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Blessed Sacrament

602 Sycamore Street • Owensboro, KY 42301 • 270-926-4741

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 Christopher Grief

cgrief@sscobo.org

Parish Life Coordinator: Sr Jeannette Fennwald,
SSND pa@blessedsacramentchapel.org

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

"Blessed be Abram by God Most High, the creator of heaven and earth; and blessed be God Most High, who delivered your foes into your hand." (Gn 14:19-20)

Psalm:

You are a priest for ever, in the line of Melchizedek. (Ps 110)

Second Reading:

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes. (1 Cor 11:26)

Gospel:

Jesus spoke to the crowds about the kingdom of God, and he healed those who needed to be cured. (Lk 9:11b)

From the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 GCD



June 22, 2025 Corpus Christi

As often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes. (1 Cor. 11:26)



THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST

Then taking the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, he said the blessing over them, broke them, and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd. They all ate and were satisfied. And when the leftover fragments were picked up, they filled twelve wicker baskets. - Lk 9:16-17

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.**

Parishioners

There

There are only a few TV programs I watch regularly. Honestly, most of the time I am in front of the TV you will find me watching the Food Network. I even have those programs on when I iron or clean (or nap!). There is a program I enjoy once and a while called Man Vs. Wild. This program is hosted by an ex-military man Bear Ghryllis. He would go for an adventure into different parts of the world, climbing up mountains and cliffs, swimming across dangerous rivers, crossing deserts, climbing down dark caves and tunnels, etc. But no matter where he goes, he always follows one principle, i.e. how to survive through those difficult and challenging places. Living out this principle, the first thing he does is to look for food and water, as he goes along to find his way out to a safer place. In a process, he would look for anything edible, and look for anything that might contain water, such as coconuts and bamboo trunks. This just goes to show, food and water are necessary for a person to survive and to live.

Friends, God knows that we need food and water to live. So he provides us with food and drink every day. Our First Reading today tells us, God provided ‘manna’ to the Israelites in the desert when they complained for food. The word “manna” possibly comes from the Aramaic man hu, which means ‘what is this?’ which expresses the wonder of the discovery that God’s love and providential care kept is chosen people alive on this substance. Manna was a sticky sweet resin exuded by trees like the tamarisk which on hardening, could be eaten. And when they complained about water, God provided them with water from the rock. But the manna and the water that the Israelites ate and drank did not assure them of eternal life. ‘They are dead’ as Jesus tells the Jews in our gospel today. However, Jesus did not say this to be cynical to the ancestors of the Jews, but to make them realize that in him, eternal life is offered and assured, as long as they eat his body and drink his blood. This self-proclamation of Jesus seems to have created a hiccup for the Jews. They asked ‘how can he give his flesh to be eaten?’

Our celebration today offers us an answer to this question. Jesus gives his very life to give us life. Through the Holy Spirit, Christ becomes truly present in the Eucharistic species. In the Consecration, the earthly species [i.e. bread and wine] are transformed substantially into a real body and blood of Jesus to become our spiritual food and drink-the special gift from God to us. This is how he gives his flesh for us to be eaten, and this is how he gives out his blood for us to drink. This is how he wants us to enjoy eternal life with him. When we take communion, then we not only receive this to survive or to live but we also welcome and accept God’s offer of eternal life. This Eucharist makes us one, in the Body of Christ. This unity then sustains and strengthens us to go on in our mission of promoting the cause of God, the cause of peace, justice, and unity.

Because of this Eucharist and because of the real presence in the Eucharist, more especially in the Eucharistic species, the church survives over the centuries amidst the challenges, difficulties, problems, scandals, etc. The Eucharist has been and will continue to be the lifeline of the Church. And being member of this body of Christ, we are enjoying this very life as well. Because of the ever-continuing presence of Jesus, the Church survives and lives on. Let us therefore, not lose sight of him. For in Him, eternal life is sure and imminent. If we have not welcome Jesus yet in our lives, let’s pray he’d come and dwell in us, to guide and sustain us, and to give us life. When we receive the Body and Blood of Jesus, we, too, must be transformed. It could never be more true . . . we are what we eat!

