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# Blessed Sacrament

602 Sycamore Street • Owensboro, KY 42301 • 270-926-4741

[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  
[moc\\_scheriyankunnel@sscobo.org](mailto:moc_scheriyankunnel@sscobo.org)

**Parish Life Coordinator:** Sr Jeannette Fennewald,  
SSND [pa@blessedsacramentchapel.org](mailto:pa@blessedsacramentchapel.org)



## Sunday's Readings

### First Reading:

Elijah said to her, "Do not be afraid. Go and do as you propose. But first make me a little cake and bring it to me." (1 Kgs 17:13)

### Psalm:

Praise the Lord, my soul! (Ps 146)

### Second Reading:

But now once for all he has appeared at the end of the ages to take away sin by his sacrifice. (Heb 9:26)

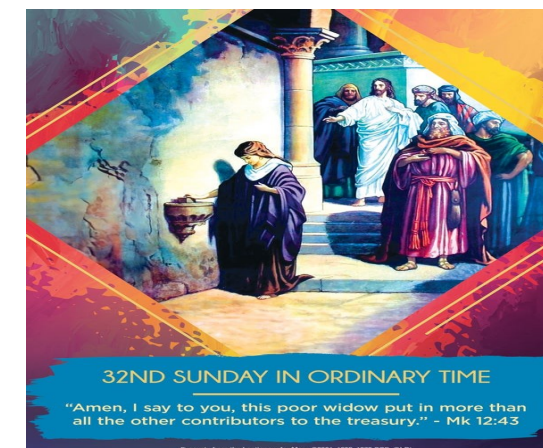
### Gospel:

"Amen, I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the other contributors to the treasury." (Mk 12:43)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass  
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**November 10, 2024 32nd Sunday  
Ordinary Time**

**The Lord keeps faith forever, secures justice  
for the oppressed, gives food to the hungry.**



My Dear Parishioners:

“It’s all taking and no giving!” as Dolly Parton belted it out, in the Film: Working Nine to Five, and her next line was to mock that way of life: “What a way to make a living!”. Today’s Scriptures point to another way. The good life manages to blend gracious taking with cheerful giving, and the value is in the giving. It’s our giving that is recorded in the Book of Life. Jesus is the Great Giver: that we may have life, and have it to the full [Jn 10:10.] As a fine example of this kind of mutual help, we have heard how Elijah and the widow of Zarephath helped each other to survive. During the famine she shares the last of her food with the starving prophet. She gives without hesitation, and is blessed in return. In the Gospel Jesus says, in effect, “Give from the heart.” The widow’s offering to the Temple might seem small in the eyes of other donors, but it was whole-hearted and therefore priceless in value. Generosity is not the exclusive prerogative of the rich. The poor have great gifts to share too, and when they do so, others should respond with appreciation.

Gifts from ordinary people support many projects and causes in the Catholic Church, just as they kept the Jerusalem temple going in Jesus’ day. It is a strange, but at the same time common truth, that generosity is more widespread among those who have little to spare than among those who have lots of money and property. But let’s recall today that all donations made for the glory of God share in Jesus’ warm praise of the woman who “gave all she could.” This story of the Widow’s Mite invites us to examine the quality of giving in our lives — not just to Church collections, but to whatever worthy cause attracts our attention and our sympathy. More than once, Jesus spoke about this subject. Not only should the gift be made with a generous heart, but so far as possible in an anonymous, non-fussy way, so that “the left hand does not know what the right hand is doing.” The thing should be done because it is right, with the intention of pleasing God rather than winning credit or praise from others. And the more it costs us in personal terms — giving up some of our time, or our comfort, for something worthwhile — the more it is part of the one great sacrifice of Christ, who gave himself totally for us.

