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Blessed Sacrament

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www.blessedsacramentchapel.org or email at pa@blessedsacramentchapel.org

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 Fennwald,
SSND pa@blessedsacramentchapel.org

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. (Acts 10:38)

Psalm:

This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad. (Ps 118)

Second Reading:

If then you were raised with Christ, seek what is above where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. (Col 3:1)

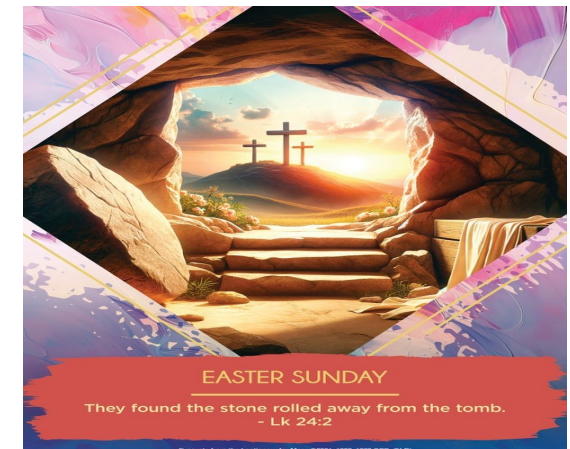
Gospel:

So she ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they put him." (Jn 20:2)



April 20, 2025 Easter Sunday

The Lord is truly risen, alleluia.



Pope Francis' Easter message

Just as Jesus removed the stone that sealed his tomb on the morning of the Resurrection, on Easter Christ alone “has the power to roll away the stones that block the path to life” and which trap humanity in war and injustice. Through his resurrection, Jesus opens those doors that continually we shut with the wars spreading throughout the world. Only the Risen Christ, by granting us the forgiveness of our sins opens the way for a renewed world. We ask the Risen Christ to bring peace in Israel, Palestine, Ukraine, and a host of other conflict-ridden regions in the world. In calling for a respect for the principles of international law, I express my hope for a general exchange of all prisoners between Russia and Ukraine and a prompt release of hostages taken during Hamas’ attack on Israel as well as an immediate cease-fire in the strip. War is always an absurdity; war is always a defeat. May the strengthening winds of war do not reach Europe and the Mediterranean. Let us not yield to the logic of weapons and rearming. Peace is never made with arms, but with outstretched hands and open hearts. May the risen Christ open a path of hope to all those who in other parts of the world are suffering from violence, conflict, food insecurity, and the effects of climate change. May he grant consolation to the victims of terrorism in all its forms. Pray for all those who have lost their lives and implore the repentance and conversion of the perpetrators of those crimes.

Easter celebrates the life given to humanity through the resurrection of God’s son. How much the precious gift of life is despised today! How many children cannot even be born?” How many die of hunger and are deprived of essential care or are victims of abuse and violence? How many lives are made objects of trafficking for the increasing commerce in human beings? On the day when Christ has set us free from the slavery of death, I appeal to all who have political responsibilities to spare no efforts in combatting the scourge of human trafficking, by working tirelessly to dismantle the networks of exploitation and to bring freedom to those who are their victims.

May the light of the Risen Christ shine upon migrants and on all those who are passing through a period of economic difficulty as a source of consolation and hope. May Christ guide all persons of goodwill to unite themselves in solidarity, in order to address together the many challenges which loom over the poorest families in their search for a better life and happiness. I pray that the light of the Resurrection illumine our minds and convert our hearts, and make us aware of the value of every human life, which must be welcomed, protected and loved.

The women who met the Risen Lord were motivated by love, believed He was risen, and passed it on. This should happen in our lives too. Let us feel the joy of being Christian! We believe in the Risen One who conquered evil and death. Let us have the courage to come out of ourselves to take this joy and this light to all places of our life!

