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Blessed Sacrament

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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,
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Sunday's Readings
First Reading:
 "The LORD took me from following the flock, and said to me, Go, prophesy to my people Israel." (Am 7:15)
Psalm:
 Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation. (Ps 85)
Second Reading:
 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavens, as he chose us in him, before the foundation of the world. (Eph 1:3-4)
Gospel:
 Jesus summoned the Twelve and began to send them out two by two. (Mk 6:7)
 Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

July 14, 2024 15th Sunday Ordinary Time
 Truth shall spring out of the earth and justice shall look down from heaven. Ps. 85:12



15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Jesus summoned the Twelve and began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over unclean spirits. The Twelve drove out many demons, and they anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them. - Mk 6:7, 13

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

.My Dear Parishioners:

An inescapable part of church life today, it seems, is the large number of meetings and gatherings and conferences of one sort or another. If you've attended as many of these gatherings as I have, you might have noticed - as I have - that they're nearly always marked by a peculiar atmosphere of their own. There's often an over-eagerness to maintain a harmonious atmosphere, an exaggerated politeness and a deliberate lack of offensiveness. Often it's taken so far that it becomes cloying and stifling and honest debate between conflicting opinions becomes impossible. As in other situations where there are a variety of viewpoints and interpretations, it's important that we distinguish between showing respect to people and simply evading argument and critical discussion of important questions. If people make too big an effort to keep the atmosphere friendly and harmonious, and to avoid anything approaching an argument, that can be an obstacle or a hurdle to telling the truth, having a truthful discussion and reaching truthful conclusions.

Ironically enough, among Christians, more than among any other group of people that's a strange state of affairs to find ourselves in. And I say that for two reasons. One is that, when we look back through the history of the Church, by no stretch of the imagination is it a history of a group of people sitting around constantly agreeing with each other. It would be more true to say that it's the history of groups of people locked in disagreement and controversy, with each other. Whether it was a matter of belief, or morality, or maybe practical matters of church policy - if the subject was important, it was important enough to have different perspectives on. And that meant that it was important enough to argue about, not just to smooth over for the sake of keeping the peace. That's the first thing. And the second thing is that if we turn to the Bible, the revealed word of God doesn't give us any support for this notion that we have to avoid conflict at all costs or else we're behaving in an unchristian manner.

The readings for the Mass today are about conflict. In the first reading we get the story of the prophet Amos being made far from welcome as a guest speaker at an official shrine, a royal sanctuary. Amos' message, which he'd been commissioned to preach by God, wasn't greeted by a great show of harmony and consensus by the guardians of the shrine. As so often in the case of the Old Testament prophets Amos' message was challenged and disputed, and he had to argue his case. As so often, the word of God, when it came into the situation, caused upset and division and the spokesman for God - Amos in this case - found himself having to defend his claim to be acting on God's behalf. At the same time he found himself striving to discredit the claims of the people who were questioning his prophetic credentials.

Then, in the gospel passage, we pick up where we left off in the gospel reading at Mass last Sunday. Last week, it was Jesus' prophetic credentials that were being questioned, by his own family and townsfolk back in Nazareth. Jesus, if you remember, replied with a spirited insult: you of all people should be able to discern the signs of genuine prophetic proclamation, but you don't recognize a prophet when he's right under your noses. Not the kind of language that's likely to build up consensus. This week he's warning his disciples to expect conflict and opposition in their turn as he sends them out to spread the message of salvation. Agreement won't always be possible. The gospel message won't always be accepted. And when it isn't accepted, Christ instructs his followers, "as you walk away, shake off the dust from under your feet - as a sign to them". Judged by these kinds of comments, Jesus wouldn't be the most popular participant on the church conference circuit today.

