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Blessed Sacrament

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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



May 19, 2024, Pentecost

How manifold are your works, O Lord!



PENTECOST SUNDAY

Jesus said to his disciples: “When the Advocate comes whom I will send you from the Father, the Spirit of truth that proceeds from the Father, he will testify to me.” - Jn 15:26

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

My Dear Parishioners:

Today is popularly known as the Birthday of the Church, but this is actually a very weak analogy. The more proper term to encapsulate today's solemnity is the 'epiphany of the Church' as Pope Pius XII hinted in his encyclical *Mystici Corporis Christi*. This is so because, our tradition tells us that the Church was born with the death of Christ and manifested on the day of Pentecost. However, naming the solemnity today is not the main point here. The essence of today's celebration is that Jesus and the Father have fulfilled their promise to us, that they don't leave us orphans, that they would send the Holy Spirit to empower us, to enliven us, to guide us to the truth, and today is the day. When Jesus left his disciples for heaven as we celebrated last Sunday, they felt like orphans, abandoned and confused, reserved and more so, they were afraid of the authorities. So they were hiding behind locked doors. That is their comfort zone. And in there, they felt safe, secured and supported. What they were doing though was a direct contrast to what Jesus has entrusted them to do, that is to go out to all the world and proclaim the good news. As human as they are, we can understand their worries and anxieties. We might call it cowardice, but for the disciples in the upper room, they felt safe. But Jesus appeared to them there and his first message was 'peace' and then he parted to them his gift, the Holy Spirit. And as we have heard from Luke in the first reading today, the disciples were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak foreign languages as the Spirit gave them the gift of speech. So here is the moment of epiphany, the manifestation of the Church, and the manifestation of her mission to all people. The gift of the Holy Spirit transforms them right there and then, from being cowards to being courageous. And we know the story, they went out proclaiming the message of the gospel, to all people in their own different languages according to the inklings of the Holy Spirit.

Since the event of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit is continuously working more actively in the world, in each believer, and in the Church. Thus, we have thousands of witnesses of the working of this Holy Spirit such as the Saints, the martyrs, the philanthropists, the missionaries, among many others. We have the Holy Spirit working in our world by the move to unite all people in works of social justice, to be advocates of peace, etc. The same Holy Spirit works in the Apostles, down to the Early Fathers, then to the Modern Church. It is also the same message... the message of peace.

The same Holy Spirit is dwelling within each one of us today, empowering us to get out of our comfort zones and to proclaim the message of peace to all people. It is hard, but it is only burdensome if we take the whole credit for ourselves. God wants to channel us his grace. God wishes to make us an instrument of his peace. So why not let him be. It is God's work, we are just his workers. There are many ways we can preach the message of peace. We do not have to go out to other countries, and go to remote areas and preach the gospel

Do you remember? Many times in my homilies I have spoken about the mission of the church belonging to each and every one of us? When we go out today, just give a genuine smile to a stranger you will meet. Give a call or note to someone whom you were not talking to for a while now. Go out for meal with someone with whom you are not exactly comfortable to be around And so on. This is the message of Pentecost. To embrace the Holy Spirit, to open ourselves to become the temple of the Holy Spirit, where peace, love and joy abide.

Especially here at Blessed Sacrament Chapel, we should be mindful even more clearly the ways in which the Spirit moves in our community, our families and our city. We reach out to friends and strangers alike. So, to continue our celebration today, let us pray, *Veni Creator Spiritus (Come Creator Spirit)* and renew the face of the Earth. It is through the gift of the Holy Spirit we are renewed and the Church is alive. Alleluia! Blessings, Fr. John

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Devised and planned by Carlo Acutis
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Saint Stephen Cathedral
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Confession available 9:30 am – 4:00 pm
SUNDAY, JUNE 2, 2024
9:30 am – 5:00 pm
For more information, visit ststephencathedral.org



MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 8--Mary Ann Terry
- 12--Tess Campbell ,Cindy Clark, Brent Hatchett
- 14--Steve Coble
- 18--Tina McHenry
- 19--Lad Ottofy
- 20--Christian Trevor
- 22--Charles Brown , Sr.
- 23--John Carson Malone
- 26--Diane Hatchett
- 30--Karen Leachman
- 31--Layson Brooks, Barbara Hammond



Christian love in action:
Comedian Jerry Clower tells a story about Christian love in action. Two Christian business- men were having lunch in a downtown restaurant. The waitress serving their table dumped a bowl of hot soup right over one of these businessmen. Everybody gasped and stared. “They just couldn’t wait for the manager to run out and fire this lady. They just couldn’t wait for this man, standing there, dripping, with his suit ruined, to cuss this waitress out, but the fellow looked at that waitress and said, ‘Young lady, I am so sorry this happened to you. I know it embarrasses you.’” How would we have handled that situation?

