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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 Cheriankunnel
moc_scheriyankunnel@sscobo.org

Parish Life Coordinator: Sr Jeannette Fennewald,
SSND pa@blessedsacramentchapel.org

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

Ezra read plainly from the book of the law of God, interpreting it so that all could understand what was read. (Neh 8:8)

Psalm:

Your words, Lord, are Spirit and life. (Ps 19)

Second Reading:

For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons, and we were all given to drink of one Spirit. (1 Cor 12:12)

Gospel:

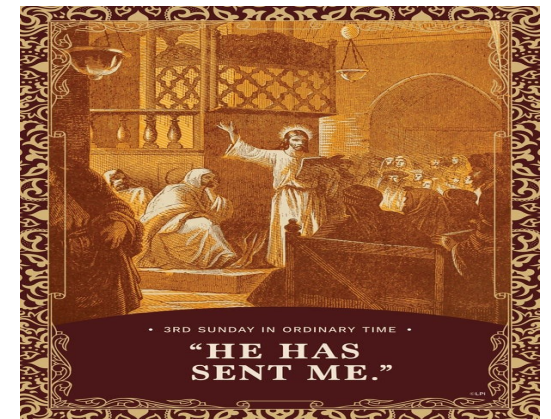
He said to them, "Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing." (Lk 1:21)

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



January 26, 2025 3rd Sunday Ordinary Time

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring glad tidings to the poor..Lk.1:18



My Dear Parishioners

In the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and due in no small measure to advances in science and technology, a new methodology dealing with society's physical, psychological, ethical, moral, and social ills has been developed. Foremost among these methods is that of rehabilitation. From the Latin re, which means again, and habilitare, which means to enable, rehabilitation has been refined as the process whereby: (1) a handicapped or otherwise incapacitated person is restored to useful life through education and therapy; (2) the good name of a person is reinstated; (3) the rank, privileges and rights of a person are restored; (4) a person is returned to his/her former state or condition.

Criminal offenders who were once simply relegated to prison to protect society are now being rehabilitated through treatment and training so as to be rendered capable of returning to society and functioning as a law-abiding member of the community. Persons with addictions to gambling, drugs and/or alcohol, people with eating disorders, people with other compulsive behaviors, etc., now have hope for rehabilitation by participating in extensive programs offered at special centers by qualified therapists and counselors. Patients with physical challenges suffered as a result of accident or illness (stroke, heart/lung disease, etc.) can also benefit from courses of rehabilitation therapy. In the past few decades, some inner city neighborhoods that have been allowed to degenerate into urban jungles have been rehabilitated through the cooperative efforts of caring citizens.

In today's scripture readings, the gathered assembly is invited to appreciate and become participants in another sort of rehabilitation, that which is freely offered to all people through the power of the Word of God. Jesus, as presented by Luke in today's gospel was addressing a people in need of rehabilitation. No longer political or geographical exiles in need of renewal and restoration, Jesus' listeners were nevertheless in moral and spiritual exile. Through his ministry, he spoke into the world a word of loving forgiveness that called all people home to God. Through his ministry, he offered rehabilitation to the physically and spiritually handicapped, the economically disadvantaged, the mainstream and the marginalized of society.

Paul in his continuing correspondence with the Corinthians reminds the gathered assembly that the rehabilitation of each of us is inextricably bound to the rehabilitation of all of us. As the one body of Christ, the well-being and conversely the suffering and difficulties that each of us experiences and by which our lives are sculpted have a necessary effect on who we are as a community. When one of us grows, all of us grow; when one of us stagnates, all of us are diminished. When one of us is in need, all must feel the pinch; if another suffers, I may not choose to be unscathed.

At the outset of this New Year, believers in Jesus are called to be rehabilitated by the power of the Word of God and to participate in the church's mission of rehabilitating all of humankind. All across the globe, the beginning of a new calendar year proffers an opportunity for leaders to address their people and deliver a speech, which sums up their vision for the months ahead. Presidents will comment on the state of the Union, governors on the state of the state, monarchs on the state of the realm. On those occasions when a leader is elected, re-elected or ascends to the throne, their address takes on a more inaugural character. Jesus first public address as presented in the Lucan gospel can be characterized as both visionary and inaugural. As regards his vision, Jesus shared with his contemporaries the good news that the messianic era had arrived. Through Jesus words and works, God initiated the rehabilitation of a world that had fallen prey to sin and its consequences. As visible testimony to Jesus' salving and saving power, the sight of the blind would be restored, prisoners would gain their freedom, the poor would hear good news and all would know a year of favor. The combined text of Isaiah 61:1ff and 58:7ff, which Jesus read in the synagogue, can be understood as his inaugural address for in it he set forth the terms, goals and objectives of his mission.

