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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. Monica Seaton, OSU

pa@blessedsacramentchapel.org

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

For what profit comes to man from all the toil and anxiety of heart with which he has labored under the sun? (Eccl 2:22)

Psalm:

If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts. (Ps 90)

Second Reading:

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

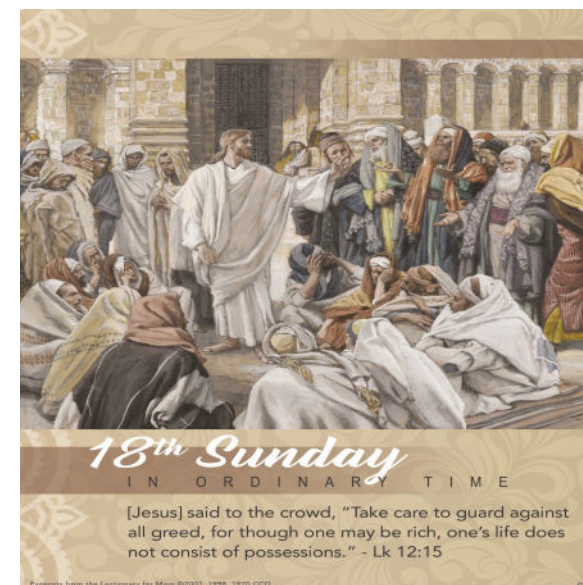
Gospel:

Thus will it be for all who store up treasure for themselves but are not rich in what matters to God." (Lk 12:21)

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



August 3, 2025 18th Sunday Ordinary Time



My Dear Parishioners:

A research company was anxious to do an extensive study of wolves in one of our national parks. Wolves, however, are rather clever, and have no desire to cooperate with scientific studies. So, with the backing of a major donor, the company placed a bounty of \$5000 on any wolf that could be safely captured for research. Two young college students, Tom and Dave, decided this would be a way to make their fortunes. They were familiar with the park because they had camped there frequently. For two weeks they scoured the park without much success. Then one night, exhausted, they retired to their sleeping bags under the stars, and fell asleep thinking of their potential wealth. In the middle of the night, Tom woke up and realized that he and Dave were surrounded by at least 50 wild wolves with glaring eyes and bared teeth. He nudged his companion. “Dave,” he said, “Wake up! We’re rich!”

Rich? Maybe. Doomed? For sure. Today’s parable also relates riches and death. In the parable, a rich man is busy making plans to store his wealth for the future. He decides to build bigger barns to hold what he owns. But all of his industrious planning is cut short by his sudden death. The parable does not deny the need to plan for the future, but it asks us to look at wealth from the ultimate perspective. The man in the parable is called a fool, not because he is stupid, but because he does not appreciate the true purpose of his wealth. All his crops, all that he has is a gift from God. That gift, of course, is meant to be used for his benefit, but not in an unlimited way. Once his own needs are met, his excess wealth should not be hoarded away for the future, but used. And according to the gospel, it is to be used for the benefit of others.

This truth is not new to any of us. I think all of us are aware that God entrusts things to us to be used for the benefit of others. Yet I think many of us, much like the man in the parable, go about from day to day without reflecting on what the purpose is for the gifts we have received. When God places money, or time, or ability into our hand, we are delighted. We begin planning how we can use these things for our own benefit – and to a point, that is okay. But how often do we think of the responsibility we have to use our gifts for the sake of others?

Now this blindness might result in part from our culture which is always pushing us to accumulate excess wealth: more money, more friends, more possessions. Our culture persuades us that bigger is better, that growth is always desirable. Watching TV just a few weeks ago I heard someone say, “Beautiful. Nothing succeeds like excess!” How often do we ask ourselves, “Do I really need this? Shouldn’t some of this be given to someone else? What part of my excess wealth or talent or time should I give to someone who needs it?”

Clearly today’s parable might not be intended for everyone. There could be people here this morning who have no excess wealth, no excess time, no excess talent. But the people with no excess of gifts are few. Most of us need to listen to this parable as it reminds us that the excess gifts that we keep for ourselves are not an advantage, but a liability. The scriptures even use the image of a storehouse in heaven, a storehouse in which we can invest. We can place things in our heavenly storehouse each time we give away some of our resources here on earth. And that image of the heavenly storehouse should be taken seriously, because at any time, just like in the parable, God could choose to call us home.

When John D. Rockefeller died at the age of 98 at the beginning of the twentieth century, he was the wealthiest man in the world. And a reporter who was assembling his obituary asked his chief aide, “Just how much did your boss leave behind?” The aide answered, “All of it.”

