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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 Cheriakunnel
moc_scheriyankunnel@sscobo.org
Parish Life Coordinator: Sr Jeannette Fennewald,
 SSND pa@blessedsacramentchapel.org



Sunday's Readings

First Reading:
 "For thus says the LORD, 'They shall eat and there shall be some left over.'" (2 Kgs 4:43)
Psalm:
 The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs. (Ps 145)
Second Reading:
 One body and one Spirit, as you were also called to the one hope of your call; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all. (Eph 4:4-6)
Gospel:
 Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed them to those who were reclining, and also as much of the fish as they wanted. (Jn 6:11)

July 28, 2024 17th Sunday Ordinary Time
 The eyes of all look hopefully to you and you give them food in due season. Ps. 145:15



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

.My Dear Parishioners:

Until recently - recently, I mean, in the long history of the Church - nobody, really, had difficulty believing in Jesus' ability to perform miracles like the one St. John records in the sixth chapter of his gospel. It's only when we came to the modern era, the era of scientific knowledge and scientific solutions to problems, that people began to find these incidents in the gospel difficult to believe. The new idea was that nature, the physical world around us, obeys certain laws - predictable laws which nobody can direct or manipulate just by the power of their will. People started to re-interpret the stories about Jesus' miracles to fit in with this new way of thinking.

There tended to be a patronizing assumption that the gospel writers were rather ignorant, primitive-minded, credulous people who saw all sorts of supernatural influences at work when in reality there was always a perfectly simple natural explanation. Jesus' miracles were assigned a new, purely figurative or symbolic, meaning. For example: if Jesus conducted an exorcism, it was seen as healing some form of mental illness or something like epilepsy - not as a casting out of evil spirits. When he calmed a storm, it was seen as a metaphor for the peace or spiritual calm that Christ brings into our lives. The meaning of the feeding of the five thousand, then, was that everybody learned to share their food, and that was the "real" miracle: the transformation of attitudes. In modern times, this is often how the gospel accounts of Jesus' miracles have been re-written or re-interpreted.

My own opinion is that it's a mistake to reduce Jesus' miracles to the level of metaphors or legendary embellishments, and the reason I think it's a mistake is this. Like all the other major religions, the Christian faith starts with a different assumption about nature and the world around us from the assumptions of a purely scientific outlook. All the great religions start from the intuition and the experience that the material world isn't the only world. There's also the world of the spiritual. We - human beings - belong to both worlds, of course. And I think I'm also right in saying that all the religions agree that if we only concentrate on the material aspects of life, we'll not develop very far spiritually. We won't make much progress in our relationship with God, because real acquaintance with God only starts to grow at the point where our attachment to worldly things ends.

Now when it comes to Jesus' ministry and his miracles in particular, we have to ask ourselves: what was Jesus like in this regard? And the answer is that far from being someone who was held back, like we all are to some extent or other, by an excessive attachment to the material side of life, Christ was someone who was unique in the extent to which his contact with spiritual realities determined his whole life and his whole being. He was someone who was unique in his knowledge of God and his level of closeness to God. It doesn't seem to me to be at all out of the question to suggest that someone who was in touch with God to that extent was also able to draw on the power of God, in order to carry out God's work and to reveal different aspects of God's Kingdom. Let's also remember that Jesus never performed a miracle for any self-serving purpose, or to impress people with a sensational display of supernatural power. He always performed a miracle to impart healing or wholeness in some sense, to bring about liberation from evil, or to create bonds of love and solidarity. His miracles were always a matter of revealing some aspect of God's nature and bringing about some dimension of God's Kingdom.

If we bear all this in mind we shouldn't really be overcome with doubt at the idea that Jesus was able - most of the time, it seems, effortlessly - to heal people of physical diseases, to drive away the influence of the devil in people's lives, or even to control and direct physical reality - as in the calming of the storm on the lake or multiplying a quantity of food in order to feed people. If it were possible, anyone whose spiritual side or whose closeness to God was as highly developed as Christ's was would have the same kind of ability to influence the physical world around them in the way that he did.