What conclusions should we draw from these episodes? I would say three things. The first conclusion we can draw is that wherever the Kingdom of God is genuinely proclaimed, conflict of some sort is inevitable. The Kingdom can't be proclaimed without causing conflict. There will be those who don't accept the message, and even among those who do, there will be different ideas and interpretations about what shape our dedication to the Kingdom should take. That's been the situation since Pentecost, since the beginning of the Church. The second conclusion I'd draw is that conflict doesn't have to be a destructive thing. It can be creative. The ideal in the Christian community isn't a kind of stifling unity - or conformity - and the suppression of all disagreement. The ideal in the Christian community, as Saint Paul says elsewhere, is speaking the truth to each other in love. And that leads onto the final conclusion. The best way for us to show our Christian love for each other in the case of disagreement isn't by avoiding conflict at all costs. It's by the manner in which we conduct our conflicts and disagreements. Resolving conflicts rather than evading them is the way we keep a healthy and honest and a grown-up spirit in the Christian community. But it's more than that. It's also the only way that we can make sure we don't domesticate the message that we're supposed to be committed to - the message that Jesus himself often announced deliberately in a sharp and confrontational manner - in other words, in a prophetic manner.

Those are the lessons I'd take from the readings this Sunday, about the disruptive nature of God's Kingdom, first of all, and about a genuine Christian way of facing conflicts and divisions when they arise in our own communities. Blessings! Father John

• **Eucharistic Revival** The Lord has invited the Church in the United States into a season of profound renewal. In November of 2021, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops approved the National Eucharistic Congress as the milestone moment of a National Eucharistic Revival. The Revival officially launched with the goal of rekindling a living faith in the hearts of Catholics across America, and this movement has already borne life-changing local initiatives and unprecedented gatherings.

• We believe the Holy Spirit continues to ask Catholics across America to respond to **four invitations**. The first invitation calls us to a renewed encounter with **WHO we worship**. The second invitation calls us to discover in greater depth **WHY we worship Jesus in the Eucharist** and what this incredible gift means. The third invitation calls for a renewed attentiveness to **HOW we worship**. The fourth invitation focuses on **WHAT we do in response—acting on our faith, bringing Christ to others, and spreading the flame of revival**.

• The 10th National Eucharistic Congress will be a defining moment for this generation and the beginning of a new chapter for the Church in the United States. For the first time in nearly a century, the Catholic Church from every corner of the United States is about to gather in one place. More than just a retreat or conference, the National Eucharistic Congress will be a pivotal moment in both American history and the legacy of the Catholic Church. The 10th National Eucharistic Congress is the continuation of the living faith that built the Catholic Church in the U.S., and we now resume the work of sharing the greatest gift humanity has ever received. The Congress will be a high point within the National Eucharistic Revival. Our Catholic family will gather to experience profound and personal renewal through the power of Christ's love. Like a new Pentecost, this transformation will flow out from Indianapolis to bring revival in our communities as the Church returns to her first love—the source and summit of our faith and vocation to missionary discipleship. At the Congress, we will all be sent out on a mission to listen and accompany as we share our Eucharistic faith with the world. The Congress offers life-changing encounters with Jesus and incredible opportunities for formation from trusted voices in the Church.

JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 3--Ray Higgs
- 8--Alexis Hatchett, Calvin McHenry
- 10--Chelis Carmona
- 12--Darlina Etienne
- 13--Francine Epison
- 15--Georgia Holland
- 17--Wayne Stephens
- 18--Lori Carman
- 21--Meredith Fain
- 22--Marcia Wilhite
- 24--Lori Robinson
- 27--Robert Hagan
- 29--Hugh Joseph Moorman
- 30--Yvonne Mundy



A Penny Saved!

Hoping to help his church save money, Pastor Jones decided to paint the church exterior himself, but all he had on hand was one bucket of paint. So he collected a bunch of empty buckets and some water, which he used to thin the paint enough to cover the building. Then he spent the whole day painting. That night it rained and washed off all the paint. The pastor was so discouraged and asked God “Why...why Lord, did you let it rain and wash away all my hard work?” To which God replied, “Repaint and thin no more!”