Mass Intentions

- .May 5--David “Smokey” Millay
- May 12--Freddy Payne
- May 19--David “Smokey” Millay
- May 26--Freddy Payne
- June 2--Blessed Sacrament Parishioners

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: China Dulin, 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. 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 19--Confirmation -Cameron Malon2
- May 24--Scripture Sharing 10:45
- June 9--Important Parish Meeting 11 am
- August 25--BSC 75th anniversary celebration 4 pm Mass

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



- May 12--\$1,360.50
- Budget--\$1094
- MTD Collection--\$3,054.52
- MTD Budget--\$2,188
- YTD Collection--\$63,128.06
- YTD Budget--\$52,200

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
Pentecost Sunday

When I was twenty-two years of age in August of 2000, I experienced World Youth Day in Rome. As for many of my generation, the event was life-changing for me. Surrounded by joyful, hope-filled young people from seemingly every nation and tongue, we were gathered around the Pope, sharing a common Faith and love. The Pope spoke to us of our shared family bond in the Church and invited us to give our lives in service to others. Now twenty-four years later, my life as a priest, like that of so many others from those special days, continues on that same path of love and unity — despite my many weaknesses. What makes that continuation possible?

This week’s feast gives the answer: the Holy Spirit. The gift of God — His very life — the third person of the Trinity, is the Spirit who animates the entire Church and each member of it. He makes us one-in-love in a way that utterly exceeds human capacity. For example, he makes the apostles speak with tongues of fire, and everyone hears them in his own native tongue. The Holy Spirit is the means by which Jesus establishes a new family, one that crosses all possible boundaries of time, space, and culture. The Holy Spirit never tires in enthusing us for mission.

Aren’t we longing to experience the Holy Spirit in a fresh way? Today we celebrate this untiring flame, once ignited on earth and burning still. So, we humbly cry out: Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and enkindle in us the fire of your love! — Father John Muir

MINISTRY SCHEDULE	
Lectors	
<u>May 19:</u>	Leland Herzog, Barbara Bisel
<u>May 26:</u>	Jacques Williams, Katie Goins
<u>June 2:</u>	Misty Sanford, Leland Herzog
Eucharistic Ministers	
<u>May 19:</u>	Janet Clark, Rita Moorman, Denise Richardson
<u>May 26:</u>	Barbara Bisel, Sarah Malone, Greg Richardson
<u>June 2:</u>	Cindy Clark, Katie Goins, Greg Gough
Collection & Gifts	
<u>May 19.:</u>	Kathi Skidd, Emma Latta
<u>May 26:</u>	Fain Family

Treasures from our Tradition

The roots of today’s “birthday of the church” are in an ancient Jewish festival of springtime harvest, seven weeks after Passover. In the countries where the Church first came to life, this is a time of harvest and the first fruits appear: apricots, lemons, cherries, and strawberries. Evenin our gardsen, hrbs are abundant. The earth is laden with so much new life, and that has always been a sign to Christians of Easter’s glory.

Pentecost means “fifty” and our fifty days of Easter joy are complete. This Sunday is a day to savor the glory of Easter once more: picnics, cookoouts, walks by the water--are all ways of extending the feast. Notice the Paschal candle today, still burning during Mass. Our Easterr celebration no complete, the candle will soon be moved toa place near the baptismal font, and be lighted at Baptisms and funeral as a silent witness to Christ’s abiding presence.

Spirit to Spirit

Talk to any couple who are devoted to one another. Ask them when they realized they were in love — call-me-in-a-crisis love, face-the-day-to-day-with-me love — and the answer will probably not be “When I realized he was only dating me to win a bet with his boss.” If you know what movie that references, you and 12-year-old me would have been great friends.

