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# Blessed Sacrament

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[www.blessedsacramentchapel.org](http://www.blessedsacramentchapel.org) or email at [pa@blessedsacramentchapel.org](mailto: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](mailto:jthomas@sscobo.org)

**Parochial Vicar:** Father Shibu Cheriankunnel  
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**Parish Life Coordinator:** Sr Jeannette Fennewald,  
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## Sunday’s Readings

### First Reading:

That is why a man leaves his father and mother and clings to his wife, and the two of them become one flesh. (Gn 2:24)

### Psalm:

May the Lord bless us all the days of our lives. (Ps 128)

### Second Reading:

He who consecrates and those who are being consecrated all have one origin. (Heb 9:11)

### Gospel:

“Therefore what God has joined together no human being must separate.” (Mk 10:9)

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



**October 6, 2024 27th Sunday Ordinary Time**

Blessed are you who walk  
in the way of the Lord. (Ps. 128)



.My Dear Parishioners:

According to Genesis chapter 2 God created man from the earth and God created woman from the side of man. This account has often been misinterpreted to suggest the subordination of woman to man. The translation ‘helpmate’ is not an accurate translation of the Hebrew word. Something like ‘indispensable partner’ would be better. The text suggests that the woman is to stand alongside the man as his equal. She corresponds to him exactly, as the man affirms, ‘bone of my bones’, ‘flesh of my flesh.’ Whereas the man names the animals, suggesting a certain authority over them, he does not name the woman. The primary relationship between the man and the woman is adult human to adult human. The text proclaims that from the beginning God intended men and women to relate to one another with mutuality and partnership. According to our first reading that relationship of mutuality and partnership between a man and a woman finds its fullest expression in marriage, a ‘man leaves his father and mother and joins himself to his wife, and they become one body.’

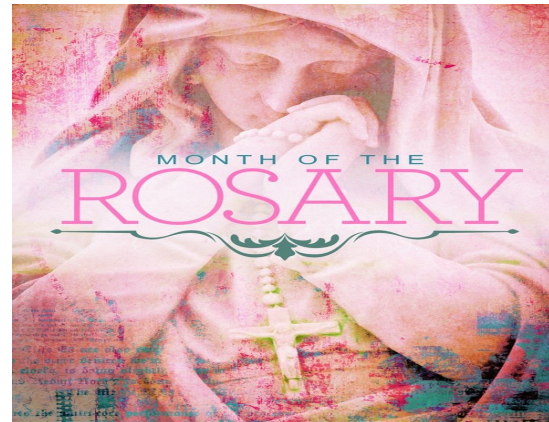
In this morning’s gospel, Jesus turns to this text from the Book of Genesis when he is put on the spot by some Pharisees regarding the question of divorce. As the Pharisees would have known, the Jewish Law permitted a form of divorce. According to the Book of Deuteronomy, a man who becomes displeased with his wife because he finds in her something objectionably could write her a bill of divorce, hand it to her and dismiss her from his house. There was no provision in Jewish law for a woman to divorce her husband. It was a law which left women vulnerable. In reply to the Pharisees Jesus declares that what the law allows is not what actually what God wills. God’s purpose for marriage, according to Jesus, is to be found in those opening chapters of the book of Genesis. Whereas the Pharisees ask Jesus about divorce, in his reply Jesus places the focus on marriage. His vision of marriage is of a profound union between a man and a woman, a communion of faithful love. It is no coincidence that immediately after the passage in which Jesus speaks of marriage, Mark in his gospel gives us a story about children, about parents bringing children to Jesus for him to bless them. Marriage between a man and a woman is a tried and tested way in which children can grow up to be loved, as well as being given stability and security. No other setting has been proven better for the nourishing and flourishing of children. If society cares about children, it will channel financial and professional resources into supporting marriage, understood as a communion of faithful love between a man and a woman, the fullest expression in human form of the communion of love between the Lord and ourselves.

We know from our own experience that that not all marriages reflect the ideal that Jesus places before us in today’s gospel. Many of us will have relatives whose marriages have not lasted. The gospels are clear that although Jesus presented a certain vision for human relationships, including within marriage, he did not condemn those who feel short of that vision. All of us, married or single, are called to love one another as the Lord has loved us, and we all fail in our response to that call. It is in those moments of weakness and failure that the second part of this morning’s gospel has most to say to us, ‘anyone who does not welcome the kingdom of God like a little child will not enter it.’ We stand before the Lord with a child-like heart, in our weakness and vulnerability, open and receptive to the great gift of the Lord’s love that is given to us unconditionally. It is that gift which empowers us to keep reaching towards the goal, the ideal, the Jesus puts before us all.

