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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



**February 23, 2025 7th Sunday Ordinary Time**

**For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you. Lk. 6:38**

### Sunday's Readings

#### First Reading:

"Today, though the LORD delivered you into my grasp, I would not harm the LORD's anointed." (1 Sm 26:23)

#### Psalm:

The Lord is kind and merciful. (Ps 103)

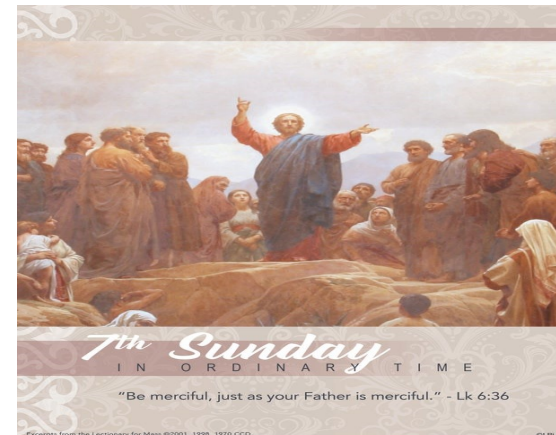
#### Second Reading:

Just as we have borne the image of the earthly one, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly one. (1 Cor 15:49)

#### Gospel:

"Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful." (Jn Lk 6:36)

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



### .My Dear Parishioners

Recently it occurred to me that many of you might not be aware of what certain things are called. So today I am focusing on the clothing a priest, bishop, or pope might wear. The purpose is to educate the faithful in the area of vestments. The word "vestment" comes from the Latin. It simply means clothing. Now, it is generally used to represent the garments that are worn by the ministers of religion in the performance of their sacred duties. Vestments are a sacramental. That means they are set apart and blessed by the Church to excite good thoughts and to increase devotion in those who see and those who use them. They are the uniform of the priest when he is "on duty," while he is exercising the functions of his ministry and using the sacred powers which he received at his ordination. The clothing that is worn by the priest while he is not "on duty," is not called vestments. The Mass vestments were originally ordinary garments of the ancient Roman world. While the fashions of dressing have changed with the passing centuries, the priest continued to wear at the altar the ancient Roman costume of his predecessors. Thus, the priest, vested for mass, is a wonderful witness to the historical continuity of the Catholic Church with the primitive Church of Rome, founded by the Prince of the Apostles.

**THE ALB** The alb is a long, white linen liturgical vestment with tapered sleeves. It is a garment (or robe) that is worn by the priest during the Holy Mass. It symbolizes the innocence and purity that should adorn the soul of the priest who ascends the altar. While it is white in the Western Church, it can be of any color in the Eastern Church.

**.THE CASSOCK** The cassock, also known as a soutane, comes in a number of styles or cuts, though no particular symbolism attaches to these. It usually has 33 buttons (symbolic of the years of the life of Jesus) down the front. There are two types of cassock: the ordinary cassock and the choir cassock. A band cincture or fascia is also worn with both types of cassocks. The ordinary cassock is the black cassock worn by most clerics. Choir dress cassocks for bishops, protonotaries apostolic, and honorary prelates are purple.

**THE CHASUBLE** The chasuble is the vestment that is put on over all the others during Liturgical services. Originally this was a very full garment, shaped like a bell and reaching almost to the feet all the way round. During a bad artistic period, the 18th and 19th century especially, the Chasuble suffered much from a process of shortening a stiffening. Today there is a return to the historical and beautiful, ample, nicely draping Chasubles. The Chasuble symbolizes the virtue of charity, and the yoke of unselfish service for the Lord, which the priest assumes at ordination.

**THE CINCTURE** The cincture is the cord used as a belt to gird the Alb. It symbolizes the virtues of chastity and continence (meaning "the exercise of self constraint in sexual matters") required of the priest. It comes in many colors.

**THE CROSIER** The word "crosier" comes from the Latin word "crocia" which means "crook or bend." It is a Pastoral Staff, the symbol of authority and jurisdiction. This ecclesiastical ornament is conferred on bishops at their consecration and on mitred abbots at their investiture. It is used by these prelates in performing certain solemn functions.

