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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:

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?" "Here I am," I said; "send me!" (Is 6:8)

#### Psalm:

In the sight of the angels I will sing your praises, Lord. (Ps 138)

#### Second Reading:

Therefore, whether it be I or they, so we preach and so you believed. (1 Cor 15:11)

#### Gospel:

Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." When they brought their boats to the shore, they left everything and followed him. (Lk 5:10-11)

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



February 9, 2025 5th Sunday Ordinary Time

**By the grace of God, I am what I am.**

1 Cor. 15:8



5th Sunday  
IN ORDINARY TIME

Simon said in reply, "Master, we have worked hard all night and have caught nothing, but at your command I will lower the nets." - Lk 5:5

My Dear Parishioners:

The month of February brings with it the thoughts of a short month, short days, and long nights. It is fitting that we have Valentine's Day in the middle of the month to sort of 'dot' the month with a bright spot. Actually, my parent's wedding anniversary is on Valentine's Day! It is a day recognized in the 'civil world' and promoted relentlessly by florists, candy and card companies, etc. However, all of the focus lacks the 'spiritual aspect' of the day.

Marriage was around a long time before Jesus. His parents were married, and at least some of the apostles were married. For example, in all three of the Synoptic Gospels we hear of Peter's mother-in-law (Matthew 8:14; Mark 1:30; Luke 4:38). In the early Church, Christians got married like anyone else in the cultures where they lived. Gradually, Christians began to see that the loving union of husband and wife spoke to them not only about family values but also about God's values.

Historically speaking, it was not until the 12th century that marriage took its place among the other ritual actions, which we now name the seven sacraments. Throughout the Middle Ages there was no singular wedding rite for Christians. The Catholic wedding ceremony that you might witness today dates in large part from about the 16th century. The rite has basically the same "shape" as all the other sacraments: gathering, storytelling, the sacramental action and commissioning. It is fascinating to me that in our country (and around much of the world) the focus seems to be on the wedding and not the marriage. We are 'entertained' by watching reality shows like "Who Wants to Marry a Millionaire" and "The Bachelor & Bachelorette". We tune into shows like "Say Yes to the Dress" and "Wife Swap". The 'wedding industry' has grown into a billion (yes billion) dollar business. Yet all the attention is placed on the day itself. Consider the following statistics I have pulled off the Internet

#### 2014 Average Wedding Budget Breakdown

Overall Wedding: \$27,021 Ceremony Site: \$1,393 Reception Venue: \$12,124 Reception Band: \$3,081 Reception DJ: \$900 Photographer: \$2,320 Videographer: \$1,463 Wedding Gown: \$1,900 Florist/ Décor: \$1,988 Invitations: \$351 Wedding Cake: \$540 Musicians: \$503 Catering (per head): \$61 Transportation: \$667 Favors: \$222 Rehearsal Dinner: \$1,127 Engagement Ring: \$5,500  
WOW! How much money goes toward truly preparing the couple for a life together?

You notice, I hope, that many times on Sunday we pray for all married couples during the Prayers of the Faithful. I want our parish to be supportive of those preparing for marriage and want their day to be recognized as important and beautiful. However, what are we doing for couples after they are married? That is where the real work begins!

Valentine's Day focuses so much on the 'consumer' buying flowers, cards, chocolates, or even cruises or trips to romantic places, and at some level, all of this can be a good and positive thing. This February 14th, however, I invite you to reflect more deeply on our understanding of what a marriage is and how God calls us to this sacrament like he does all sacraments. In the Sacrament of Matrimony, each spouse is commissioned to go forth and work toward the salvation of the other. To assist the other in recognizing Christ in our world at home, work, school, around the dinner table. Each morning as part of my personal prayer, I remember to pray for each of you. I pray for families, couples, single, young, and aged. Together, let us offer ourselves for the good of our Church and parish.  
February blessings! Father 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



**Congratulations to the newest member of Blessed Sacrament Connor Carmona, son of Chelis and Britney. He was baptized January 26th at Mass.**



## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

1--Natalie Clark  
2--Nancy Bumm  
3--Jacques Williams , SR  
6--Philip Moorman  
8--Karen Terry  
9--Beau Bisel  
24--Yasmeen Williams  
27--Sondra Hibbs



### **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

February 2--Jackie Jones  
February 9--Sharlene Hatfield  
February 16--Clyde Coble  
February 23--Larry Allen

*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.**

### **Bite your tongue!**

Let each one ask him--or herself today: "Do I increase harmony in my family, in my parish, in my community, or am I a gossip? Am I a cause of division or embarrassment?" And you know the harm that gossiping does to the Church, to the parishes, the communities,, Gossip does harm! Gossip wounds. Before Christians open their mouths to gossip, they should bit their tongues! To bite one's tongue: this does us good because the tongue swells and can no longer speak, cannot gossip. Am I humble enough to patiently stitch up, through sacrifice the open wounds in communion?

---Pope Francis

## Coming Events



### **Blessed Sacrament Happenings**

**February 14--Scripture Reflection**

**10 am in hall**

**February 16--Anointing of the**

**Sick 10 am Mass**

**February 22--Italian Dinner 6:30**

**March 5--Ash Wednesday**

**Mass 6 pm**



Feb. 2--\$1182.38

Budget--\$1,300

MTD Collection--\$1182.38

MTD Budget--\$1300

YTD Collection--\$44,104.46

YTD Budget--\$40,300

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

My parents' garage is full of old junk that no longer serves any purpose in my life. As a 46-year-old man, I admit that's pretty lame. Either due to my sentimentality or laziness (or both, probably), I just couldn't get myself to throw things away. But a few days ago, by a grace of God, I thought: "I'll hire my nephew Ryan to throw a bunch of my stuff away — he couldn't care less about my junk!" And you know what? It worked. In one day, Ryan chucked the majority of his uncle's useless stuff. I feel so free, ready for a new junk-free chapter in my life.

This kind of thing happens in this Sunday's Gospel. Peter's net is full of useless junk. Luke says he and the others are cleaning their nets after catching no fish. Imagine them dejectedly and impatiently removing a nasty assortment of seaweed, sticks and muck. The Lord teaches and calls them once their nets are cleared out. So it goes with us. Spiritual life begins by removing that which is useless and merely taking up space in our hearts, minds and lives. Then Jesus teaches and acts in a marvelous way in our lives, too.

So what's junking up your net? What habits, attachments, possessions, preoccupations? If, like me, you struggle to clean your nets by yourself, ask the Lord to send you someone like my nephew to be your "Peter" and help you clean it out. It is well worth it. Once Peter's net is clean, he is free to make a wonderful catch.

— Father John Muir

**Charity begins today. Today somebody is suffering; today somebody is in the street; today somebody is hungry. Our work is for today. Yesterday has gone. Tomorrow is yet to come. Do not wait for tomorrow** Mother St Teresa of Calcutta

## MINISTRY SCHEDULE

<u>February 9:</u>	<b>Lectors</b> Layson Brooks, Misty Sanford
<u>February 16:</u>	Jerry Fuchs, Greg Gough
<u>February 23:</u>	Jacques Williams, Barbara Bisel
<u>February 9:</u>	<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b> Katie Goins, Greg Gough, Rita Moorman
<u>February 16:</u>	Greg and Denise Richardson Misty Sanford
<u>February 23:</u>	Janet Clark, Cindy Clark, Holly Hollis
<u>February 9:</u>	<b>Collection &amp; Gifts</b> Jamie, Beau, Luke Bisel
<u>February 16:</u>	Barbara Hammond, Wonet Taylor
<u>February 23:</u>	Michelle Jones, DeAnn Brasher

## LAUGH OF THE WEEK

### The Dress

The poor country pastor was livid when he confronted his wife with the receipt for a \$250 dress she had bought. "How could you do this!" he exclaimed. "I don't know," she wailed, "I was standing in the store looking at the dress. Then I found myself trying it on. It was like the Devil was whispering to me, 'Gee, you look great in that dress. You should buy it. 'Well,' the pastor persisted, "You know how to deal with him! Just tell him, "Get behind me, Satan!" I did," replied his wife, "but then he said "It looks great from back here, too!"

## RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

**Mini Reflection:** What does it mean to lower your net? It means to listen to God, even when you don't understand Him. It means to keep trying the hard thing that you know is the right thing. It means to keep loving the person who is making life hard on you.

### The Catch

I love today's Gospel passage, and not just because I love a good fish fry. I love it because I am Peter. Over and over again, I am Peter, standing here exhausted because I relied on my own abilities, and it got me nowhere. I'm ready to call it quits. I'm ready to say it's too hard. And here comes Jesus, asking me to lower my net. To keep trying. And I try to talk sense into him. "It's not going to work, God," I insist. "I've been trying." "You've been trying," Jesus agrees. "But you haven't asked for my help yet."

What does it mean to lower your net? It sounds so simple and so easy, but it takes a great deal of humility and trust. I think I'm the expert on my own life, the captain of my own ship. Peter probably thought so, too — he was the fisherman, after all. Why would a fisherman listen to a carpenter on matters of fishing? Lowering your net means giving God control and letting yourself be changed by what He chooses to show you.

It means to listen to God's instructions, even when you don't understand them, even when you find them frustrating. It means to keep trying the hard thing that you know is the right thing, even when it hasn't born much fruit. It means to keep loving the person who is making life hard on you, even when all you want to do is give into feelings of bitterness and distrust.

If we would only lower our nets, the catch would astound us.

©LPi Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

## Readings for the Week

Monday:	Gn 1:1-19/Ps 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 24, 35//Mk 6:53-56
Tuesday:	Gn 1:20—2:4a/Ps 8:4-9/ Mk 7:1-13
Wednesday:	Gn 2:4-9, 15-17/Ps 104:1-2, 27-30/Mk 7:14-23
Thursday:	Gn 2:18-25/Ps 128:1-5/ Mk 7:24-30
Friday:	Gn 3:1-8/Ps 32:1-2, 5--7/ Mk 7:31-37
Saturday:	Gn 3:9-24/Ps 90:2-6, 12-13/ Mk 8:1-10

## Observances for the week of February 9, 2025

Sunday:	World Marriage Day
Monday:	St. Scholastica, Virgin
Tuesday:	Our Lady of Lourdes
Friday:	Sts. Cyril, Monk, and Methodius, Bishop; Valentine's Day

## THE SUMMONS

Confronted with God's power and majesty, the first response of the prophet Isaiah was to acknowledge his sinfulness. "Woe is me, I am doomed! For I am a man of unclean lips," he said aloud. Likewise, with his empty fishing nets dramatically filled at Jesus' instruction, Peter fell to his knees and cried out, "Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man."

Next, Peter got up. He docked his boats, then left to follow Jesus. Isaiah also had a dramatic change of heart. When he heard the Lord say, "Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?" Isaiah answered, "Here I am, send me."

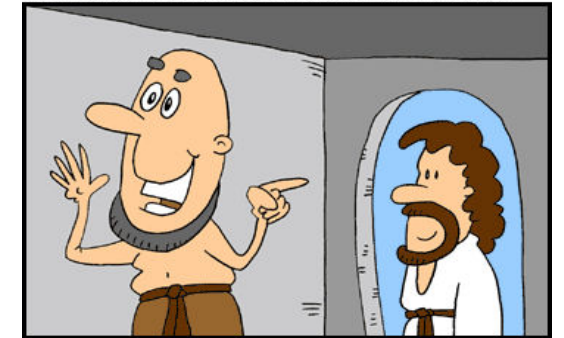
We are summoned daily by the Risen Lord. We are reminded of the saving power of the gospel and know in our heart of hearts that, as St. Paul wrote, believing in anything else won't lead to anything.

What will it take for you to move past our sinfulness? What will it take for you to get of your knees? What will it take for you to bring to dock what is unimportant and to accept your call to be God's messenger?

LPI



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Thanks to Paul 04-28-2000

HEY HONEY, MY BEST FRIEND IS HERE AND HE SAYS I HAVE TO DROP EVERYTHING AND GO FISHING