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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 Fennewald, SSND
pa@blessedsacramentchapel.org



March 24, 2024 6th Sunday of Lent

Christ Jesus humbled himself becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on the cross.

First Reading:

First Reading:

I have set my face like flint, knowing that I shall not be put to shame. (Is 50:7)

Psalm:

My God, my God, why have you abandoned me? (Ps 22)

Second Reading:

He humbled himself, becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Because of this, God greatly exalted him. (Phil 2:8-9)

Gospel:

They brought him to the place of Golgotha —which is translated Place of the Skull—. (Mk 15:22)



Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass

My Dear Parishioners:

We have finally arrived! HOLY WEEK! We begin with the celebration of Palm Sunday. There is a strange arc on Palm Sunday. We begin with the crowds acclaiming Jesus as the long-awaited one who comes in the name of the Lord. The title with which they acclaim him, ‘Son of David’, is a messianic title. As he enters Jerusalem, there is an air of excitement and anticipation. Son of David implies a new kingdom, a new glorious chapter in the history of the people of God. Then later in the Mass, we go on to read the passion narrative. Here the same crowds have turned, within a matter of days. We read that passers-by jeer at Christ on the cross. The people who were singing praises are now taunting him. It is a sobering reminder of the fickleness not only of crowds but of all human beings. Which of us could say that we have never run with the crowd, even against our better instincts? Which of us could say that we have never voiced opinions that were not our own, motivated by the fashion of the day and our desire to win favor in the eyes of others? This is the world – our world – into which the love of God incarnate has come to establish the kingdom. The crowds greeting Jesus were right. This is a new and definitive moment in history. Only this time it is a kingdom of the heart that Jesus is creating, a movement of followers who will seek to bring into everyday life the love of God and neighbor that Jesus taught and lived himself. Because we know this and believe this, it is difficult to read the words of the passion. In particular, it is painful to shout the words ‘Crucify him’. This is not what we want, we think in the quiet of our hearts. But let’s remember that we are following the whole story. That story includes not just the cross, but also the resurrection. As we re-enact the events of the passion, we enter more deeply into the meaning of it all. Psychologists tell us that we come to terms with trauma in our lives by playing it over and over again in our minds. We see it from different perspectives. We think how we might have reacted differently at the time. And in this way, slowly, the trauma has less and less hold on us. As we follow in the footsteps of Jesus, as we hear the menacing crowd and hear the thud of the nails hammered in, we are reliving once more a great wound on the body of humankind. But by doing this we find that we are not trapped in the past, but rather, we are set free in the power of the resurrection that we will soon celebrate. The paradox is that in remembering the death of Jesus we enter more deeply into the life of Jesus, as the one who overcame sin and death and takes us with him in his victory. So let us not be afraid to be with the crowd of sinners this Holy Week. We are the people who acclaim him. We are the disciples whose feet he washes. We are also the disciples who run away as he is arrested, and the crowd who taunt him on the cross. We remember all this and act it out so because we know that God’s response is not to leave us in our shame. The events of each Holy Week tell us that this world’s sorrows are not the final word. Rather, God raises us up with Christ and invites us to live the promise that his love is with us until the end of time. Confident in that love, confident in the victory of Christ over human sin, we can ask for gifts of grace so that we can continue the work of the kingdom of God that Christ has entrusted to us. ‘Your kingdom come’ he taught us to pray. Holy Week renews us each year in our desire to live what we pray.

I remind you once again of the Holy Week Schedule and strongly encourage you to participate in the Mass of Holy Thursday, the service of Good Friday, and of course, the celebration of the Solemnity of Easter!

