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Safe Environment The safety of our children is the responsibility of every Christian. Anyone aware of the abuse of a person under the age of eighteen is required by law to report this to the proper state authorities (800-422-4453); local law enforcement (800-752-6200); or the Kentucky Child Abuse Hotline (toll-free: 1-877-597- 2331). To report abuse to the diocese, current or past, by anyone acting in the name of the Church (paid or volunteer), call Louanne Payne, Pastoral Assistance Coordinator (English) on the confidential phone line: 270-852-8380, or Susan Montalvo-Gesser/Miguel Quintanilla, Pastoral Assistance Coordinators (Spanish): 270-880-8360. The Diocese of Owensboro’s sexual abuse policy is available at this parish (in the bookshelf in back of the church), in the parish office and hall, and on the diocesan website (<https://owensborodiocese.org/safe>). To make a report of sexual abuse of a minor and related misconduct by bishops, go to ReportBishopAbuse.org or call 1-800-276-1562



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

First Reading:

Then Barnabas took charge of him and brought him to the apostles, and he reported to them how he had seen the Lord, and that he had spoken to him. (Acts 9:27)

Psalm:

I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people. (Ps 22)

Second Reading:

And his commandment is this: we should believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another just as he commanded us. (1 Jn 3:23)

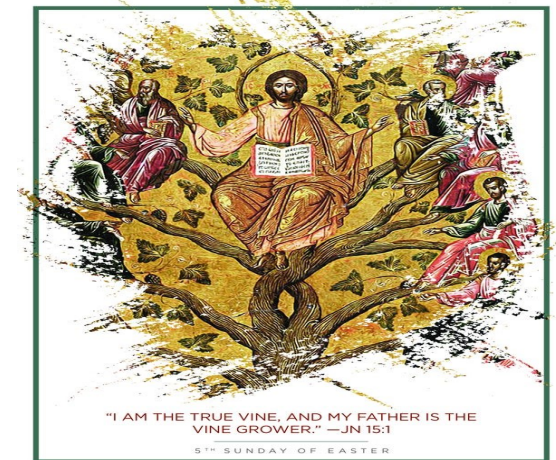
Gospel:

“I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing.” (Jn 15:5)



April 28, 2024 5th Sunday of Easter

**Let us love not in word or speech
but in deed and truth. 1John 3:18.**



My Dear Parishioners:

Do not let your hearts be troubled. Have faith in God and have faith in me.

On a scale of 1-10 how troubled is your heart today? There are days where my heart is troubled! So if you have troubled hearts what's troubling you on this Easter day? Is it the world that worries you? The war, the economy? Is it the housing market or your work? Is it personal issues like illness, aging parents, and strained relationships? What is troubling you today? Maybe nothing. Maybe you are feeling completely at peace and ecstatically happy! Well Alleluia! Happy Easter! That is what we are supposed to feel in this Easter Season. We are supposed to feel the peace and joy that comes from knowing that we are healed, reconciled, loved, known, embraced fully by the God who has created us.

Are we there yet? Do we echo the words of Philip in the Gospel today, "Master we do not know where we are going, How can we know the Way? The Gospel today gives us a way out of our troubles, anxieties, worries. Of course it doesn't make those troubles disappear. But it may help to give us a little more of the peace and joy that is the Easter promise.

Jesus speaks to our hearts today very simply. He speaks words of faith, of hope and love. He asks us to trust God and trust him. That is what faith is all about. He invites us to hope that he will always be there for us. "I am going to prepare a place for you. In my father's house there are many dwelling places. I will come back for you and take you with me". He invites us to share intimately in the love that he has for the father and the father has for him. Faith, hope and love; these are not abstract ideas but real lived relationship with the person of Jesus.

Sometimes when I ask people who Jesus is for them, the response I receive is "model, teacher, guide, Lord, Son of God etc." The answers usually refer to the titles that the Church gives him or the human life he led that inspires us to lead good lives. Jesus, of course, wants to be so much more than an inspiration for a good life. He wants to be THE Way, THE truth, THE life for us. He wants to be the be all and end all that enables us to have life abundantly. He wants this first-hand, personal experience of him to be so much for us. Especially in our troubles, he comes to us. He walks with us. He knows what it feels to have a troubled heart. We join our suffering with his that our hearts no matter what we face will have no fear or become like stone. We mustn't be afraid.

