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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 Fennwald,
SSND pa@blessedsacramentchapel.org



Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

And all the trees of the field shall know that I, the LORD, bring low the high tree, lift high the lowly tree, wither up the green tree, and make the withered tree bloom. (Ez 17:24)

Psalm:

Lord, it is good to give thanks to you. (Ps 92)

Second Reading:

Therefore, we aspire to please him, whether we are at home or away. (2 Cor 5:9)

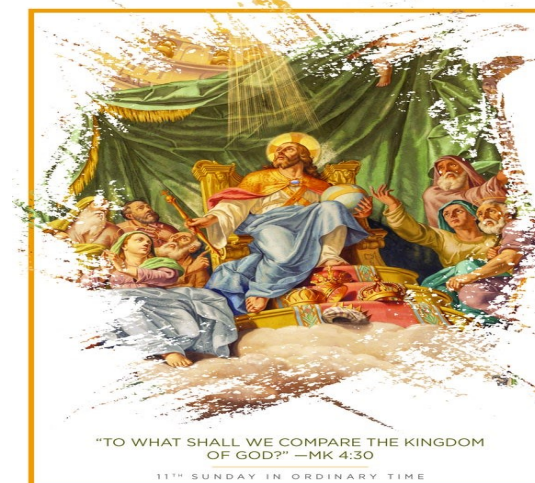
Gospel:

"It is like a mustard seed that, when it is sown in the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on the earth. But once it is sown, it springs up and becomes the largest of plants." (Mk 4:31-32)

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

June 16, 2024 11th Sunday Ordinary Time

We walk by faith, not by sight. 2 Cor. 5:7.



From one generation to the next people pass on their genes, their real estate, buildings, furniture, art works, books, papers, jewelry, sometimes wealth, and other things, with some success. Through education, likewise, at the expense of much greater effort, we pass along language, customs, sciences, laws, governments, histories and memories, and many other less tangible things. Much of what is offered in the education of children and youth, even if learned for a period of time, will be deliberately discarded or quickly forgotten. What I am busy about as an adult thirty-four years after high school does not require my use of the algebra I learned there. If the truth be told, I have even forgotten much the study with which I worked in graduate studies. Much of what is offered in the educational process by which we pass along our culture lingers only, if at all, in a vague familiarity or memories of things now past. It is not bad to be rich in the traces of things once learned. But what of the loss of things vital?

In the Church we strive to hand on our faith and its practice. Often we imagine that we can easily pass on the deep appreciations we have learned in the experiences of our lives. We are gratified as our children and youth welcome the prayers, sacraments, and religious practices we offer them and expect them to accept. We tell them how important these realities are and, hopefully, even demonstrate this importance by our own devout practice. We seem to forget that we ourselves did not truly receive our appreciation of the mysteries of faith from those who went before us but from our own living of these mysteries. As with all education, what is learned about Christianity and its life practice in childhood and youth, "unless it comes to be appreciated for its inherent or practical worth will be deliberately discarded or quickly forgotten." This is especially true if our faith formation is countered by a more attractive culture of pleasure, wealth, and power. Christian love and faith require choices against one's self-inclinations. When, for faith and love's sake, sacrifice is pitted against pleasure, pleasure often wins. Each individual and each generation faces the same kind of decision which Genesis narrates was faced by the very first humans.

Christianity and Catholicism, for all the monuments of our faith tradition and history, is humanly never more than one generation deep on this earth. True, the Church is the entire assembly of those triumphant in Heaven, of those transitioning to God in a blessed but purgatorial judgment, and of those on earthly pilgrimage. But on this earth, if even one generation should completely be removed from the story, it would be over. I can believe, hope, and love in Christ and his Church and I can do it so that the rising generation may find it inviting to take up the cross with willing and loving hearts. But no earthly power can make them do so. It is divine Grace borne in fragile human vessels which upholds the Church through time, and every attack the gates of hell can devise. The Plan of God, loving and inviting love from the height of the Cross, risks so much respecting each human heart in each passing generation. It is tested by sins within the Church, persecution from without, but even worse by indifference on all sides.

