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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 Cheriannunel  
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**Parish Life Coordinator:** Sr Jeannette Fennewald,  
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**April 21, 2024 4th Sunday of Easter**

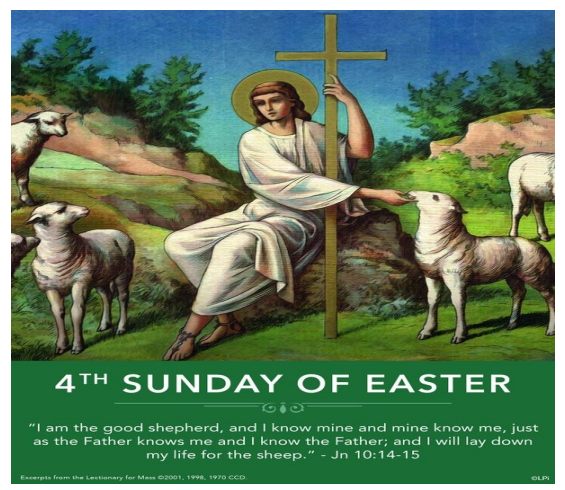
**It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in man. (Ps. 118:9)**

**First Reading:**  
 "There is no salvation through anyone else, nor is there any other name under heaven given to the human race by which we are to be saved." (Acts 4:12)

**Psalm:**  
 The stone rejected by the builders has become the cornerstone. (Ps 118)

**Second Reading:**  
 Beloved, we are God's children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed. We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. (1 Jn 3:2)

**Gospel:**  
Jesus said:  
 "I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." (Jn 10:11)  
 Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.



My Dear Parishioners:

Jesus says 'I am'. The Gospel today identifies Jesus as 'The Good Shepherd'. This Sunday is often referred to as 'Good Shepherd Sunday'. These "I am" sayings in the gospel of John are simply stated and easily grasped at a basic level. They are, at the same time, invitations into a lifelong relationship with Jesus in which we live into the promises they make. That means that the Good Shepherd who was there for me as a child is still here for me as an adult seeking to grow in faith amid personal and cultural challenges to that faith. John's Gospel has been aptly described as a book in which a child can wade and an elephant can swim.

It is through the Gospel of John that we learn this basic truth: Jesus' Identity Shapes Ours.

Each promise says something about Jesus' identity and something about ours as individuals and communities when we live in relationship to him. Put another way, each one says something about Christology and something about discipleship:

Food: I am the bread of life (John 6:35)

Light: I am the light of the world (8:12)

A path to follow: I am the Way, the truth and the life (14:6)

A gate to get onto the path: I am the Gate for the sheep (10:7)

Someone trustworthy to follow: I am the Good Shepherd (10:11)

An eternal journey: I am the Resurrection and the Life (11:25)

A life that bears the fruit of that walk: I am the True Vine (15:1)

Jesus is a Strange Kind of Shepherd. . .

Let's zoom in on this image of the Good Shepherd and see if we can move beyond familiarity to understanding and deeper faith for our daily lives. It comes right after the expulsion of the formerly blind man from the synagogue, so the "thieves and robbers" Jesus refers to are probably the Pharisees. Jesus warns about thieves and bandits, and then elaborates on their failings. They speak with an unfamiliar voice, they come only to steal and kill and destroy. They see the wolf coming and leave the sheep because they do not care for the sheep. In this swirling mass of negatives, the Good Shepherd stands firm, undaunted by danger, not intimidated by threats. He is unmoved because his motivation is love for the sheep.

All seven "I am" sayings have the effect of unifying Jesus' followers. The unity of the Father and the Son, a key theme in John's gospel, is to be mirrored in the unity of the community that gathers around Jesus. Because there is one and only one Good Shepherd, there is one flock that gathers around him.

Listen to how the "I am" sayings serve to unify those who believe in Jesus.

Since Jesus is food, discipleship means gathering around the table.

Since Jesus is light, discipleship means coming out of our dark corners and gathering in the middle of the room together.

Since Jesus is a path to follow, discipleship means walking together along it.

Since Jesus is an eternal journey, discipleship means a group pilgrimage of walking in the way that leads to life.