So as we continue to celebrate our solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ, let us thank God for this great and special gift of the Eucharist, a gift that assured us not only to survive and to live but of everlasting life. Let us make this solemnity then resolution to be more active in our participation in every celebration of the holy Eucharist. Blessings, Fr. John

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

We owe today’s beautiful feast to a valiant woman who suffered a great deal to establish a feast out of her love for the Eucharist. Juliana was a nun in Belgium in the thirteenth century. She served in a hospital for lepers. She became convinced through her prayer that the liturgical year was incomplete because it had no feast for the Eucharist. Her efforts were not welcome, and a supervising priest sought to punish her for promoting a feast that “nobody wanted.” He even had her accused of financial mismanagement and banished her from her convent.

Shortly after she was exiled, the bishop approved the feast. It quickly spread through Europe. In those days, people very seldom received Holy Communion, and so the processions through the streets with the Eucharistic bread not only led to an awareness of Christ’s hunger to be with us, but prepared the way for a deeper desire to receive Christ’s Body and Blood in more frequent Communion. The feast grew rapidly, but Juliana disappeared into poverty and a hidden life. She ended her days as an “ anchoress,” a woman living in seclusion in a room attached to a parish church. Imagine her delight at seeing us gathered at the table of the Lord on this day, aware of Christ’s presence in our midst, sharing fully in Christ’s Body and Blood. Our celebration today invests her struggle and sorrows with dignity and meaning.

--James Field J.S. Paluch

Language Problem: A Polish man moved to the United States and married an American girl. Although his English was far from perfect, they got along very well. Until one day he rushed into a lawyer’s office and asked him if he would arrange a divorce for hm. The lawyer said that would depend on the circumstances and asked him a few questions. Lawyer: Have you any grounds? Man: Yes, an acre and a half. Lawyer: No I mean what is the foundation of this case? Man: Concrete. Lawyer: I don’t think you understand. Does either of you have a real grudge? Man: No we have a carport. Lawyer: Is there any infidelity in your marriage? Man: We have a high fidelity stereo and a DVD player. Lawyer: Does your wife beat you up? Man: No, I always wake up first. Lawyer: Why do you want a divorce? Man: She is going to kill me. Lawyer: What makes you think that? Man: She is going to poison me. She bought a bottle and put it on the shelf in the bathroom. I can read it and it says: Polish remover.

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

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

16--Sister Jeannette
23--Pam McCarter, Michelle Jones
27--Leland Herzog
30--Trent Hatchett, Father Sinjo

JULY BIRTHDAYS

3--Ray Higgs
8--Calvin McHenry
10--Chelis Carmona



If you happen to travel to the Belleville, IL or St. Louis area, and want to look me up (or send a note letting me know how you are), my address is 35 Royal Court, Aviston, IL 62216. 636-575-0446

Mass Intentions

June 15--Larry Allen
June 22--Sister Jeannette
June 29--Sam Thruston
July 6--Harry Bates
July 13--Jerry Wedlake

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: , Pam Weafer, David Strawn, Teresa Luebbert, Barbara Bisel, 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, Gary Moorman. If you know of anyone who is in need of prayer or visitation, please notify the office.

UPDATE

Today I am celebrating my 60th anniversary as a School Sister of Notre Dame (SSND) at the 10 am Mass. I want to celebrate with you because we have been a faith community for the past 10 years. At the Mass I (and any religious present) will renew our vows that we professed at our profession. It is a perfect day to celebrate since it is the feast of Corpus Christi (Body of Christ), our parish feast day. Jesus nourishing me through the Eucharist helps me live my vows each and every day.

This Mass will also be my last one here as I will be leaving Blessed Sacrament Chapel and Owensboro this week. I will be the DRE at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Aviston, IL. Please keep me in our prayers. This move will bring me closer to my religious community and family. I will greatly miss you who have been such an important part of my life for the past 10 years. Hopefully together we have grown closer to the Lord. You have been a gift to me. You are in my prayers and thoughts. I hope you keep in touch.

