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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



March 9, 2025 1st Sunday of Lent

The Word is near you, in your mouth
and in your heart. (Romans 10:8)

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

'We cried to the LORD, the God of our fathers, and he heard our cry.' (Dt 26:7)

Psalm:

Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble. (Ps 91)

Second Reading:

For, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. (Rom 10:9)

Gospel:

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the desert for forty days, to be tempted by the devil. (Lk 4:1-2)

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



My Dear Parishioners

The threat of rising interest rates, more taxes and less welfare, huge amounts of foreign debt putting a strain on health and education spending, are a lot of what we've been hearing about lately in our media. Thank God we still have the living memory of Jesus, and the stories of his teaching and example to remind us that there's a lot more to life than money!

Today we remember how Jesus understood and obeyed God's highest commandment: *'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.'* *'With all your heart'* – i.e. with total determination! *'With all your soul'* – i.e. loving and serving God our whole life long! *'With all your strength'* – i.e. putting all our personal possessions, qualities and gifts, at God's disposal and for the service of others!

The love of Jesus for God and God's people was total; but this does not mean that it was any easier for him to practice than it is for us. It is clear that he had to struggle to choose between God and self. The tension and agony of it all is spelled out in Luke's dramatic story of the temptations Jesus faced during that time when the Holy Spirit led him into the desert. There he spent forty days working out the meaning of his life, trying to discover just what God wanted him to do with his life. In the process he came face to face with certain alternatives, which he came to judge as subtle temptations.

First, the tempter suggests to Jesus, extremely hungry after forty days of fasting: *'If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to turn into a loaf of bread.'* In other words, use your power and influence, not for others but for your own satisfaction, comfort and convenience. But though Jesus is desperate for something to eat, he will not dally with this desire, even for a moment. Instead he seeks nourishment of a different kind, relying on God's clear message: *'One does not live on bread alone.'*

That was one kind of temptation, but the idea that next comes to Jesus is even more subtle and appealing. This is to use his intelligence and his charisma to gather round him the rich and powerful from every nation, and, eventually, to become a great political leader. It was the temptation to seek world attention and become a political messiah, a temptation to fame and fortune and empire-building. This attraction is the very opposite of what God has said in Scripture about his chosen servant, the saviour of the world's poor and marginalised. God clearly means his Messiah to be a humble servant, a suffering servant, one who sacrifices his life in love. Jesus remembers this, realizes this, and takes it to heart. And so he blitzes the temptation with another clear and definite command of God in Scripture: *'You must worship the Lord your God, and serve him alone.'*

The third temptation of Jesus (according to Luke) is to go to the very top of the temple in Jerusalem and take a flying leap from there. A stunt like this will surely attract a horde of followers, and prove to Jesus personally whether God cares about him or not. The very thought of it is fascinating. Jesus, however, promptly puts the idea completely out of his mind as he remembers and relishes God's word: *'You must not put the Lord your God to the test.'*

His replies are more remarkable if we remember that Jesus was feeling very weak, fragile and vulnerable. He hadn't eaten anything for forty days. And yet his fidelity and love towards God hardly wavered for a moment. What is his secret? Clearly, it is his reliance on God's word in the Scriptures. He just keeps nourishing his mind, heart, attitudes and his very life, by remembering the word of God.

What the three temptations have in common is the lure of selfishness, for taking the soft options of security, power and prestige. We ourselves are often exposed to temptations to selfishness of one kind or another – in the form of pride, anger, lust, gluttony, envy, sloth, etc. Like Jesus we turn to God for guidance and strength, relying especially on the power of the holy Eucharist to remain faithful.

For better results when we are tempted, we would do well to do as Jesus did – read the scriptures, reflect on them and pray them. Our Church encourages the practice of reading, thinking about, and praying the scriptures each day of Lent. Whatever ways we choose to help us take God's word to heart, our Lent is meant to be a time for correcting our faults and raising our minds to God, a time of personal and community renewal, a time for coming face-to-face with God in his all-powerful word. Blessings, Fr. John

Three Pillars of Lent: Prayer, Fasting, Almsgiving

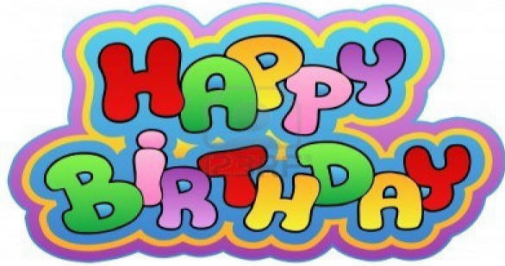
Often, when a family keeps vigil around a person who is preparing for death, they may notice three interwoven activities. First the dying person may become more prayerful and reflective than ever before, reviewing life's journey in gratitude to God, or seeking forgiveness and making amends for wrongs. Second, as death approaches, the need to eat and drink is lessened until even an ice cube brushed against the lips is satisfying. Third, persons who are dying often make plans to give their possessions away, making bequests, handing treasures down, providing for favorite charities.

Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving: with these three "pillars" of Lent, we rehearse our death every year in this season, and anticipate the final work we will do in this life. And every year, at the end of our journey, is the joy of Easter and the experience of the victory of Christ over earth's darkness and power. Annually, we remind ourselves that the Christian experiences the same power and presence at the end of life's journey: Christ to the rescue and the lasting joy of heaven.

James Field, copyright J.S. Paluch Co.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

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



PLASTIC SMILES

Lent comes to us with its shout of truth and hope. It tells us that we do not have to slap on makeup and draw plastic smiles as if nothing were happening... God invites us to...admit that something inside us is not well, and that something in society or in the Church is not well. He invites us to change, to turn around and to be converted.

Pope Francis

*What aspect of your life needs conversion?
 Take one step forward in this area today.*

Mass Intentions

March 5--Clyde Coble
 March 9--Larry Allen
 March 16--Jackie Jones
 March 23--Larry Allen
 March 30--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: 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.

REVIVE--RENEW--REBIRTH

Richard Lane, a well-known Catholic evangelist will lead us in a special one-night celebration of "Moving in Hope." The evening will begin at 6 pm with Praise music. This evening at Blessed Sacrament Chapel will serve as the final evening of the Lenten Parish Mission at St. Pius X which will be on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday. Invite family and friends--Catholic and other Christian denominations.

Coming Events



Blessed Sacrament Happenings

March 14--St. Stephen Fish Fry

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

April 11--Fish Fry 5-7 pm

April 15--Chrism Mass 6:30 pm



March 2--\$1,419.50

Budget--\$1,300

MTD Collection--\$1,419.50

MTD Budget--\$1300

YTD Collection--\$48,599.46

YTD Budget--\$45,500

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 the most fascinating moments in American history is when George Washington could have become the king of the newly liberated United States and didn't. At the height of his power and fame, on Dec. 23, 1783, he resigned his commission as Commander-in-Chief, and went home. The astonished King of England remarked that in doing so, Washington was "the greatest man in the world." Greatness is often defined by what we could do but don't. Greatness is measured by the temptations we overcome.

Jesus' greatness is revealed in his victory over temptations, too. The three offered him by the devil contain, we might say, all potential possible temptations: food, power and fame. They correspond to the triple human needs of body, soul and spirit. In overcoming these three, he says "no" in essence to every and even the greatest temptation. We see that every desire of his humanity — body, soul and spirit — is perfectly united to God, to love. This is a power available to each member of his body. It is the path to true greatness. How can we, who so easily fall into even small temptations, find the power to overcome large ones? By entering into the great dynamics of Jesus' temptations.

Lenten challenge: This first week of Lent, list some concrete ways you can overcome temptations that correspond with your desires. For example, you may give up snacks between meals, choose not to participate in an activity of which you are an expert, and decide to reduce social media posting by 50%. It may not seem like much, but by saying "no" to the tyranny of food, power, and fame (in this example), you'll discover true greatness.

— Father John Muir

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

	Lectors
<u>March 9:</u>	Layson Brooks, Jerry Fuchs
<u>March 16:</u>	Greg Gough, Wayne Stephens
<u>March 23:</u>	Jacques Williams, Barbara Bisel
	Eucharistic Ministers
<u>March 9:</u>	Katie Goins, Denise and Greg Richardson.
<u>March 16:</u>	Cindy Clark, Greg Gough, Misty Sanford
<u>March 23:</u>	Janet Clark, Holly Hollis Rita Moorman
	Collection & Gifts
<u>March 9:</u>	Chelis, Brittany, Kyler Carmona
<u>March 16:</u>	Greg and Ethan Gough
<u>March 23:</u>	Fain Family

Laugh of the Week

A SHORT HISTORY OF MEDICINE

“Doctor, I have an ear ache.”

2000 BC--”Here, eat this root.”

1000BC--”That root is heathen, say this prayer.”

