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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:

If you keep free of these, you will be doing what is right. (Acts 15:29)

Psalm:

O God, let all the nations praise you! (Ps67)

Second Reading:

The city had no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gave it light, and its lamp was the Lamb. (Rv 12:23)

Gospel:

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give it to you." (Jn 14:27)

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



May 25, 2025 6th Sunday of Easter

May the people praise you, O God;
may all the people praise you. (Ps. 67:6)



My Dear Parishioners:

Obedientia, the Latin for obeying, literally means to listen hard, to hold one's ear to something. While I studied at Saint Meinrad I learned the first word in the Rule of Saint Benedict was LISTEN! The first rule of the road that we all learned was "Stop! Look! Listen!" Before you cross the railway tracks, stop and listen. There may be a train coming.

"I am leaving you with a gift – peace of mind and heart." What a beautiful promise, what a special gift. Peace is not the absence of war. It is the presence of something real and tangible. It is something I can experience, and it results from having my relationships the way they ought to be. I will deal in greater detail with this later.

We are all familiar with invitation cards that have RSVP on them. The person is looking for a response from us. Every word that Jesus speaks is calling for a response. A rule of thumb is to learn to listen, and then listen to learn.

My response must be practical; it must entail doing something. Believing something up in my head is nothing more than mental assent. Knowing that Jesus is God is not faith. Satan knows that. Faith is not up in the head; it is in the heart, and it eventually makes its way down into my feet. It is only then that I will be prepared to step out, and act on the direction given me by Jesus. The message of the gospel is simple, definite, and direct. There is not one "maybe" or one "might" in all the promises of Jesus.

Blessings, Fr. John



Cardinal Robert F. Prevost, the 69-year-old Chicago-born prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops under Pope Francis, was elected the 267th pope May 8 and took the name Pope Leo XIV. He is the first North American to be elected pope. When he came out onto the balcony to greet the crowds in St. Peter's Square, he spoke of Christ's peace, the call to be missionary disciples and his commitment to continue to build a more synodal church.

Why do Catholics need to go to Mass every Sunday?

Answer:

The heart of the Church's instruction that we are to attend Mass on Sundays goes back to the Third Commandment: "Take care to keep holy the sabbath day as the LORD, your God, has commanded you" (Deuteronomy 5:12). Although the Jewish People celebrate the Sabbath on Saturday, the first generations of Christians began to observe the sabbath on Sunday, recognizing how important it is for Christians to celebrate the day that Jesus rose from the dead. As the United States Catholic Catechism for Adults observes, "Sunday extends the celebration of Easter throughout the year ... It makes present the new creation brought about by Christ" (364).

The focus of our Sunday should be the celebration of the Eucharist in the Mass. This is our time to be formed by God's Word and nourished at the table of the Lord, becoming prepared to live out and share our faith in the week that follows. In his encyclical, *Dies Domini*, Pope Saint John Paul II reminded us that Christians "cannot live their faith or share fully in the life of the Christian community unless they take part regularly in the Sunday Eucharistic assembly" (no. 81). This is why the Church teaches us that Sunday Mass is a non-negotiable part of being a Christian (see *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, no. 2192).

Beyond being a time of worship, we should also remember that Sunday is intended to be a day of rest, when we make time for recreation, for sharing meals, and enjoying the company of friends and family. Sunday is given to us as a day to take stock of and enjoy the blessings that God has given us (see *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, no. 2187). Pope Francis reminds us, "The day of rest, centered on the Eucharist, sheds its light on the whole week, and motivates us to greater concern for nature and the poor" (*Laudato Si'*, no. 237).

