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Manager



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:

Blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD,
whose hope is the LORD. (Jer 17:7)

Psalm:

Blessed are they who hope in the Lord. (Ps 1)

Second Reading:

If the dead are not raised, neither has Christ been raised, and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is vain. (1 Cor 15:16-17)

Gospel:

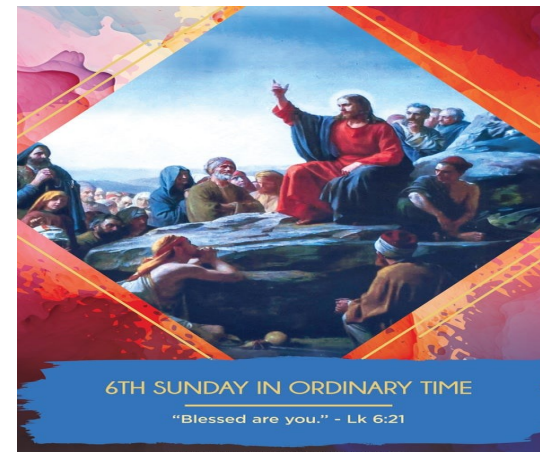
"Blessed are you who are poor, for the kingdom of God is yours." (Lk 6:20)

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



February 16, 2025 6th Sunday Ordinary Time

Behold your reward is great in heaven.
(Luke 6:23).



.My Dear Parishioners:

(1) In the Beatitudes Jesus is not expressing a pious wish for something entirely unreal and outside of history. As they are presented in St Luke's version, they are, to say the least, controversial. They are a challenge thrown down to us, because so much of what we see contradicts these statements. People who are poor and hungry, people who are weeping are not happy. What Jesus says is that if they really understand the situation they are in before God, they will be glad. Wealth and a full stomach are not a recipe for misery. But Jesus warns those who are comfortable that if they really understood their situation, they would not be so happy. The things that are most important are not being poor or rich, being hungry or well-fed. This is a truth that most people accept in a notional way, or as a pious wish. Jesus invites us to begin to base our behavior on it.

(2) People often feel morally guilty about their use of bad language. They may feel obliged to confess that they have been "cursing." Yet in today's first reading we hear: "a curse on the man who..." This "curse" is really intended as a warning. It is not intended as a prayer that really wishes ill to anyone in particular. What is forbidden most of all by the command not to "curse" is wishing or still worse praying for ill against a particular person – and so committing such an ill against them in your heart. The "woes" here are not curses, but an expression full of the regret, pity and sorrow that Jesus showed when he wept over Jerusalem. Bad language sometimes conveys an element of real wishing for another's ill. More often it may offend against the spirit of the Beatitudes by dishonoring or humanity, by taking from the dignity and respect that is due to other people, and indeed to ourselves.

(3) St Luke has taken some pains to emphasize that Jesus' words are addressed to the poor, the hungry, the suffering now. There are plenty of people in the world who are poor, hungry, and suffering now. Perhaps we are among them? If so, the Beatitudes are addressed especially to us. It may still take a mighty movement of faith for us to see that the kingdom of God really does transform our situation. If there is little faith in our lives before suffering touches us, we will find faith hard to summon up when the day comes.

(4) If we cannot honestly count ourselves among the poor, the hungry, and the suffering, we can do more than just take to heart the warnings that follow. We can remember that the beatitudes here are especially addressed to the poor and hungry. We can take up the invitation to do something about the situation of the poor and hungry. We can recall that we, the comfortable people with resources at our command that are denied to others, are called to be the instruments of the kingdom of God, a kingdom that is one of justice, love and peace. For justice, love and peace, there is a price to pay.

Fr. John

Prayer for a Husband and Wife

O God, we want to live our life together with you and always to continue it with you. Help us never to hurt and never to grieve each other. Help us to share all our works, all our hopes, all our dreams, all our successes, all our failures, all our joys and all our sorrows. Help us to have no secrets from each other so that we may be truly one. Keep us always true to each other, and grant that all the years ahead may draw us ever closer to each other. Grant that nothing may ever come between us and nothing may ever make us ever drift apart. And as we live with each other, help us to live with you, so that our love may grow perfect in your love, for you are the God whose name is love. This we ask for your love's sake.