Blessings, Fr. John

## How to Pray the Rosary

The Rosary is a Scripture-based prayer. It begins with the *Apostles' Creed*, which summarizes the great mysteries of the Catholic faith. The Our Father, which introduces each mystery, is from the Gospels. The first part of the *Hail Mary* is the angel's words announcing Christ's birth and Elizabeth's greeting to Mary. St. Pius V officially added the second part of the *Hail Mary*. The Mysteries of the Rosary center on the events of Christ's life. There are four sets of Mysteries: Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious and—added by Saint John Paul II in 2002—the Luminous. The repetition in the Rosary is meant to lead one into restful and contemplative prayer related to each Mystery. The gentle repetition of the words helps us to enter into the silence of our hearts, where Christ's spirit dwells. The Rosary can be said privately or with a group.



## Praying the Rosary

**Familiarize yourself and/or your group with the prayers of the rosary.**

1. Make the Sign of the Cross.
2. Holding the Crucifix, say the *Apostles' Creed*.
3. On the first bead, say an *Our Father*.
4. Say one *Hail Mary* on each of the next three beads.
5. Say the *Glory Be*
6. For each of the five decades, announce the Mystery (perhaps followed by a brief reading from Scripture) then say the *Our Father*.
7. While fingering each of the ten beads of the decade, next say ten Hail Marys while meditating on the Mystery. Then say a *Glory Be*. (After finishing each decade, some say the following prayer requested by the Blessed Virgin Mary at Fatima: *O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell; lead all souls to Heaven, especially those who have most need of your mercy.*)
8. After saying the five decades, say the Hail, Holy Queen, followed by this dialogue and prayer: V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God. R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ. *Let us pray: O God, whose Only Begotten Son, by his life, Death, and Resurrection, has purchased for us the rewards of eternal life, grant, we beseech thee, that while meditating on these mysteries of the most holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we may imitate what they contain and obtain what they promise, through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Conclude the Rosary with the Sign of the Cross.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

19--Luke Bisel  
18--Samuel Hollis, Lila Clark  
20--Mary Katherine Gough

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

6--Holly Hollis  
10--Jacques Williams III  
13--Vicki Leonard  
17--Kelly Hollis



.PEOPLE OF EUCHARIST

A Christian, a follower of Christ, is someone who “remembers,” Pope Francis says. This means not just that we recall the stories and tenets of our faith, but that we apply them--by recognizing, accepting, and celebrating the gift of God’s life in us and in all our brothers and sisters. A Christian is someone who is in constant contact with God, seeking to do God’s will, remembering always God’s covenant with us and our responsibilities because of that covenant. But God knows we are fallible, so he generously gives us the gift of the Eucharist to remind us always of the depth of his love in the Person of his Son. That’s something to celebrate!

*Do I take time to remember God during the day?*

Mass Intentions

September 29--Harry Baumgarten  
  
October 6--Harris Family  
  
October 13--David Millay  
  
October 20 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: Pam Wilson, Emma Latta, Phil Armendarez, Cindy Heckmann, Joe Washington, Judy Stinnett, Shaun Winchell, China Dulin, Rachel Mattingly, Larry Allen, Charlie Brown Sr, Steven Moorman, Philip Moorman, Jr., Ronnie Hollis, Chandra Hagan, Larry Clark, Ruth Coble, Carol Hatchett, Jordan Gertisen, Shelby Webster, Andy Evans, Gary Moorman. If you know of anyone who is in need of prayer or visitation, please notify the office.

.SAVE THE DATE

There will be a hotdog/chili supper/fundraiser on Saturday October 19th. We are asking parishioners to make chili; there will be a prize for the most tasty chili. We want to have a silent auction so if you have a donation or can get donations, please let us know. There will be music, beer and wine as part of the evening entry. Should be a fun evening. Please invite friends to join you for the evening. Entry is \$120 for a table of 8, \$90 for a table of 6, 15 per person and will include food and drink and a fun evening. Seating is limited so reserve your table/seat now.

Coming Events



Blessed Sacrament Happenings

October 6, 13--No religious ed class (fall break)  
  
October 11--Scripture Sharing 10 am  
  
October 19--Hot dog/chili Night 6:15



Sept 29--NA  
Budget--\$1300  
MTD Collection--NA  
MTD Budget--NA  
YTD Collection--NA  
YTD Budget--NA

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

As a young pastor years ago, I met with a middle-aged couple who had been divorced and civilly remarried. They were frustrated that an annulment had to precede a Church marriage. Sympathizing with their plight, I promised to walk with them along their journey. Once as we sat in my office, the man said to me, “Why is the Church so difficult on marriage?” I replied, “Actually, Jesus’ teaching is what’s difficult.” He furrowed his brow and asked what I meant.

We opened the Bible and together read today’s gospel passage from Mark 10:12 in which Jesus says, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another, commits adultery with her...” My two friends sat in silent astonishment. Surely Jesus understands the complexities of human life and sexual love. The words hung thick and heavy in the air. How could the merciful Lord be so seemingly unrealistic in his expectations, especially with so much divorce and remarriage in our world?

