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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,
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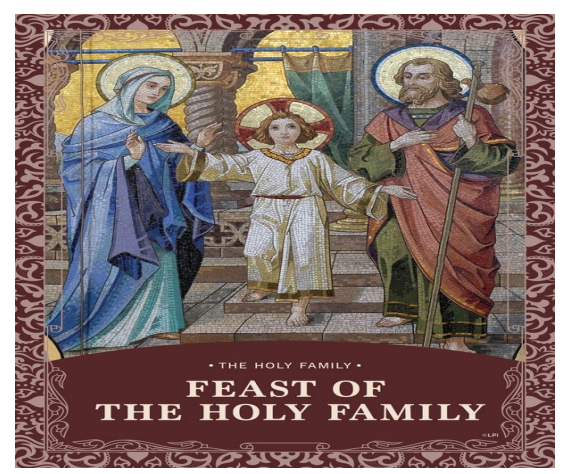
Sunday's Readings

First Reading:
 "I prayed for this child, and the LORD granted my request. Now I, in turn, give him to the LORD; as long as he lives, he shall be dedicated to the LORD." (1 Sm 1:27-28)
Psalm:
 Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord. (Ps 84)
Second Reading:
 Beloved, we are God's children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed. (1 Jn 3:2)
Gospel:
 After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers. (Lk 2:46)

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

December 29, 2024 Feast of Holly Family

Above all, put on love, that is, the bond of perfection. Col.3: 16



My Dear Parishioners:

The gospel today shows us a very devout Jewish family. Mary and Joseph bring Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem to present to the Lord as their first-born. Jesus' parents were very observant Jews. They introduced Jesus to their own religious tradition as soon as he was born. Jesus was shaped by that tradition from the earliest days of his life. It was in and through his family that he came to know the God of Israel, that he learned to pray, in particular the psalms, that he first heard the stories of the Jewish Scriptures. He was immersed in the Jewish tradition by his parents. Yet, as he grew older he made that tradition his own and took it in a direction that, at times, his parents and family found very difficult to understand. Simeon hints at that in his words to Mary in today's gospel, "a sword will pierce your own soul too."

Most of us will have picked up the faith from our parents; they introduced us to the religious tradition that was important to them. As Joseph and Mary brought Jesus to the temple to present him to the Lord, our parents brought us to the church for baptism. It was probably in the home that, like Jesus, we too learnt to pray and heard the stories from the Scriptures for the first time. Yet, there comes a time when, like Jesus, we have to make the tradition we received from our parents our own. Like Jesus, we too may go on to shape it and give expression to it in ways that our parents might find unsettling. We receive the faith, but we must make it our own, because what is the faith only a relationship with the Lord, which, while we share it with others, is very personal to each one of us. It is said of Jesus at the end of the gospel that he grew to maturity. We spend our whole lives growing to maturity, and it is in and through our own personal response to the Lord's call of us by name that we will come to full human maturity. Jesus, as well as being fully divine, was fully human, and it is in and through our own personal relationship with him that we too become fully human.

Blessings, Fr. John

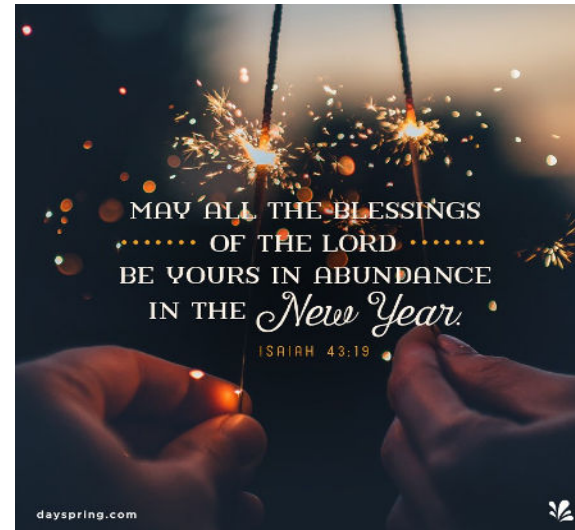
TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION:

Today's feast is new as feasts go and it sets us this year in a very modern crisis. Amid conflicting schedules and commitments, a young man, testing the limits, has strayed from his parents and gone off to the big city. Mary and Joseph search frantically, only to find the child Jesus in the temple, conversing with the elders and scholar of the law, who are amazed at his wisdom.

