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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:

"It shall be a time unsurpassed in distress since nations began until that time. At that time your people shall escape." (Dn 12:1) **Psalm:** 

You are my inheritance, O Lord! (Ps 16) **Second Reading:** 

For by one offering he has made perfect forever those who are being consecrated. (He10:14) **Gospel:** 

"And then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the end of the earth to the end of the sky." (Mk 13)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001



November 17, 2024 33rd Sunday Heaven and earth will pass away but my words will not pass away. Mark 13:31



# My Dear Parishioners:

## Be Ready... He is coming

Just over 23 years ago, in the New York City area, thousands of people were going about their daily business, heading for their jobs at the World Trade Center. The day was picture-perfect, a beautiful sunny September morning. Some of these people were carrying their Dunkin Donuts coffee, and probably reading the morning paper, thinking about many different things: possibly, their job, family, or other concerns. Furthest from their minds was the thought that maybe they could die today. In a few hours though, many of these same people, mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, would enter eternity. The date was September 11, 2001. Last week (I am not sure what the rational was) on the National Geographic Channel, they were running a marathon of programs focused on different aspects of the 9-11 attacks. I personally have a fascination with this event. For all of us, up to that moment, it was 'just another day'. The attacks on September 11, 2001 serve as a wakeup call to remind us that we are not guaranteed to die of old age; that is, we must be ready to stand before the Lord Jesus Christ, if we are called home today. Yet, many of us do not think in these terms, especially the young who think that they will live forever; I used to be guilty of this....of course, that was when I was younger.

Today, as we approach the end of Ordinary Time, the Church asks each and every one of us to reflect on and take stock of our spiritual affairs, and make sure we are listening to God's voice today, so we will be ready to meet Him tomorrow. And, just as the Liturgical Year will come to an end, so too does our earthly life end, sometimes unexpectedly, as we have all seen. So, what is the answer? How do we remain 'ready' to meet the Lord? For myself, I have found the best way to be ready is to stay in the state of grace: if I am aware of any mortal sin on my soul, I will confess it promptly, and then try to do better; to avoid that sin in the future. (Firm purpose of amendment.)

Today, the Church also wants us to look ahead just a bit, to prepare for the Second Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, when He will come in glory to judge the living and the dead. In the Gospel Our Lord describes the events, which will occur in the End Times, after the Tribulation, when He will return in glory. So, we must always stay alert, and be prepared, for we do not know the day or the hour when our Lord will return. (The General Judgment) Only the Father in heaven knows this. In the CCC, #675, we find: "Before Christ's Second Coming the Church must pass through a final trial that will shake the faith of many believers." The Catechism goes on to tell of the Anti-Christ, a false messiah who will appear before the true Messiah, Jesus Christ, returns to put an end to the Anti-Christ and his evil forces, and to put an end to sin, once and for all.

Our Church is beginning to undergo many persecutions and trials; this is a fact. Things will most likely get worse. There are many signs: wars, rumors of wars, earthquakes, hurricanes, and floods, as well as various plagues, famine, and other natural disasters. And, there is a great apostasy, or falling away from the faith. In the United States today, 1 out of 5 Americans has no faith whatsoever; that's nearly 60 million people! It does seem that something is happening, unlike anything that has ever happened on earth before. We see 100 year storms and floods occurring every year, for example. To top it off, our own government is now trying to tell us what we can and cannot do with regard to the HHS Mandate.

So here is the \$64 question: Are we in the end times? The answer is YES; the End Times began when Jesus came to earth the first time, but again we do not know the day or hour of Christ's Second Coming. However, we can discern the many signs that are happening in our world today that indicate the Second Coming is approaching.

Unfortunately, many preachers will stand before cameras and congregations and use our current events as proof that the end of the world is near. Some will make their 'annual predictions' as to an exact date and time. Do not be fooled. Do not be afraid. We may witness the Second Coming of Christ, it is true, although many of us will meet Jesus at the moment of our own death, and we will have to render an accounting of our earthly life: all we have done, and all we have failed to do. (the particular judgment) We would do well to meditate on this fact from time to time; but, we shouldn't worry, or have any anxiety; as Padre Pio recommended: pray, and do not worry; God is merciful. Anxiety and fear can paralyze us; then we will not be able to move forward to love and serve the Lord.