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Over the centuries, the Church has demonstrated a wonderful ability to adopt a culture’s favorite symbols and customs and assign them new meaning. Easter eggs have a very ancient pedigree: nature’s perfect package, emblem of new life, dyed and decorated and given as gifts in ancient Egypt, Rome, China, and Persia. Just as the long hard winter is over, the egg bursts with promise of life and nourishment. Long ago, Christian came to see the egg not as a symbol of spring’s rebirth, but of ours, and as a sign of Christ’s tomb. A Polish legend says that Mary, in compassion for the soldiers at the cross gave them eggs, but that her tears stained their shells with brilliant color. Legends have their origin in tales told around a hearth, but they often contain profound truth. The idea of Mary, the first Christian, engaged in a merciful act of forgiveness and tenderness even in the shadow of the cross, describes the age-old wish that Christ “Easter in us.”

James Field copyright @J.S. Paluch Co.



AS YOU CELEBRATE THE MIRACLE OF EASTER, MAY YOUR LIFE BE BLESSED WITH AN ABUNDANCE OF LOVE, LAUGHTER, AND THE GRACE OF GOD.

FATHER JOHN, FATHER SHIBU MOC, SISTER JEANNETTE, SSND

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

10--Steven Fain
21--Kathi Skidd
23--Misty Sanford
25--Charlene Meadows
26--Vivian Higgs
27--Ruth Coble
29--Jeff McCarter

May Birthdays

8--Mary Ann Terry



Mass Intentions

April 17--Sam Thruston
April 20--Larry Allen
April 27--Larry Allen
May 4--Sam Thruston
May 11--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:
Michael Bodgan, Kathi Skidd, Ray Higgs, Mary Hagan, Debbie Gabbert, 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.**

Fish fry crowd. All seemed to enjoy the food and company. Even the Bishop and several former pastors came to visit us at BSC.



Coming Events



Blessed Sacrament Happenings

April 20--Easter Mass 10 am

May 3--Clean-up/flower planting

9 am---All are welcome

May 4--First Communion--10 am

Quinn and Hank Fain



April 13--\$1340.50

Budget--\$1,300

MTD Collection---\$2,385.50

MTD Budget--\$2,600

YTD Collection--\$56,758.39

YTD Budget--\$53,300

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

When I was a young boy, my parents told me about their wedding. Then a few years later, they showed me my mother's wedding dress and my dad's suit. It was astonishing to see and touch garments that connected me to the event that led to my existence. Of course, I already believed they were married based on their word. But these holy garments made the event real and tangible for me.

Something like this is at play when St. John reports encountering in Jesus' tomb, **"the cloth that had covered his head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place"** (John 20:7). Those two separate cloths, for his head and for his body respectively, meant a great deal to St. John and to the early Christians. Some years after the resurrection, there surfaced reports of two cloths with unusual characteristics, one bearing the image of a crucified man's body, another smaller one with the image of a wounded man's face. Some call them the Shroud of Turin and the Veil of Manoppello; they both can be seen today.

These two cloths have a long and complicated history, and scholars debate aspects of them. If you're curious, I encourage you to read about them. To be clear, I believe in the resurrection of Jesus because of the testimony of eyewitnesses and the gift of faith in the Church. Nevertheless, seeing these two mysterious cloths have made the life-giving event of Jesus' resurrection more real and tangible for me. Maybe they will for you, too. — Father John Muir ©LPi

MINISTRY SCHEDULE	
	Lectors
<u>April 20:</u>	Layson Brooks, Misty Sanford
<u>April 27:</u>	Greg Gough, Jerry Fuchs
<u>May 4:</u>	Jacques Williams, Wayne Stephens
	Eucharistic Ministers
<u>April 20:</u>	Greg Gough, Cindy Clark, Rita Moorman
<u>April 27:</u>	Misty Sanford, Barbara Bisel, Holly Hollis
<u>May 4:</u>	Janet Clark, Denise and Greg Richardson
	Collection & Gifts
<u>April 20:</u>	Fain Family
<u>April 27:</u>	Jamie, Beau, Luke Bisel
<u>April 20:</u>	Fain Family



**Beginning of Holy Week
Palm Sunday**

Mini Reflection: Everybody’s trying to find God. They may not admit it. They may not even know it. But the search defines them, and it defines us.

