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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:

"This is what you shall tell the Israelites: I AM sent me to you." (Ex 3:14)

Psalm:

The Lord is kind and merciful. (Ps 103)

Second Reading:

These things happened to them as an example, and they have been written down as a warning to us, upon whom the end of the ages has come. (1 Cor 10:11)

Gospel:

"But I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish as they did!" (Lk 13:5)

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



March 23, 2025 3rd Sunday of Lent

The place where you stand is holy ground.
Ex. 3:3.



My Dear Parishioners:

There was an old man who maintained his subscription to the daily newspaper even though he had virtually stopped reading. His friend asked him why he maintained a subscription to a newspaper he hardly ever read. This was his reply. "Every morning, before any other thing, I look up the obituary section of the newspaper to see if my name is there. If I'm not there, I kneel down and thank God for the gift of another day." Fanciful, perhaps, but good too.

Imagine today's gospel as giving us a rare glimpse into the obituary section of a Jerusalem daily newspaper one day in the lifetime of Jesus. That particular day, the story of the dead took up not only the obituary section but the front page headlines as well: "Bloodbath in the Temple, Pilate Slaughters Suspected Galilean Terrorists," followed by, "Tower of Siloam Collapses, 18 People Feared Dead." We can imagine the common reaction in Jerusalem to such news of disaster and misfortune. About those unlucky Galileans they probably said, "Serves them right. They must have been terrorists." About those crushed to death they could have said, "It was an act of God. Only the Lord knows why those eighteen deserved to die at this time, in this manner." And they would flip the page for more interesting news, such as the survivor in the previous day's gladiators in the arena. The people who broke the news to Jesus conveyed it with the same "serves-them-right" attitude. Jesus could not contain himself in the face of such ignorance and self-justification. "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them – do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did" (Lk 13:2-5).

In the face of a natural disaster or personal misfortune befalling other people, it is wrong to suppose that they must have done something to deserve it which those who are free from the disaster did not do. The right disposition is to realize that it could happen to anybody, and that if it does not happen to us at this time, it is because of God's mercy and love and not because we have deserved it. Back in sixteenth century England a priest named John Bradford was asked what he thought of the criminals who were being led to public execution, and his reply was: "But for the grace of God, there goes John Bradford." We can see the same attitude in our old man who reads the obituary column every day. He knows that but for the grace of God his name would be there on that page.

The attitude: "but for the grace of God, there go I" helps us make the best of the opportunity God gives us in prolonging our lives from day to day, from week to week, from year to year. We realize that, like the barren fig tree, the extra time has been given to us for a purpose, as a chance to bear fruit. The misfortunes of the less fortunate are not an occasion to stand in judgment over them but an invitation to humble repentance, knowing that "unless you repent, you will all perish just as they" (v. 5). Next time we hear about earthquakes and plane crashes in the news, let us realize that it could happen to anybody, and that if we have been spared such disasters it is so that we might repent and bear fruit worthy of repentance. Today, we thank God for all the "gardeners" who mediate and intercede for us before God. We know that Jesus is the Great Gardener who intercedes and mediates for us. In practice, however, Jesus fulfills this role through women and men who function as members of Christ's body. The gardeners in our lives who have helped us to move from barrenness to fruitfulness include our parents, teachers, pastors, friends, and even our enemies who have motivated us by their bitter criticism which more often than not turns out to be true. We thank God for them, we thank God for giving us another opportunity this Lent, and we promise to make the best use of this season of grace to repent more and to bear more fruit in our lives. Blessings, Fr. John

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Hollywood has given us an image of Moses slipping off his shoes before a burning bush. God has just called Moses by name, and so that Moses doesn't miss the meaning of this breakthrough in human history, God requires that all barriers to the experience be eliminated. If you've ever tried to maneuver barefoot across hot sand or pick your way along a rocky beach, you know how sensitive feet can be.

Within the Church, there are religious orders with a custom of going barefoot, not merely to show poverty, but to be an outward sign of a desire for connection with creation, a desire to go through life alert to what God is doing. In early days, when reconciliation was a once-in-a-time possibility, penitents often went barefoot for a long period of time as a sign of their conversion. Even today, people follow an ancient practice of slipping off their shoes to walk in the procession to the cross on Good Friday. It is striking the first use of our newly-scrubbed feet from Holy Thursday night is to walk resolutely in the footsteps of Christ to the cross. --James Field copyright@J.S. Paluch

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

School Excuses:

