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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:

The circumcised believers who had accompanied Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit should have been poured out on the Gentiles also, for they could hear them speaking in tongues and glorifying God. (Acts 10:45-46)

Psalm:

The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power. (Ps 98)

Second Reading:

Whoever is without love does not know God, for God is love. (1 Jn 4:8)

Gospel:

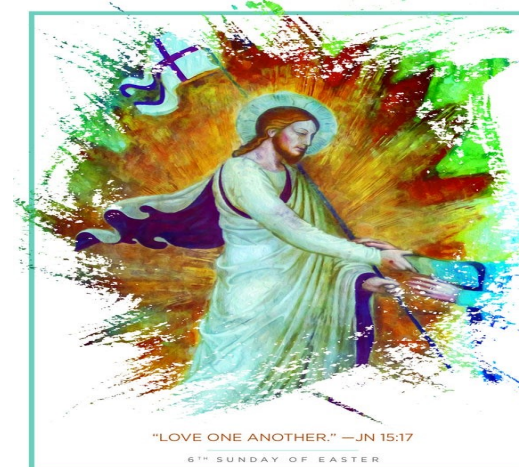
“No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.” (Jn 15:13)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998,



May 5, 2024, 6th Sunday of Easter

**Let us love one another
because love is of God. (1 Jn. 4:7)**



My Dear Parishioners:

Every year as the weather warms and winter clothing is retired for the season, I prepare and offer thoughts on “modesty.” I offer the following as pastoral teaching. And, as a teacher, I do commit to practice what I teach, but admit that I am not an enforcer or police officer. I ask that parishioners observe these standards for God’s sake and that of their neighbor. The true attractiveness of the human person is not to be found in ‘sexiness’, but in the personal goodness by which he or she manifests the image of God. The beauty of sexual values is very real and its truth is found in the holy service of faithful love and life. “Sex appeal” in our culture, by contrast, refers to the lure of lust. The human person is worthy of more, much more.

The virtue of modesty upholds the personal dignity of the child of God. It practices a positive honoring of one’s human dignity and honors the human dignity of others as persons. It honors the Creator who made us, body and soul, in the divine image. The opposing vices dishonor God, self, or others by way of lust, manipulation, abuse, or some other form of disrespect. It is more and more clear to me that Catholic teaching on modesty has to do with honoring the dignity of the **embodied** persons that we are. While clothing may in itself be a form of display, disguise, or even environmental protection, it mostly serves as a self-presentation of the wearer and has to do with honor in addition to any utility. Clothing and apparel when modest proclaim “I am a person created by the good God, beautiful in God’s eyes, and am to be respected and valued. I am not to be used or treated as a thing.”

Clothing helps us to look at and to see a person, a fellow human being, rather than merely view a human body as a ‘thing’ or object for our use or pleasure. Problems with modesty stem, it appears to me, from a person’s lack of a sense of inherent, personal goodness and value in themselves or others. To use our own selves, our own bodies, as objects to incite lust is self-dishonoring. It displays a sad hunger for and misunderstanding of love. The human being, body and soul, is made beautiful by God. It is a beauty to be honored and loved. It is not to be sold, bought, displayed, or consumed to state lust. That being said, I assert: **The Church’s universal moral norm is – “always be modest.”**

The human being is sacred and beautiful before God. This is especially revealed in the Incarnation of the Word. Christian values flow out of reverence for God and Christ. So, always dress and behave modestly, thus in a chaste fashion, for church, school, work, play, etc. In these differing situations the requirements of modesty do vary, but modesty always applies.

Parents are responsible for seeing to the modesty of their children and teens. Please do not surrender this God-given role. Set the example and work with your children. Clothing considered modest for church employs the principles I stated above. For practical application when attending church, I recommend the following **and I require it when one has a liturgical ministry or represents the parish.** When shorts or skirts are worn, hem lines should just about reach the knees when standing. “Short shorts” are not appropriate for church for anyone – children, teens, or adults. Abdomens, chests, busts, and backs, likewise, should **always** be covered. The bare or baring midriff is completely unacceptable for church. Boxers and other inner-lower wear, sad that it must be said, should not be exposed to view. Shoulders (both) should be covered. Straps or strings alone will not do. .

