cling to instead of God? Once we say “yes” to this fundamental question of our spiritual “grip,” then we are ready to properly engage with everything else in life. Watch how beautifully the game of life unfolds in the next nine commandments (numbered in parentheses): how we speak to God and others (2 and 8), how we organize our week (3), how we relate to our family (4) and the wider community (5 and 7), how we live our sexuality (6), and how we order all the other desires of the human heart (9 and 10). But don’t rush to these later Commandments too soon! Everything in life is built on the first Commandment. The more we focus on worshiping God alone, the better we navigate the complexity of life with patience, effectiveness, and love.

Lenten challenge: This week, identify what you can do to better worship God alone. If you’re not sure, scan the last nine commandments to identify what you are most likely to worship instead of God. Power, pleasure, control of your time, possessions, family, health, reputation, money? Commit to concrete action to help you let go of this “idol” to better hold on to God alone in faithful worship.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE	
Lectors	
<u>March 3:</u>	Misty Sanford, Barbara Bisel
<u>March 10:</u>	Katie Goins, Wayne Stephens
<u>March 17</u>	Alexis Hatchett, Greg Gough;
Eucharistic Ministers	
<u>March 3:</u>	Cindy Clark, Holly Hollis, Sarah Malone
<u>March 10:</u>	Greg Richardson, Charlene Meadows, Janet Clark
<u>March 17:</u>	Katie Goins, Misty Sanford, Deanne Richardson
Collection & Gifts	
<u>March 3:</u>	Kathi Skidd, Emma Latta
<u>March 11:</u>	Fain Family
<u>March 18:</u>	Dee Brashear, Yvonne Mundy

LENTEN PENANCE SERVICES		
March 4	St. Pius X	6:30 pm
March 8	St. Stephen	1-6 pm
March 9	St. Stephen	9:30-4 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 19	Precious Blood	6 pm
March 24	St. Stephen Cath	2 pm
Every Wed.	Sorgho	5 pm

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 of us is not well and that something in society or in the Church is not well. He invites us to change, to turn around, to be converted. . --Pope Francis

The Merciful Anger of Jesus

Watch your fellow churchgoers today as the priest or deacon reads the story of Jesus raising hell (or perhaps he’s raising heaven?) in the temple square. Dollars to donuts, they’ll be squirming.

As Catholics, we have become very uncomfortable with Angry Jesus. He makes us cringe in the same way that the Old Testament God does when He calls Himself “jealous” and talks about punishment. That level of intensity makes us recoil. If it were present in a human relationship, it would be toxic and abusive, because in humanity, fierceness and love rarely coexist in a healthy way.

But what a tragedy it would be for us to mistake our relationship with God for our relationship with our spouse, our best friend, or even our human father. Because we cannot see clearly, we would mistake His zeal for anger and His law for diktat.

The strong and sure movement of a wave against a rocky cliff will, over time, erode its surface, just as an overabundance of raindrops will flood a city. We do not call the water callous and cruel. We still luxuriate in its coolness and refreshment. Its destructive powers don’t negate the life-giving properties of water. We do not demand that water apologize to us for being strong.

Fierce, uncompromising — but also, soft and merciful. How can God — and God’s law — be both, at the same time? How can Christ cast a whip at someone’s foot, overturn a table and scatter coins? How can the law of God be perfect, as the Psalm says, and refresh the soul — while demanding so much of it? All I can say is, thank God for Angry Jesus. We need his fierceness and thank God it does not wane because it confuses us. Thank God his mercy does not decrease because we doubt it.

“For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.” — 1 Corinthians 1:25

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Readings for the Week	
Monday:	2 Kgs 5:1-15/Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3,4/Lk 4:24-30
Tuesday:	Dn 3:25, 34-43/Ps 25:-9/ Mt 18:21-35
Wednesday:	Dt 4:1, 5-9/Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20/Mt 5:17-19
Thursday:	Jer 7:23-28/Ps 95:1-2, 6-9/ Lk 11:14-23
Friday:	Hos 14:2-10/Ps 81:6-11, 14 and 17/Mk 12:28-34
Saturday:	Hos 6:1-6/Ps 51:3-4, 18-21/ Lk 18:9-14
Observances of Week of March 3	
Monday:	St. Casimir
Thursday:	Sts. Perpetua and Felicity,
Friday:	St. John of God, Religious
Saturday:	St. Frances of Rome, Religious;
	St. Catherine of Bologna
Next Sunday:	4 th Sunday of Lent, Daylight Saving Time begins

LAUGH OF THE WEEK

It was the third Friday of Lent, and the faithful parishioner stumbles through pouring rain past hamburger huts and steak houses into the monastery at Mount Angel and requests shelter. He's just in time for dinner and was treated to the best fish and chips he's ever had. After dinner, he goes into the kitchen to thank the chefs. He's met by two brothers, "Hello, I'm Brother Michael, and this is Brother Francis." "I'm very pleased to meet you. I just wanted to thank you for a wonderful dinner. The fish and chips were the best I've ever tasted. Out of curiosity, who cooked what?" Brother Michael replies, "Well, I'm the fish friar." The man turns to the other brother and says, "Then you must be . . ."

"Yes, I'm afraid I'm the chip monk."

KEEP HOLY THE SABBATH

There’s no better way to deepen our Lenten practice than to review the Ten commandments. The first three, having to do with our right relationship to God, get the most ink. ///The one we busy people probably have the most problem with is keeping holy the Sabbath.

If we take this commandment literally, babies will go undiapered and dishes will stay on the table, or perhaps meals will not be served. The sick will go unattended and nothing that has anything to do with physical labor will be done. Is mental labor really work? How about changing that dirty diaper (poor baby!)?

We need to depend on God to discern how to observe real Sabbath time in our lives. The point of this commandment is that God has given us a great gift: one whole day per week when we are free to rest, worship God, sing, feast, love, and rejoice. As Psalm 19 proclaims: “The law of the Lord is perfect/refreshing the soul!” (19:8) Our Sabbath rest is a great gift to be received from God with joy, not with nit-picking. Copyright J.S. Paluch Co. Inc.

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.

FORGIVENESS

If a bad person wrongs you, forgive the person, lest there be two bad people.