The same is true for us. Blessings, Fr. John

Sept. 26-28 -Gennesaret Retreat

Are you or anyone you know living with chronic, serious, or terminal illness? The Diocese of Owensboro Gennesaret Retreat may be a blessing for you. This retreat is structured to accommodate individual needs. Each guest is provided with a private room and bathroom. The schedule allows for choice and time for rest. Special dietary needs can be planned for. Team members are available and ready to assist with your needs. The Gennesaret Retreat is offered at no cost for guests or volunteer team members. Funding it provided through grants and generous donations. Applications are being accepted for this year’s retreat the weekend of Sept. 26-28, 2025 at the Abbey of Gethsemane retreat center, Trappist, KY. Guests will be accepted on a first come basis. When the retreat filled up, we will start a waiting list for next year. To apply to be a guest or to volunteer as a host team member contact coordinators Amy or Tom Payne at 270-316-0403 or email apayneat2251@hotmail.com. Please keep us in your prayers.

KROGER

Thanks to everyone who has designated Blessed Sacrament Chapel as you community reward partner. 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.

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 ReportBishop-Abuse.org or call 1-800-276-1562

Mass Intentions

August 3 -- Benefactors

August 10-- Larry Allen

August 14 -- Sam Thruston

August 17--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:

Rollie Pike, Larry Leachman, Dorothy Simmons, Calvin McHenry, Steve Coble, Pam Weafer, David Strawn, Teresa Luebbert, Diane Selby, Kathi Skidd, Ray Higgs, 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.**

August Birthdays

21 -- Kyler Carmona, Dee Brasher

24 -- Celena Hagan

25 -- Denise Richardson



18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Coming Events



Blessed Sacrament Happenings

August 10 -- Raffle Drawing

August 14 -- Feast of the Assumption of Mary, Vigil Mass 6pm



July 27--\$1,078.50

Budget--\$1,300.00

MTD Collection--\$4,944.99

MTD Budget--\$3,900.00

YTD Collection--\$4,944.99

YTD Budget--\$5,200.00

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

Recent studies suggest that millennials will be the first generation in America to be worse off than their parents in terms of financial earnings and job status. Many lament this. I propose that this week's Gospel provides a hopeful way to see the trend as good news.

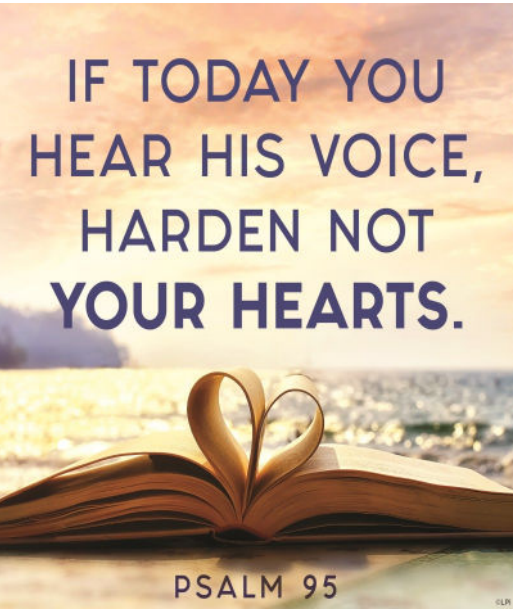
The Lord Jesus says, **“Take care to guard against greed, for though one may be rich, one’s life does not consist in possessions” (Luke 12:15).** Greed damages us with the deception that we are what we possess. But to Jesus, this is simply not true. What makes us happy is who we are, who we become.

Does not the expectation that every generation should do better than their parents subtly mask the poison of greed? A similar attitude is mirrored in the man who demands that Jesus justly arrange his share of the family inheritance. Despite the injustice, Jesus will not play that game. In fact, he seems to prefer that the man have less than his parents. What good would having more be to this man if he becomes enslaved and miserable by greed? What good would it be for us to have more if it means we become much less?

In allowing the man to have less, Jesus opens a space for him to become more: a man free to love. In that much more meaningful sense, perhaps he was better off than his parents. Maybe the millennials will be, too.