In the time of Jesus, the temple was the religious center of Jewish ritual. Outside of Jerusalem, people gathered in the synagogues, centers of learning, for daily prayer and study. Still, everyone longed to journey to the temple to participate in the offerings, and to fulfill certain obligations of the law that could only be done there. On this feast, we catch a glimpse of the family of Jesus: parents dealing with the normal stresses of raising a child, and yet completely grounded in the ways of faith and tradition. There are few better days than this for spending time with the family, especially on a short pilgrimage to a favorite place. Just make sure no one gets left behind. --James Field, copyright J.S. Paluch

REFUGEES

We recently received a letter from Bishop Medley asking our support for the Catholic Charities Refugee Resettlement Program. Our diocese is preparing to welcome at least 100 refugees who have been forced from their homes and are currently living in refugee camps. These refugees have been vetted by our government and are anxious to find a new, safe, and stable home. The US Bishops' Conference has provided us a "required supply list", that is, items that must be provided to refugees upon their arrival. We are invited to help supply some of these items. You can order items directly from Amazon, and they will be delivered to our Catholic Charities office, www.amazon.com/registries/gl/guest-view/1WIOYT2H9EISA



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

23--Greg Richardson
24--Susan Mutter
25--Father Shibu

JANUARY BIRTHDAY

7--Jacques Williams II
10--Whitney Williams
14--Burnell Hamilton



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

December 29--Sharlene Hatfield
December 31--Jackie Jones
January 5--Clyde Coble
January 12--Jackie Jones
January 19--Kenneth Hunt

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:

Larry Allen, Kathi Skidd, Ray Higgs, Mike Bogden, Gene Forsyth, Pam Wilson, Donna Fennewald, Emma Latta, Phil Armendarez, Cindy Heckmann, Joe Washington, Judy Stinett, Shaun Winchell, China Dulin, Rachel Mattingly, 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.**

BLESSING FOR A NEW YEAR

Remember us, O God; from age to age be our comforter. You have given us the wonder of time, blessings in days and nights, seasons and years.

Bless your children at the turning of the year and fill the months ahead with the bright hope that is ours in the coming of Christ. You are our God, living and reigning, forever and ever. Amen.

Coming Events



Blessed Sacrament Happening

Dec. 31--Mass 6 pm

Jan. 5--Take down decorations

Jan. 11--1st Reconciliation 1 pm

Feb. 22--Italian Dinner



Dec. 22--NA

Budget--\$1,300

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).

The Holy Family

As a first-time pastor in a parish, I received a phone call one afternoon from a young married couple, "Father, our 2-year-old son drowned in our pool this morning. We are at the hospital. Please help us." I sped over. The little boy was gone, his body cold, slightly blue, laid out on a bed. His parents were distraught and in shock. For the next few years, I walked with the couple along their difficult and painful road. They openly shared with me how they were often tempted to blame and accuse each other for the loss. And yet, by God's grace, their love for each grew stronger and deeper as the years went by.

The Holy Family was not without its pain and loss, either. Luke tells us, after losing their twelve-year-old son, Joseph and Mary "after three days found him in the temple area, sitting among the teachers..." (Luke 2:46). We don't know specifically what those three days were like for them except for what Mary says: "Your father and I have been looking for you anxiously." The three days of his absence foreshadow his death and burial. His finding in the temple is a kind of resurrection for his family. They had to learn, again and again, that their family was becoming a place where death and resurrection was not only accepted but welcomed and celebrated. But surely they deeply felt the dangerous agony of their loss — just like every couple who has lost a child.

What losses in your experience of family still cause you anxiety? In what ways has God's presence seemingly vanished in your family? Will you keep searching for Jesus? Remember, he will rise and be found. Your family may be suffering, but when he is found, it will be stronger than ever before.

— Father John Muir

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Lectors

December 29: Wayne Stephens, Katie Goins

January 5: Leland Herzog, Barbara Bisel

January 12: Layson Brooks, Greg Gough

Eucharistic Ministers

December 29: Cindy Clark, Greg Gough, Janet Clark

January 5: Katie Goins, Holly Hollis, Misty Sanford

January 12: Barbara Bisel, Denise and Greg Richardson

Collection & Gifts

December 29: Kelly, Holly, Samuel Hollis

January 5: Steve Coble, Ron Moorman

January 12: Chelis, Britney, Kyler Carmona

Where is Jesus?

