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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:

Early and often did the LORD send his messengers to them, for he had compassion on his people. But they mocked the messengers of God, despised his warnings until the anger of the LORD against his people was so inflamed that there was no remedy. (2 Chr 36:15-16)

Psalm:

Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you! (Ps 137)

Second Reading:

God, who is rich in mercy, because of the great love he had for us brought us to life with Christ. (Eph 2:4-5)

Gospel:

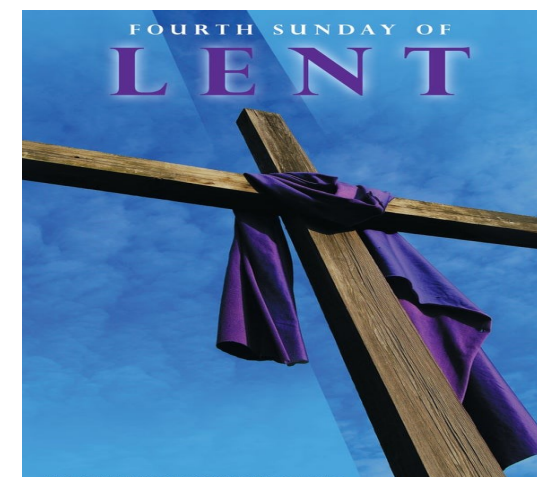
For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. (Jn 3:16)

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



March 10, 2024 4th Sunday of Lent)

**For we are his handiwork,
created in Christ Jesus.**



My Dear Parishioners:

Consider with me now the power of the human eye. It is through the eye that we receive most of our impressions and most of the data assimilated by the brain. It is through the eye that much of our non-verbal communication is received. Even within our intellect our capacity for “insight” is connected deeply with the ability to see and understand with our physical eyes.

Watch the eyes of those who speak with you. Do their eyes look steadily and peacefully into your eyes? You can read much about a person’s soul simply by looking into their eyes. When you are engaged in a conversation the eyes of others can tell you a lot. Do they look directly into yours, or do their eyes flit around the room looking over your shoulders while searching out other people in the room, roving and cruising while the person with whom you are conversing is talking at you rather than with you? Our eyes can see others, and be friendly with others, or they can hurt others, or look scornfully down on others, or can scare others. Our eyes can be used to lust after others, or to only see others on the surface. Our eyes have the power to penetrate deep into the hearts and souls of others. Our eyes are powerful. God has given us a fantastic power -- the power to see with our eyes and the power to communicate with them. The sad truth is that we can see everything and yet be blind. We can devour with our eyes, we can take in the whole heart of another and yet remain empty. We can consume so much and yet remain hungry and empty with our hearts aching for more. Our ravenous self has eyes that are constantly agitated in a hungry search for acquisition, and yet the more we devour the emptier we get, and ever more blind.

God gave us sight that we might have insight, insight to discern, plumb and search Him out. All around us God has showered us with His gifts and yet we remain blind to them and do not see them. Like spoiled little children, we sit front of the gigantic Christmas tree that is our universe, a universe filled with God’s gifts scattered all around us, and we in the middle of it all and cry, weep, and wail that we are unloved, that we are insignificant, and that God doesn't care about us. Blinded by our own fears and blinded by the trinkets of this world, we are blind to the love and the gifts of God. Our vision can become arrested and fixated on idols. Our eyes can see only fancy clothes, beautiful bodies, succulent tasty dishes of food, or whatever. We have the visual capacity to watch starvation and hunger sweep the world during T.V. news broadcasts that are immediately followed programs in which gourmet cooks show us how to prepare meals fit for the most discriminating of connoisseurs.

God gave us an amazing power when He gave us sight. We should use it to its depth and not settle for mere surface examinations. We can use our sight simply to measure and describe the properties of things. God, however, wants us to see at deeper levels. When a scientists sees things, or a businessman, or any practical person for that matter, he sees things in such a way that it doesn’t matter who is seeing them. As a matter of fact he sees them best when he sees them in the way any man or woman can see them. We should, however, see things spiritually, like a theologian sees them. For us, it makes a difference to know who is seeking and the purpose for having vision in the first place. It is the reason for the existence of things, not just their description that is in the vision of a theologian. It is in the meaning of a thing that its value is discerned, not just its usefulness. If our vision is arrested only at the level of usefulness, then persons can be substituted for things. Then we will be living in the blindness of the Pharisees we heard about in today’s gospel account. God did not create us to be blind; He created us to have sight, the higher sight that is called insight -- that sort of sight that flows from imagination and vision. It is these faculties, conditioned as they are by data received from our eyes that allow us to see the inner world that is God’s world and have eyes to see God’s kingdom. To see that, however, we must have eyes that are released from fixation solely on the outer world, a world that is only immediately visible.