Luke was firm in his conviction that Jesus' ministry was to be continued by the church. With the new chronological year just beginning and the new liturgical year already well underway, the faithful are privileged to have Luke as our guide. His special insights into the words and works of Jesus, (1) that the call to salvation is universally extended to all peoples; (2) that the salvation of humankind begun by Jesus continues to be accomplished within the arena of human history; (3) that prayer is as elemental to the life of the believer as is breathing; (4) that sinners, the poor, the disenfranchised, sick, lost, otherwise needy members of society are God's special ones. These special insights continue to inspire and challenge the church as it furthers the process of rehabilitating the world in and by the power of God's word.

I pray that here at Saint Stephen Cathedral, we look to all in our community who are suffering, alone, worried or stressed. We are all one when we gather around God's holy altar. Again, when one suffers, we all suffer. When one of us is lacking in anything, we all are lacking. During this 'Winter Ordinary Time' as we now move toward the Joyful and holy Season of Lent, may we already begin to examine our conscience, do away with those behaviors, possessions or activities that keep us from knowing and sharing God's mercy. May we truly understand the meaning of the word, rehabilitation and know that we all are in need of God's healing touch somewhere in our lives. Blessings! Father John

Safe Environment

The safety of our children is the responsibility of every 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

Women: Save the Date--February 8 8:00-230
St. Ann Parish Hall, Morganfield, KY

Joy, Laughter, and Holiness Women's Retreat
A day of spiritual enrichment, inspiration, and community.

Keynote speaker: Jackie Francois Angel joined by Olivia Burke, Sarah Lilly Malone

Men: Save the Date: February 8
Riverpark Center

Catholic Men's Conference
Speakers: Dr. David Anders, John Edwards.

Sacrament of Reconciliation offered.
Mass celebrated by Bishop Medley

JANUARY BIRTHDAY

14--Burnell Hamilton
 20--Janet Clark
 22--Von Williams
 30--Pam Wilson

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2--Nancy Bumm
 3--Jacques Williams , SR



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

January 12--Clyde Coble
 January 19--Sharlene Hatfield
 January 26--Clyde Coble
 February 2--Jackie Jones
 February 9--Sharlene Hatfield

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, 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.

Week of Christian Unity

The diocesan office of Ecumenism is hosting a service of Prayer for Christian Unity on Sunday, January 26 at 3pm at First Christian Church at 7th and Daviess. Bishop John Stowe of Lexington will be the main speaker, along with clergy from other churches. A light meal of soup and bread follows, with food for kids as well. A freewill offering for the Help Office of Owensboro will be taken up. For more information contact Fr. Ray Clark at 270.231.1705.

Coming Events



Blessed Sacrament Happenings
January 26--Connor Carmona's
Baptism

Parish Meeting 11am

February 9--Anointing of the Sick
10 am Mass

February 22--Italian Dinner 6:30



Jan. 19--\$1883

Budget--\$1,300

MTD Collection--\$.4,469.50

MTD Budget--\$3,900

YTD Collection--\$41,610.58

YTD Budget--\$37,700

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

A young couple in my parish told me they were expecting their second child, a baby boy. I knew that their five-year old only child Emma had been desperately wanting to be a big sister for years, so I said, "Emma must have been so happy when you told her the news." "Actually," they said, "she burst into tears. She wanted a baby *sister!*" How often in life God wonderfully fulfills our desires and we are sad because we don't approve of the way he does it. We want to control the gift and the delivery method.

The same thing occurs in the Gospel this week when Jesus announces in his hometown that the promise of an Anointed One bringing glad tidings to the poor is "**fulfilled in your hearing**" (Luke 4:21). After a moment of elation, his fellow townsfolk realize *this man* is the way God is fulfilling his promises, and they erupt into a violent outburst. So Jesus departs. How sad for them.

Every single Sunday at Mass, including this one, some version of this happens to many of us. God's word announces the fulfillment of God's promises in Christ, and we easily overlook or disdain it. His way is almost never according to our narrow expectations. What's required of us is to set these aside, and to embrace a new openness to God's gifts, no matter how he wishes to give them. God is fulfilling his promises the way He likes — why be sad?
 — *Father John Muir*

To smile at someone who is sad; to visit, even for a little while, someone who is lonely; to give someone shelter from the rain with our umbrella; these and others can be small things, very small things, but they are appropriate to give our love of God concrete expression.
 St. Teresa of Calcutta

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Lectors

January 26: Jacques Williams, Barbara Bisel
February 2: Leland Herzog, Katie Goins
February 9: Layson Brooks, Misty Sanford

Eucharistic Ministers

January 26: Cindy Clark, Denise and Greg Richardson
February 2: Barbara Bisel, Holly Hollis, Misty Sanford
February 9: Katie Goins, Greg Gough, Rita Moorman

Collection & Gifts

January 26: Carmona Family
February 2: Steve Coble, Ron Moorman
February 9: Jamie, Beau, Luke Bisel

Laugh of the Week

A little boy was waiting for his mother to come out of the grocery store. As he waited, he was approached by a man who asked, "Son, can you tell me where the post office is?"