— Father John Muir
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MINISTRY SCHEDULE	
	Lectors
<u>August 3:</u>	Greg Gough, Jerry Fuchs
<u>August 10:</u>	Layson Brooks, Misty Sanford
<u>August 17:</u>	Katie Goins, Jacques Williams
	Eucharistic Ministers
<u>August 3:</u>	Barbara Bisel, Janet Clark, Rita Moorman
<u>August 10:</u>	Denise and Greg Richardson
<u>August 17:</u>	Holy Hollis Cindy Clark, Michelle Jones, Misty Sanford
	Collection & Gifts
<u>August 3:</u>	Dee and Brennah Brasher-
<u>August 10:</u>	Laverne Thames, Wonet Taylor
<u>August 17:</u>	Barbara Hammond, Burnell Hamilton



God Gives Us What We Need

A few months back, my wife and I helped move my oldest son into his first real apartment. He was moving to start his first real job and was excited and cautious at the same time. Moving him in reminded me of when his mother and I were first starting out. We received an old couch from her aunt, some kitchen supplies from my mom, and many other things from friends and relatives so we could begin this new journey in our lives. We didn’t have much. But we had one another, and we had love. Looking back, those were great times.

Sometimes, we think material possessions give evidence of a life lived well. Artifacts from our travels, collections that take time to amass and provide clues to our interests, and various pictures and prints that adorn our walls. However, those who have lived lives of hardship and pain have many of the same items. Not only doesn’t all our stuff amount to real evidence of what our life has really been like, but it doesn’t make our lives better either.

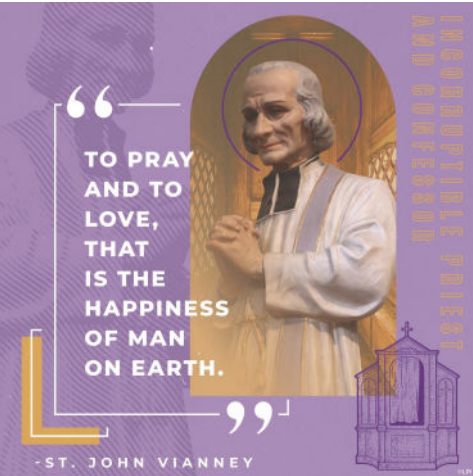
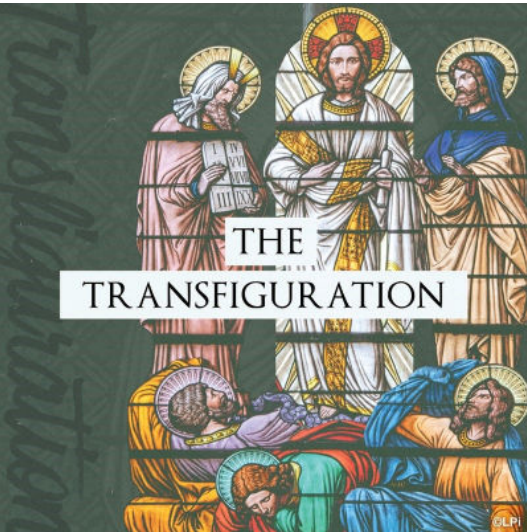
What makes a life well lived will be the love and compassion that we have experienced, primarily with God who loves us so deeply. Due to that love, God gives to us what we need, not always what we want. More stuff will never amount to anything in comparison to what God provides to us. If we reflected on that truth more, perhaps we would spend less time accumulating things and more time simply loving.

On that moving day, I wanted to give my son more material things than was possible. However, what he really needs then, now, and always is my love.

—*Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS*
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Readings for the Week	
Monday:	Nm 11:4b-15/Ps 81:12-13, 14-15, 16-17/Mt 14:13-21
Tuesday:	Nm 12:1-13/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 6cd-7, 12-13/Mt 14:22-36 or Mt 15:1-2, 10-14
Wednesday:	Dn 7:9-10, 13-14/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 9/2 Pt 1:16-19/Lk 9:28b-36
Thursday:	Nm 20:1-13/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 16:13-23
Friday:	Dt 4:32-40/Ps 77:12-13, 14-15, 16 and 21/Mt 16:24-28
Saturday:	Dt 6:4-13/Ps 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 47 and 51/Mt 17:14-20 Saturday: Gn 49:29-32; 50:15-26a/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7/Mt 10:24-33

Observances for the week of August 3	
Monday:	St. John Vianney, Priest
Tuesday:	The Dedication of the Basilica of St. Mary Major
Wednesday:	The Transfiguration of the Lord
Thursday:	St. Sixtus II, Pope, and Companions, Martyrs; St. Cajetan, Priest
Friday:	St. Dominic, Priest



Prayer for Open Hands

Lord, I do not know what any day holds, I cannot take for granted any of the gifts You have given.

Help me to use them, then, as You would have me.

Help me to live according to Your invitations.

Amen.

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