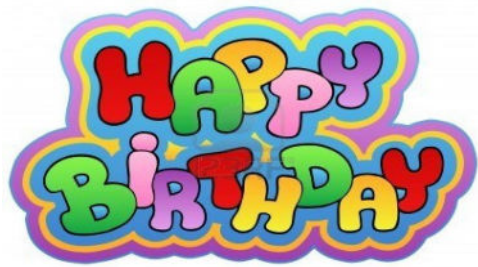
Mass Intentions

May Birthdays

22--Charles Brown SR.
29--Diane Hatchett
30--Karen Leachman
31--Barbara Hammond, Layson
Brooks

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

2--Anthonia Hagan
4--Larry Leachman
6--Ivan Clark
9--Alvin Clark



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Thanks to Samuel Varg Thunberg 05-09-2006
WADDYA MEAN IT'S NOT A VALID GET OUT
OF HELL FREE CARD???

May 18--Larry Allen
May 25--Sam Thurston
June 1--Barbara Jones
June 8--Sam Thurston
June 15--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: , Barbara Bisel, Harry Irving Bates, Charlotte Hagan, Kathi Skidd, Ray Higgs, Debbie Gabbert, Pam Wilson, 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.

Prayer for Peace

Fill us with Your peace, Lord, as you promised in Your word.
Peace in our comings and goings,
Peace that You are working and moving,
Peace for what has happened, the places we find ourselves today, and in the future to come. Amen. ©LPI

WORK OF THE SPIRIT

**Where the human spirit fails,
the Holy Spirit fills.**

Coming Events



Blessed Sacrament Happenings

**May 31--Deacon Conrad's
Ordination 10 am. SSC**

**June 8--Father Shibu's last
Sunday at BSC**



May 18--\$1765

Budget--\$1,300

MTD Collection--..\$4,455.50

MTD Budget--\$1,300

YTD Collection--\$64,185.39

YTD Budget--\$59,800

**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

Jonathan Haidt's 2024 book entitled "The Anxious Generation" argues that today's kids are marked by significant increases in anxiety, as the title suggests. Smartphones, social media, economic uncertainty, the chaos of a global pandemic, fear regarding climate change, and the so-called "meaning crisis" all contribute to strikingly high levels of anxiety in young people today. I'm a bit older than this generation, but I feel it, too. The world can be too much to handle.

The Gospel this week offers a stunning solution for troubled souls. To his overwhelmed and anxious disciples, the risen Jesus says, "**Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you**" (John 14:27). His peace is that of the one who was overwhelmed on the cross and then conquered death by the power of his divinity, his bond of love with the Father. He offers us this unshakeable peace.

Of course, mental illness does not magically disappear because of the risen Jesus. But he does walk with us and offer us his peace in the midst of our suffering. The peace the world gives is not like his because it is weak, uncertain, and self-generated. Jesus' peace is strong, sure, and given as a gift from God. He gives it to us amid our anxiety. Will you receive it as a gift? I hope so. He wants to fill the hearts of this generation with his peace.

— Father John Muir @LPI

BECOMING RICHES

The power of God is the power of love, and this love empowers us to be Eucharist for others. The little we have, like the few loaves and fish, can feed a multitude. God is always with us in a solidarity that never ceases to amaze us. When we actually pause to consider God's closeness to us--through the sacrifice on the cross and in every encounter in the Eucharist--we begin to see that we need not fear to follow Jesus' way. God will be with us, perhaps most visibly in the face of the person we help.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE	
	Lectors
<u>May 25:</u>	Jacques Williams, Wayne Stephens
<u>June 1:</u>	Layson Brooks, Jerry Fuchs
<u>June 8</u>	Jacques Williams, Misty Sanford
	Eucharistic Ministers
<u>May 25:</u>	Janet Clark, Rita Moorman, Greg Gough
<u>June 1:</u>	Denise & Greg Richardson, Michelle Jones
<u>June 8:</u>	Katie Goins, Holly Hollis, Rita Moorman
	Collection & Gifts
<u>May 25:</u>	Chelis, Britney, Kyler Carmona
<u>June 1:</u>	Barbara Hammond, Wonet Taylor
<u>June 8:</u>	Dee and Brennah Brashear

LAUGH OF THE WEEK
God the father

A young woman brought her fiance home to meet her parents. After dinner, her father asked the young man into his study for a chat.