The challenge for us is how we see Jesus as so much more than an inspirational figure. Pope Francis is continually calling us and showing us this truth. When we see the Holy Father we have had a glimpse of the gentle, compassionate, smiling, joyful shepherd whom many did not expect to see in such a compelling way. Many expected to see and hear a critic and judge. The person of Pope Francis has been surprisingly loving and hopeful, proclaiming the joy of being a follower, a disciple of Jesus and recognizing him as the Way, the Truth and the Life.

And with Jesus too, we have to find ways of seeing more than the image and hearing more than the teaching. We are invited into a real relationship with him as one who lives in our midst and breathes the breath of life into us so that we may have faith, hope and love.

Easter Blessings, Fr. John.

*I am the living bread that came down from heaven;
whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread
that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world.*

Scandal, division, disease, doubt. The Church has withstood each of these throughout our very human history. But today we confront all of them, all at once. Our response in this moment is pivotal. In the midst of these roaring waves, **Jesus is present**, reminding us that he is more powerful than the storm. He desires to heal, renew, and unify the Church and the world. How will he do it? By uniting us once again around the source and summit of our faith in the celebration of the Eucharist. The National Eucharistic Revival is the joyful, expectant, grassroots response of the entire Catholic Church in the U.S. to this divine invitation.

May 17, 2024 – July 16, 2024

This will be one of the largest Eucharistic pilgrimages in history. Just as crowds followed Christ throughout his earthly ministry, our nation will process with our Eucharistic Lord over 6,500 miles—through cities, along highways, and past rural towns—on his way to the 10th National Eucharistic Congress.

The Perpetual Pilgrims will pass through the Diocese of Owensboro June 30-July 3.--Russelville, KY, Fathers of Mercy in Auburn, KY, Holy Spirit, St. Joseph, Gasper River Camp in Bowling Green, KY.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 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

A priest and a pastor were standing by the side of the road holding up a sign that reads "The end is near! Turn around now before it's too late!" A passing driver yells, "You guys are nuts!" and speeds past them. From around the curve they hear screeching tires— then a big splash. The priest turns to the pastor and says, "Do you think we should just put up a sign that says 'Bridge Out' instead?"

Mass Intentio

- April 14--David "Smokey" Millay
- April 21--Charlie Winstead
- April 28--Freddy Payne
- May 5--David "Smokey" Millay
- May 12--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, Larry Allen, Charlie Brown Sr, Ryan 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 to register. Thanks to each of you for your support.

Coming Events



- May 2--McDonald's Night 5-7 pm
- May 3/4 6pm, 10 am--Move into church-
- May 10--Scripture sharing 10:45

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 21--\$1161
- Budget--\$1094
- MTD Collection--\$4,169.50
- MTD Budget--\$3,282
- YTD Collection--\$58,904.04
- YTD Budget--\$48,918

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

My friend and fellow pastor, Father Paul, noticed unsightly, overgrown trees near his parish church. He asked the maintenance crew to cut back the growth, which they happily did, telling him the trees would be much healthier and even fuller after a good pruning. A few days later, Father Paul received a letter from an irate man in the neighborhood who wrote, "Jesus would never prune trees like that. He loves trees, unlike you."

I suspect that the neighbor was not familiar with this week's Gospel in which Jesus says of his Father, "He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit" (John 15:2) I don't mean to pick too much on that fellow. He was perhaps ignorant of arboriculture. But I'd wager his main confusion was the pruning and removing quality of God's love. That confusion afflicts us all to some degree, doesn't it? It is just so darn easy to react negatively when God cuts something out of our lives and assume it's not his work at all. In the moment, all we see is the loss, and not the loving desire for future flourishing.