Blessings. Fr. John

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

The song of the angels, "Holy, Holy, Holy," *resounds from our lips at every Mass. There was a wide spread belief in the first religions of the world that God stirred creation into being by a word, a song, a musical note. Music and a sense of God's presence have always been inseparable. In the liturgy, your voice is invited into this song as the priest names the reasons for our praise. "Heaven and earth are full of your glory," and we are not passive onlookers, but participants in this glory. Catholic prayer no longer assigns this angelic hymn to a choir, but gives it to you to sing. Even if your voice is thought to be suitable only for a well-insulated shower stall, you are called into this song.*

We are born to sing--just listen to a baby testing the full range of newly-discovered vocal abilities. Soon we get shushed and hushed into quiet, and given lots of messages that our voices are unwanted, and that we need to raise our hands in order to be heard. All of that is overturned in liturgy, the place where God waits to hear us come alive in the song of all creation. In heaven, everyone's in the choir; why not start practicing now?

James Field, Copyright @J.S. Paluch, Co

6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

9--Beau Bisel
24--Yasmeen Williams
27--Sondra Hibbs

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

2--Marsha Allen
7--Britney Carmona
18--Jean Higgs
25--Carol Hatchett-

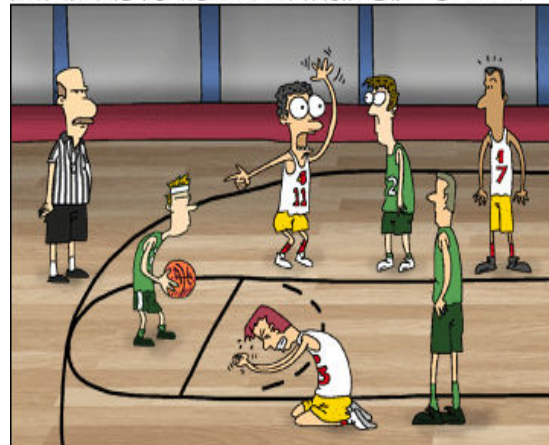
Mass Intentions

February 9--Sharlene Hatfield
February 16--Clyde Coble
February 23--Larry Allen
March 2--Larry Allen
March 5--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, 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.**

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HE'S PRAYING TO MAKE IT ... PLAY
CHANGE TO DEFENSE PRAYER! PLAY CHANGE
TO DEFENSE PRAYER!



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.

Coming Events



Blessed Sacrament Happenings

February 16--Anointing of the

Sick 10 am Mass

February 22--Italian Dinner 6:30

March 5--Ash Wednesday

Mass 6 pm

March 19--Richard Lane (black Catholic Evangelist) 6:00 pm



Feb. 9--\$806

Budget--\$1,300

MTD Collection--\$1,988

MTD Budget--\$2,600

YTD Collection--\$44,910

YTD Budget--\$41,600

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 craved four things as a teenager: success in sports, food, fun and the attention of popular people. However, I noticed that as I acquired them, I was more unsatisfied than before. So, I'd strive even more energetically, achieve more, and the sense of emptiness was greater still. These four things started to feel like burdens or even curses. Soon after, I encountered Christ in my high school youth group. Experiencing his love was totally different than anything those four things previously produced. It produced a lasting happiness.

Jesus utters a kind of four-fold curse in this week's Gospel of Saint Luke's "woes": **"Woe to you who are rich...who are filled now...who laugh now...who are well-spoken of"** (cf. Luke 6:24-26). How marvelous that these correspond perfectly to the four things that obsessed my teenage soul: riches, food, laughter and good reputation. The "woes" the Lord speaks are warnings: when those things are the *purpose* of your life, you'll be miserable. He is saying, "You'll be happy, or blessed, in the measure that these things do not determine the shape of our lives, and the kingdom of God does."

To some degree, we're all spiritual teenagers, addicted to one or more of those four "woes." How splendid that the Lord wants his to bless us — that is, to satisfy us, make us laugh with joy, and in the kingdom of God, offer us what will truly satisfy us. But first let's admit what is causing our "woes."