Every mother who has ever lost sight of her child in a crowd, even for a few seconds, knows the panic.

I think of Mary living with that level of anxiety for three straight days. I doubt she slept, but I'm sure Joseph forced her to lie down at night, imploring her to think of her health, to rest while he kept on searching the streets of Jerusalem. I imagine her lying there, eyes open and staring at the ceiling. Mary, full of grace. Mary, spotless of sin. Weeping in the dark, whispering, "Where is he?"

It's an experience that we all have at one point or another. Running through the world, desperate and confused, just trying to find God and failing so miserably that we wonder if He's purposefully eluding us.

If Mary couldn't even find Him, do we stand a chance?

Why didn't Mary think to look in the temple? She had wisdom beyond anyone else who ever lived, at least when it came to Jesus. But I think God purposefully dropped a veil over her reasoning for these three days, so that He could show us it's okay to lose our way.

He isn't eluding us. In fact, He's trying to make it easy. He's staying put, in one place, the very place we should know to look. But the streets of our life are so crowded and loud, so full of distraction.

The Christmas season is about God revealing to us who and what and where He is. He has told us. The question is, have we listened?

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Readings for the Week

Monday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-10/
Lk 2:36-40

Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12,
13/Jn 1:1-18

Wednesday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-6, 8 /Gal
4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

Thursday: 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2--4/
Jn 1:19-28

Friday: 1 Jn 2:29--3:6/Ps 98:1, 3-6/
Jn 1:29-34

Saturday: 1 Jn 3:7-10/Ps 98:1, 7-9/
Jn 1:35-42

Observances for the week of December 29

Sunday: The Holy Family

Tuesday: St. Sylvester I, New Year's Eve

Wednesday: Mary, The Holy Mother of
God, New Year's Day, World
Day of Peace

Thursday: Sts. Basil the Great & Gregory
Nazianzen

Friday: The Most Holy Name of Jesus

Saturday: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton,

HOME IS WHERE THE FAMILY IS

The idea, dream, and reality of family is so strong and durable that we use it to describe all that is best about human gatherings. We speak of the family of nations, of our church, and parish families. The greatest compliment we can pay a friend or gracious host is to say that we feel at home with them, we feel part of the family.

Families are the first crucibles in which love is tested and tempered. Jesus himself was one of three people who lived in the shadow of each other. This family, like our own, did not always "get it right," but they always tried to. These three "amateurs" were on holiday, and one of them got lost. Two were worried sick and took great measures to find the third, a boy after all, who was seeking the meaning of his calling. He found his vocation--to do his Father's work--but he also returned home with his parents.

--copyright J.S.Paluch Co.

Love of heaven is the only way to heaven.--

JUBILEE YEAR: On May 9, 2024, Pope Francis released a Papal Bull of Indiction which formally announced **the Jubilee Year of Hope**. The document was entitled *Spes non confundit* --"Hope does not disappoint" (Rom 5:5). In it, Pope Francis writes on the reasons for this theme for the Jubilee Year: In the spirit of hope, the Apostle Paul addressed these words of encouragement to the Christian community of Rome. Hope is also the central message of the coming Jubilee that, in accordance with an ancient tradition, the Pope proclaims every twenty-five years... For everyone, may the Jubilee be a moment of genuine, personal encounter with the Lord Jesus, the "door" (cf. Jn 10:7.9) of our salvation, whom the Church is charged to proclaim always, everywhere and to all as "our hope" (1 Tim 1:1). Everyone knows what it is to hope. In the heart of each person, hope dwells as the desire and expectation of good things to come, despite our not knowing what the future may bring. Even so, uncertainty about the future may at times give rise to conflicting feelings, ranging from confident trust to apprehensiveness, from serenity to anxiety, from firm conviction to hesitation and doubt. Often we come across people who are discouraged, pessimistic and cynical about the future, as if nothing could possibly bring them happiness. For all of us, may the Jubilee be an opportunity to be renewed in hope. God's word helps us find reasons for that hope.

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Thanks to Dad Hengeveld

12-31-2012

YOU NEEDN'T REALLY BOTHER WITH THOSE
NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS ANYMORE