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Blessed Sacrament

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

www.blessedsacramentchapel.org or email at pa@blessedsacramentchapel.org

The Jubilee Prayer

**Father in heaven,
may the faith you have gifted us in
your son Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of charity
kindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us, the blessed hope
for the coming of your Kingdom.**

**May your grace transform us
into diligent cultivators of the evangelical seeds
that make humanity and the cosmos rise
unto the confident expectation
of the new heavens and the new earth,
when with the powers of Evil overcome,
your glory shall be manifested eternally.**

**May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,
the yearning for heavenly treasures
and pour over all the earth
the joy and peace
of our Redeemer.**

**To you God blessed in eternity,
be praise and glory for ever and ever.**

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:

Lo, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me and suddenly there will come to the temple the LORD whom you seek. (Mal 3:1)

Psalm:

Who is this king of glory? It is the Lord! (Ps 24)

Second Reading:

Therefore, he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every way, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest before God. (Heb 2:17)

Gospel:

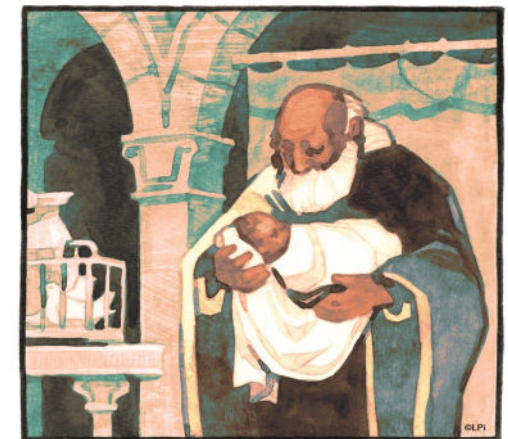
"Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation." (Lk 2:29-30)



February 2, 2025 Presentation of Lord

He is able to help those who are being tested.

Heb. 2:18



My Dear Parishioners:

There many customs in our Church that dates back to its earliest time. We use incense, burn candles, bow, stand, and bless with water. Some customs come and go . . . and come back again (chapel veils). All customs are to help us understand something of our faith. All customs are to aid our understanding of what we believe and how we are to live.

Unfortunately, what is known about the life of St. Blaise derives from various traditions. His feast day is celebrated in the East on Feb. 11 and in the West on Feb. 3 (*although it was observed on Feb. 15 until the 11th century*). All sources agree that St. Blaise was the Bishop of Sebaste in Armenia who suffered martyrdom under Licinius about A.D. 316. From here, we rely on the tradition which has been associated with our liturgical celebrations over the centuries, which does not necessarily preempt their veracity or accuracy.

In accord with various traditions, St. Blaise was born to rich and noble parents, and received a Christian education. He was a physician before being consecrated a bishop at a young age. Although such a statement seems terse, keep in mind that at that time the local community usually nominated a man to be a bishop based on his outstanding holiness and leadership qualities; he in turn was then examined and consecrated by other bishops with the approval of the Holy Father. Therefore, St. Blaise must have been a great witness of our Faith, to say the least.

During the persecution of Licinius, St. Blaise, receiving some divine command, moved from the town, and lived as a hermit in a cave. Wild animals visited, and he healed any that were sick and wounded. One day, a group of hunters gathering wild beasts for the game in the amphitheater discovered St. Blaise and seized him. While in prison, he miraculously cured a small boy who was choking to death on a fishbone lodged in his throat. Eventually, Agricolaus condemned St. Blaise for upholding his Christian faith rather than apostatizing. He was tortured with the iron comb (an instrument designed for combing wool but was used here for shredding the skin) and finally beheaded.

By the sixth century, St. Blaise's intercession was invoked for diseases of the throat in the East. As early as the eighth century, records attest to the veneration of St. Blaise in Europe, and he became one of the most popular saints in the spiritual life of the Middle Ages. Many altars were dedicated to his honor, and even the Abbey of St. Blaise in southern Germany claimed to have some of his relics.

One reason for St. Blaise's popularity arose from the fact he was a physician who cured, even performing miraculous cures. Thereby, those who were sick, especially with throat ailments, invoked his intercession. Eventually the custom of the blessing of throats arose, whereby the priest held two crossed candles over the heads of the faithful or touched their throats with them while he invoked the prayer of the saint and imparted God's blessing. In our present Roman Ritual, the priest prays, "*Through the intercession of St. Blaise, bishop and martyr, may God deliver you from every disease of the throat and from every other illness, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.*" This practice continues in many parishes on St. Blaise's feast day.