In wondering and worrying that many of our young and adult members walk or drift away, we often forget the temptations we have faced and the times fallen. We need to remember how and through whom God brought us back and how long each journey was. In humbly returning to Grace we have been given a witness and a wisdom this old world and our own strayed need. Christ expects us to be his light and salt in our time for the sake of the world. He is the Shepherd who forsakes no one up to judgment day, and neither should we. If our own children and youth, given all the initiation and formation we can offer them, follow the world's siren call, think how perilous it is for those who have never known the gospel or the Sacraments of faith. The vision of those who have accepted Grace has always searched and reached beyond the storms and trials of temptation, weakness, to the hope which never fails us. Even as does Jesus, we bind this human race to ourselves in hope. World-wise and Grace-readied, we throw the life-line of Christ to each and to all. Why else did the Lord make us the fishers of the human race?

As we gather each Sunday around the Altar of God, we are both receiving that which is being offered, and at the same time, offering the gift of the Sacraments to those younger than ourselves. This important 'handing on' is also carried out in the ministry of our Catholic School. As your pastor, I sacrifice many other needs of the Church simply to secure and sustain the life of our school. Handing on the traditions and prayers, the history and the very future of our Church to our children is one of the most foundational actions of my life as a pastor. I know there are some whose children have needs that our schools cannot provide and choose to place these children in the public system. I have even encouraged some of you, for the good of your children, to place them in the public arena. However, there are some who have chosen to neglect the spiritual responsibility given them by God. I have been told that some of our children are in public school because of reasons of 'transition', or cheering, or sports activity, dance, or simply so the children can be near their 'friends'. And I simply say, that choosing these things over and above the responsibility of handing on the faith that has been so freely given to you, is sacrificing the very foundation of your children's faith life. My first and primary responsibility is to offer a structure for the handing of the faith to our children. I fulfill that responsibility in and through our Catholic School. That remains and will continue to remain my primary goal. I strongly encourage those of you with school-age children to take seriously your responsibility and see to their spiritual needs. I remind you that you made this promise at their baptism someone has handed you the faith. Just who is it you are handing it to. Blessings, Father John

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

The reign of God comes about because people commit to reversing their lives completely, to embracing new vision, new values.. Many popular television shows exploit an unattractive side of human nature by pitting contestants against one another, even to the point of performing dangerous stunts or devious schemes, to gain money or favor.

At the liturgy, we counter that impulse by committing ourselves to live generously. In response to Christ's total gift, we offer bread and wine as the emblems of our lives, our hopes, our joys and sorrows. The bread and wine carried to the altar contain our lives, and by offering our lives to God, we prepare to receive the gift of God's own life. We are to become what we receive : the body of Christ.

On Sundays, this self-giving is often accompanied by a collection and procession of gifts for the poor and money for the upkeep of the parish. There are certainly other methods of collecting money, some perhaps more efficient. Yet the act of giving from our abundance, and attending to the needs of the poor, opens us up to participation in the changes the Reign of God requires. James Field J.S. Paluch

LAUGH OF THE WEEK A college professor, an avowed Atheist, was teaching his class. He shocked several of his students when he flatly stated he was going to prove there was no God. Addressing the ceiling he shouted: "God, if you are real, then I want you to knock me off this platform. I'll give you 15 minutes!" The lecture room fell silent. You could have heard a pin fall. Ten minutes went by. Again he taunted God, saying, "Here I am, God. I'm still waiting." His count-down got down to the last couple of minutes when a Marine - just released from active duty and newly registered in the class - walked up to the professor, hit him full force in the face, and sent him tumbling from his lofty platform. The professor was out cold! At first, the students were shocked and babbled in confusion. The young Marine took a seat in the front row and sat silent. The class fell silent...waiting. Eventually, the professor came to, shaken he looked at the young Marine in the front row. When the professor regained his senses and could speak he asked: "What's the matter with you? Why did you do that?" "God was busy. He sent me."