The Search
Everybody’s trying to find God. They may not admit it. They may not even know it. They may talk around it, shy away from saying the name, both to others and to themselves: *God*. But I know for a fact that every person who was ever born into this world spent their lives searching for Him - somewhere, somehow, even if the only place they thought to look was in money or drugs.

It’s a comforting fact, really — a reminder of how alike we all are. Catholic, Jewish, Muslim, atheist, rich, poor, Black, white. When it comes right down to it, the history of humanity is a never-ending Easter morning scene that plays in perpetuity. The sorrow, the shock, the confusion. Again and again, as each newborn baby opens his eyes, the search begins anew. *Where did he go? What has happened? Where can I find him?*

Catechesis isn’t enough. Even those who learn about Jesus Christ, who accept his word, hang hesitantly outside the tomb, afraid to go in. Jesus’ best friend — the disciple whom he loved — ran faster than Peter, so desperate he was to find his Lord. But when he got to the tomb and saw it empty, he got spooked. He froze.

Sometimes, we expect God to be right where we left Him — in a certain parish, with a certain priest, in a certain relationship, at a certain job. We show up, and we’re heartbroken to see that our expectations have been turned upside down. *He’s left us*, we think dejectedly, but we’re wrong.

There is no one who has been abandoned by God. There are only those who stop looking for Him.

Don’t let the empty tombs define you. It’s the search that defines you.

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Readings for the Week	
Monday:	Acts 2:14, 22-33/Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-11/Mt 28:8-15
Tuesday:	Acts 2:36-41/Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20 and 22/Jn 20:11-18
Wednesday:	Acts 3:1-10/Ps 105:1-4, 6-9/Lk 24:13-35
Thursday:	Acts 3:11-26/Ps 8:2 and 5-9/Lk 24:35-48
Friday:	Acts 4:1-12/Ps 118:1-2 and 4, 22-27/Jn 21:1-14
Saturday:	Acts 4:13-21/Ps 118:1, 14--21/Mk 16:9-15

Observances for the week of April 20	
Monday:	Monday within the Octave of Easter
Tuesday:	Tuesday within the Octave of Easter; Earth Day
Wednesday:	Wednesday within the Octave of Easter; Administrative Professionals’ Day
Thursday:	Thursday within the Octave of Easter
Friday:	Friday within the Octave of Easter; Arbor Day
Saturday:	Saturday within the Octave of Easter



DAD, I NEED YOUR HELP TO FIND OUT WHERE IT TALKS ABOUT THE EASTER BUNNY IN THE BIBLE

EASTER ENERGY
On Easter morning when the disciples saw the items of the Resurrection, they did not at first grasp it. St. John reports that “they did not yet understand the Scripture that he had to rise from the dead.” We, on the other hand, have both scripture and church tradition to teach us. Jesus Christ’s resurrection is at the core of our Christian faith.

All of today’s readings tell us how compelling this event was for the first Christians. There is great energy in all the readings. Peter preaches with authority and conviction. Paul calls for Christians to change their lives. In the Gospel reading we see Peter and John in a footrace to reach Jesus’ tomb and see with their own eyes the evidence that they still could not understand or completely believe.

How can some of this Easter energy be restored to us today? Do we let the astonishing news of the Resurrection touch us now? Does it call us to action? To deeper faith? To conversion? What new life will be reborn in us and our parish community this Easter morning? copyright@J.S. Paluch Co.

A NEW CONDITION
Jesus makes himself present in a new way, he is the Crucified One, but his body is glorified; he did not return to earthly life but returned in a new condition...For us too there are many signs through which the Risen One makes himself known: Sacred Scripture, the Eucharist, the other sacraments, charity- all these acts of love which bring a ray of the risen One. --Pope Francis