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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 Fennewald,
 SSND pa@blessedsacramentchapel.org



Sunday's Readings

First Reading:
 I will appoint shepherds for them who will shepherd them so that they need no longer fear and tremble; says the LORD. (Jer 23: 1-6)
Psalm:
 The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. (Ps 23)
Second Reading:
 In Christ Jesus you who once were far off have become near by the blood of Christ. (Eph 2:13-14)
Gospel:
[When he disembarked and saw the vast crowd,](#) his heart was moved with pity for them, for they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things. (Mk 10:34)
 Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970

July 21, 2024 16th Sunday Ordinary Time

Behold the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up a righteous shoot. Jer. 23:5



.My Dear Parishioners:

Last Sunday we heard Mark’s account of the Twelve sent out to share in the Savior’s mission. Today we have the aftermath described in vivid detail. As they rejoin Jesus, they are full of stories as they share the experience of their missionary journeys. We glimpse the openness and hospitality of the band Jesus gathered around him – ‘there were so many people coming and going that the apostles had no time even to eat’. Jesus suggests they cross the water to a ‘lonely place’ where they can ‘rest for a while’. Now he will teach them how to find the interior strength that comes from reflection and contemplation. The scene Mark describes, as Jesus and his disciples arrive at their destination, is a memorable one. The crowd has heard of their coming and awaits them. Hungry for what Jesus has to give them, they ‘were like sheep without a shepherd’. So he changed his plans and ‘set himself to teach them at some length’.

During the Easter season we were reminded that the Risen One is ‘the good shepherd’. On Good Shepherd Sunday, however, our image was the familiar iconic figure, bringing back the lost sheep on his shoulders. Jesus is the Good Shepherd and we are the Sheep. Remember in my homily that weekend that I spoke about how sheep needed other sheep. How if one of the sheep wandered even a few feet from the fold, they were ‘lost’. Jesus is indeed the Good Shepherd who will sacrifice everything, even for just one of his sheep.

Today we have a down-to-earth image. People weighed down by life’s daily problems are looking to Jesus to renew the vision of hope he has given them in the past. He changes his plans and responds to their need. He has another important lesson for the Twelve – the love for struggling humanity that he shares with his Father. He knows no limit or holding back. He wants his disciples to be one with him in this love if they are to be companions in his mission. So as he is trying to show his disciples a time for ‘prayer’ he sees the need of his people – and responds.

My brothers and sisters, every time we approach the altar of God here at Blessed Sacrament Chapel, we encounter this same Jesus. He draws us to himself, he gives us his very Body and Blood to sustain, protect, purify, and unite. He gives himself to us, completely.

When the simple bread and wine come in procession to the altar (along with the offering or collection), these things represent US. They represent our labors, our joys and hopes, our gratefulness and recognition of all we have. At the same time, we place upon our altar all disappointments, heartaches, worries, regrets, and pain. All these are TRANSFORMED. The bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ. And if we let him, we ourselves will be transformed as well.

The Gospel passage today reminds us that God is with us – Emmanuel. He offers himself as the blood of the new covenant – completely. Today, may we offer ourselves to him, and one another.

Blessings! Father John

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION:

This week the greatest pilgrimage in our tradition ends with the feast of Saint James at his shrine in Compostela, Spain. Every year, as many as a hundred thousand persons walk a portion of the medieval way of the pilgrim, earning the right to wear the scallop shell symbol of this journey of faith. In legend, this city on the norther coast of Spain is the final resting pace of the apostle, and the full name of the cathedral is “Saint James of the Field of Stars.”. There is a tradition that Saint James the Great preached there.

In the Roman Catholic tradition, the pilgrimage, like any procession, is a symbol, a powerful sign of our journey toward a certain goal. The perils of the road, the support of our companions, the contemplative slower pace of life, have the potential to transform and renew the pilgrims in ways that last a lifetime. Along the way, the distinctions between rich and poor fall away, and everyone shares humble rustic food and stops for the night in hostels or under the stars. After a long walk, the experience of entering through the great doors into the vast cathedral filled with incense, light, and song is a foretaste of heaven. The pilgrims often say that their whole lives are redirected toward that moment of entry into the heavenly Jerusalem. The most memorable features of the cathedral is call the *botofumeiro*, an incense burner on pulleys and chains that sweeps through the cathedral in immense circles, swirling clouds of sweet-smelling incense around the vast nave.

Rev. Ja,es Field, Copyright J.S. Paluch Co.

• **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



EVENING PRAYER

Lord, it's been a busy day. Before I rest, may I draw near to you to thank you for the blessings I can count, and for those I may have missed amid the day's activities. As I approach day's end and wait for sleep to come, send your peace and protection upon me and this home. May I trust in your Divine Providence for a restful night. Amen

Mass Intentions

- July 14--Harry Baumgarten
- July 21--William Tapp
- July 28--Freddy Payne
- August 4--David Millay
- August 14--Harry Baumgarten

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: Natalie Clark, China Dulin, Rachel Mattingly, Yuri Phen, 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

Thank you to everyone who has designated Blessed Sacrament as your community reward partner. 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.

Much needed prayer: Each Christian needs an hour of prayer each day, except when we are busy. Then we need an hour.