In actual fact the lives of many of the saints show that they often had similar gifts or performed similar miracles on occasions, even if on a much lesser scale. The first reading shows the great prophet Elisha performing a similar if less stupendous miracle. (Jesus was divine, after all, which people like Elisha and the saints aren't, no matter how closely they come to know God.) So in many ways it seems to me to boil down to two basic attitudes to the world, and how we interpret our experience of living in the world. If someone is a complete, convinced atheist, who believes that this world is the only world there is, then of course, from that point of view, the miracles in the gospel stories are unbelievable, or ridiculous, or just deliberate lies by the gospel-writers. But then from that point of view the whole religious search of mankind is a complete illusion and waste of time. But if we accept the intuitions of so many saints and mystics and holy men and women - not to mention our own maybe more humble experiences of God's presence - then it shouldn't be difficult to believe that Jesus was able to bend the supposed laws of nature in the way that the gospel writers claimed he did - always, as I was saying, to bring about some aspect of God's Reign.

Doubtless there's a lot more that could be said about the whole area of the access Jesus had to the power of God, but these would be my brief suggestions about how we should read these kinds of miracle story in the gospel. We should read them with a bit more confidence in our own legacy of spiritual wisdom, and a bit more confidence in the sources of our faith, which don't actually need to be re-written with a secular slant to make them more credible. When we read the gospels the way they're meant to be read, from the perspective of faith in God, then they make perfect sense and they communicate the message they're supposed to communicate, exactly as they are. 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 was a defining moment for this generation and the beginning of a new chapter for the Church in the United States. We now resume the work of sharing the greatest gift humanity has ever received. The Congress was a high point within the National Eucharistic Revival. Our Catholic family gathered to experience profound and personal renewal through the power of Christ's love. Like a new Pentecost, this transformation flows 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, all were 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

- 21--Meredith Fain
- 22--Marcia Wilhite
- 24--Lori Robinson
- 27--Robert Hagan
- 29--Hugh Joseph Moorman
- 30--Yvonne Mundy

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 21--Dee Brashear, Kyler Carmona
- 22--Emma Goins



Laugh of the Week

A minister was completing a temperance sermon. With great emphasis he said, ‘If I had all the beer in the world, I’d take it and pour it into the river.’ With even greater emphasis he said, ‘And if I had all the wine in the world, I’d take it and pour it into the river.’ And then finally, shaking his fist in the air, he said, ‘And if I had all the whiskey in the world, I’d take it and pour it into the river.’ Sermon complete, he sat down... The song leader stood very cautiously and announced with a smile, nearly laughing, ‘For our closing song, Let us sing Hymn #365, ‘Shall We Gather at the River.’

Mass Intentions

- July 21--William Tapp
- July 28--Freddy Payne
- August 4--David Millay
- August 14--Harry Baumgarten
- August 21--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: Judy Stinett, Natalie Clark, Shaun Winchell, China Dulin, Rachel Mattingly, Yuri Phen, Larry Allen, Charlie Brown Sr, 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.

STAND FIRM

In time of desolation, one should never make a change, but stand firm in the resolutions and decisions that guided one the day before the desolation. St. Ignatius of Loyola

Coming Events



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



- July 21--\$1988
- Budget--\$1300
- MTD Collection--\$4,363.50
- MTD Budget--\$3,900
- YTD Collection--\$4,363.50
- YTD Budget--\$3,900

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

The world is filled with people whose basic needs aren’t met, whether for clean water, nutrition, safety, education, meaningful work, stable family life, basic medical resources, religious freedom, and the right to life. So how can we possibly believe what Psalm 145 says to us this week, “**The hand of the Lord feeds us, he answers all our needs**”? Does he? What about the countless poor? Can’t we identify at least a few unmet needs in our own lives right now? Is the Bible promoting wishful thinking and laziness in helping others?

No. The psalm flows from Israel’s experience of God’s relentless fidelity again and again —especially in the Passover from Egypt. This divine providence is recalled when Jesus feeds the needy multitudes in the Gospel of John. Passover arrives once again, and the people are hungry like the ancient Israelites on the wilderness journey. What is new is that in Jesus God not only provides for their needs, but He learns what it’s like to have those human needs. He shares them too. He feeds them bread and fish; and even more, He hungers to provide them, and us, much more than just that kind of perishable food.

Our deepest need is for God. Like the multiplied bread, all earthly provisions ultimately fail, for we all finally die. Of course, our obligation to meet the needs of the poor is basic. But Christ promises to feed us with the one bread that never fails: God Himself. He is humanity’s eternal food. If we eat this bread, we taste the faithfulness of God who answers all our needs, even when every earthly thing fails.