- **My son is under the doctor's care and should not take P.E. today. Please excuse him.**
- **Dear School: Please excuse John being absent on Jan. 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, and also 33.**
- **Please excuse Ron from P.E. for a few days. Yesterday he fell out of a tree and misplaced his hip.**
- **I kept Billie home because she had to go Christmas shopping because I don't know what size she wears.**
- **Please excuse my son's tardiness. I forgot to wake him up and didn't find him until I started making the beds.**
- **Chris will not be in school cus he has an acre in his side.**

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

18--Jean Higgs
25--Carol Hatchett
31--Frank Fulton

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

3--Rita Moorman, Ethan Gough,
Bobby Hardin
6--Marshall Williams
10--Steven Fain



National Eucharistic Revival

A three-year grassroots revival drawing us deeper into our devotion and belief in the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.

From eucharisticrevival.org:

“Our world is hurting. We all need healing, yet many of us are separated from the very source of our strength. Jesus Christ invites us to return to the source and summit of our faith in the celebration of the Eucharist. The National Eucharistic Revival is a movement to restore understanding and devotion to this great mystery here in the United States by helping us renew our worship of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist.”

Mass Intentions

March 16--Jackie Jones
March 23--Larry Allen
March 30--Larry Allen
April 6--Sam Thruston

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: Mary Hagan, 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.

What are you fasting from this Lent?

- * **Fast from hurtful words and use kind words**
- * **Fast from discontent and fill yourself with gratitude**
- * **Fast from anger and fill yourself with gentleness and patience**
- * **Fast from worries and fill yourself with trust in God.**
- * **Fast from selfishness and fill yourself with compassion for others.**

Coming Events



Blessed Sacrament Happenings

March 23--Parish meeting 11:00

March 28--Scripture 10 am

April 11--Fish Fry 5-7 pm

April 15--Chrism Mass 6:30 pm

Sports Center



March 16--\$1207.93

Budget--\$1,300

MTD Collection--\$.4,174.43

MTD Budget--\$3,900

YTD Collection--\$51,354.39

YTD Budget--\$48,100

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 childhood best friend was Xander Price. He was the fastest runner in school, an excellent baseball player and Jewish. Though his family wasn't intensely religious, I felt totally at home with them despite our religious differences. Everything about their Judaism seemed to undergird and strengthen my own experience of being a Catholic. I knew they didn't believe in Jesus like my family did, but I intuited somehow that Jesus was "hiding" in their religion. Like a cat moving under a blanket, ready to emerge at any moment, the Lord was hidden there in a special way.

In the Gospel for this third Sunday of Lent, Jesus says, **"For if you had believed Moses, you would have believed me, for he wrote of me"** (John 5:46). Stunning words, those. Moses wrote about Jesus. The way therefore that we come to know and believe in Jesus is to discover him lurking in Moses' writings. The Hebrew Scripture is the wonderful womb in which Jesus gestates within a host of images: Adam, Isaac, David, Melchizedek, the Temple, sacrificed lambs, prophets and so on. Right now, in your parish's OCIA program, soon-to-be baptized people are carefully studying where Jesus is in the writings of Moses, so that they may believe in him. This works for all of us, too, who wish to deepen our knowledge and love of Jesus.

Lenten challenge: Take some time to prayerfully study one of the images of Jesus listed above in the Old Testament. Identify which one you find compelling and consider why this is so. If you don't know where to start, begin with the prophet Jeremiah as an image of Jesus.

— Father John Muir @LPI

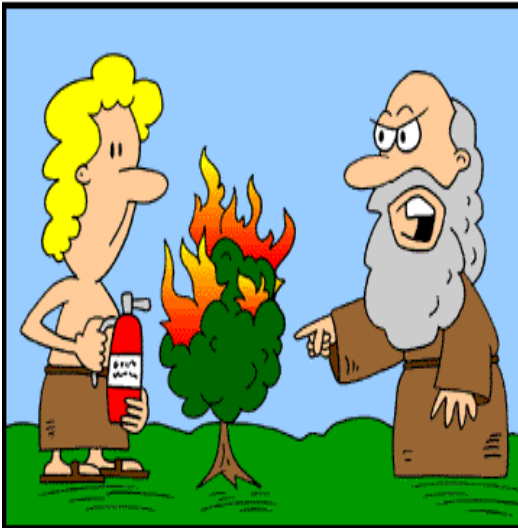
Prayer of Lent

Dear God, As I fast, may Your presence be my sustenance. As I pray, continue to reveal Yourself to me. As I give to others, may I know You even more deeply. Amen