While we invoke St. Blaise for his protection against any physical ailment of the throat, we should also ask his protection against any spiritual ailment - profanity, cursing, unkind remarks, detraction or gossip. St. James reminds us, "If a man who does not control his tongue imagines that he is devout, he is self-deceived; his worship is pointless" (1:26) and later, "We use [the tongue] to say, 'Praised be the Lord and Father'; then we use it to curse men, though they are made in the likeness of God. Blessing and curse come out of the same mouth. This ought not to be, my brothers!" (3:9-10). Therefore, may St. Blaise protect us from all evil, physical and spiritual, which may attack the throat.

I know there are many in our congregation who have not had the throats blessed in many years (maybe never). At the conclusion of Masses this weekend (Feb 2) we will offer this blessing to any who wish to receive it. May our mouth be used for God's glory and praise.

Blessings. Fr. John



Congratulations to the newest member of Blessed Sacrament Connor Carmona, son of Chelis and Britney. He was baptized last Sunday at Mass.



JANUARY BIRTHDAY

30--Pam Wilson

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

1--Natalie Clark

2--Nancy Bumm

3--Jacques Williams, SR

6--Philip Moorman

8--Karen Terry

9--Beau Bisel

Mass Intentions

January 19--Sharlene Hatfield

January 26--Clyde Coble

February 2--Jackie Jones

February 9--Sharlene Hatfield

February 16--Clyde Coble

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, Ray Higgs, Debbie Gabbert, Mike Bogden, 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.

Our thought and prayer go out to Marsha Allen on the death of Larry. He loved Blessed Sacrament and lived a life reaching out to those with needs often overlooked by society.

Coming Events



Blessed Sacrament Happenings

February 2, Blessing of Throats

February 9--Anointing of the Sick

10 am Mass

February 22--Italian Dinner 6:30

March 5--Ash Wednesday 6 pm

Mass



Jan. 26--\$1311.50

Budget--\$1,300

MTD Collection--\$.5,781

MTD Budget--\$5,200

YTD Collection--\$42,922.08

YTD Budget--\$39,000

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

What is the secret to sharing in God's power to overcome our difficulties? Mary teaches us this in the prophecy of her pierced heart. This Sunday, the old man Simeon prophesies that when her son faces opposition, Mary's soul will be pierced by a sword. The seemingly pointless agony of a mother helplessly watching her son be mocked, tortured, killed and then cruelly desecrated in death by a spear — somehow this piercing of her heart releases a power by which **"the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed"** (Luke 2:35). What to make of this?

Whatever problems we currently face, the deepest threat is finally that evil thoughts are hidden in the human heart: hatred, envy, pride, lust, greed and so on. Behind every tyrant's injustice, for example, is a heart unpierced by love. Evil hides in our hearts. Mary's pierced heart, and its suffering love for her son, reveals and scatters these evil thoughts, and replaces them with love, forgiveness, generosity and peace.

This week, I invite us to ponder Mary's pierced heart. Her heart is quietly at work for us in the Church and world, exposing our evil thoughts and making a path for her son's divine love. This is how she gently cooperates in our salvation. Closed hearts are our biggest problem; love-pierced hearts are the ultimate power to overcome every difficulty.

— Father John Muir

Thanks to each of you that helped at the two recent funerals--music, readers, servers in church and servers at the meal, bringing food, cleaning up, One of the Corporal Works of Mercy is to bury the dead. You earned a badge.



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.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Lectors

February 2: Leland Herzog, Katie Goins

February 9: Layson Brooks, Misty Sanford

February 16: Jerry Fuchs, Greg Gough

Eucharistic Ministers

February 2: Barbara Bisel, Holly Hollis, Misty Sanford

February 9: Katie Goins, Greg Gough, Rita Moorman

February 16: Greg and Denise Richardson
Misty Sanford

Collection & Gifts

February 2: Steve Coble, Ron Moorman

February 9: Jamie, Beau, Luke Bisel

February 16: Barbara Hammond, Wonet Taylor

LAUGH OF THE WEEK

As a special youth week project, Ted Montgomery of Campus United Methodist asked his university group to list the ways the Bible would have been different if it had been written by fellow students

Here are a few they came up with:

Loaves and fishes would have been replaced by pizza and chips.

Ten Commandments are actually five, but because they are double-spaced and written in large font, they look like ten.