Tuesday, March 27 Chrism Mass, 6:30 pm, Owensboro, KY
Thursday, March 29 Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper, 7:00 pm
Friday, March 30 Good Friday of the Lord’s Passion, 6:00 pm
Sunday, March 31 Sunday of the Lord’s Resurrection 10:00

Holy Week Blessings Father John

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITIONS

Although the procession with palms has an unforgettable grip on our imaginations, the real emphasis of this day’s liturgy is contained in its name: The Sunday of the Lord’s Passion. Since 1955, the old custom of a blessing of palms with procession of the people has marked the entry of the Church into a time so rich that it is called “Holy Week.” The center of today’s liturgy, however, is the solemn reading of the Passion, this year taken from Mark’s Gospel. Our community is to be transformed by its celebration of Easter, and so this week everything is made new. Soon, the bishop will celebrate the “Chrism Mass” when the holy oils for the sacraments will be completely replenished and blessed, and transported from the cathedral to every parish. Easter is the first Sunday after the first full moon of springtime. Be on lookout later this week for this “paschal” moon, rising in the east at the precise moment the sun sets in the west. Imagine: a day when there is not a single moment when the earth is not bathed in light from the heavens. We are on the threshold of the three great days (Triduum): Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, beginning at sunset on Thursday when the parish gathers in response to the Lord’s command: “Do this in memory of me.”
James Field, copyright J.S. Paluch Co.,

Holy Week is the most solemn and glorious week in Christianity, the pinnacle of the liturgical year. It's more sacred than Christmas! This is because Holy Week commemorates the final week of Our Lord's life, the very purpose for which Christmas happened.

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday (when Jesus made his final entrance into Jerusalem) and culminates with [Easter](#) Sunday. As Holy Week progresses to its final days the solemnity heightens.

THE SACRED TRIDUUM

Sundown on Holy Thursday to sundown on Easter Sunday is considered the most solemn part of the liturgical year. This three-day period is referred to as the *Easter Triduum*, also known as the *Sacred Triduum*, or *Paschal Triduum*.

The word "triduum" comes from the Latin word *triduum*, which comes from *tris* (“three”) + *dies* (“day”).

Basically, the Sacred Triduum is one great festival recounting the last three days of Jesus' life on earth, the events of his Passion and Resurrection, when the Lamb of God laid down his life in atonement for our sins.

“Though chronologically three days, they are liturgically one day unfolding for us the unity of Christ's Paschal Mystery” (USCCB). It is known as the "Paschal Mystery" because it is the ultimate fulfillment of the ancient Jewish Passover (or Pasch), which itself was a recollection of how God brought the Jews out of their slavery in Egypt. The spotless lamb was slaughtered at the Passover meal and consumed—that same night the destroying angel "passed over" the homes marked with the blood of the Passover Lamb, and those covered by the Blood were saved. This was the Old Testament prefigurement of Jesus' work at the Last Supper—where he inserted himself as the Paschal Lamb—and Calvary, where the sacrifice was offered to save us from our slavery to sin. With the Holy Eucharist, we consume the victim that died for our sins.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 18--Jean Higgs
- 24--Clint Campbell
- 25--Carol Hatchett
- 31--Cameron Malone Frank Fulton,

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 3--Rita Moorman, Ethan Gough, Bobby Hardin
- 6--Marshall Williams
- 10--Steven Fain



Laugh of the Week

A man is struck by a bus on a busy Portland street. Seriously injured, he gasps to on-lookers, "A priest. Somebody get me a priest!"

A police officer checks the crowd--no priest, no nun, no Eucharistic Minister or person of the cloth of any kind. "Please, any words of the church," the injured man cries.