Let us move forward today, looking ahead to the Second Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ; let us repent of our sins, pray always, and receive the sacraments often, especially Confession and the Holy Eucharist. If we do these things, we will be strengthened, and we will have the necessary graces to persevere through all the dangers and troubles of this earthly life. We will then be able to stand before the Lord with confidence when He calls us home; knowing we have done all we could to love and serve Him. Until then, we will wait in joyful hope for the Second Coming, as we proclaim: "Lord Jesus, come in glory. ...Father John

There are seven more days to register for the Academic Symposium, "Seeking For A City," on Black Catholic Liturgy and Culture. To register, please go to the following link: <a href="https://resources.catholicaoc.org/event/symposium">https://resources.catholicaoc.org/event/symposium</a>.

As we celebrate National Black Catholic History Month, this is an historic moment! It is one of the ways that we intentionally set aside time to gather and celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 10 Black Bishops Pastoral Letter, 'What We Have Seen and Heard.' The Academic Symposium will be held at the University of Dayton's Curran Place on Friday, November 22 – Saturday, November 23. On Sunday, November 24, we will celebrate the Solemnity of Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, and the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Death of Fr. Clarence Joseph Rivers. The Mass will be held at the Cathodral Basilica of Saint Peter in Chains in Cincinnati, Ohio. The presider and homilist will be Carlton Wilton Gregory, the first African American Cardinal in the Catholic Church. Contact Veronica Wilhite to register (150.00 per person). Transportation and hotel will be provided Owensboro will stay 2 nights Friday and Saturday. We return after Mass on Sunday

# Safe Environment

The safety of our children is the responsibility of ever 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

#### **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--Donald Moorman

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 the office.



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.



# **Blessed Sacrament Happening**

Nov. 24--Thanksgiving dinner 12-2

Nov. 28--Thanksgiving

Dec. 1--1st Sunday of Advent

Jan. 11--1st Reconciliation 1 pm



Nov. 10--\$1521.50

Budget--\$1,300

MTD Collection--\$2,920

MTD Budget--\$2,600

YTD Collection--\$25,412.08

YTD Budget--\$24,700

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**

I recently moved into a new neighborhood. On my first evening I went grocery shopping and could not find my usual favorite Greek yogurt. Strangely, my heart started to race. All the losses of my previous life hit me. So many of my old friends, habits, comforts, and predictable experiences had fallen away. There I stood, a grown man, crying like a little boy whose world was falling apart in the dairy aisle.

This week, Jesus describes what to do when one world ends, and another begins. Does it apply to the end of time? Yes. Does it apply to the end of our individual lives? Yes. It also applies to every "world" we inhabit throughout our lives, in school, family, friendships, work, play and so on. First, the sun, moon, and stars fall. The old, familiar ways of running things suddenly stop working. Light fades. Things fall apart. It's awful. But, second, Christ comes "in the clouds." Jesus, the Son of Man, replaces those old powers with himself as the prime governing principle. Third, he sends out his angels to "gather his elect from the four winds." He re-integrates the fragments into a new integrated whole. "Summer is near," he concludes. A new world begins.

Is your world crumbling? Are your sun, moon, and stars falling from the sky? Learn to discern the pattern of the Cross and Resurrection at work in it. This is the power we touch in the Mass. Jesus is coming precisely in this transition from the old to the new world. It doesn't make our losses easy. But it does make it possible to glimpse the dawning of a summer, a new beginning, the life of the world to come.

## **THANKS**

One act of thanksgiving when things go wrong with us is worth one thousand thank-yous when things are agreeable to our inclination. St. John of Avila

# MINISTRY SCHEDULE

#### Lectors

November 17: Layson Brooks, Misty

Sanford

November 24: Jacques Williams, Katie

Goins

<u>December 1</u> Greg Gough, Barbara Bisel

### **Eucharistic Ministers**

November 17: Barbara Bisel, Rita Moor-

man, Katie Goins

November 24: Misty Sanford, Denise and

Greg Richardson

<u>December 1:</u> Cindy Clark, Vivian Higgs,

Misty Sanford

### **Collection & Gifts**

November 17: Chelis, Britney, Kyler

Carmona

November 24: Jamie, Beau, Luke Bisel

December 1:

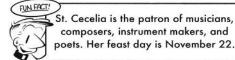
# PRAY FOR THE DEAD

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

John Chrysostom



"She wanted to hit the high notes."