Bare arms appear to present no problem for most Christians today, if the rest is covered. This excludes a great deal of casual, sports, and ‘evening wear’ in church. Present fashions, however, keep dropping women’s bust lines and exposing cleavage. Exposure is only aggravated, then, when the wearer bows or bends over. Please, have a care and be better covered. Also, clothing should be more loose fitting than tight, thus covering rather than over-accentuating the body’s contours. In other words, **outer clothing should not be a pseudo skin. Nor should parents put their little children in cloths of a style that would be immodest on a teen or an adult.** It teaches bad habits.

In any circumstance, it is each person’s responsibility; mine too, to keep a modest, chaste, and charitable mind. Parents, help your children. Adults and teens, discretely help each other. The goal is always and primarily charity and honor with respect for one’s own and others’ personal dignity. Certainly the adults and teens who minister at church should give an eye to their modest attire before leaving home. It is Christian kindness to have this modest regard for one another.

Modesty during the summer is a seasonal challenge. Styles from grunge to elegance today seem mostly to challenge virtue. I recognize and respect the complaint that it is nearly impossible to find modest fashions. Even so, we cannot before God surrender to economically driven morality. Modesty of mind and imagination is a continuous moral challenge, given our fallen human nature and facing the lustful content of styles, movies, television, internet, music, print, and all other media today. Charity, chastity, and modesty can nonetheless thrive through sacrifice by the grace of God. I pray that this grace of the Holy Spirit may guide all faithful Christians to bear witness to Christian virtue in our Day. Easter Blessings, Fr. John.

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.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 3--Mae Campbell
- 7--Connie Clary
- 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



Laugh of the Week

| Sunday after church, a Mom asked her very young daughter what the lesson was about.
 | The daughter answered, "Don't be scared, you'll get your quilt."
 | Needless to say, the Mom was perplexed. Later in the day , the pastor stopped by for tea and the Mom asked him what that morning's Sunday school lesson was about. He said "Be not afraid, thy comforter is coming"

Mass Intentio

- April 28--Freddy Payne
- May 5--David "Smokey" Millay
- May 12--Freddy Payne
- May 19--David "Smokey" Millay
- May 26--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 10--Scripture sharing 10:45
- May 19--Confirmation at Cathedral 11am --Cameron Malone

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 28--\$1,169.50
- Budget--\$1094
- MTD Collection--\$5,339
- MTD Budget--\$4,376
- YTD Collection--\$60,073.54
- YTD Budget--\$50,012

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

Once a man came to the Vatican and asked to see Pope John Paul II, claiming that they had been friends in Poland. When told of the man, the Pope said, "He is mistaken about our friendship. I don't recall ever having suffered with him." As it turned out, the man had never known the Pope. Now, I'm not sure if the story is totally factual. But doesn't the juxtaposition of *suffering* with *friendship* sound exactly like JPPII? He understood that the deepest and most lasting friendships are forged in the fires of shared suffering. No suffering, no friendship. Amazing.

This week we hear Jesus say to the apostles and to us, "**You are my friends if you do what I command you**" (John 15:14). In Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, God entered the world of human suffering and transformed it into an avenue of friendship with Himself. Following His command — to love, to lay down our lives for others — will always entail suffering. But this suffering only deepens our friendship with Him. His suffering is ours; ours is His. We have become friends of God.

This week, how might you share your suffering with the Risen Jesus? How might he be sharing his suffering with you, in the lives of those around you? Be attentive to that, and you'll find that you are indeed a friend of God, because you've suffered together a great deal.

— Father John Muir

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Lectors

May 5: Layson Brooks, Greg Gough
May 12: Sarah Malone, Wayne Stevens
May 19: Leland Herzog, Barbara Bisel

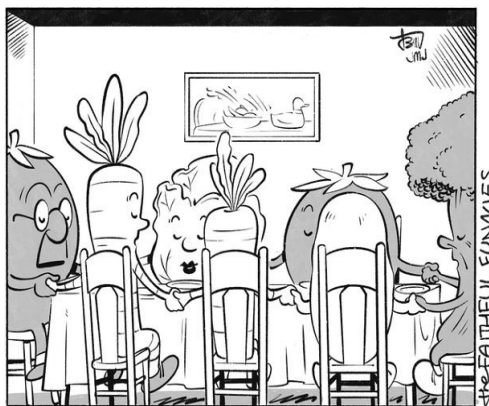
Eucharistic Ministers

May 5: Misty Sanford, Cindy Clark, Katie Goins
May 12: Greg Gough, Vivian Higgs, Holly Hollis
May 19: Janet Clark, Rita Moorman, Denise Richardson

Collection & Gifts

May 5: Jacques,, Whitney Williams and sons
May 12: Campbell Family
May 19.: Kathi Skidd, Emma Latta

“What did the vegetables say before they started praying?”