St. Francis de Sales

Coming Events



- August 2--Meat prep 1 pm
- August 3--Picnic --Drive through 12-2 pm
Raffle tickets due
- August 10--Clean grounds/buildings
9 am
- Aug. 11--Raffle ticket drawing
- August 25--BSC 75th anniversary
celebration 4 pm Mass



- July 14--NA
- Budget--\$1300
- MTD Collection--NA
- MTD Budget--\$2600
- YTD Collection--NA
- YTD Budget--\$2600

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

Burnout. Recent studies suggest that roughly two-thirds of doctors and nurses have signs of it. You probably know what burnout is: long-term stress leading to emotional exhaustion and a lack of a sense of personal accomplishment. Burnout can threaten anyone who tries to seriously serve and love others. How does our faith inform this challenging experience, and how do we find refreshment?

The apostles face something like burnout this week in Mark 6. They are run down from their missionary work, and Jesus says, **“Come away by yourselves to a lonely place, and rest a while.”** For them, and for us, it takes humility to intentionally rest. It means the world can go on without us. It stings our pride to admit God is necessary and we are not. Choosing to leave our good work to be with him — whatever the cost — is an act of humble faith. And that trust in God begins to revive us.

But there's more to it. Hilariously, Mark tells us that throngs of needy people find out where the apostles are going and arrive ahead of them. Imagine the exasperation of the burnt-out apostles. “Can we *please* get a minute to ourselves? This is not healthy!” And Jesus seems to *encourage* the boundary violation by telling his frayed followers to feed the crowd. Look: once we move into humble rest, he calls us to *more* work, because we are made for love, not for rest. But Jesus does the vast bulk of the labor. He himself is the one who multiplies the small offering until everyone is satisfied.

What finally gives our heart rest isn't more vacation time. It's experiencing the super abundant generosity of God for us and those whom we serve.
— *Father John Muir*

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Lectors

July 21: Layson Brooks, Wayne Stephens
July 28: Leland Herzog, Greg Gough
August 4: Katie Goins, Misty Sanford

Eucharistic Ministers

July 21: Sarah Malone, Denise Richardson, Greg Richardson
July 28: Rita Moorman, Kathi Skidd, Katie Goins
August 4: Cindy Clark, Greg Gough, Holly Hollis

Collection & Gifts

July 21: Kelly, Holly, Samuel Hollis-
July 28: Ethan Gough, Jax Malone
August 4: Michelle Jones, Dee Brashear

A Deserted Place

In one of my favorite shows, “Parks and Recreation,” there is a scene where one of the characters, Jerry, is tasked with stuffing hundreds of envelopes with flyers as part of his volunteer work for a local city council campaign.

Jerry’s efficient, almost mechanical completion of the job amazes his coworkers, who gather to watch in awe while he folds, inserts, seals, and stamps — over and over again. After several hours, the huge pile of envelopes is finally ready for mailing ... and Jerry realizes that he has stuffed them all with the wrong piece of paper. . “I always say, it ain’t government work unless you do it twice,” he quips as he restarts the task.

In any work, no matter how worthy or fulfilling it is, there is a point where the task transforms into mere routine. It can happen with anything: ministry, marriage, parenthood, even prayer. There is no shame in this. It doesn’t mean that we don’t enjoy these pursuits or feel passion for the mission inherent in them. It only means that we are human; we get tired.

When the Apostles return from their travels, Jesus recognizes their exhaustion. He encourages them to “come away to a deserted place.” He inhabits a human body, so he knows the weariness to which it is subject. He knows what it is to be tired, to be hungry. He knows that it’s hard to do the work when your body is failing you.

It’s important for us to recognize those times when Jesus is calling us to a deserted place — and it’s important for us to follow him there, even if we are pursued by feelings of doubt and guilt, just as the Apostles were followed by crowds hungry for their ministry. Solitude is not selfishness. Contemplation is not idleness. To withdraw does not mean to run away.

The work we do — whatever it is — deserves our whole strength. If we have lost that, there is only one place we are sure to find it again.

“He said to them, ‘Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while.’” — Mark 6:31
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Readings for the Week

Monday: Sg 3:1-4/Ps 63:2-6, 8-9/
Jn 20:1-2, 11-18
Tuesday: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20/Ps
85:2-8/Mt 12:46-50
Wednesday: Jer 1:1, 4-10/Ps 71:1-6,
15 and 17/Mt 13:1-9
Thursday: 2 Cor 4:7-15/Ps 126:1-6/
Mt 20:20-28
Friday: Jer 3:14-17/Ps 19:8-11/
Mt 13:18-23
Saturday: Jer 7:1-11/Ps 84:3-6, and
8, 11/Mt 13:24-30

Observances for the week of July 21, 2024

Monday: St. Mary Magdalene
Tuesday: St. Bridget, Religious
Wednesday: St. Sharbel Makhlūf, Pr
Thursday: St. James, Apostle
Friday: Sts. Joachim and Anne,
Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary

REST IN THE LORD

For several weeks, we have listened to readings that have recounted just how arduous the work of prophets and disciples can be. In today’s Gospel, the Lord Jesus listens to the reports of those he had send out “two by two” to minister to the people. After the apostles reported what they had done, Jesus, recognizing their fatigue, says, “Come away by yourself to a deserted place and rest awhile.” Perhaps this is what the Lord is telling his disciples in the year 2024 as well. We need to pause on our journey of discipleship and simply rest in the Lord. Sunday Mass provides many opportunities for quiet times, particularly during the periods of silence following the readings. Why not take the time today to allow the saving words of the Lord to penetrate your heart during those silent times? Ask the Lord to renew you in body and spirit for the arduous work of discipleship.

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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 goes to July 30.

Raffle tickets are due by August 4; drawing is August 11 after Mass.

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