#### The End of the World

"It's not the end of the world."

If I had a brick for every time my mother said this to me growing up, I could have built a castle. One that comes complete with a moat whose bridge I could dramatically pull up so I could sulk, in the window of the highest turret, sighing loudly so every passerby would know how I suffered.

Because sometimes we act like it's the end of the world — whether we are a little kid angered by a playground snub, a teenage girl flipping out over an assignment for English class or a college student distraught that she got scheduled for four opening shifts in a row at the coffee house where she works (yes, these are all examples taken straight from my life, why do you ask?).

And sometimes, it really *does* seem like the end of the world. We lose someone we love to cancer. We miscarry a child before we even get to see his tiny face. The rent is due, and the bank account is overdrawn (also all examples taken straight from my life).

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells us that when the sun is darkened and the moon no longer gives light, we must look for him, because his time is near.

He's talking about *The End of the World*. The big one, the apocalypse. But why do I think he's also talking about the end of the world — those sufferings large and small, real and imagined, that make us feel like the sky is caving in?

In both instances, he draws near to us. So let us look

#### **MUCH NEEDED PRAYER:**

Each Christian needs a half hour of prayer each day, except when we are busy; then we need an hour. --St. Francis de Sales

Readings for the Week

Monday: Rv 1:1-4; 2:1-5/Ps 1:1-4

and 6/Lk 18:35-43

Tuesday: Rv 3:1-6, 14-22/Ps 15:2-

5/Lk 19:1-10

Wednesday: Rv 4:1-11/Ps 150:1-6/

Lk 19:11-28

Thursday: Rv 5:1-10/Ps 149:1-6

and 9/Lk 19:41-44

Friday: Rv 10:8-11/Ps 119:14,

24, 72, 103, /Lk 19:45-48

Saturday: Rv 11:4-12/Ps 144:1, 2,

9-10/Lk 20:27-40

Observances for the week of

November 17

Monday: The Dedication of the Basilicas

of Sts. Peter and Paul; St. Rose

Philippine Duchesne, Virgin

Thursday: The Presentation of the

Blessed Virgin Mary

Friday: St. Cecilia, Virgin and Martyr
Saturday: St. Clement I, Columban
Next Sunday: Our Lord Jesus Christ,

King of the Universe

#### **GOD'S REIGN**

By pointing to the end times, today's readings speak to the coming reign of God, when God will make all things new. In Christ, this time has already begun. We, by our energized watchfulness, can further God's reign. We can heal broken hearts, free captives, spread the Good News. Even so, the reign of God will not be complete without the second coming of Christ. Our weekly Eucharistic gathering is a sign of the fullness of the end times. At Mass we join as an assembly to recall and to claim the story of Jesus as our own. Together we give thanks to God for the many gifts bestowed upon us. We receive nourishment in the simple but profound meal. And our weak and weary selves are invigorated and transformed by the power of Christ, so that we ourselves might become effective signs of God's reign present and to come. Copyright J.S. Paluch Co



# Laugh of the Week

A man was being tailgated by a stressed out woman on a busy boulevard, when suddenly, the light turned yellow, just in front of him. He did the right thing and stopped, even though he could have beaten the red light by accelerating through the intersection. The tailgating woman hit the roof, and the horn, screaming in frustration as she missed her chance to get through the intersection.

As she was still in mid-rant, she heard a tap on her window and looked up into the face of a very serious police officer. The officer ordered her to exit her car with her hands up. He took her to the police station where she was searched, finger printed, photographed, and placed in a holding cell.

After several hours, a policeman approached the cell and opened the door. She was escorted back to the booking desk where the arresting officer was waiting with her personal effects. He said, I'm very sorry for this mistake. You see, I pulled up behind your car while you were blowing your horn, flipping off the guy in front of you, and cussing a blue streak at him. I noticed the 'Choose Life' license plate, the 'What Would Jesus Do?' bumper sticker, the 'Follow Me to Sunday-School' bumper sticker, and the chrome-plated Christian fish emblem on the trunk. Naturally, I assumed you had stolen the car