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 2--Antonia Hagan
- 4-Larry Leachman
- 6-- Ivan Clark
- 9--Alvin Leachman
- 16--Sister Jeannette
- 23--Michelle Jones, Pamela McCarter
- 27-- Leland Herzog
- 28--Cassidy Campbell
- 30--Trent Hatchett, Father Sinoj



Congratulations to Ethan Gough who was the recipient of the diocesan SLIM award (Service Leadership in Ministry).



Mass Intentions

- June 2--Blessed Sacrament Parishioners
- June 9--Louie Moorman
- June 16--David Smokey Millay
- June 23--Harry Baumgarten
- June 30--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: **Burnell Hamilton, Calvin McHenry, 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 39 households that designate Blessed Sacrament as their community partner. Last check \$161.31. If you do not have a community reward partner, please designate Blessed Sacrament. Blessed Sacrament’s # is WX799. Go to [krogercommunityrewards.com](https://www.krogercommunityrewards.com) to register. Thanks to each of you for your support.

Coming Events



- August 2--Picnic workday
- August 3--Picnic --Drive through 12-2 pm
- August 11--Rffle ticket drawing
- 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.



- June 9--\$1540
- Budget--\$1094
- MTD Collection--\$2,711.50
- MTD Budget--\$2,188
- YTD Collection--\$67,658.06
- YTD Budget--\$56,576

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

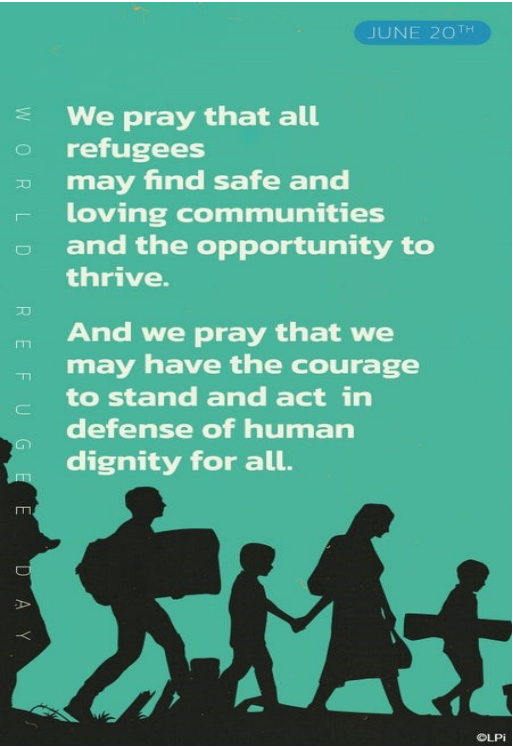
My mother and father fell in love with each other rather quickly. It was only a span of two months between their first meeting and quiet betrothal. They waited for a significant period of time before going public with the happy news. It simply wasn’t time. Love’s strength and speed can sprout scandal in public. Until the big reveal, they gave the outside world only little hints, gestures, and riddles.

Something like this — but even more wonderful — is at play when Mark says of Jesus, “**he did not speak to them without a parable, but to his disciples in private he explained everything.**” Jesus is the long-awaited messiah-king, but his identity as the Lord and Son of God is so new, surprising, and scandalous to human ears that the big reveal would have to wait. Thus, his parables are riddles, meant to conceal more than reveal. Even the disciples — who hear things explained directly — barely grasp what he is up to. It’s only at the cross that Jesus’ love for Israel and the world is explicitly revealed. Until then, much stays hidden and comes in riddles.

So it goes with us, too. I wonder at times why doesn’t the Lord just speak to us directly in prayer about what we should do, or how to fix our problems. Or why doesn’t he reveal himself directly to powerful leaders who are slow to act? Why does he allow life so often to be confounding, contradictory, and crazy? Because it simply isn’t time yet. One glorious day, it will be. Until then, he teaches us in riddles, and only sometimes explains them.