Mass Intentions

- July 7--David “Smokey” Millay
- July 14--Harry Baumgarten
- July 21--William Tapp
- July 28--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: Mary Hagan, Natalie Clark, Yuri, China Dulin, Rachel Mattingly, Larry Allen, Charlie Brown Sr, Ryan Moorman,, Steven Moorman, Philip Moorman, Jr., Ronnie Hollis, Chandra Hagan, Larry Clark, Ruth Coble, Jeeriah Cruite, Carol Hatchett, 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

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Coming Events



- July 13-14 Raffle Ticket sales---SSC
- August 3--Picnic --Drive through 12-2 pm
- August 10--Clean up/BSC grounds/buildings--9 am
- August 25--BSC 75th anniversary celebration 4 pm Mass



- July 7--\$1,695
- Budget--\$1300
- MTD Collection--\$1,695
- MTD Budget--\$1300
- YTD Collection--\$1695
- YTD Budget--\$1300

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).

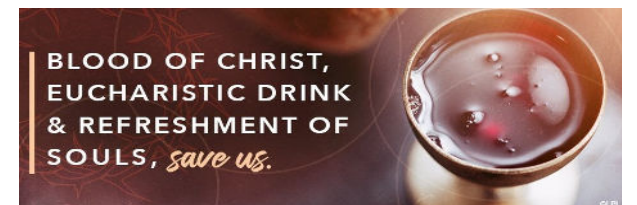
GOSPEL MEDITATION

Once I asked a fallen-away Catholic friend of mine what he remembered about the parish priest from his youth. He said, “He was a gentle, nice guy. Kind of vanilla. Kept to himself.” It struck me that he, perhaps like many, perceive Catholic priests as the following: lonely, harmless, and self-sufficient. As a challenge both to this perception (accurate or not) and to us priests who perhaps feel a pull in that uninspiring direction, stands the mighty image of what we see in the Gospel this Sunday.

Jesus sent out his apostles, “**two-by-two, with power over demons, and without money belts.**” **Two-by-two:** they enjoyed deep fellowship and brotherhood. **Power over demons:** they were anything but harmless. These men wielded enormous power against evil. **Without money belts:** they were not self-sufficient. They needed others to help them. Not lonely, but in community. Not harmless but armed with massive spiritual energy. Not self-sufficient, but poor and in need of help.

This is a challenge to me, and perhaps to all of us, living in a rich, secularized, and individualized culture. Do I embrace my priestly ministry in deep fellowship with other priests? Do I speak and act boldly to drive out evil where it is found? Do I live poorly and simply, trusting in the help of those around me even for basic needs? The fruitfulness of priestly ministry largely depends on these three traits. Let’s pray for all priests — and, by extension, all of us Christians — to live more like Jesus’ communal, poor, and powerful apostles.

— *Father John Muir* ©LPi



MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Lectors

July 14: Alexis Hatchett, Leland Herzog,
July 21: Layson Brooks, Wayne Stephens
July 28: Leland Herzog, Greg Gough

Eucharistic Ministers

July 14: Barbara Bisel, Janet Clark, Misty Sanford
July 21: Sarah Malone, Denise Richardson, Greg Richardson
July 28: Rita Moorman, Kathi Skidd, Katie Goins

Collection & Gifts

July 14: Sondra Hibbs, Marcia Wilhite
July 21: Kelly, Holly, Samuel Hollis-
July 28: Ethan Gough, Jax Malone

PICNIC:

As most of you are aware, Blessed Sacrament Chapel's picnic is Saturday August 3. At the follow-up parish meeting last year, it was decided to only have drive-through selling the bar-b-q ribs, chicken, and pulled pork. (Will do pre-sales also.) We will need workers to split the chicken Friday afternoon and to put rub on the meat. A decision was also made to split the time for the bar-b-q crew. Last year the main crew was working for 24 hours. We will have 2 crews so look at your schedule and see if you can help on Friday during the day and through the night Friday into Saturday.

Pre-sale of meat starts today and goes to July 30.

