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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  
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**Parish Life Coordinator:** Sr Jeannette Fennewald,  
SSND [pa@blessedsacramentchapel.org](mailto:pa@blessedsacramentchapel.org)



**March 31, 2024 Easter Sunday**

**I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord. Ps 118:17**

## First Reading:

This man God raised on the third day and granted that he be visible, not to all the people, but to us, the witnesses chosen by God in advance, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. (Acts 10:40-41)

## Psalm:

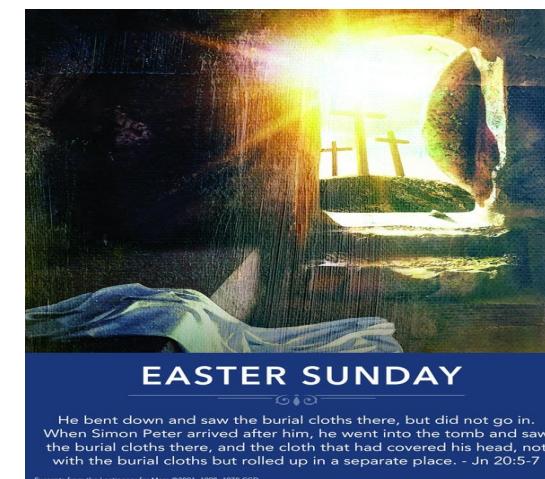
This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad. (Ps 118)

## Second Reading:

If then you were raised with Christ, seek what is above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. (Col 3:1)

## Gospel:

For they did not yet understand the Scripture that he had to rise from the dead. (Jn 20:9)  
Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.



Once again, Easter is here. Happy Easter!! One question I always like to reflect on during Easter is: Christmas or Easter, which is more important to Christianity? The answer is debatable, depending on what makes sense to you. However, the two celebrations are part of a grand narrative: the redemption story. Christ's incarnation is the beginning of God's loving action, which came to its peak on the Cross and the fullness of grace and redemption realized on the resurrection day. The resurrection of Christ reveals to us that light is more potent than darkness, love is greater than hate, and that God's mercy endures over judgment. When we sit at the bedside of a dying loved one, the Cross and the resurrection story remind us that the sufferings, pains, and difficulties of this life are transient, though painful, for sure; they do not have the last word and cannot represent the final experience. Easter means "the feast of fresh flowers." How possible is it to see and smell fresh flowers in difficult times? The joy of Easter is connected to sorrow, suffering, loss, and death. Easter joy is operative when we seem to lose control. When our life falls apart, when our friends leave us, when our health fails, Easter gives us hope that resurrection is possible. I imagine how the disciples felt when Jesus got arrested and executed. They were confused and frightened. But the resurrection story changed everything. Therefore, the resurrection of Jesus is the basis of our faith. There is a story of two women who stood before Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris. One asked, "Why can't we build structures like this anymore?" Her friend answered, "The people who built this had faith. But today, people are divided between political lines, and so opinions and conspiracy theories abound. You can't build a cathedral with opinions and conspiracy theories. Faith in the resurrection moves people to do extraordinary things for God and to see God present in our world. Let us then join in the victory song of St. John Chrysostom. "O death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory? Christ is risen, and you are abolished. Christ is risen, and the demons are cast down. Christ is risen, and the angels rejoice. Christ is risen, and life is freed. Christ is risen and the tomb is emptied of the dead: for Christ, being risen from the dead has become the Leader and Reviver of those who had fallen asleep. To Him be glory and power forever and ever." What a victory!

## TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITIONS

It has been said that the most convincing sign of the Risen Christ is the Risen Christian. Today, in parishes around the world, new life is drawn from the waters of baptism, and new Christians are thrilled to see the crowds pour in to join in the feast. On Easter, we do not say the Creed, but rather renew our baptismal promises with hearty responses. We are taking the first joyful steps of a fifty-day-long celebration. In the southern hemisphere, the world is slipping into winter, but for us in North America, the earth itself seems to sing hymns to Christ's victory. Look this morning for the paschal candle standing near the baptismal waters. It was consecrated in the hours of the night, will burn brightly for fifty days whenever we gather for prayer, and will glow again at every baptism and funeral in the year ahead. Even though we may be gathered around the candle someday in sadness, today's joy at Christ's victory over death will shine through.