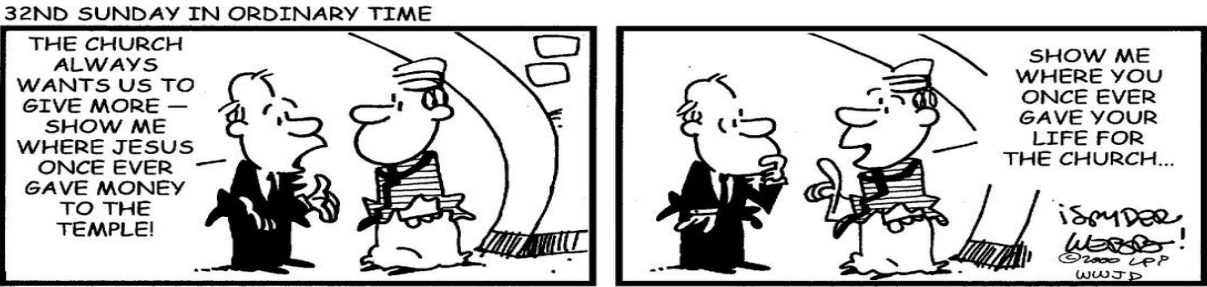
Saint Paul began the first extensive charity collection for people in need in the history of the Church. He proposed two wise slogans to guide us in this: “Those who sow sparingly will also reap sparingly” and “God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Cor 9:6-7.) And there can be no doubt that the cheerful gift is more acceptable even among people on a everyday level. The hospitality shown to the famished prophet Elijah by the poor widow, was all the more precious in that it was given with loving respect, and not as a grudging duty. Here was a man of God, clearly in need of help. There was no need for long, involved argument about how he had gotten into this position, or whether he had drawn up a wiser plan for his future. She did what she could for him, and was blessed in the process.

“Charity brings its own reward,” says the proverb. There is a glow of satisfaction in giving for a good cause. It is also, in a Gospel sense, the best possible investment for our eternal future — that “treasure in heaven” of which Jesus spoke, when he invited people to “sell what you have and give to the poor.” And it has been well said that, from the perspective of our death-bed, we will be happier to think of what we have freely given away during our life-time than of what we have simply stored away for the rainy day. Giving can be global as well as local. In our technological age, we have more detailed information about the hungry and deprived plight of people in Third World countries, and indeed of the major miseries endured in inner-city areas of high unemployment much closer to home. Sometimes we feel almost crushed into apathy by the sheer magnitude of the problems; at other times we may grow indignant at the political and economic structures that seem to perpetuate this state of affairs. Aware and intelligent generosity should prompt us to outspoken concern for justice, as well as some personal contribution to charities like famine relief, development funds. At the same time, we ought not neglect the smaller, perhaps less urgent, needs at our own door-step. The personal touch is part of the giving, and giving our time can often be more precious than anything else. And Shakespeare’s line remains true about all works of kindness and mercy, “It is twice blessed: it blesses him that gives and him that receives.” Father John

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

New religious faith gives fresh lenses for viewing human customs, and the wisdom to transform them. In the ancient world, the Romans feared the dead. Funeral customs were designed to hasten the departure of souls to the next world. Cremation was the rule, although burial increased in popularity in the second century. Procession from the place of death to the place of cremation or burial was the most important part of the funeral. Those who carried the funeral bier carried it low, close to the ground to promote the soul’s departure to the nether world.

Christians, on the other hand, did not fear the dead, but cherished them as they consigned them to Christ’s love and protection. Gradually, they began to reject customs rooted in fear. Christians carried their dead to their resting places singing, with the bier carried high, away from the ground and toward the heavens. For the Christian, the grave was a sign of hope and a place of remembrance. Superstitious Romans feared burial places, and so the Christians cherished them as places of remembrance and prayer, and in time, even celebrated the Eucharist there. In November, many of us visit the cemetery for prayer and the autumn clean-up. By cherishing our dead, we are responding in faith to a vital part of our Christian tradition. James Field copyright. J. S. Paluch



Laugh of the Week

An old preacher was dying. He sent a message for his banker and his lawyer, both church members, to come to his home. When they arrived, they were ushered up to his bedroom. As they entered the room, the preacher held out his hands and motioned for them to sit on each side of the bed. The preacher grasped their hands, sighed contentedly, smiled, and stared at the ceiling. For a time, no one said anything. Both the banker and lawyer were touched and flattered that the preacher would ask them to be with him during his final moments. They were also puzzled; the preacher had never given them any indication that he particularly liked either of them. They both remembered his many long, uncomfortable sermons about greed, covetousness, and avaricious behavior that made them squirm in their seats. Finally, the banker said, "Preacher, why did you ask us to come?" The old preacher mustered up his strength and then said weakly, "Jesus died between two thieves, and that's how I want to go."