— Father John Muir

MINISTRY SCHEDULE	
Lectors	
<u>June 16:</u>	Greg Gough, Sarah Malone
<u>June 23:</u>	Wayne Stephens, Katie Goins
<u>June 30:</u>	Jacques Williams, Misty Sanford
Eucharistic Ministers	
<u>June 16:</u>	Vivian Higgs, Rita Moor- man, Denise Richardson
<u>June 23:</u>	Janet Clark, Sarah Malone, Greg Richardson
<u>June 30:</u>	Cindy Clark Holly Hollis, Kathi Skidd
Collection & Gifts	
<u>June 16:</u>	Steven, Meredith, Quinn, Hank Fain
<u>June 23:</u>	Wonet Taylor, Barbara Hammond
<u>June 30:</u>	Jamie, Beau, Luke Bisel



Living Parables

Whenever someone begins a sentence with, “This parable means...” I roll my eyes. (Sometimes I do this inwardly, to be polite. But I still do it.)

We have a tendency to treat the parables like our mom’s favorite casserole recipe. *Ah yes*, we think as we sit down to dinner, smiling as we inhale the aroma of childhood. *Good ol’ mushy-chicken-rice-thing. I recognize you. I know exactly what you are. I don’t even have to think about you.*

Parables are often presented as an example of how God stoops to meet the limits of human understanding: truth, but in a cute little story! And while it’s certainly true that the parables of Christ — each word, each detail, each character — are painstakingly crafted to suit the imagination and intelligence of man, we need to be careful how we think about that. Sometimes we have a tendency to think of parables as simple and formulaic. We consign them to the genre of bedtime stories, whose point is to soothe, to lull. But these are stories that are meant to keep us awake. They are meant to keep us wondering.

When Christ spoke of the mustard seed, he was speaking the truth in words that his disciples needed to hear two thousand years ago. But he was also speaking to you today. And he was speaking to you tomorrow, and next year, and three years from now, and on your deathbed. If you read this parable on each of those occasions, you will hear something different each time. The parable, you see, is something alive. It doesn’t change, exactly, because the truth never changes. But people change, and what they need to hear changes too. Don’t ever make the mistake of thinking you can finish Jesus’ sentences. *“With many such parables he spoke the word to them as they were able to understand it.” — Mark 4:33*

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Readings for the Week	
Monday:	1 Kgs 21:1-16/Ps 5:2-7/ Mt 5:38-42
Tuesday:	1 Kgs 21:17-29/Ps 51:3- 6, 11 and 16/Mt 5:43-48
Wednesday:	2 Kgs 2:1, 6-14/Ps 31:20, 21, 24/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
Thursday:	Sir 48:1-14/Ps 97:1-7/ Mt 6:7-15
Friday:	2 Kgs 11:1-4, 9-18,/Ps 132:11-18/Mt 6:19-23
Saturday:	2 Chr 24:17-25/Ps 89:4- 5, 29-34/Mt 6:24-34

Observances for the week of June 16, 2024

Wednesday:	St. Romuald, Abbot
Thursday:	World Refugee Day
Friday:	St. Aloysius Gonzaga,
Saturday:	St. Paulinus of Nola, Sts. John Fisher, and Thomas More, Martyrs

Thank you for your many contribution for debt reduction for our hall. Thanks to the generous donation from the diocese, we no longer need to use that envelope.

Happy Father’s Day!
Father! To God himself we cannot give a holier name. --Wm. Wordworth



GOD’S TIME

We either pay attention to or ignore “clock time” as we play in the summer sun and note the earth’s tilt and the lengthening days. We live by time. We reckon time in seconds and minutes and hours, or we use broader chunks like sup-
pertime and summertime.

God keeps another sort of time. God speaks to us of “saving time“ that is, the time of salvation. This sense of time is called *Kairos*, and this time is always now, always present and available, always revealing, often surprising.

This Sunday’s readings alert us to the reality and the import of God’s time. Ezekiel and the Gospel of Mark remind us that our labor and our plotting and our planning rest in God. For God takes our smallest efforts and makes of them great works. Paul points us to the “harvest” time, urges us to be watchful for its comings, and calls us to recognize that we must spend our time pleasing God.
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Thank
you!



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recent Share Night.**