Since Jesus is the Vine, discipleship means being the branches, people whose lives derive their fruitfulness from him.

Since Jesus is the Good Shepherd, then discipleship means being sheep who find their life and well-being in his care.

Jesus was and is the Good Shepherd. He is with us always. He will never leave us. His only desire is to draw us to himself. And yes, that makes all of us his little sheep. Where he leads ..we follow - together.

Easter blessings, Fr. John

## 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***

**Just as the drop of water poured into the chalice at Mass mingles completely with the wine, so should your life become one with that of Christ. --Francis Xavier Nguyen Van Thuan**



### APRIL BIRTHDAYS

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

### MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 3--Mae Campbell
- 7--Connie Clary
- 8--Mary Ann Terry
- 12--Tess Campbell ,Cindy Clark, Brent Hatchett
- 14--Steve Coble



#### Laugh of the Week

An exasperated mother, whose son was always getting into mischief, finally asked him, "Tommy, how do you expect to get into heaven someday?" The boy thought it over and explained, "Well, I'll just run in and out and in and out and keep slamming the gate until St. Peter says, "For heaven's sake, Tommy, come in or stay out.'"

### Mass Intentions

- April 7--Freddy Payne
- April 14--David "Smokey" Millay
- April 21--Charlie Winstead
- April 28--Freddy Payne
- May 5--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: Rachel Mattingly, Larry Allen, Charlie Brown Sr, Rudy Moorman, 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, Pam Wilson, Shelby Webster, 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



- May 2--McDonald's Night 5-7 pm
- May 3/4 ???--Move into church

**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 14--\$1,685
- Budget--\$1,094
- MTD Collection--\$3,008
- MTD Budget--\$2,188
- YTD Collection--\$57,743
- YTD Budget--\$47, 824

**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

Recently I was with my little dog Libby at a retreat center in the Arizona desert. I sat in a chair near a ravine filled with shrubs. Unbeknownst to me, Libby wandered down there and disappeared. Suddenly an animal's wild shriek erupted from the area. Without thinking, I bolted down into the ravine fully expecting to see coyotes, javelinas, or rattlesnakes. I didn't care. I desperately wanted to get Libby out of there, without any self-regard. Before I could face whatever danger lay hidden, my dog blissfully trotted out from an entirely different area, utterly unaware that I had (quite heroically) just placed my life on the line.

When the adrenaline wore off, I thought to myself: how far would I have been willing to go to save her? I don't know. But I do know, if I had literally died, my friends and family would have certainly thought me insane for dying for a dog. No offense, Libby.

How passionately Jesus wants us to know him and his willingness to die for us! This week he says, "**I know my own and my own know me,**" and "**I lay down my life for the sheep.**" Here we encounter an insanelly excessive love for us. Christianity is a relationship and not simply a religion or ethical code. In Jesus, God rescues and saves us. He laid down his life for you and me — and he has taken it up again. So often we are like Libby — blissfully ignorant of the reality of both our spiritual danger and his saving love. This Easter season, the risen Jesus calls us to be more conscious than ever before about his love. He never ceases to lay down his life for us.

— Father John Muir

## MINISTRY SCHEDULE

### Lectors

<u>April 21:</u>	Jacques Williams, Misty Sanford
<u>April 28:</u>	Alexis Hatchett, Barbara Bisel
<u>May 5:</u>	Layson Brooks, Greg Gough

### Eucharistic Ministers

<u>April 21:</u>	Barbara Bisel, Denise Richardson Rita Moorman, Greg Richardson, Janet Clark, Vivian Higgs
<u>April 28:</u>	Misty Sanford, Cindy Clark, Sarah Malone

### Collection & Gifts

<u>April 21:</u>	Ethan Gough, Jax Malone
<u>May 5:</u>	Kathy Skidd, Emma Latta
<u>May 12:</u>	Campbell Family

## CHILD AND YOUTH PROTECTION

Every April Catholic parishes and schools across the United States participate in National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Special emphasis is placed on the importance of learning how to protect the vulnerable from this evil. The blue pin-wheels at the front of our chapel and around town are a reminder of this.