**THE DALMATIC** The dalmatic is an outer, sleeved tunic that came to Rome from Dalmatia, whence its name. It is worn in place of the chasuble, by the deacon and sub-deacon during Solemn Mass. It symbolizes the joy and happiness that are the fruit of dedication to God.

**.THE EPISCOPAL RING** The Pope's ring, known as the Fisherman's Ring, is used as the personal and unique seal of that reigning Pontiff. It is destroyed when he dies. Cardinals make use of the cardinalatial ring bestowed upon them at consistory, and bishops use the episcopal ring bestowed upon them at their consecration. Priests, both diocesan and order, may use the ring of profession during liturgical events. The ring is a gift of the Pope to each new bishop.

**THE HUMERAL VEIL** The Humeral Veil is worn so as to cover the back and shoulders (where it gets its name) and its two ends hang down in front. To prevent its falling from the shoulders, it is fastened across the chest with clasps or ribbons attached to the border. The Humeral Veil is worn by the priest or deacon in processions of the Blessed Sacrament, in giving Benediction, in carrying the Host to its repository on Holy Thursday, and bringing it back to the altar on Good Friday. In processions of the Blessed Sacrament and at Benediction given with the monstrance, only the hands are placed under the humeral veil; in other cases, it covers the sacred vessel which contains the Host. The Humeral Veil is usually and properly some shade of white (from ivory to white is acceptable).

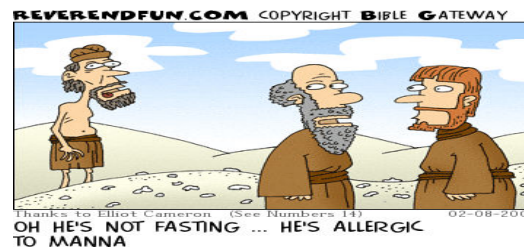
**THE MITRE** The mitre is the common headdress of bishops, worn at liturgical functions. It is either precious, golden or simple. The precious mitre is worn by celebrants, the simple by concelebrants, and the golden by the celebrant at an ordination. All the cardinals wear a damasked mitre in presence of the Pope. It is very tall, and is made of layered white damask silk.

**THE PASTORAL STAFF (OF THE POPE)** The staff, used by the Popes in place of a crozier since Pope Paul VI (died 1978), were silver color with a crucifix and corpus at the top. Throughout history, the Popes have not used the Pastoral Staff. Only since Pope Paul VI have they used it.

**THE PECTORAL STAFF** The pectoral cross is a small cross, usually about 6 inches in height, worn around the neck of a bishop and suspended by either the cord (in liturgical vestments or choir) or the chain (in abito piano). The cord is scarlet and gold for a cardinal; green and gold for a bishop./

**THE STOLE** Roman magistrates wore a long scarf when engaged in their official duties, just as our judges wear a court gown. Whenever a priest celebrates Mass or administers the Sacraments, he wears the stole as a sign that he is occupied with an official priestly duty. When placing the stole about his neck, in vesting for Mass, the priest begs God to give him on the last day the 'garment of immortality' that was forfeited by our sinful first parents.

**THE SURPLICE** The surplice, like the rochet, is a knee-length, white vestment worn over the choir cassock, but by priests, deacons, and seminarians rather than bishops. It is typically simple in design, but can be very fancy. It is distinct from the rochet not in the level of decoration, but in the sleeve: the sleeve of a rochet, like an alb, fits flush against the choir cassock; the sleeve of a surplice is fuller, and often bell-shaped. Fr. John



## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

24--Yasmeen Williams  
27--Sondra Hibbs

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

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



In a [letter](#) dated 10 February 2025, and addressed to his brothers in the episcopate, Pope Francis acknowledges the work of U.S. bishops in standing alongside migrants and refugees, he expresses support for efforts to uphold the fundamental dignity of every human person and he highlights the importance of pastoral accompaniment for those facing displacement.

In his letter, the Pope recalls the Holy Family's flight into Egypt and draws a parallel between their experience and that of many migrants today. Their journey, he notes, shines the light on "the phenomenon of migration as a decisive moment in history" and reaffirms "not only our faith in God but also the infinite and transcendent dignity of every human person."