Sister Jeannette, SSND

Coming Events



Blessed Sacrament Happenings

June 22--Sister Jeannette's 60th Jubilee and Farewell 10 am

August 2--Picnic (Drive through sale of meat only) 11am-1pm



June 15---\$1,146.50

Budget--\$1,300

MTD Collection---\$3,657.82

MTD Budget--\$3,900

YTD Collection--\$68,267.71

YTD Budget--\$65,000

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

A Catholic friend of mine occasionally says, “The Eucharist is not a noun. It’s a verb.” In so saying, he is making the point that the Eucharist isn’t simply Jesus’ bodily presence given to us in holy Communion. It also manifests the dynamic pattern by which Christ actively loves and saves us. He teaches us to cooperate with that pattern. This Eucharist actually embodies four verbs: Jesus takes, blesses, breaks, and gives. Let’s consider each one.

He **takes**: Do we acknowledge that we are totally in God’s hands? Do we receive everything in our lives as a gift, and act responsibly with it?

He **blesses**: Do we actively reflect that Jesus makes us holy in our baptism? Do we embrace our bodies and souls as temples of God, worthy of love, peace, and joy?

He **breaks**: Do we run from failure and disappointment, from getting old or being ignored? Are we too worried about getting hurt or sick? Do we embrace our sufferings with confidence?

He **gives**: Are we willing to make our lives a gift for others? Are we confident that we will always have enough love to give to others, that God will always provide enough for us? Do we rejoice in giving away what we have to others, expecting nothing in return? This is the dynamic life the Eucharist empowers us to live.

— *Father John Muir Lpi*



MINISTRY SCHEDULE	
	Lectors
<u>June 22:</u>	Layson Brooks, Misty Sanford
<u>June 29:</u>	Katie Goins, Barbara Bisel
<u>July 6:</u>	Jerry Fuchs, Jacques Williams
	Eucharistic Ministers
<u>June 22:</u>	Greg Gough, Rita Moorman
<u>June 29:</u>	Denise and Greg Richardson
	Holly Hollis
<u>July 6:</u>	Katie Goins, Michelle Jones, Misty Sanford
	Collection & Gifts
<u>June 22:</u>	Holly, Kelly, Samuel Hollis
<u>June 29:</u>	Laverne Thames
<u>July 6:</u>	Steve Coble, Burnell Hamilton

DIVERSITY IS CAUSE FOR STRENGTH, NOT DIVISION.

We are worried and pained by all that happens every day in the world: we are wounded by the violence that generates death; we are challenged by inequalities, by poverty, by so many forms of social exclusion, by a widespread suffering that now spares no one," he said. "And these realities do not only happen elsewhere, far from us, but also concern our city of Rome, marked by multiple forms of poverty and by serious emergencies such as that of housing."

"The Lord wanted us precisely in this time full of challenges that can seem bigger than our strength," the Pope said. "We are called to embrace these challenges, to interpret them evangelically, to live them as opportunities for witness. Let us not run away in the face of them." Pope Leo XIV

Mini Reflection: Sometimes we forget that we *need* the Eucharist. It’s not just a nice thing to have, a sweet act of devotion, something to bolster our faith. The Eucharist is none of those things. The Eucharist is the food without which we will die.

As the Day Was Drawing to a Close
It isn’t uncommon for me to get to the noon hour only to realize that I haven’t yet eaten anything that day.

It drives my husband crazy. He was raised by a bunch of Italian women, so he can’t help but think three meals ahead. And don’t get me wrong, I love food — I literally dream of donuts. But some days, I’m just so busy and I keep putting it off until I realize how weak I feel, how light-headed. And I think to myself: *Stupid, you’ve done it again.*

This is what comes to mind today, on the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, as I read the Gospel account of the miracle of the loaves and fish-es.

I think of hunger, distraction and the poor planning of those who pride themselves on being capable.