## PRAYER FOR HEALING

Gentle Jesus, hear the cries of our brothers and sisters who have been gravely harmed and the cries of those who love them. Grant them justice for their cause. Holy Spirit, heal your people's wounds and transform brokenness into wholeness. Grant that all harmed by abuse may find peace in justice. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen

## The Good Shepherd and the Wolf

I remember very clearly the first movie I watched during my pregnancy with my eldest child. In this film, there is a scene where a young boy is kidnapped and shoved into the back of a van guarded by vicious dogs. His mother persists in trying to free him, even as the dogs snap at her. Their bared teeth and full-throated snarls don't slow her efforts in the slightest.

It wasn't a great movie or even a particularly great scene, but I'll never forget this scene. I'll never forget those dogs.

I had just learned that I was a mother a few days ago. The life growing deep within seemed to me as frail as a whispered secret, but I loved it powerfully. I worried constantly if the baby was safe and healthy. I agonized over signs — real or imagined — that could tell me if the poppyseed-sized child was thriving or failing.

I understood, for the first time in my life, why a woman would charge a pack of attack dogs without hesitation — not because she should, but because she has to.

She could choose not to fight, certainly. She could walk away. But why would she? A future without her son is so much more painful than any physical wound. She may fear for her life, but she fears a life without her child so much more.

The Good Shepherd discourse reveals to us the motivation behind God's actions throughout all of salvation history. From Adam to Noah to Abraham, all the way down to the time of the Messiah and beyond, He keeps trying to get us back. He keeps braving the attack dogs, time after time. He never stops. He never grows weary. And it baffles us: *what's in it for Him?* we wonder, because we are quicker to give up on ourselves than He is. *Why does He keep trying?*

He could choose not to fight, sure. But why would He? He doesn't want a future without us.

*"I will lay down my life for the sheep." — John 10:11*

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### Readings for the Week

Monday:	Acts 11:1-18/Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4/Jn 10:1-10
Tuesday:	Acts 11:19-26/Ps 87:1-7/Jn 10:22-30
Wednesday:	Acts 12:24—13:5/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8/Jn 12:44-50
Thursday:	1 Pt 5:5-14/Ps 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17/Mk 16:15-20
Friday:	Acts 13:26-33/Ps 2:6-7--11/Jn 14:1-6
Saturday:	Acts 13:44-52/Ps 98:1, 2-4/Jn 14:7-14

### Observances for the week of April 21, 2024

Sunday:	World Day of Prayer for Vocations
Monday:	Earth Day
Tuesday:	St. George, Martyr;
Wednesday:	St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen, Administrative Professionals' Day
Thursday:	St. Mark, Evangelist
Friday:	Arbor Day



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

- ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE

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## RESPONDING TO THE CALL

Do we truly know the voice of Christ? Do we truly respond to the voice of our shepherd with our own distinctive voice? How often do we attempt to imitate those around us, appropriating the response of another member of the flock to Christ. Perhaps we need to balance the image of being sheep of one flock with the image from the second reading, which tells us that we are all children of God. What child has precisely the same interaction with parents as his or her siblings? Instead, they frequently do and say things to distinguish themselves in the eyes of their parents.

Whether we use the image of children or of sheep to understand our relationship with Christ, we believe that we are all known and called by name. With this great gift comes a responsibility: to respond to the call with our own distinctive voice, to take time to discern exactly what our call is, to determine precisely what the will of the Father is for each of us.

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## Earth Day--Laudato Si'

Once we start to think about the kind of world we are leaving to future generations, we look at things differently; we realize that the world is a gift which we have freely received and must share with others. Since the world has been given to us, we can no longer view reality in a purely utilitarian way, in which efficiency and productivity are entirely geared to our individual benefit. Intergenerational solidarity is not optional, but rather a basic question of justice, since the world we have received also belongs to those who will follow us. The Portuguese bishops have called upon us to acknowledge this obligation of justice: "The environment is part of a logic of receptivity. It is on loan to each generation, which must then hand it on to the next".[124] An integral ecology is marked by this broader vision.