Paul's letter to the Romans would become Paul's Email to the Romans.

Place where the end of the world occurs— not the Plains of Armageddon, but Finals.

Reason why Moses and his followers wandered in the desert for forty years— they didn't want to ask directions and look like freshmen.

Reason Cain killed Abel— they were room-mates.

RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

Mini Reflection: The oldest trick of the devil is to distract us from thinking about our hearts. It's not hard for him to do — there are so many other things we could be doing. So, do we have the courage to look to our own hearts, to come face to face with our own choices, our own true selves?

The Thoughts of Many Hearts

When Simeon cradles the infant Messiah in his arms, he speaks of salvation and glory and revelation. He speaks of his own death. He speaks of the fulfillment of God's promise to all people. But most memorable, in my opinion, are his words about the hearts of men. This Child, he says, will be the way "the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."

Perhaps you're like me. Perhaps you don't enjoy scrutinizing yourself, your actions, your intentions. You don't like reflecting on why you feel or react the way you do, and you really don't enjoy measuring those feelings and reactions against what you know they could be.

It's exhausting to sit with God, your heart in your hands, both of us looking at it, talking about it. So far too often, I opt out. The oldest trick of the devil, you see, is to distract us from thinking about our hearts. It's not hard for him to do. There are so many other things I could be doing, after all. Answering emails. Catching up on laundry. Scrolling Facebook. Worrying about inflation and the election. Stressing about my kid's dance recital and next week's busy schedule.

But where is God truly at work? Where is the place God will point to, when my life on Earth has come to its close? It is the very depths of my heart. The place where I am my most authentic self, for better or worse. The place where all my pretensions crumble away, and I am alone with the truth of who I am and what I choose to do. Am I brave enough to look into the depths of my own heart?

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Readings for the Week

Monday: Heb 11:32-40/Ps 31:20-24/
Mk 5:1-20

Tuesday: Heb 12:1-4/Ps 22:26b-32/
Mk 5:21-43

Wednesday: Heb 12:4-7, 11-15/Ps 103:1-2,
13-14, 17-18/Mk 6:1-6

Thursday: Heb 12:18-19, 21-24/Ps 48:2-
4, 9-11//Mk 6:7-13

Friday: Heb 13:1-8/Ps 27:1, 3, 5, 8-9/
Mk 6:14-29

Saturday: Heb 13:15-17, 20-21/Ps 23:1-
6/Mk 6:30-34

Observances for the week of
February 2, 2025

Sunday: The Presentation of the Lord, World Day
for Consecrated Life

Monday: St. Blaise, Bishop; St. Ansgar,

Wednesday: St. Agatha, Virgin and Martyr

Thursday: St. Paul Miki and Companions,
Martyrs

Saturday: St. Jerome Emiliani; St. Josephine
Bakhita, Virgin; BVM

St. Josephine Bakhita

Josephine Bakhita was captured by slave traders at a young age in Sudan. She experienced great cruelty at the hands of her owners but eventually found both the Christian faith and her freedom in Italy. She has become a symbol of radical hope for the Church in Africa. Her story tells us that God always triumphs. The story of her sufferings tells us that God is always with us. Trust that God will win out in the end.

PRESENTATION

February 2 is exactly forty days after December 25, the nativity of Jesus. Jewish law (Ex 13:2, 12) dictated that Jesus, as the firstborn, be consecrated to God. This was done by the parents as they presented their Son in the Temple.

Jewish law further specified (Lv 12:2-8) that a mother was ritually impure after giving birth, and that she had to wait a set period of time (forty days for a boy) before she was to offer a sacrifice to the Lord for purification.

The convergence of these two Jewish regulations occasions Luke's account of both the Presentation of the Lord and the Purification of Mary. These days the liturgical emphasis is more on the Presentation of Jesus. Luke highlights the role of Simeon and Anna, two righteous Jews who recognized Jesus as the long-awaited Messiah and praised God for being able to see and experience such a marvel in their lifetimes.

Simeon's prayer concerning the special role of Jesus states that Jesus is "a light for revelation to the Gentiles." This phrase eventually originated the custom of blessing candles on this day which were to be used in the ceremonies, rituals, and processions throughout the church year. Thus February 2 is also known as Candlemas Day. This day is indeed a rich feast to be savored. LPI

I know that when we die and it comes time for God to judge us, He will not ask, "How many good things have you done?". Rather He will ask, "How much love did you put into what you did?" ----Mother Teresa