Like any other self-respecting American tween of the early 2000s, I used to watch a lot of romantic comedies. I forget how old I was when I realized that romantic comedies are actually ... really boring. Not because they’re about love — true love is *fascinating*. I could watch real-life people talk about who they love for *hours*.

Because when we say we love someone — truly love them — what we mean is we love their spirit. We love what they are. We love the qualities that escape description, the attributes we have to talk around or reduce to cliché in order to define. We cannot love a body alone. We cannot love a name or a reputation. We cannot love a story that we’ve built around a relationship. To be in love with someone you need to know their spirit. Intimately. And that knowledge cannot help but change everything about you. It changes your goals, your understanding of the world. It changes the amount of courage you have to face the life ahead of you. It changes your ability to be who God wants you to be.

The disciples lived and ate and walked with Jesus for three whole years before they really knew his spirit. They didn’t know it on Good Friday when they scattered and hid and wept. They didn’t know it on Easter Sunday, when they couldn’t believe what they saw. They thought they loved him, but when push came to shove their love failed. But by the end of their lives, the disciples knew the kind of love that sustained them even in the face of martyrdom.

What was it that changed? It was the Spirit. They finally knew the Spirit.

“No one can say, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ except by the Holy Spirit.” — 1 Corinthians 12:3

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Readings for the Week	
.Monday:	Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 87:1-2, 3 and 5, 6-7/Jn 19:25-34
Tuesday:	Jas 4:1-10/Ps 55:7-8-11, 23/Mk 9:30-37
Wednesday:	Jas 4:13-17/Ps 49:2-3, 6-11/Mk 9:38-40
Thursday:	Jas 5:1-6/Ps 49:14--20/Mk 9:41-50
Friday:	Jas 5:9-12/Ps 103:1-4, 8-9, 11-12/Mk 10:1-12
Saturday:	Jas 5:13-20/Ps 141:1-3 and 8/Mk 10:13-16

Observances for the week of May 19, 2024

.Monday:	Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church
Tuesday:	St. Christopher Magallanes,
Wednesday:	St. Rita of Cascia, Religious
Saturday:	St. Bede the Venerable, St. Gregory VII, Pope; St. Mary Magdalene de’Pazzi, Virgin
Next Sunday:	The Most Holy Trinity

LORD, SEND OUT YOUR SPIRIT

In today’s responsorial psalm the Church sings out “Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.” All three readings describe how God has answered that prayer already.

In the first reading from the Acts of the apostles and in the Gospel passage from John, we ready of astonishing events that called cowering disciples to step out of hiding and proclaim news that would condemn them and change the world forever! In the second reading Paul’s words reach out into the future to us: “we were all given to drink of one Spirit.”

It is our task to truly pray today’s psalm response. Let us together beg the Holy spirit to renew the earthly renewing the church, sending many more men and women to serve in its various ministries. Copyright J.S. Paluch Co.

GUIDE US TODAY: Holy Spirit, you who pointed out the way for your disciples to announce the Gospel, we pray to you: As in the time of the apostles, guide today’s messengers of the Good News.

.LANGUAGE PROBLEM

A Polish man moved to the United States and married an American girl. Although his English was far from perfect, they got along very well. Until one day he rushed into a lawyer’s office and asked him if he could arrange a divorce for him. The lawyer said that getting a divorce would depend on the circumstances and asked him the following questions: Lawyer: Have you any grounds? Man: Yes, an acre and a half and a nice little home. Lawyer: No, I mean what is the foundation of this case? Man: It’s made of concrete. Lawyer: I don’t think you understand. Does either of you have a real grudge? Man: No, we have a carport. Lawyer: I mean, what are your relations like? Man: All my relations are still in Poland. Lawyer: Is there any infidelity in your marriage? Man: We have a high fidelity stereo and a good DVD player. Lawyer: Does your wife beat you up? Man: No, I always wake up before her. Lawyer: Sir, exactly why do you want this divorce? Man: She is going to kill me. Lawyer: What makes you think that? Man: I have proof. Lawyer: What kind of proof? Man: She is going to poison me. She bought a bottle and put it on the shelf in the bathroom. I can read it and it says...Polish remover.