1850 BC--”That prayer is superstition, drink this potion..”

1940 AD--”That potion is snake oil, swallow this pill.”

1985 AD--”That pill is ineffective; take this antibiotic.”

2000 AD--”That antibiotic is artificial. Here, eat this root..”

PAST AND FUTURE

There is no saint without a past--
and no sinner without a future.

RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS.

Mini Reflection: The devil knows that Jesus is human, so he uses all the best tricks he has for getting humans to break. The devil will try these things with us, too — this Lent, and throughout our lives. But how can we resist? We’re only human. What do we have that the devil doesn’t have?

What the Devil Doesn’t Have

The devil knows all the rules. The devil knows all the Bible verses. He probably knows them better than you do (certainly better than I do). He knows them so well that here, in today’s Gospel, he thinks he can outsmart the Son of God. He thinks he can out-argue him.

See, the thing you need to know about the devil is that he could have a master’s degree in theology. Maybe even a doctorate. But have you ever met a master’s student, or even a doctoral one, who doesn’t have a particular passion for what they’re studying? I sure have. The devil didn’t rebel against God because he didn’t understand God’s will. He rebelled because he understood God’s will perfectly — and he didn’t like it.

The devil knows that Jesus is human, and so in today’s Gospel he employs all the very best tricks he has for getting humans to break. Physical hunger. Insecurity and a desire for power. The yearning to appear learned and wise.

The devil will try these things with us, too — this Lent, and throughout our lives. It doesn’t work with Jesus, because, of course, Jesus is not *just* human. He can feel temptation, but he will not submit to it. But how are we supposed to do the same? We’re not divine. We’re just human.

Well, here’s the thing. We may be only human, but as Christians, we have a secret weapon. (No, it’s not a master’s degree in theology. Some of you may have that, but it probably doesn’t make you holier.) We have a love of what the devil has renounced — those things belonging solely to God. Truth. Joy. Humility. Sanctifying sacrifice.

Let the love of those things carry you through this Lent, and beyond.

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Readings for the Week

Monday:	Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Ps 19:8-10, 15/Mt 25:31-46
Tuesday:	Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-7, 16-19/Mt 6:7-15
Wednesday:	Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19/Lk 11:29-32
Thursday:	Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Ps 138:1-3, 7-8/Mt 7:7-12
Friday:	Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-2, 3-8/Mt 5:20-26
Saturday:	Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8/Mt 5:43-48
Observances for the week of March 9	
Sunday:	1 st Sunday of Lent; Daylight Saving Time begins

PASSING THE TEST

“Test” is a four-letter word. Spelling tests, driving tests, SAT’s, all bring a knot to the stomach. Tests are something we would rather forgo, but also something we must undergo. Lent, too, is a four-letter-word and is also a kind of test, for the only way to Easter is to *pass* through Lent.

Today’s reading from Deuteronomy commends Israel for its faith in the God who saves. No matter the tribulation, Israel’s faith enables it to persevere. This faith/test theme also appears in the reading from Romans. Paul boldly asserts that faith in Christ will see the believer through any trial.

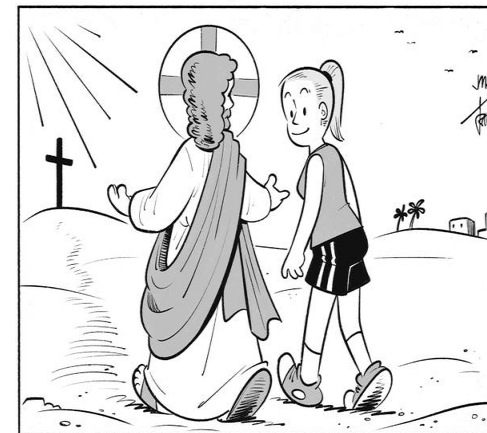
The Gospel passage makes it clear that even Jesus was tested. It describes a test, a struggle between good and evil, that dramatically demonstrates Jesus’ faith in the power of God’s life in him. This power enables him to overcome temptation. This power is with all of us who celebrate the test of Lent, a power enabling us to pass with flying colors. copyright@J.S. Paluch, CO

Lent is a time to draw closer to Jesus.

How are you doing that?

- ⇒ Read the Bible
- ⇒ Greet strangers with a smile
- ⇒ Fast from complaining
- ⇒ Give cost of coffee, soda to Catholic Relief Service

“Why did the athlete give up running for Lent?”



“She wanted to walk with Jesus.”