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

	Lectors
<u>March 23:</u>	Jacques Williams, Barbara Bisel
<u>March 30:</u>	Jerry Fuchs,, Wayne Stephens
<u>April 6:</u>	Layson Brooks, Greg Gough
	Eucharistic Ministers
<u>March 23:</u>	Janet Clark, Holly Hollis Rita Moorman
<u>March 30:</u>	Barbara Bisel, Cindy Clark, Greg Gough
<u>April 6:</u>	Misty Sanford, Greg and Denise Richardson,
	Collection & Gifts
<u>March 23:</u>	.Natalie and Lila Clark
<u>March 30</u>	Jeff and Pam McCarter
<u>April 6:</u>	Laverne Thames,

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Thanks to Rev. C.L. Jeff Jeffers 09-09-1999

IF YOU DON'T MIND ... I WAS TALKING
TO THIS BUSH

Mini Reflection: What I love most about our Savior is that he didn't — doesn't — give up on us. "Give me more time," he says to the Master. "I can still fix this one."

The Patient Gardener

I have garden beds on the side of my house that I don't deserve.

When we bought the property, this was one of the features that was highlighted in the listing. "Professional landscaping! Tri-level garden beds that bask in the southern exposure!"

But I'm so terrible at weeding these garden beds — they become overgrown quickly, and I shudder to imagine what the previous owners would think of me if they drove by. I'm afraid they would write me off as lazy or disinterested, when really I'm just exhausted and busy. Every time I try to garden, one of my little assistant gardeners runs near the road and I must abandon the project to save them.

So, my husband, bless his heart, is the savior of these garden beds. He goes out there in the cool of the evening to pluck up the weeds that threaten to overtake this beautiful little garden. Patiently and tenderly, he restores it to a presentable state. Without him, they would be lost.

Perhaps I love these garden beds so much because I identify with them. If I were a garden, I would also be a mess, and people who have no time for messes would write me off as hopeless. We all need a savior to stick up for us, to come and quietly prune the unsightly growths that have taken root in our souls and turn the soil that has sat undisturbed for too long.

What I love most about our Savior is that he didn't — doesn't — give up on us. "Give me more time," he says to the Master. "I can still fix this one."

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Readings for the Week

.Monday:	2 Kgs 5:1-15/Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4/Lk 4:24-30
Tuesday:	Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Ps 40:7--11/ Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38
Wednesday:	Dt 4:1, 5-9/Ps 147:12-13, 15- 16, 19-20/Mt 5:17-19
Thursday:	Jer 7:23-28/Ps 95:1-2, 6-9/ Lk 11:14-23
Friday:	Hos 14:2-10/Ps 81:6-11, 14 and 17/Mk 12:28-34
Saturday:	Hos 6:1-6/Ps 51:3-4, 18-21/ Lk 18:9-14

Observances for the week of March 23

.Tuesday: The Annunciation of the Lord

Laugh of the Week

Lost on a rainy Friday night during Lent, a priest stumbles into a monastery and requests shelter there.

Fortunately, he's just in time for dinner and was treated to the best fish and chips he's ever eaten.

After dinner, he goes into the kitchen to thank the chefs. He is met by two brothers, "Hello, I'm Brother Michael, and this is Brother Francis."

"I'm very pleased to meet you. I just wanted to thank you for the wonderful dinner. The fish and chips were the best I've ever tasted.

Out of curiosity, who cooked what?" Brother Michael replied, "Well, I'm the fish friar." Father turns to the other brother and says, "Then you must be..." "Yes, I'm afraid I'm the chip monk

MERCY

God is mercy. That seems to be the main message of the reading from Exodus. God has seen the suffering of the Israelites and promises mercy and rescue. From then on, God is to be known as the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Paul calls his readers to continue to grow in the faith. The God who rescued Israel also rescues them. As beneficiaries of God's mercy, Christians must keep on working, doing their part to become ever more trusting and loving people of God.

The Gospel's second section is a homey story about God's mercy. Against the advice of the land owner, the vinedresser pleads for mercy--and shows mercy--to allow the poor fig tree yet another year to become productive.

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LENTEN RECINCILIATION SCHEDULE

- ◇ **March 16 Blessed Mother 2pm**
- ◇ **March 17 Lourdes 6 pm**
- ◇ **March 20 Sts. Joe and Paul 6 pm**
- ◇ **March 25 St. Pius X 6 pm**
- ◇ **April 4 St. Stephen Cathedral 1-5**
- ◇ **April 5 St Stephen Cathedral 9:30-4**
- ◇ **April 7 Immaculate 6 pm**
- ◇ **April 10 Precious Blood 6 pm**
- ◇ **April 13 St Stephen Cathedral 2 pm**