Shake Off the Dust

Our kitchen floor is at least 35 years old, and it's the ugliest color to come out of the '80s. But it's a good, durable floor, and my husband, bless his heart, guards it like it was a finely finished hardwood imported from Brazil. Every time the kids track mud and sand across its vinyl surface, he immediately gets down on his hands and knees and lovingly wipes the mess away. I'm too impatient to do this myself — *we have kids, so we're going to have a dirty floor*, is my attitude. But this is the hill upon which my husband dies. On hands and knees, scraping dirt off an almost 40-year-old floor, he is the silent, long-suffering sentry, and if it kills him, he will keep these floors pristine. He is Gandalf, and the dirt is the Balrog. *You shall not pass.*

"Shake the dust off your feet." This is what Christ tells his disciples to do when they — and his word — are rejected. Shake the dust off your feet in testimony against them. Why does he say that? It's not an act of dismissal. It's not a thumbed nose or a stuck-out tongue. No, it's an act of caution: *Don't bring it with you. Leave it there.*

When we walk through the world, we pick up a lot of dirt. Misguided notions, disordered priorities, habits, and desires that we never noticed until we realized they left a trail. We come into a situation intending to do what is right, but somehow it all goes sideways, and we walk away from it with detritus clinging to us in places we don't notice. *They wouldn't listen. They'll see, we think. Oh, they'll see. They'll see how right I was.* Pride and vengeance hitch a ride on the soles of our feet, and we track them all through the world. What to do about this? You can be like me with my ugly old floor. You can shrug your shoulders and say, "It happens, I guess. I'm only human. I meant well."

But here's what would be better: be like my husband. Get down on your knees and get rid of the dirt. Stop the trail in its tracks.

"So they went off and preached repentance." —
Mark 6:12
©LPi Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Readings for the Week

Monday: Is 1:10-17/Ps 50:8-9, 16-17, 21, 23/Mt 10:34—11:1
Tuesday: Is 7:1-9/Ps 48:2-8/
Mt 11:20-24
Wednesday: Is 10:5-7, 13-16/Ps 94:5-10, 14-15/Mt 11:25-27
Thursday: Is 26:7-9, 12, 16-19/Ps 102:13-21/Mt 11:28-30
Friday: Is 38:1-6, 21-22, 7-8/Is 38:10--12, 16/Mt 12:1-8
Saturday: Mi 2:1-5/Ps 10:1-4, 7-8, 14/
Mt 12:14-21

Observances for the week of July 14, 2024

Monday: St. Bonaventure, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Tuesday: Our Lady of Mount Carmel
Thursday: St. Camillus de Lellis, Priest
Saturday: St. Apollinaris, Martyr; BVM

Eucharist

You are not an accident. The God who created the universe, who set the moon and stars in place, loves YOU and chose YOU, even before the world was formed. He knows you better than you know yourself, and he loves you simply because you are YOU. There are no conditions on his love: at every moment you are infinitely loved by him. You are dear to him.

In response to our prayers, the Holy Spirit is filling us with grace and zeal—setting our hearts ablaze with his love and sending us out to share it with the world. The National Eucharistic Revival movement is the joyful, expectant, grassroots response of the Church to the divine invitation to be united once again around the source and summit of our faith in the celebration of the Eucharist.

Through the Eucharist, God desires to heal, renew, and unify the Church and the world.

CALLED BY GOD

Today's Scriptures invite us to listen to two calls. The first is the call issued by the Lord to the prophet Amos, the "shepherd and a dresser of sycamores" (Amos 7:14). The second is the call the Lord Jesus issued to the Twelve, whom he sent out "two by two" (Mark 6:7). These faithful people responded to the call, prophesying and preaching to the people to whom they had been sent. Each of us received a call when we were baptized. The second reading invites us to ponder that call as we are reminded that we are chosen in Christ and that, in love, God "destined us for adoption" As adopted daughters and sons of God we are called to bring the presence of Christ into our marriages, families, schools, and places of work. Let us be inspired today to say yes to the call we hear once again through God's living word.
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FOR EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL

Lord Jesus Christ, you are the Word Made Flesh. You are the Bread of Life. Stir in my heart and mind the redeeming truth of your miraculous, life-giving Love found in the Real Presence in the Eucharist. Awaken in me knowledge of the power of your Precious blood, shed for me. Renew me, Lord, with the fire of the Holy Spirit that inspired your Apostles and the early Church to live wholly for you. Help me to enter deeply into this moment of Eucharistic revival within the United States by first being revived by your love for me in the Eucharist at Mass. Help us to know the joy, wonder, and hope of heaven that is found in receiving you in Holy Communion, where you are truly present, Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity. Amen.