James Field, copyright J.S. Paluch Co.,



A few photos from our fish fry. Many, many compliments. Thanks to everyone who contributed food and time. Events like this build community spirit.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

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  
21--Kathi Skidd  
23--Misty Sanford  
25--Charlene Meadows  
26--Vivian Higgs  
27--Ruth Coble  
29--Katie Goins, Jeff McCarter



Laugh of the Week

One Palm Sunday, a little boy had a sore throat and had to stay home from church with a sitter. When the rest of the family came home, they were carrying palm branches. The little boy asked what they were for. His father told him that people held them over Jesus’ head when he walked by. In a sad, disappointed voice, the little boy said, “Wouldn’t you know it? The one Sunday I miss, Jesus shows up!

Mass Inte

March 28--Gloria and Frank Adams  
March 31--Fennewald Family  
April 7--Freddy Payne  
April 14--David “Smokey” Millay  
April 21--Charlie Winstead

*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: Rachel Mattingly, Jamie Bisel, Larry Allen, Charlie Brown Sr, Dana and Danny Maloney, Steven Moorman, 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 Moorman, Wynter Keller, If you know of anyone who is in need of prayer or visitation, please notify the office.**

IMP—Kroger

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](http://krogercommunityrewards.com) to register. Thanks to each of you for your support.

Coming Events



If you have not had an opportunity to be part of the chapel renovations, it is not too late to make a contribution. Thank you to all who have contributed.

Blessed Sacrament Chapel

March 31--Easter Mass--10 am



March 24--\$1220.50  
Budget--\$1,094  
MTD Collection--\$.6,163.60  
MTD Budget--\$4,376  
YTD Collection--\$53,400  
YTD Budget--\$44,542

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

Outside Chicago, there is a small cemetery in the woods behind Mundelein Seminary, where I was a student. One night I was exploring it. I looked up and was shocked to see an imposing seventeen-foot angel towering over me and preparing to blow a trumpet. Adrenaline rushed through me. I gasped and uttered, “Oh my God!” Quickly I realized it was in fact a massive bronze statue. I tried to calm myself down. But it still freaked me out.

As we begin to celebrate Easter today, this image might seem a bit unnerving. But please recall that for the first disciples on the morning of the resurrection, it was precisely that. It wasn’t joyful at first, it was terrifying. It wasn’t peaceful, it was unsettling. In that Jerusalem cemetery, something otherworldly had happened. Angels announced that he was no longer dead, but alive. They had blown their trumpets, so to speak, and Jesus had risen. Soon the disciples’ shock in that dark cemetery would turn into joy.

We all have our own places of the dead, too, don’t we? Deceased loved ones. Our tired patterns of blame. Relationships stuck in resentment. Indifference to the poor. Lost dreams. Despair about our future. Fear of sickness and death. These are our “cemeteries” where we don’t expect much to happen. Today we enter — if we dare — those places with the disciples. See the mighty angel standing there, trumpet ready to blare!

— Father John Muir

| MINISTRY SCHEDULE     |                                           |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Lectors               |                                           |
| <u>Easter</u>         | Layson Brooks, Barbara Bisel              |
| <u>April 7:</u>       | Leland Herzog, Sarah Malone               |
| <u>April 14:</u>      | Katie Goins, Wayne Stephens               |
| Eucharistic Ministers |                                           |
| <u>Easter:</u>        | Vivian Higgs, Rita Moor-man, Janet Clark  |
| <u>April 7:</u>       | Greg Richardson, Greg Gough , Katie Goins |
| <u>April 14:</u>      | Sarah Malone. Holly Hollia, Misty Sanford |
| Collection & Gifts    |                                           |
| <u>March 31:</u>      | Jacques and Whitney Williams and sons     |
| <u>April 7:</u>       | Wonet Taylor, Barbara Hammond             |
| <u>April 14:</u>      | Campbell Family                           |



***May the Risen Lord fill  
you with peace and joy.  
Father John, Father Shibu,  
Sister Jeannette***

**.What Would Mary Do?**

This Easter morning, I am thinking of Mary Magdalene.