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1--Father John, Austin Gough
- 5--Mike Bogdan, Jamie Bisel
- 7--Lennox Williams, Hank, Quinn Fain
- 11--Jeff Sanford
- 16--Joyce Moorman, Greg Gough,
- 19--Ron Moorman, Barbara Bisel
- 22--Trey Hatchett
- 25--Payton Sanford



GROWING FORWARD IN CHRIST

It has been two years since we began our Growing Forward in Christ campaign. Thanks to all of you who have pledged and faithfully have been fulfilling that pledge. Please continue to contribute; the three year pledge period is not over (and you can even continue after that!).

If for some reason you have not contributed, it is not too late. We will have a plaque board in the vestibule with the name of everyone who has contributed to the campaign. We would like to see the name of every parishioner on it. If you can make a contribution, please mark it "Capital Campaign" or use the envelope in your box of envelopes titled "Growing Forward. This is a separate donation from your tithing. Thank you for consideration. We will be making decisions about the contribution board soon.

Mass Intentions

- November 3--DJ Clark
- November 10--David Millay
- November 17--Patricia Lett
- November 24--DJ Clark

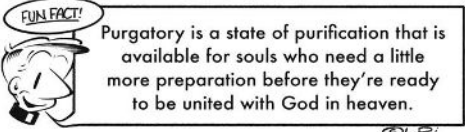
Let us remember to pray for those who have recently died or those in the process of dying. Remember to pray for the souls in purgatory, especially for those who have no one to pray for them.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the sick: Kathi Skidd, Gene Forsyth, Pam Wilson, Emma Latta, Phil Armendarez, Cindy Heckmann, Joe Washington, Judy Stinett, 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

"Did you hear about the cat who died and wasn't yet fit for heaven?"



"She went to Purrrgatory."



Coming Events



Blessed Sacrament Happening

- Nov. 16--Encounter Love/Encounter Jesus Retreat 9-1 pm McRaith Center RSVP needed
- Nov. 24--Thanksgiving dinner 12-2
- Dec. 1--1st Sunday of Advent



- Nov. 3--\$1,399
- Budget--\$1,300
- MTD Collection--\$1,399
- MTD Budget--\$1,300
- YTD Collection--\$23,890
- YTD Budget--\$23,400

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 at an evening Mass as a poor college student, the collection basket was fast approaching, and I only had a ten-dollar bill. I was planning on using that to buy my favorite Chipotle burrito that night for dinner. Should I keep the money? Who would know if I did? If I gave it away, what would I eat? Would I be okay? I kissed my future burrito goodbye, dropped the money in the basket, and winced. But strangely, the rest of the Mass I felt more engaged than usual. I had skin in the game. I left the Mass excited to see how God would take care of me. And he did, in amazing ways.

When the poor widow places two copper coins in the temple treasury, Jesus doesn't pity her. He praises her. He blesses her. He brags about her. He celebrates her as the temple's largest benefactor. Her giving is an act of radical, concrete trust in God. It is as if she is entering a new level of giving that excites Jesus, because she contributes not out of her abundance, but she gives "everything she had."

What a challenge this is to each one of us! How easy it is to ignore this! But imagine the eruption of the energy of faith, hope, and love that would be unlocked if our financial sacrifices to the Church actually tapped into daily bread and not only our disposable income. I challenge us to try this in some way this coming week and see what happens in our hearts. Even if it costs us a burrito. — Father John Muir

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](http://krogercommunityrewards.com) to register. Thanks for your support.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE	
Lectors	
<u>November 10:</u>	Barbara Bisel, Wayne Stevens
<u>November 17:</u>	Layson Brooks, Misty Sanford
<u>November 24:</u>	Jacques Williams, Katie Goins
Eucharistic Ministers	
<u>November 10:</u>	Janet Clark, Greg Gough, Holly Hollis
<u>November 17:</u>	Barbara Bisel, Rita Moor-man, Katie Goins
<u>November 24:</u>	Misty Sanford, Denise and Greg Richardson
Collection & Gifts	
<u>November 10:</u>	Aubrey and Lad Ottofy
<u>November 17:</u>	Chelis, Britney, Kyler Carmona
<u>November 24:</u>	Jamie, Beau, Luke Bisel

PRAY FOR THE DEAD

Let us not hesitate to help those who have died and offer our prayers for them. St. John Chrysostom

**Prayer of Generosity**

Oh God, whose generosity cannot be outgiven, mold my heart to mimic Yours. Teach me what it means to be giving, knowing that whatever I have is a gift from Your abundance. Blessed be Your name. Amen.