Contemplation is a deeper way of seeing things in their reality. Contemplating a great mountain range fills our souls with wonder. Contemplating the dawn of a new day while watching the sun rise, fills our souls with anticipation and hope. Seeing is something far deeper than merely looking. Seeing, really seeing, takes us into the spiritual world and allows us to ask the question: Why did God give us what we are looking at? We need to see with more than just our physical eyesight – we need to see with the eyes of our soul. This allows us to see things in God’s Light and to acquire more wisdom and understanding. When we do we are in-spirited, inspired, and the Holy Spirit gives us His gifts.

When therefore we pray we should pray as the blind man prayed. When we pray, the first words of our prayer ought to be, “Lord, that I may see.” For it is upon our vision that everything depends. Our faith depends upon our vision. Our hope depends upon the vision contained in the word “expectation.” Hope is directly related to vision and expectations. And so is the virtue of charity, love. Thus we walk by faith, not by sight. Our hearts can see what our eyes cannot see. God gave us vision, not only to describe others, not only to see their surface and bodily characteristics, but also to see who they are and to see their meaning and purpose in being who and what they are. The Pharisees were the men who in today’s Gospel account were blind. The man born blind had much more vision and could see the reality of Christ even though his eyes were not sighted. Can we have the vision and insight of the man born blind? We ought to consider just what it is that we in fact see, both see with our eyes and see with eyes of faith. On the day we die we shall take with us into the next life the sum total of all of the impressions, all of the decisions, and all of the insight that we have acquired in this life. We shall be, for all eternity, what we have seen ourselves to be. “Lord Jesus, that I may see!” should be the opening words in all of our prayers, in order that we might see ourselves and the world that God has made for us, in His vision of what we and our world can be. For in the life that is to come, our gift to God will be the self we bring with us when we die, a self that will in large measure be the sum total of the insights and vision that we have acquired. And if we have seen the gifts God has given us in this life, then in the next life, in eternal life, we shall see the Giver of those gifts. 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,



STAYING WITH JESUS

The logic of the Cross...is not primarily that of suffering and death, but rather that of love and of the gift of self which brings life...Following and accompanying Christ, staying with him, demands “coming out of ourselves,” requires us to be outgoing; to come out of ourselves, out of a dreary way of living faith that has become a habit, out of the temptation to withdraw into our own plans, which end by shutting out God’s creative action. --Pope Francis



Fish Fry

March 22 5 pm
Invite family and friends.
Delicious food

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: Jamie Bisel, Larry Allen, Charlie Brown Sr, Jim Fennewald, Dana and Danny Maloney, Steven Moorman, Rachel Mattingly, Philip Moorman, Jr., 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.

Coming Events



Blessed Sacrament Chapel

- March 11--Parish meeting 11 am
- March 15--Scripture 10:45
- 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



- March 3--\$1901.60
- Budget--\$1094
- MTD Collection--\$1901.60
- MTD Budget--\$1094
- YTD Collection--\$49,138.04
- YTD Budget--\$41,260

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

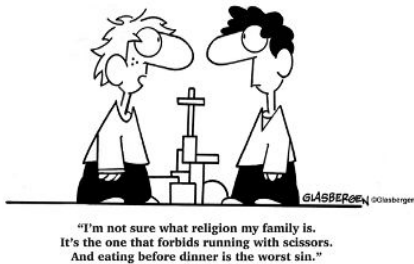
Our national pastime isn’t baseball. It’s what the Bible calls “condemning the world.” We generally enjoy pronouncing curses upon those whom we see as trouble, wrong, or evil. Don’t believe me? Listen to almost any podcast, cable news network, or social media platform to hear it. It will be some version of: “We all agree that if *they* are eradicated, things will be great.” Condemning is almost always clothed in virtue. It basks in its good intentions. That’s why it is so attractive. Condemning seems like our best path to saving what is good.

What a shock, then, to hear Jesus announce: “For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him” (Jn 3:17). He comes to save the world, as we all want, but he will accomplish it *without an act of condemnation*. How hard it is to accept this! Condemning feels godlike. I judge who and what must be lost to protect the good. But in the light of Jesus’ endless mercy and love, this is the *least* godlike thing we can do.