Highlighting Pope Pius XII's apostolic constitution on the Care of Migrants, which describes the Holy Family as a model for all who must leave their homeland in search of safety and stability, he writes "Your work in defending migrants is deeply rooted in the mission of Christ and the history of the Church."

## 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.**

**Is Ash Wednesday a Holy Day of Obligation?**  
Despite the often packed churches, you may be surprised to hear that the answer is no! Holy days of obligation commemorate a particular event or celebrate particular people. Ash Wednesday is a day of penance, fasting, and abstinence to begin the season of Lent. Repentance ought to be reflected in particular, concrete ways! That's one of the reasons that attending Mass on Ash Wednesday is a very good idea. It marks the beginning of a solemn season of penance. Beginning this season with the celebration of Mass and the reception of ashes is a sign of our commitment to God and to spiritual growth.

## Coming Events



### Blessed Sacrament Happenings

**March 5--Ash Wednesday**

**Mass 6 pm**

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

**April 11--Fish Fry 5-7 pm**



Feb. 16--\$800.50

Budget--\$1,300

MTD Collection--\$2,788.88

MTD Budget--\$3,900

YTD Collection--\$45,710.96

YTD Budget--\$42,900

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

One of my favorite new singers/songwriters is Noah Kahan. I'm a little biased because, like me, he is originally from Vermont. In a fine song entitled "Stick Season," he sings of his hope to "cancel out the darkness I inherited from dad." This lyric articulates his painful recognition of a dark spiritual "inheritance" from his father, and his hope to be free of it. We all inherit some degree of evil from our earthly forebears. It's easy to feel doomed to repeat their darknesses.

But we're not so doomed, thank God. This week's Gospel proclaims this. Whatever good or bad we received from our parents, we have a more definitive and perfect inheritance in God. Jesus commands us, "**Be merciful just as your Father is merciful**" (Luke 6:36). We have a perfect Father in heaven and are destined to inherit and reflect *that* perfect and merciful love. We have an inheritance of light, not darkness, and thus a whole new possibility of magnanimous love. Like any inheritance, this is a free gift to us.

What are we destined to repeat? Not the darkness of our earthly parents. We are destined to be a reflection of *God's* life. Jesus liberates us from the inevitability of repeating whatever evils and imperfections are in our familial or cultural upbringings. It's time to claim that perfect inheritance.

— Father John Muir @LPI

## 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

	<b>Lectors</b>
<u>February 23:</u>	Jacques Williams, Barbara Bisel
<u>March 2:</u>	Katie Goins, Misty Sanford
<u>March 9:</u>	Layson Brooks, Jerry Fuchs
	<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>
<u>February 23:</u>	Janet Clark, Cindy Clark, Holly Hollis
<u>March 2:</u>	Barbara Bisel, Rita Moorman, Greg Gough
<u>March 9:</u>	Katie Goins, Denise and Greg Richardson.
	<b>Collection &amp; Gifts</b>
<u>February 23:</u>	Michelle Jones, DeAnn Brasher
<u>March 2:</u>	Kelly, Holly, Samuel Hollis
<u>March 16:</u>	Greg and Ethan Gough

## Laugh of the Week Ice Fishing

A man goes out ice fishing one morning. ◇  
He reaches the ice and is about to cut a hole in it when he hears a voice from above: “There are no fish here.” The fisherman is shocked but gets up and moves to another spot. As he’s about to cut a hole, he hears a voice from above again, “There are no fish here either.” He gets up and moves to a third spot. Before he’s even finished walking, the voice says, “I’m telling you, there are no fish here.” The fisherman says, “God, how can you be so sure there aren’t any fish here?” The voice replies, “This is the ice rink manager.”

## RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

**Mini Reflection:** It saddens me that Christians have somehow gained this reputation as a people who judge, who condemn. Today’s Gospel is an invitation for us to consider how we engage with people who disagree with us — or maybe even actively dislike us.

### Judgment and Love

“Oh, well. I’m going to hell anyway, right?” I have a few family members and friends who are not practicing Catholics who say this to me from time to time. It’s always spoken in a teasing manner, with a wink and a shoulder shrug, usually to explain away some sort of minor misbehavior they feel guilty about.