Our annual **Community Thanksgiving dinner** will be November 24 12-2 pm. This is our opportunity to reach out to community and hopefully form community spirit We ask that everyone participates in some way. Please sign up in church or call the office. We need you present on the 24th to serve, and show hospitality since this is a dine-in event.

**Giving From Abundance**

If you’re like me, and you’re far, far below the “having buildings named after you” tax bracket, you might just think that today’s Gospel has nothing to do with you.

You might kick back and relax, thinking of all the poor, rich suckers sitting in the pews, shifting uncomfortably as Jesus praises the meager gift of the widow and disdains those who only give from abundance, those whose charity results in admiration and praise and all manner of temporal reward.

“In this economy, every gift I give is from my poverty,” you might think to yourself with a chuckle.

But you — and let me be clear, I’m talking mostly to myself here — would be wrong. Because we all have an abundance of something, even if it isn’t money.

What I’ve come to realize about myself is that I find plenty of ways to give *only* from my abundance. For instance, if I answer any request with the words, “Sure, I can, but…” chances are high that I’m about to work out a way to give, but only in a way that doesn’t really impact me.

I’m willing to help. I just don’t want to feel it.

But here’s the thing about Jesus: he cares what’s in our hearts as well as what’s in our hands. A good deed, an act of charity? That’s great! But what’s the story behind it? Because a world full of moral actions and selfish hearts doesn’t do anyone any good.

When we give from our poverty — our poverty of money, our poverty of time, our poverty of patience — we are giving the gift of the widow.

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Readings for the Week	
Monday:	Ti 1:1-9/Ps 24:1-6 / Lk 17:1-6
Tuesday:	Ti 2:1-8, 11-14/Ps 37:3-4, 18, 23, 27Lk 17:7-10
Wednesday:	Ti 3:1-7/Ps 23:1-6/ Lk 17:11-19
Thursday:	Phlm 7-20/Ps 146:7-10/ Lk 17:20-25
Friday:	2 Jn 4-9/Ps 119:1-2, 10, 11, 17-18/Lk 17:26-37
Saturday:	3 Jn 5-8/Ps 112:1-6 / Lk 18:1-8

Observances for the week of November 10	
Monday:	St. Martin of Tours, Bishop; Veterans Day
Tuesday:	St. Josaphat, Martyr
Wednesday:	St. Frances Xavier Cabrini,
Friday:	St. Albert the Great,
Saturday:	St. Margaret of Scotland; St. Gertrude, Virgin



**THE POOR**

As Christians, we hear a lot about the witness and service that we are called to render to the poor among us. However, the poor also have a witness and a service to render to us. Like the actions of the widow in today’s Gospel, the openness and generosity of many of who are poor, even in the midst of their own poverty, bear witness to the fact that, ultimately, we can depend only on God. Giving one’s all witnesses that God will give all to anyone who trusts in divine goodness.

The poor or disadvantaged also serve. They serve judgment on our individual and corporate ways of acting. If people are sleeping on our streets, that is a judgment on our priorities regarding others. At the same time, the poor can act as mediators of salvation. When they care for others they can redeem our indifference and insensibility, lead us to care as well, and save us from ourselves.

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**ENCOUNTER LOVE**

**ENCOUNTER JESUS**

Encounter Love/Encounter Jesus Retreat is for all adults seeking to experience the love of God in a personal way. It is held at the McRaith Catholic Center in Owensboro on Saturday Nov. 16, 9-1 pm It includes a reflective prayer service and highlights missionary discipleship in our faith. Join us and bring a friend to our morning retreat. We wil have coffee and breakfast foods, and lunch will be served. There is no cost to attend, but you must sign up. Sponsored by the office of evangelization. **Register today--deadline is Monday. Jeff.andrini@pastoral.org**