Lenten challenge: This week, I invite you to give up the delicious experience of condemning whomever in the world you most would like to see gone. Perhaps write down their names. Secondly, I invite you to consider fasting from any media that feeds the tasty but deadly tendency to condemn. — Father John Muir

MINISTRY SCHEDULE	
Lectors	
<u>March 10:</u>	Layson Brooks, Wayne Stephens
<u>March 17</u>	Alexis Hatchett, Greg Gough;
<u>March 24:</u> <u>Passion:</u>	Leland Herzog, Kathi Skidd Greg Gough, Sarah Malone
Eucharistic Ministers	
<u>March 10:</u>	Greg Richardson, Charlene Meadows, Janet Clark
<u>March 17:</u>	Katie Goins, Misty Sanford, Deanne Richardson
<u>March 24:</u>	Vivian Higgs, Cindy Clark Janet Clark
Collection & Gifts	
<u>March 11:</u>	Fain Family
<u>March 18:</u>	Dee Brashear, Yvonne Mundy
<u>March 24</u>	Connie Clary, Michelle Jones

LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE	
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



The Uncomfortable Life in The Light

If you have ever been a woman over the age of 30 who stayed in a budget motel, you know the horror of awakening in a dark room, switching on the bathroom lights and screaming at the shriveled-up she-witch you find hiding there. And you know the feeling of disappointment that blooms in the pit of your stomach as you realize the shriveled-up she-witch is your own reflection staring back at you beneath the merciless glare of overhead fluorescent lighting.

You may also know the relief of visiting a nice restaurant after dark and catching sight of yourself in the mirror. You lean forward, mesmerized by how different — how matte! How smooth! — the contours of your face look in what we call “forgiving light.” But this turn of phrase is simply not correct. It is not light, and it does not forgive. It is darkness, and it merely conceals. But it feels so much better, doesn’t it? Salvation can feel like condemnation, when being lost is all you know. Sometimes it is so much more comfortable to live lost in the shadows.

It is possible to yearn for darkness. Darkness gives cover to so many things. The light has a harshness that can almost seem demanding, exposing. Light can bleach. Light can burn.

“Is this really me?” you think in that budget hotel bathroom, examining acne scars you never saw before and crow’s feet that seem to have developed overnight. The answer is yes. Yes, that is really you, all of it, every inch. There’s nothing to be afraid of, just step into the light and own it.

“And this is the verdict, that the light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light, because their works were evil.” — John 3:19

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Readings for the Week	
Monday:	Is 65:17-21/Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b/Jn 4:43-54
Tuesday:	Ez 47:1-9, 12/Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9/Jn 5:1-16
Wednesday:	Is 49:8-15/Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18/Jn 5:17-30
Thursday:	Ex 32:7-14/Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23/Jn 5:31-47
Friday:	Wis 2:1a, 12-22/Ps 34:17-21 and 23/Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
Saturday:	Jer 11:18-20/Ps 7:2-3, 9-12/Jn 7:40-53

Observances of Week of March 10

Sunday: 4th Sunday of Lent, Daylight Saving Time begins

THE SURLY BIRD

Some doctors say that cheerful people resist disease better than grumpy ones. The surly bird catches the germ. --Anonymous

LAUGH OF THE WEEK

A man took his young son to a baseball game. While they were sitting there, he asked the boy what he was going to give up for Lent.

The boy replied, "I don't know, Dad. What are you going to give up?"

His father said, "I've thought about this a lot and decided to give up liquor."

Later in the game, the beer man came by, and the man ordered a beer. His son objected, "Hey, I thought you were giving up liquor!"

His dad answered, "Hard liquor, son. I'm giving up hard liquor. This is just a beer."

To which the boy replied, "Well then, I'm giving up hard candy."

GOD’S MERCY

Today’s reading from the second book of Chronicles contains a sort of “mini history” of Israel. It highlights God’s mercy in choosing Cyrus the Persian to be an instrument of deliverance when the people were in captivity in Babylon. Despite their sinfulness and the deserved punishment they were undergoing, God’s mercy was lavished on the people in the form of a miraculous act of liberation.

The Letter to the Ephesians, in much more theological terms,, gives a similar account of a God “who brought us to life with Christ--by grace you have been saved.” The author stresses that it was when we were “dead in our transgressions” that God saved us, an act of pure grace. He emphasizes that it is not our own efforts that freed us from sin (“this is not from you”); rather, “it is the gift of God.” This, of course, is the heart of the entire Pauline corpus, that salvation comes to us by faith in God’s mercy, revealed in the death of Jesus.

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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.

*I have metal fillings in my teeth.
My refrigerator magnets keep
pulling me into the kitchen.
That’s why I can’t lose weight.*