I want to know her state of mind as she approached the tomb in the darkness. Was she afraid? Was she thinking clearly? Was she tired? Had grief and trauma robbed her of her sleep the last two nights? What did she intend to do? Anoint Christ’s body, yes — but what else? Kiss his hands, trace the markings where the lash had fallen upon his skin? Say goodbye? Weep? Despair?

What were the words she planned to whisper into the cold, empty darkness that morning, as she wept over God’s body?

I don’t know anything about her state of mind that Easter morning, except that I know she wanted to be with Christ. Perhaps that was all she knew, too. Perhaps she had no other thought, no other desire, than nearness to him. She didn’t need to understand everything, and she didn’t expect answers — she didn’t dare hope for that.

But everything and everyone had fallen apart around her, and in Jesus’ presence she knew her heart would be able to rest.

If you have ever been in the midst of a crisis in your life and found yourself pacing the floors of your house when no one else is awake, muttering the words to a prayer you know by heart, you know what Mary Magdalene felt. In those moments, we do not always feel God’s presence. Sometimes, when we look for Him, we only see an empty tomb.

When these dark moments come, I pray you will remember the faithfulness of this great saint. Be like Mary Magdalene. Look for Jesus, always. You may not always find him, but he will always find you.

*“She ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them, ‘They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don’t know where they put him.’” — John 20:2*

.©LPi                      By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Readings for the Week

Monday: Acts 2:14, 22-33/Ps 16:1-2and 5, 7-11/Mt 28:8-15

Tuesday: Acts 2:36-41/Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20 and 22/Jn 20:11-18

Wednesday: Acts 3:1-10/Ps 105:1--4, 6-7 -9/Lk 24:13-35

Thursday: Acts 3:11-26/Ps 8:2 and 5-9/ Lk 24:35-48

Friday: Acts 4:1-12/Ps 118:1-2, 4, 22-27/Jn 21:1-14

Saturday: Acts 4:13-21/Ps 118:1 and 14-21/Mk 16:9-15

**Observances of Week of March 31**

.Monday: Monday within the Octave of Easter; April Fools’ Day

Tuesday: Tuesday within the Octave of Easter

Wednesday: Wednesday within the Octave of Easter

Thursday: Thursday within the Octave of Easter

Friday: Friday within the Octave of Easter

Saturday: Saturday within the Octave of Easter

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DAD, I NEED YOUR HELP TO FIND OUT WHERE IT TALKS ABOUT THE EASTER BUNNY IN THE BIBLE

**REJOICE AND BE GLAD**

During the first three or four centuries of Christianity, if you asked a Christian to name the feast days of the Church, you answer would have been a puzzled stare, for there was only one feast: the Resurrection of the Lord. Every Sunday was a feast celebrating the one great feast. Even though our calendar now has many beautiful and holy feast, we must continually be called back to the fact that all these other feasts exist because of the feast of Christ’s Passover from death to life. The psalm today proclaims this message well: “This is the day.” It is not one of many days, but it is the day of all days, the one that gives all the others their origin, purpose, meaning, and destiny. Listen carefully to Peter’s speech in Acts with its recollection of the Passion, to the words of the apostle Paul, and to the account of Mary Magdalene, John, and Peter finding the empty tomb, and you will hear the many wonderful works that God has done for us through Christ. Rejoice and be glad.!

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**LET US FEEL THE JOY**

At dawn, they went to the tomb to anoint Jesus’ body and found the first sign: the empty tomb. Their meeting with a messenger of God followed. He announced: “Jesus of Nazareth, the Crucified One, has risen; he is not here.” The women were motivated by love and were able to accept this announcement with faith: they believed and passed it on straight away; they did not keep it to themselves but passed it on....

This should happen in our lives too. Let us feel the joy of being Christian! We believe in the Risen One who conquered evil and death! Let us have the courage to “come out of ourselves” to take this joy and this light to all the places of our life!

--Pope Francis

*Where do you find joy? Ask God to help you make Jesus’ new life the center of your joy.*