The cross is the great pruning of Christ's body. Jesus' rising is the brand-new growth. It is God's promise to us that all the painful pruning in life is leading us somewhere beautiful. What has been cut back or out in your life? A friend, an opportunity, a sense of certainty, a job, health, a relationship? This week, offer those dry branches to the one who lovingly prunes us in order to make our lives burst with verdant growth. — Father John Muir

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Lectors

April 28: Alexis Hatchett, Barbara Bisel
May 5: Layson Brooks, Greg Gough
May 12: Sarah Malone, Wayne Stevens

Eucharistic Ministers

April 28: Greg Richardson, Janet Clark, Vivian Higgs
May 5: Misty Sanford, Cindy Clark, Katie Goins
May 12: Greg Gough, Vivian Higgs, Holly Hollis

Collection & Gifts

April 28: Kathy Skidd, Emma Latta
May 5: Jacques,, Whitney Williams and sons
May 12: 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

Love in Deed

It's a Wonderful Life is one of my favorite Christmas movies. It only occurred to me recently, though, that this film, for all its yuletide aesthetic, is actually more of an Easter story. I love this movie because it's a very Catholic film — not overtly, although we do see the main character, George Bailey, going to Mass. No, it's the themes that are Catholic, not the set dressing. It's a story about the choices we make — to love, or not to love? To sacrifice, or not to sacrifice? To put oneself first, or to put oneself last? It's a story about what the consequences of those choices look like here in the world, and what they look like in heaven.

In the film, we meet a young George Bailey who dreams of growing up to do amazing, impressive things. Over the years, he makes a choice here and he makes a choice there ... and when all is said and done, the adult George Bailey is a tired, overworked husband and father with no worldly attributes that anyone would envy. But he's a man who has loved in deed, not just in word, and who has reaped the spiritual rewards of those choices.

The season of Easter is about rejoicing in true redemption, not in worldly triumph. The Word of God is not a bedtime story. It's a pruning shear. To hear it is to be changed, to be shaped. To live it is to lose some things, so that you might bloom in unexpected ways. To welcome the Word is to be willing to look different, to feel different. Anyone can say, "I love you, I accept you, I want to help you." But what does it actually look like, to love in deed and not just in word? It looks like giving something up: free time, wealth, comfort, worldly approval. It looks, to the casual observer, like pain.

To someone who has no concept of how plants grow and thrive, a gardener's pruning shears look like an executioner's sword. To someone who has no concept of how souls grow and thrive, a tomb barred by a stone looks like the end of a story, when in fact it's just the beginning.

"Children, let us love not in word or speech, but in deed and truth." — 1 John 3:18

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Readings for the Week

.Monday: Acts 14:5-18/Ps 115:1-4, 15-16/Jn 14:21-26
Tuesday: Acts 14:19-28/Ps 145:10-13, 21/Jn 14:27-31a
Wednesday: Acts 15:1-6/Ps 122: 1-5/Jn 15:1-8
Thursday: Acts 15:7-21/Ps 96:1-3, 10/Jn 15:9-11
Friday: 1 Cor 15:1-8/Ps 19:2-5/Jn 14:6-14
Saturday: Acts 16:1-10/Ps 100:1-3, 5/Jn 15:18-21

Observances for the week of April 28, 2024

Monday: St. Catherine of Siena, Virgin
Tuesday: St. Pius V, Pope
Wednesday: St. Joseph the Worker
Thursday: St. Athanasius, Bishop
National Day of Prayer
Friday: Sts. Philip and James,

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

Thursday May 2

Courthouse lawn

◇ Bible reading 11:30-11:50

◇ Prayer and Worship 11:50-12:00

SMALL TASKS Each small task of everyday life is part of the total harmony of the universe. St. Therese of Lisieux

BEARING FRUIT

Few of us, even when we meditate on the image of the vine and branches, stop to really think about how God "prunes" us. For some there is the danger of thinking that we are already producing fruit for the kingdom, in deed and truth as John says, perhaps rising a family, being active in our parish, and so on. But even those branches which are bearing fruit, the Gospel tells us, can be pruned to produce still more. Today Saul, freshly "pruned" by his conversion, arrives in Jerusalem and meets resistance. Since he had been persecuting Christians, this was only natural. But even after he is accepted and begins to bear fruit, he meets further adversity, and his letters are filled with many accounts of how his trials "pruned" him to produce greater fruit for the kingdom. Like him, as long as we remain in Christ we will continue to bear fruit and, when the will of the Father determines it is time to prune us, the strength of the true vine must enable us to endure it.

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Cameron Malone will be confirmed on the Feast of Pentecost on May 19th at the Cathedral. Please keep him in prayer.

Holy Spirit, you are the giver of many gifts which God wants to give each of the Confirmation candidates. Open their hearts and their minds as they prepare for Confirmation. Help each Candidate to know that You are confirming all the goodness that they are and all the goodness that they will become. Amen.