“As the day was drawing to a close,” it is written — that’s when the disciples finally realized that 5,000 hangry people is not an ideal situation.

I wonder, did Jesus roll his eyes when they came to him, and think, “Finally”? At any point he could have pulled out a fish and said a blessing. But he waited for them to ask. He waited for them to realize how badly they needed it.

Sometimes we forget that we *need* the Eucharist. It’s not just a nice thing to have, a sweet act of devotion, a sacramental item that bolsters our faith. The Eucharist is none of those things. The Eucharist is the food without which we will die. The Eucharist is something we must seek out. Remember: the day is drawing to a close.

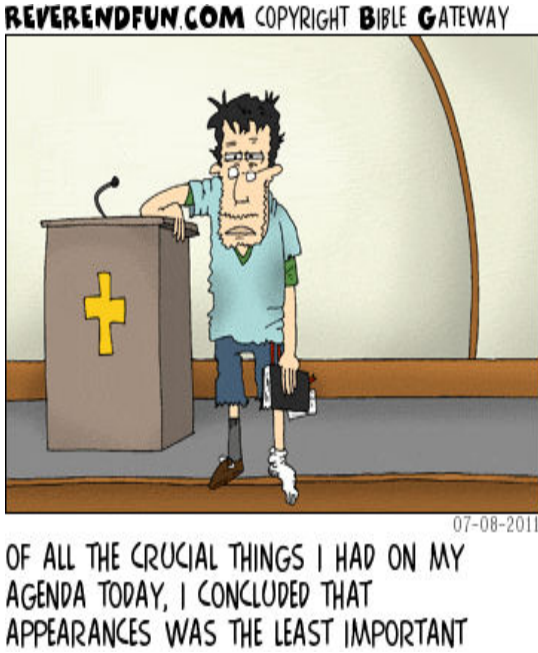
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Readings for the Week

Monday:	Gn 12:1-9/Ps 33:12-13, 18-19, 20 and 22/Mt 7:1-5
Tuesday:	Is 49:1-6/Ps 139:1-3, 13-15/Acts 13:22-26/Lk 1:57-66, 80
Wednesday:	Gn 15:1-12, 17-18/Ps 105:1-4, 6-9/Mt 7:15-20
Thursday:	Gn 16:1-12, 15-16/Ps 106:1-5/Mt 7:21-29
Friday:	Ez 34:11-16/Ps 23:1-6 (1)/Rom 5:5-11/Lk 15:3-7
Saturday:	Gn 18:1-15/Lk 1:46-50 and 53, 54-55/Mt 8:5-17

Observances for the week of June 22

Tuesday:	The Nativity of St. John the Baptist
Friday:	The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus
Saturday:	The Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary; St. Irenaeus, Bishop,
Next Sunday:	Sts. Peter And Paul, Apostles



APPRECIATING THE EUCHARIST

For centuries today’s feast was called Corpus Christi (the Body of Christ) and was observed on the Thursday after Trinity Sunday. In many countries it has now been moved to Sunday, so that more people may participate in its celebration. In its present form, the liturgy of this day focuses our attention on the meaning of the Eucharist that we celebrate so often.

Today’s reading from Genesis tells how “Melchizedek, king of Salem, brought out bread and wine” and prayed over Abram. Though it took place nearly two thousand years before Jesus, this event has long been used by the Church as an ancient foreshadowing of the Eucharist.

The reading from Paul’s Letter to the Corinthians is the same one we hear proclaimed on Holy Thursday, retelling the story of the first blessing and sharing of bread and wine at the Last Supper. Luke’s tale of the miraculous feeding of the crowd in today’s Gospel is also clearly intended to evoke the Eucharist. Thus today's readings give us three opportunities to deepen our appreciation of the Body and Blood of Christ. J.S.Paluch

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If you do not have a community partner at Kroger, please consider designating Blessed /Sacrament Chapel.. Blessed Sacrament’s number is WX 99. You can register at krogercommunityrewards.com.