The little boy replied, "Sure, just go straight down the street a couple of blocks and turn to your right."
The man thanked the boy kindly and said, "I'm the new pastor in town, and I'd like for you to come to church on Sunday. I'll show you how to get to Heaven."
The little boy replied with a chuckle, "Awww, come on; you don't even know the way to the post office!"

Mini Reflection: Jesus didn't come to fix the brokenness of the world. He came to fix *our* brokenness. He offers us not relief from the trials of life, but an answer to the question of how to live in joy, in love and in purpose in the midst of these evil days.

These Evil Days

"Alas, that these evil days should be mine."

If you've ever seen "The Lord of the Rings," you might recognize this quote from "The Two Towers." The words are spoken by King Theoden at the grave of his only son and heir, as Theoden contemplates the coming war for Middle Earth, a war which has already claimed the life of his son, a war he wants no part of, a war that seems utterly hopeless and unwinnable.

These evil days.

You don't have to be a fantasy enthusiast or even a Tolkien fan to identify with Theoden here. We have all experienced this same feeling of despair, perhaps increasingly in this age of technology and social media, when the ills of the whole world — violence, injustice, moral disorder and chaos — are in our faces, on our phones, looming over our days.

But when we despair like this, we forget an important truth: this is the time of fulfillment, and we are lucky enough to be living through it. Yes, the world is broken. It was broken two thousand years ago, too, when Jesus stood up in the synagogue on the Sabbath and read the words of the prophet Isaiah: "He has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives...and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord."

Jesus didn't come to fix the brokenness of the world. He came to fix *our* brokenness. He offers us not relief from the trials of life, but an answer to the question of how to live in joy, in love and in purpose in the midst of these evil days.

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Readings for the Week

Monday: Heb 9:15, 24-28/Ps 98:1-6/
Mk 3:22-30
Tuesday: Heb 10:1-10/Ps 40:2 and 4, 7-8, 10, 11/Mk 3:31-35
Wednesday: Heb 10:11-18/Ps 110:1-4/
Mk 4:1-20
Thursday: Heb 10:19-25/Ps 24:1-6/
Mk 4:21-25
Friday: Heb 10:32-39/Ps 37:3-6, 23-24, 39-40/Mk 4:26-34
Saturday: Heb 11:1-2, 8-19/Lk 1:69-75/
Mk 4:35-41

Observances for the week of January 26

Monday: St. Angela Merici, Virgin
Tuesday: St. Thomas Aquinas, Priest
and Doctor of the Church
Friday: St. John Bosco, Priest
Next Sunday: The Presentation of the Lord,
World Day for Consecrated Life

LOVE IN OUR WORKS

Our Lord does not care so much for the importance of our works but the love with which they are done. St. Teresa of Avila

TIME

The holidays are well behind us; the year stretches out ahead. And what sort of year will it be? To judge by the words of Jesus in today's Gospel, it will be a "year acceptable to the Lord." And Jesus surely didn't mean only the next three hundred sixty-five days facing his listeners at that time.

When Jesus announced the "arrival" of God's favor, it was a message for all time, for every year. Similarly, we read today in Nehemiah how the people gathered with solemnity to hear God's word as though for the first time. They listened and then fell to the ground and wept. But the prophet said, "Today is holy...do not be sad, and do not weep."

The "year acceptable to the Lord" is this year. The day that is "holy" is this day. The time to listen is now. What sort of year will you have? What sort of day? God's help is always here. What you do with each day can be holy and acceptable to the Lord if you but listen to and act on God's word. .

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Jubilee Year: 2025 is a Jubilee Year and the Theme is Pilgrims of Hope

With the opening ceremony Pope Francis offers us "a wish for hope, which is a theological virtue, together with faith and charity," praying that "the new year bring us peace, fellowship, and gratitude."

In the Diocese of Owensboro to embrace our spirit in "Pilgrimage of Hope" for this Jubilee year we have created a list of pilgrimage sites around our Diocese where one can gain an indulgence.

*St. Stephen Cathedral, Owensboro

*St. Romuald Parish, Hardinsburg

*St. Leo, Murray

*St. Francis de Sales Parish, Paducah

*The Diocesan Marian Shrine at St. Joseph, Bowling Green

*Holy Redeemer Parish, Beaver dam

Read more on how you can participate on Diocesan website Jubilee Year Pilgrims of Hope— Diocese of Owensboro For more information, please reach out to Deacon Ken Bennett: