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Blessed Sacrament

602 Sycamore Street • Owensboro, KY 42301 • 270-926-4741
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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



April 14, 2024 3rd Sunday of Easter

Repent and be converted that your sins may be wiped away. Acts 3:19

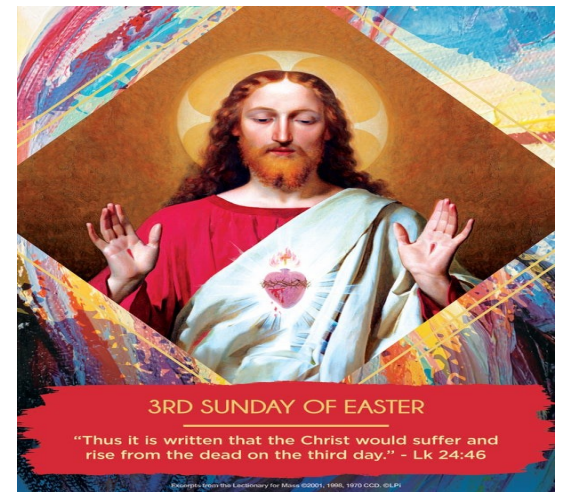
First Reading:
The author of life you put to death, but God raised him from the dead; of this we are witnesses. (Acts 3:15)

Psalm:
Lord, let your face shine on us. (Ps 4)

Second Reading:
He is expiation for our sins, and not for our sins only but for those of the whole world. (1 Jn 2:2)

Gospel:
"Thus it is written that the Christ would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day." (Lk 24:46)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969



My Dear Parishioners:

For the Christian every Sunday is a celebration of Easter Sunday. The Liturgy of the Word may have us focus on different relevant moments of the life of Christ and the early church but the Liturgy of the Eucharist always brings us back to the Easter moment. As a community, we share in the Emmaus journey where the breaking of the bread reveals to us the risen Christ that the two disciples of the today's gospel reading experienced. The privilege that we have during the Easter season, which we are in, is to further reflect on the Easter message in the readings and preaching that we receive.

The Easter season of the Church is observed between Easter Sunday and Pentecost Sunday (50 days). This is the time of transition where the disciples struggle to make sense of the events that have just taken place and their communal identity as the disciples of the risen Christ. In today's first reading, we see Peter making his first public pronouncement after the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples. Peter is preaching the Paschal mystery with conviction. His message is one that can resonate with us as we contemplate the social realities of our day. In his explanation, Peter is offering juxtaposition between the social actions of our worldly leaders and the Divine action of God. In his explanation, we can hear what the Church teaches us about society's "culture of death" and what God and His Church offer us through the "Gospel of life."

This man, delivered up by the set plan and foreknowledge of God, you killed, using lawless men to crucify him. But God raised him up, releasing him from the throes of death, because it was impossible for him to be held by it.

Saint John Paul II often spoke of the 'culture of death' in which we are currently living. All around us human life is devalued. It is the opposite of Christ's message and 'Gospel of Life'.

In the Gospel passage Jesus offers the two disciples on the way to Emmaus an explanation into the events surrounding his passion, death and resurrection by placing it within the context of the prophetic tradition. The Prophets shared in the mission to preach the countercultural word of God's justice and peace and they were persecuted for challenging the social powers of their time. The Major Prophets including Isaiah, Jeremiah and Micah all tried unsuccessfully to turn the Kingdom of Judah back from the brink of disaster through a life of fidelity to God and the adoption of a political, economic and social agenda that flows from God's vision of justice and peace. They each faced persecution and ridicule and so they placed their hopes on a future intervention where God will demonstrate the redemptive power of His own living Word. God would have to demonstrate the true power of the "Gospel of life" in the midst of our own "culture of death." Jesus is LIFE. Jesus gives LIFE. Jesus promises ETERNAL LIFE. This is our call during this Solemnity of our Salvation.

Easter Blessings, Fr. John.

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

The season of First Communions is here, and invitations pour in as the new communicants, mostly seven years old, gather extended families for their first reception of the Eucharist. Recently, the celebrations are often on Sundays, in the regular gatherings of the faith community. There, it becomes clear that First Communion is meant to initiate a regular pattern of reception, and that there is to be a second, third, hundredth, thousandth celebration.

Eastern Catholics and Orthodox children follow a different plan, since they are given a taste of the consecrated wine at their baptism as infants. We Western Christians delay until "the age of reason," but many years ago, Communion was not for children at all. Twelve to fourteen was the typical time for Roman Catholics to receive for the first time, and in those days this was a transition into the adult world of work and marriage. The custom did not begin to shift to childhood until reforms set in place by Pope St. Pius X began to take hold in the 1920's. If you are going to a First Communion, you can give thanks that the table of the Lord is open today so much more lavishly than before. --James Field Copyright J.S. Paluch co.

THANKS FOR THE DONATIONS FOR EASTER FLOWERS

Georgia Holland: In memory of **Frances Johnson, Beverly Chilton, George Holland, Mabel Holland**

Steve Coble: In memory of **Clyde Coble**

Ruth Coble: In memory of **deceased family**

Barbara Hammond: In memory of **Frances Johnson**

Cindy Clark

Jean Higgs: In memory of **Gloria Adams, Rachel Hersey, Lucille Higgs.** In honor of **Shelby Webster, Marsha Allen.**

Yvonne Mundy

Jeff and Misty Sanford



Church: God sends no churches from the skies,
Out of our hearts they must arise.

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



Smile of the Week

Reverend to his congregation: "We have good news and bad news. The bad news is that the roof needs repairing. The good news is that we have the money to pay for it."
(appreciative murmurs all round)
Reverend: "The extra bad news is that it's still in your pockets!"

We have to love until it hurts. It is not enough to say "I love." We must put that love into a living action. And how do we do that? By giving until it hurts.

Mass Intentions

- April 7--Freddy Payne
- April 14--David "Smokey" Millay
- April 21--Charlie Winstead
- April 28--Freddy Payne

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. Anna Allen, 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 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.



- April 7--\$1,323
- Budget--\$1,094
- MTD Collection--\$1,323
- MTD Budget--\$1,094
- YTD Collection--\$56,057.54
- YTD Budget--\$46,730
- Rice Bowl--\$40
- Holy Land --\$100
- Seminarians--\$52

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

When I was a kid, a friend at my home parish told me, "If you get to Mass by the Gospel reading, it counts!" As a lifelong late-arriver, it's something I have told myself many times, especially in my earlier years as a Catholic. If the "it counts" is justifiable on a pathetically minimal scale of liturgical legalism, then the Gospel reading today shows how insanely wrong-headed it is, and how helpful it is to re-think the Mass in its light.

The famous "Road to Emmaus" story recounts, on that first Sunday of the Resurrection, the basic two-fold structure of the Mass: *Word*, followed by *Eucharist*. Jesus spends a significant period of time with two dismayed disciples, as he connects a wide swath of the Hebrew scriptures with his own suffering, death, and resurrection. They would later report that this Liturgy of the Word touched their hearts with an inexplicable fire. This Word-induced flame alone is what leads the two disciples to discover Jesus' presence in the "breaking of the bread."

With this in mind, how can we possibly think that the Liturgy of the Word is unnecessary or incidental? The two disciples needed the Scriptures explained to them in order to experience Jesus alive in the eucharistic breaking of bread. Sure, we say, but they had the Risen Jesus. But that's precisely the point: Jesus is risen and accompanies us in both parts of the Mass. Imagine how much our experience of Jesus in the Eucharist would deepen if we (preachers and listeners) took even more seriously that Jesus himself sets our hearts ablaze with his Word *so that* we know him in the Eucharist. That Word-induced fire counts, too!

— Father John Muir

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Lectors

April 14: Katie Goins, Wayne Stephens
April 21: Jacques Williams, Misty Sanford
April 28: Alexis Hatchett, Barbara Bisel

Eucharistic Ministers

April 14: Sarah Malone, Holly Hollia, Misty Sanford
April 21: Barbara Bisel, Deanne Richardson, Rita Moorman,
April 28: Greg Richardson, Janet Clark, Vivian Higgs

Collection & Gifts

April 14: Campbell Family
April 21: Ethan Gough, Jax Malone

EUCCHARISTIC REFLECTION

Jesus longs to calm our troubles with his peace. His resurrected Body, with its wounds, reminds us that he has conquered death and sin. Ask Jesus to help you identify any area of your heart that still doubts, even in the slightest way, that the Eucharist you gaze upon is truly Jesus Christ—Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity. Allow him to speak to those areas with this passage from today's Gospel.