Out of the crowd steps a shabby old man. He says he's not Catholic, but he's slept behind Sacred Heart Cathedral forty years and has heard the words of the priests so many times they are etched in his memory. Desperate, the injured man nods. The elderly homeless man kneels by him and solemnly intones, "B-4 . . . I-19 . . . N-38 . . . G-54 . . . O-72

Mass Intentio

- March 17--Charlie Winstead
- March 24--David "Smokey" Millay
- March 28--Gloria Adams
- March 31--Fennewald Family
- April 7--Freddy Payne
- April 14--David "Smokey" Millay

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: Frank Adams, 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, Shelby Webster, Larry Conder, Andy Evans, Gary Moonman, 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 42 households that designate Blessed Sacrament as their community partner. Last check \$167. 63. 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 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
- April 13--Clean-up Day



- March 17--\$1128.50
- Budget--\$1,094
- MTD Collection--\$4,943.10
- MTD Budget--\$3,282
- YTD Collection--\$52,179.54.
- YTD Budget--\$43,448

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

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

A few months before they married, my twenty-three-year-old sister and her fiancé planned a cross-country road trip to visit his family. My parents told them that they could only go if they slept in separate hotel rooms, offering to foot the bill. It might sound prudish, but my parents wanted the young couple to understand that their approaching unity was close, but not yet. Patience solidifies love.

What could this possibly have to do with Palm Sunday? It's usually overlooked, but the Gospels tell us that, after entering Jerusalem, Jesus "looked around ... and since it was late, went out to Bethany with the twelve" (Mk 11:11) for the night. Who cares? Why include this detail? Jews in those days believed that the new Davidic King would one day re-enter and "marry" the city. A new future marked by fidelity would begin for God's people. Israel's God would be in union with His people forever. Without over-sexualizing the metaphor, perhaps Jesus refused to sleep in Jerusalem to remind us of his marital purpose. He was entering Jerusalem as the bridegroom. It was almost time, but not yet. Soon he will sleep in Jerusalem in the tomb and then something new will begin: his one body, his Church.

Lenten challenge: This Holy Week, I challenge you to keep this image in your mind all the way until Easter Sunday: Jesus is the faithful bridegroom who patiently prepares his bride for their new life together. Go to the Good Friday liturgy and kiss the cross. When you do, let that gesture be the long-awaited "I do" to our faithful God, who always waits for us.
— Father John Muir

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Lectors

March 24: Leland Herzog, Misty Sanford
Passion: Greg Gough, Sarah Malone

Holy Thursday: Greg Gough, Kathi Skidd,
Good Friday: Layson Brooks, Kathi Skidd
Passion: Barbara Bisel, Katie Goins

Easter: Layson Brooks, Barbara Bisel

April 7: Leland Herzog, Sarah Malone

Eucharistics Ministers

March 24: Vivian Higgs, Cindy Clark, Holly Hollis

Holy Thursday: Janet Clark, Cindy Clark, Katie Goins

Easter: Vivian Higgs, Rita Moorman, Janet Clark

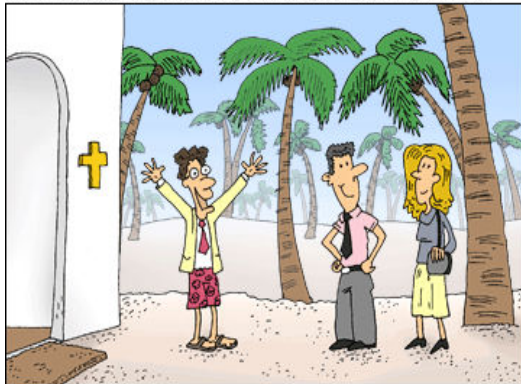
Collection & Gifts

March 24: Connie Clary, Michelle Jones

March 31: Jacques and Whitney Williams and sons

April 7: Wonet Taylor, Barbara Hammond

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Thanks to Robert 04-18-2011

ON OUR ISLAND, EVERY SUNDAY IS PALM SUNDAY

The Whole Story

The Bible is a strange book.

It's one of the only books that most people never read in its entirety, even those who claim it as one of their favorites. It's also one of the only books that we feel comfortable chopping up and sectioning out. There's nothing wrong with that, really, until people start making wholesale judgments of divine revelation based on one tiny part of it. You can't base your belief system on a few lines from Leviticus and ignore the Gospels, just like you can't embrace the teachings of Jesus and ignore the Old Testament. You need to accept the whole story, in its entirety, or none of it means anything. But it's hard, because accepting the whole story means patience. It means critical thinking. It requires endurance. It's easier just to throw a line from Leviticus at a problem and be done with it.