“Lettuce pray.”



Praying together is a beautiful part of Christian life. We can pray to thank God for His blessings, ask for His guidance in our lives, or just to spend time with Him.

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As I Love You

This week my children were learning about energy. We set up an experiment with toy cars — one was placed in front of another, and a third was pushed into the two stationary ones. The forward motion caused the front car to move, but not much. “Most of the energy goes into the car in the middle, not the car on the end,” my daughter concluded. I asked her why she seems to have so much energy, and I seem to have so little. “Because you’re old,” she replied confidently.

Most days I feel like that first car, barreling at life with all my energy and love and good intentions, only to have it almost entirely absorbed by the proverbial middle car. It’s so easy to be discouraged. The devil so badly wants us to feel discouraged.

But the law of love is not unlike the law of conservation of energy. Love is neither created nor destroyed. It is only transferred from one form to another. And yes, sometimes it certainly seems like it disappears. It appears to get lost between my hands and the plate of dinner that goes uneaten or evaporates off of my lips as words I fear are never heard. It is spat upon as a commandment the world would prefer I do not keep.

But we are not called to simply love one another — to love when it seems effective and productive and appreciated. We are called to love as Christ loved: recklessly, selflessly, and yes, even without logic. We are called to love with a love that doesn’t give up and is never withdrawn. A love that doesn’t fear death or the world’s hatred. A love that stands willing to argue, to be reviled, to be dismissed.

We are called to be that first car, hurtling ourselves against a world that isn’t ready to accept or understand us. And we trust that, even when we can’t see how, the love that seems to disappear simply changes forms.

“This is my commandment: love one another as I love you.” — John 15:12

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Readings for the Week

Monday: Acts 16:11-15/Ps 149:16 and 9/Jn 15:26—16:4a
Tuesday: Acts 16:22-34/Ps 138:1-3, 7-8/Jn 16:5-11
Wednesday: Acts 17:15, 22—18:1/Ps 148:1-2, 11-14/Jn 16:12-15
Thursday: Acts 18:1-8/Ps 98:1, 2-4/Jn 16:16-20
Friday: Acts 18:9-18/Ps 47:2-7/Jn 16:20-23
Saturday: Acts 18:23-28/Ps 47:2-3, 8-10/Jn 16:23b-28
Next Sunday: Ascension: Acts 1:1-11/Ps 47:2-3, 6-9 /Eph 1:17-23/ Mk 16:15-20

Observances for the week of May 5, 2024

Thursday: The Ascension of the Lord (holy day of obligation in some U.S. dioceses);
Friday: St. John of Avila, Priest
St. Damien de Veuster, Priest
Next Sunday: The Ascension of the Lord;
World Communications Day;
Mother’s Day

Prayer of Love

God the Father, You created me in love.
Jesus, your love for me compelled you to come to earth to die for me.
Holy Spirit, love between God and Jesus, now you surround me with the love of the Father and the Son. Help me to live out this reality, today and always. Amen.

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THE PRESENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

We have a unique episode in the Acts of the Apostles today. A whole roomful of people are baptized with the Holy Spirit before they are baptized with water! The verb used--“the Holy spirit ‘fell’ on them”---is characteristic of the way the Spirit works throughout the book of Acts: powerful and surprising. Though this “baptism” is not the normative way the New Testament describe baptism, it is still a good reminder today that the Holy Spirit is not controlled by whether or not we pour water, but rather that our sacramental signs reveal the presence of the Spirit at work among us. And we have a double reinforcement of how this work is accomplished from a Letter and a Gospel bearing John’s name. It is love, self-sacrificing and self-giving love, that manifests the Spirit of Jesus in our midst. It is love that is the greatest of commandments. The spirit is manifested equally through those who live in that love.

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CONGRATULATIONS

To Alizabeth Hatchett who will be graduating from Owensboro Catholic and attending KY Western.