I didn’t know what to say. So, we kept reading. Next, Jesus says, “Let the children come to me.” The innocence of children allows them to receive and give love, to trust unconditionally, to believe in love that endures. Most children aren’t yet jaded by statistics, broken hearts, or dysfunctional relationships. Children remind us of the world to come. The couple and I began to talk about child-like trust in Jesus and his teaching, and we continued to move forward. When it comes to the Church’s demanding teaching on marriage, it’s best to approach it as trusting children, whatever situations in which we find ourselves. — Father John Muir

MINISTRY SCHEDULE	
<b>Lectors</b>	
<u>October 6:</u>	Layson Brooks, Wayne Stephens
<u>October 13:</u>	Alexis Hatchett, Kathi Skidd
<u>October 20:</u>	Layson Brooks, Katie Goins
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	
<u>October 6:</u>	Kathi Skidd, Rita Moorman, Barbara Bisel
<u>October 13:</u>	Cindy Clark, Janet Clark, Greg Gough
<u>October 20:</u>	Holly Hollis, Misty Sanford, Vivian Higgs
<b>Collection &amp; Gifts</b>	
<u>October 6:</u>	Michelle Jones, Dee Brasher
<u>October 13:</u>	Steve Coble, Wayne Stephens
<u>Octpber 20:</u>	Marcia Wilhite, Lori Robinson



**The Hardness of Your Hearts**

As far as I know, no one has ever woken up in the morning, looked out the window, and thought, “This is a beautiful sunrise. I’ll have to be very careful not to let it make me happy.”

But I’m certain that every day, lots of people — including, on not-infrequent occasions, myself — have woken up and remembered something that happened the day before. Something that made us feel upset or frustrated or insulted. And we thought to ourselves, “That makes me so, so angry.” And we’ve pictured the face of the person who made us feel that way, and we have scoffed with disgust.

And we hold onto that anger because anger feels so much better than sadness. And deep within ourselves, in the place where we feel all the love and pain and confusion that is inherent in human existence, we harden.

Nobody ever intends to be hard-hearted. That’s just the stuff of Bond villains and horror flicks. No, in real life a hardened heart isn’t a conscious choice. It’s a reflex. It’s just us trying to protect ourselves, to be strong — or, at least, to embody the version of strength offered by a fallen world.

A heart of stone is not so easily scratched, you see. But it’s also not so easily warmed or touched or moved.

A heart hardened by resentment and pain and anger is not just protected from injury. It is protected from the impact of the whole spectrum of tender feelings. It is not open to forgiveness, so it cannot feel the rush of life-giving mercy. It is closed off to new ideas, so it can never feel the awe of discovery.

There is a reason we are called to guard ourselves against hard-heartedness. God gave us hearts of flesh and blood. They are hearts that can be broken, yes — but also, they are hearts that can be made new.

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Readings for the Week

Monday: Gal 1:6-12/Ps 111:1-2, 7-10/Lk 10:25-37

Tuesday: Gal 1:13-24/Ps 139:1-3, 13-15/Lk 10:38-42

Wednesday: Gal 2:1-2, 7-14/Ps 117:1-2/Lk 11:1-4

Thursday: Gal 3:1-5/Lk 1:69-75 / Lk 11:5-13

Friday: Gal 3:7-14/Ps 111:1-6/ Lk 11:15-26

Saturday: Gal 3:22-29/Ps 105:2-7/ Lk 11:27-28

Observances for the week of October 6, 2024

Sunday: Respect Life Sunday

Monday: Our Lady of the Rosary-

Wednesday: St. Denis, Bishop, and St. John Leonardi, Priest

Friday: St. John XXIII, Pope

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"SIGH", THOUGHT FRANK, AS HE ALWAYS DID WHEN SOME CONFUSED PERSON FEELS THAT THEY SHOULD TITHE "ONE TENT"

**BURY YOUR TROUBLES:** When I dig others out of trouble, I find a place to bury my own.

**HE EMBRACED THEM AND BLESSED THEM**

Today Jesus stresses how children embody the reign of God. They are trusting and loving and have hearts that are open to love. They are joyful when they are made aware of God’s love for them, and are eager to return that love. This is the model Jesus holds out to us if we want to welcome the reign of God. We need to have open, loving hearts. We must drop our defenses, however we came by them, and welcome Christ’s love for us with joy. This is impossible for us on our own. Only the grace of God will enable us to do this, but that grace is freely and generously given. We have only to accept it.

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**RESPECT LIFE ISSUES**

“The unborn child, the aging parent who some call a ‘burden’ on our medical system, the allegedly ‘excess’ embryo in the fertility clinic, the person with a disability, the cognitively impaired accident victim who needs assistance in receiving food and water to live—each today is at risk of being dismissed as a ‘life unworthy of life’,” All of these issues, as well as how we speak about people, are part of respect life.

**Prayer for Marriage**

God, pour Your blessings upon those You have called to marriage. Strengthen the bonds of their unions. May Your love be revealed in the ways they cherish and support each other, in good times and bad, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health. Amen.