Holy Week reminds us that salvation history is a tapestry, not a collection of threads. As beautiful as the individual stitches might be, you won't appreciate the message unless you back up and look at the complete product. If we didn't have the whole story, Holy Thursday and Good Friday would be neither holy nor good. And without Holy Week, Easter morning means nothing — it's just a guy waking up.

How often in life do we find ourselves confused to the point of hopelessness, unable to make sense of it all? Overwhelmed by the pain and suffering that exists in this world, and for seemingly no reason. Some of us become so frustrated we throw up our hands and despair. We need Easter. We need the whole story. We need to be patient. *"His disciples did not understand this at first, but when Jesus had been glorified they remembered that these things were written about him and that they had done this for him."* — John 12:16

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Readings for the Week

Monday: Is 42:1-7/Ps 27:1, 2, 3, 13-14/
Jn 12:1-11
Tuesday: Is 49:1-6/Ps 71:1-2-6, 15 and
17/Jn 13:21-33, 36-38
Wednesday: Is 50:4-9/Ps 69:8-10, 21-22,
31 and 33-34/Mt 26:14-25
Thursday: *Evening Mass*
Ex 12:1-8, 11-14/Ps 116:12-13,
15-18 /1 Cor 11:23-26/
Jn 13:1-15
Friday: Is 52:13—53:12/Ps 31:2, 6, 12,
13, 15-17, 25 /Heb 4:14-16;
5:7-9/Jn 18:1—19:42

Observances of Week of March 24

Thursday: Holy Thursday
Friday: Good Friday
Saturday: Holy Saturday
Next Sunday: Easter Sunday

LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE

March 24 St. Stephen Cathedral
2 pm

ALL FOR US

At the Last Supper, with his friends, he breaks the bread and passes the cup round "for us." The Son of God offers himself to us; he puts his Body and his Blood into our hands, so as to be with us always, to dwell among us. And in the Garden of Olives, and likewise in the trial before Pilate, he puts up no resistance, he gives himself; he is the suffering Servant, foretold by Isaiah, who empties himself, even unto death. --
Pope Francis

HOLY WEEK

For the Palm Sunday Gospel, we return to the Gospel according to Mark. The account of the Passion takes up nearly one-third of Mark's entire Gospel and, of all the evangelists, he is the one who presents the details most graphically. He depicts the humanity of Jesus most intensely, describing his sufferings thoroughly. Mark portrays Jesus as a complete fulfillment of the "Suffering Servant" of Isaiah, the obedient, humble slave dying on a cross of whom Paul speaks in Philippians. But it is important to remember that we call this "holy Week" and not "sad week" or "suffering week," for each of the readings today, even the lamentations of the psalm, end in the promise of the strength and hope that I granted by God to those who faithfully give of themselves in love. As we enter into this week through these readings, we must reflect deeply on the sufferings of Jesus, but still be confident in the joy of risen, eternal life that awaits all of us who faithfully walk with him through these days. Copyright J.S. Paluch Co.

Four Marriages: The local news station was interviewing an 80-year-old lady because she had just gotten married – for the fourth time. The interviewer asked her questions about her life, about what it felt like to be marrying again at 80, and then about her new husband's occupation. "He's a funeral director," she answered. "Interesting," the newsman thought. He then asked her if she wouldn't mind telling him a little about her first three husbands and what they did for a living. She paused for a few moments, needing time to reflect on all those years. After a short time, a smile came to her face and she answered proudly, explaining that she'd first married a banker when she was in her early 20s, then a circus ringmaster when in her 40s, later on a preacher when in her 60s, and now in her 80s, a funeral director. The interviewer looked at her, quite astonished, and asked why she had married four men with such diverse careers. She smiled and explained, "I married one for the money, two for the show, three to get ready, and four to go."