SAVE THE DATE

Lent is fast approaching. We are asked to pray, do alms, and fast. Here at Blessed Sacrament we are offering a One Night Mission given by Catholic Evangelist Richard Lane. Save the evening and plan to attend. Invite family and friends Wednesday March 19 6 pm

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

	Lectors
<u>February 16:</u>	Jerry Fuchs, Greg Gough
<u>February 23:</u>	Jacques Williams, Barbara Bisel
<u>March 2:</u>	Katie Goins, Misty Sanford
	Eucharistic Ministers
<u>February 16:</u>	Greg and Denise Richardson Misty Sanford
<u>February 23:</u>	Janet Clark, Cindy Clark, Holly Hollis
<u>March 2:</u>	Barbara Bisel, Rita Moor- man, Greg Gough
	Collection & Gifts
<u>February 16:</u>	Barbara Hammond, Wonet Taylor
<u>February 23:</u>	Michelle Jones, DeAnn Brasher
<u>March 2:</u>	Kelly, Holly, Samuel Hollis

LAUGH OF THE WEEK

A four year old's
description of Creation

In the beginning, which was close to the start, there wasn't anything except God, darkness and some gas. The Bible says, "The Lord, thy God, is one," but I think He has to be much older than that. Anyway, God made the world and then He said, "Give me some light," and somebody gave it to Him. He split an atom and made Eve. Adam and Eve didn't wear any clothes, but they weren't embarrassed because God hadn't invented mirrors, yet. Adam and Eve sinned by eating one bad apple and they were driven out of the Garden of Eden. I'm not sure what God drove them in because He hadn't invented cars, either. Adam and Eve's son, Cain, hated his brother as long as he was Abel. After a while, all of the first people died, except Methuselah, who lived to be, like, a million years old

RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

Mini Reflection: Jesus was radical in his teaching that the "stuff" in life wasn't all that important. It was radical for him to say that the worldly signs of success did not amount to a whole lot in the grand scheme of things and that suffering could sanctify us. Are we ready to be radical, too?

In the End, Does it Matter?

When I was a teenager, the priest I would go to for confession used to tell me, over and over: "In the end, we all get the same dirty hole in the ground."

What he meant was, it doesn't matter how rich or smart or well-liked we are. We're all heading to the same place. This life comes to an end for every man. All the money he earns, all the *stuff*, all the worldly esteem, will at some point be of no further use. We all get the same dirty hole in the ground.

It was an important message for me to hear, because at the time, it all seemed so *important*: my after-school job and my FAFSA application and my grades. The admiration of my friends and teachers. I was so consumed with *what* I was going to become that I wasn't spending a lot of time thinking about *who* I was going to become. But the *who* is the only thing that lasts until the next life. And to be honest, it's all still too important to me. Avoiding sadness and disappointment. Saving money and being liked. Focusing on "the five-year plan" when it comes to career, house plans, and a whole bunch of other things I can't take to my dirty hole in the ground.

Jesus was radical in his teaching that the "stuff" in life wasn't all that important. It was radical for him to say that the worldly signs of success — wealth, popularity, pleasure — did not amount to a whole lot in the grand scheme of things and that suffering could sanctify us. It was radical in the ancient world, and it's radical today.

Are we ready to be radical, too?
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Readings for the Week

Monday:	Gn 4:1-15, 25/Ps 50:1 and 8, 16-17, 20-21/Mk 8:11-13
Tuesday:	Gn 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10/Ps 29:1-4, 9-10/Mk 8:14-21
Wednesday:	Gn 8:6-13, 20-22/Ps 116:12-1- 15, 18-19/Mk 8:22-26
Thursday:	Gn 9:1-13/Ps 102:16-21, 29 and 22-23/Mk 8:27-33
Friday:	Gn 11:1-9/Ps 33:10-15/ Mk 8:34—9:1
Saturday:	1 Pt 5:1-4/Ps 23:1-6/ Mt 16:13-19

Observances for the week of February 16, 2025

Monday:	The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order; Presidents' Day
Friday:	St. Peter Damian, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Saturday:	The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle

Are you seeking to rediscover your friendship with Jesus? Haven't been to Mass in a while and wondering where to start? Start by getting to know Jesus again through prayer. It doesn't matter how long its been since you have been to Mass. You are always invited to encounter Jesus in the Mass.

"Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst.'" - John 6:35

Pray:

[How do I pray?](#)
[Praying with Body, Mind and Voice](#) | [Daily Readings](#) | [Rediscovering the Sacrament of Penance](#)

Learn:

[Celebrating the Lord's Day](#)
[Participating at Mass](#) | [The Real Presence of Jesus](#)

LIGHTS OF HOPE

The one with the upper hand is God, and God is our hope! It is true that nowadays, to some extent, everyone, including out young people, feels attracted by the many idols which take the place of God and appear to offer hope: money, success, power, pleasure. Often a growing sense of loneliness and emptiness in the hearts of many people leads them to seek satisfaction in these ephemeral idols. Dear brother and sisters, let us be lights of hope! Let us maintain a positive outlook on reality.
Pope Francis

Reflection: *How can you be a light of hope*