"So, what are your plans?", The Father said. "I'm a theology scholar," the young man replied "Admirable," the father said, "but what will you do to provide a nice home for my daughter?"

"I will study and God will provide," the young man explained.

"And how will you afford to raise children?", The Father asked. "God will provide.," said the young man.

The men left the study and the mother asked her husband, "How did it go?"

"Very well; I like him. He has no money or employment plans," the father said. "But on the other hand, he thinks I'm God."

Mini Reflection: I think of the walls of heavenly Jerusalem, so high and so sturdy, guarded so scrupulously by God’s strongest angels. These walls are not barriers. They are shields. They are arms, encircling us, gathering us in.

My Peace I Give to You
When John has a vision of heavenly Jerusalem, he sees walls.

“A massive, high wall,” to be more precise. In the modern lexicon, walls have a negative connotation; we use them as metaphors for all that is exclusionary and rigid. But throughout much of history, walls have meant something very different. In the ancient world, walls meant safety.

Walls meant peace.

“My peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you,” Jesus tells his disciples in today’s Gospel. “Not as the world gives do I give it to you.”

So what’s the difference between the peace we know in the world, and the peace we know in Christ?

Well, I would argue that the difference is that the peace we know in Christ *exists*. We know no real peace in this world. Sometimes, we witness a sort of mirage of peace — something *like* it, but just a little off, and always on the horizon, never within reach.

Peace, to me, means rest. It means quiet. It means the absence of confrontation, of conflict, of anxiety. But I can’t actually experience any of that in this life, not in a substantial way. I can rest — but I never really feel rested. I can retreat to a room by myself to have silence, but someone always knocks on the door, and even if they don’t, my thoughts get pretty loud.

And boy oh boy, are those thoughts full of confrontation. Full of anxiety, full of conflict. Wherever I go to find peace, the world finds *me* and banishes it.

I think of the walls of heavenly Jerusalem, so high and so sturdy, guarded so scrupulously by God’s strongest angels. These walls are not barriers. They are shields. They are arms, encircling us, gathering us in.

In Christ alone can we find peace in this world.
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Readings for the Week	
Monday:	Acts 16:11-15/Ps 149:1-6 and 9/Jn 15:26—16:4
Tuesday:	Acts 16:22-34/Ps 138:1-3, 7-8/Jn 16:5-11
Wednesday:	Acts 17:15, 22—18:1/Ps 148:1-2, 11-14/Jn 16:12-15
Thursday:	Acts 18:1-8/Ps 98:1-4/Jn 16:16-20
Friday:	Acts 18:9-18/Ps 47:2-7/Jn 16:20-23
Saturday:	Zep 3:14-18/Is 12:2-6/Lk 1:39-56
Observances for the week of May 25	
Monday:	St. Philip Neri, Memorial Day
Tuesday:	St. Augustine of Canterbury
Thursday:	St. Paul VI, Pope
Saturday:	The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary



WAYS OF LOVE

One can feel the energy of a young, growing church in today’s first reading. For Paul and Barnabas, it’s smooth sailing. For the sponsoring church at Antioch, good news. The second reading--a vision--offers a picture of triumph, pure and simple. We might paraphrase God’s direct words to read: “Don’t you see? I make all thing new!”

The young church remains new and young to this day if and when it follows the command Jesus lays down in the Gospel: “Love one another.” The attitude and actions of love define the disciples and identify them with their master. Every person on this earth can be a disciple. For discipleship does not depend on learning or sophistication or age or arcane knowledge of secret cults. We are asked to study and practice the ways of love, right here and right ow in the company of ordinary people

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MEMORIAL DAY PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we lift up in prayer today our brothers and sisters who have gone before us, sacrificing their own lives for the protection and safety of others. We are grateful for their service. As we pray for those who lost their lives in conflict throughout our history, we recognize the ongoing war and violence that continues to plague humanity in many places, many forms. Today we pray for peace, which those we honor today fought valiantly to achieve. In Your name we pray. Amen.