— Father John Muir

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Lectors

July 28: Leland Herzog, Greg Gough
August 4: Katie Goins, Misty Sanford
August 11: Jacques Williams, Barbara Bisel

Eucharistic Ministers

July 28: Rita Moorman, Kathi Skidd, Katie Goins
August 4: Cindy Clark, Greg Gough, Holly Hollis
August 11: Misty Sanford, Rita Moorman, Janet Clark

Collection & Gifts

July 28: Ethan Gough, Jax Malone
August 4: Michelle Jones, Dee Brashear
August 11: Greg and Denise Richardson, Vivian Higgs

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 29.

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

Take More

It doesn't matter what time of day we visit my mother-in-law — she always has food to offer. If we take two helpings, she will encourage us to take three. If we take three helpings, she will say, "*Coraggio* — take more." (She's Italian, in case you couldn't tell from the food-pushing and the language.)

When Jesus feeds the five thousand with the miracle of the loaves and fish, he does not produce *just* enough food to feed everyone who is there. He certainly could — that would be within his power. And he shows concern about waste, so it would make sense for him to do that. But instead, he deliberately overproduces. He creates more food than is necessary. He makes an abundance of it. Why?

I think it's for the same reason my mother-in-law keeps urging us to eat when we come to her house. Feeding people is not just a functional action. It's a gesture. It shows love. It shows concern. It shows welcome. Having an abundance of food — so much that there is some left over — is a sign that you don't care how much someone wants — you are ready to give whatever they are ready to take. You are ready to give recklessly. You are ready to give them not just all they need but also all they could want.

I think of this when I approach the sacrament of Confession. Time and time again I walk up to the door of that little room, a list of oft-repeated sins in my hand and a sense of shame on my heart. *Here I am again, Jesus. Back for more mercy. Hope you haven't run out.* He hasn't yet. He never will. "*Coraggio,*" he whispers deep in my heart, "take more."

"When the people saw the sign he had done, they said, 'This is truly the Prophet, the one who is to come into the world.'" — John 6:14

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Readings for the Week

Monday: Jer 13:1-11/Ps 32:18-21/
Jn 11:19-27
Tuesday: Jer 14:17-22/Ps 79:8-9, 11 and
13/Mt 13:36-43
Wednesday: Jer 15:10, 16-21/Ps 59:2-4, 10
-11, 17/Mt 13:44-46
Thursday: Jer 18:1-6/Ps 146:1-6/
Mt 13:47-53
Friday: Jer 26:1-9/Ps 69:5, 8-10, 14
Mt 13:54-58
Saturday: Jer 26:11-16, 24/Ps 69:
15-16, 30-34/Mt 14:1-12

Observances for the week of July 28, 2024

Monday: Sts. Martha, Mary, Lazarus
Tuesday: St. Peter Chrysologus, Bishop
and Doctor of the Church
Wednesday: St. Ignatius of Loyola, Priest
Thursday: St. Alphonsus Liguori, Bishop
Doctor of the Church
Friday: St. Eusebius of Vercelli, Bishop;
St. Peter Julian Eymard,

WEEKLY MIRACLE

This week marks the beginning of a kind of "liturgical detour." We have been listening to Saint Mark's Gospel during this liturgical year. Today we begin to hear a long section from John's Gospel, starting with the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes. This miracle story is a prelude to the Lord's statements that we will begin hearing in a few weeks, in which Jesus refers to himself as the "bread of life." Each week we witness a miracle at Mass. We do not see a multiplication of loaves before us. What our eyes of faith allow us to see is the miracle of the transformation of common elements--bread and wine--into the Lord's Body and Blood. Once we have received the Lord, the multiplication begins, for in the Eucharist we are strengthened to multiply our efforts to feed the poor, shelter the homeless, and bring comfort to the despairing. J.S. Paluch Co. Inc.

ANNIVERSARY DINNER

Blessed Sacrament Chapel will celebrate the 75th anniversary of the dedication of the Chapel on Sunday, August 25 at 4 PM. A number of priests will join Bishop Medley in the celebration of Mass. After Mass there will be a meal in the hall. Some of you are part of the history for many years and some have joined us recently. We invite you to join us in the celebration as you have so faithfully supported Blessed Sacrament in many ways. We do need an RSVP for the dinner no later than August 18. There will be a sign-up sheet in church for this purpose. I hope that all members of the parish have found some way to be involved in our celebration. We still have work days ahead to beautify the interior and exterior of our beautiful church.