It saddens me that Christians have somehow gained this reputation as a people who judge, who condemn. I think in part it stems from a misunderstanding on the part of unchurched people (and lots of church ones, too) regarding what constitutes “judging.” It is absolutely not “judging” someone to disagree with a personal decision, whatever that decision may be, or to decline from participating in that decision. We all have functioning consciences; we are all supposed to discern the moral goodness of any action before we take it. But it *is* judging someone if we allow their decisions to impact how we treat them.

Today’s Gospel is an invitation for us to consider how we engage with people who disagree with us — or maybe even actively dislike us. Much is said these days of the “culture wars.” I certainly don’t disagree that it can often feel like you’re fighting a war when you’re trying to live as the Church teaches. The forces against you often seem overwhelming and nefarious. And guess what? They are.

But we need to remember who the enemy really is. The enemy is not other children of God, even if they are children of God who are actively promoting ideas that are wrong. Perhaps these people are misguided and mistaken. Perhaps they are misled by the devil. Have we not all been misled by him at some point? We must interact lovingly with people who think differently and live differently from us. The Christian life absolutely demands it.

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## Readings for the Week

Monday:	Sir 1:1-10/Ps 93:1--2, 5/ Mk 9:14-29
Tuesday:	Sir 2:1-11/Ps 37:3-4, 18-19, 27-28, 39-40/Mk 9:30-37
Wednesday:	Sir 4:11-19/Ps 119:165, 168, 171--175/Mk 9:38-40
Thursday:	Sir 5:1-8/Ps 1:1-4 and 6/ Mk 9:41-50
Friday:	Sir 6:5-17/Ps 119:12, 16, 18, 27, 34, 35/Mk 10:1-12
Saturday:	Sir 17:1-15/Ps 103:13-18/ Mk 10:13-16

Observances for the week of  
February 23, 2025

Thursday: St. Gregory of Narek, Abbot and  
Doctor of the Church

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## POPE FRANCIS’S RECENT LETTER TO US BISHOPS (summary)

In a [letter](#) dated 10 February 2025, Pope Francis acknowledges the work of U.S. bishops in standing alongside migrants and refugees, he expresses support for efforts to uphold the fundamental dignity of every human person and he highlights the importance of pastoral accompaniment for those facing displacement.

In his letter, the Pope recalls the Holy Family’s flight into Egypt and draws a parallel between their experience and that of many migrants today. Their journey, he notes, shines the light on “the phenomenon of migration as a decisive moment in history” and reaffirms “not only our faith in God but also the infinite and transcendent dignity of every human person.”

Highlighting Pope Pius XII’s apostolic constitution on the Care of Migrants, which describes the Holy Family as a model for all who must leave

Holy Family as a model for all who must leave their homeland in search of safety and stability, he writes “Your work in defending migrants is deeply rooted in the mission of Christ and the history of the Church.”

### Uphold human dignity

In his 10-point letter, the Holy Father says he has “followed closely the major crisis that is taking place in the United States with the initiation of a program of mass deportations” and commends the bishops’ efforts stressing that Christian love demands recognition of the dignity of all people, regardless of legal status. Since taking office on 20 January, President Donald Trump has announced a series of immigration-related executive orders that pave the way for a widespread effort to crack down on undocumented migrants in the US. In more than 21 actions, Trump has moved to overhaul parts of the US immigration system, including how migrants are processed and deported from the US

The Pope acknowledges the complex realities surrounding U.S. migration policies but reminds the bishops that the measure of a just society is how it treats its most vulnerable members.

“The legitimate regulation of migration must never undermine the essential dignity of the person,” he writes.

The Pope also expresses appreciation for the bishops’ advocacy against narratives that criminalize migrants and emphasizes their role in ensuring that policies respect human rights.

“God will richly reward all that you do for the protection and defense of those who are considered less valuable, less important, or less human,” he says. In light of the current challenges, Pope Francis urges the bishops to remain steadfast in their work, and despite the obstacles they face, including social and political pressures, he encourages them to continue promoting solidarity and compassion. Your pastoral ministry is a beacon of hope for many who feel abandoned and excluded,” he states.