The Twist Ending

Any reader of psychological thrillers will come across the “dead main character trope” fairly often. This is the famous *Sixth Sense* twist ending (I would say “spoiler alert,” but the movie is older than most of the people who work in Youth Ministry at your archdiocese, so you’ve probably seen it by now) where the reader finds that the main character has been dead for all or most of the story.

I’m always a little disappointed when this happens. It delivers shock value, sure, but it also undermines everything that happens in the story. You’ve come on a journey with this character, only to find out that nothing you saw transpire was real in the way you thought it was. You feel a little stupid, because the whole time you only had part of the truth.

I suspect Jesus knows this about us. He knows we don’t like to have the rug pulled out. It’s why he is so up-front about his humanity following the resurrection. See how Jesus, resurrected, shows the disciples his feet, his hands. See how he asks them for food and lets them watch him eat it. See how this creates in them an understanding, a belief.

The humanity of Jesus Christ is absolutely crucial. It’s what bridges the divide between the sons of Eve and the God she defied. Our reconciliation with God cannot happen unless human flesh pays the price that will balance the scales. Human flesh: skin that can tear and bleed, bones that can break, a mouth that can thirst, a stomach that can ache with hunger.

The passion and death of Jesus Christ is not a thriller with a twist ending: *he was a ghost the whole time!* The twist, if anything, is this: he was human the whole time.

“Touch me and see, because a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you can see I have.” — Luke 24:39

Readings for the Week

Monday: Acts 6:8-15/Ps 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30/Jn 6:22-29
Tuesday: Acts 7:51—8:1/Ps 31:3-4, 6-8, 17 and 21/Jn 6:30-35
Wednesday: Acts 8:1-8/Ps 66:1-3-7/Jn 6:35-40
Thursday: Acts 8:26-40/Ps 66:8-9, 16-17, 20/Jn 6:44-51
Friday: Acts 9:1-20/Ps 117:1-2/Jn 6:52-59
Saturday: Acts 9:31-42/Ps 116:12-17/Jn 6:60-69

Observances of Week of April 14

Monday: Tax Day



Prayer in Times of Darkness

Dear Jesus,
When I feel troubled, alone, frightened, be with me. Be a flicker of flame in this darkness. Help me to know you in the stark seasons as I do in times of elation. You are the light I seek. Amen.



If angels could be jealous of men,
they would be so for one
reason: Holy Communion.

- ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE

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FULFILLMENT

It is interesting that during the Easter season, when we do not hear a reading from the Old Testament, it becomes important. This is particularly true today. Peter’s speech begins with a prayer formula familiar to Jews: “The God of Abraham... (Acts 3:13). It likewise contains the potent phrases “Holy and Righteous One” and “mouth of all the prophets”. Peter was stating in no uncertain terms that the law, psalms, and prophets had been fulfilled in Christ. This is reinforced by Jesus himself in the Gospel passage, when he states that everything in the scriptures (to the early Christians “the scriptures” were what we call the Old Testament” had to be fulfilled. Above all, Jesus and Peter both emphasize that we are witnesses to all of this, and are sent forth to bear witness to it in the world. The Latin *Missa*, from which our word “Mass” comes, means “sent” (as in “mission”). As we leave Mass today, let us remember to be witnesses to all that has been fulfilled in the risen Christ.

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Pastoral Perfection

Good news! After hundreds of years of ministers, a model pastor has been found – one who will please every church member. He is twenty-six years old and has been preaching for 30 years. He is tall, short, thin, heavysset, handsome, and has one brown eye and one blue eye. His hair is parted in the middle (blonde), left side (dark and straight) on the right side (brown and wavy). He has a burning desire to work with teenagers and spends all of his time with older folks. He smiles all the time with a straight face because he has a sense of humor that keeps him seriously dedicated to his work. He makes fifteen calls a day on church members, spends all his time evangelizing the lost, and never leaves the office.