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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 Christopher Grief

cgrief@sscobo.org

Parish Life Coordinator: Sr. Monica Seaton, OSU

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July 13, 2025 15th Sunday Ordinary Time

Go and do likewise (Luke 10:37)

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

No, it is something very near to you, already in your mouths and in your hearts; you have only to carry it out." (Dt 30:14)

Psalm:

Your words, Lord, are Spirit and life. (Ps 19)

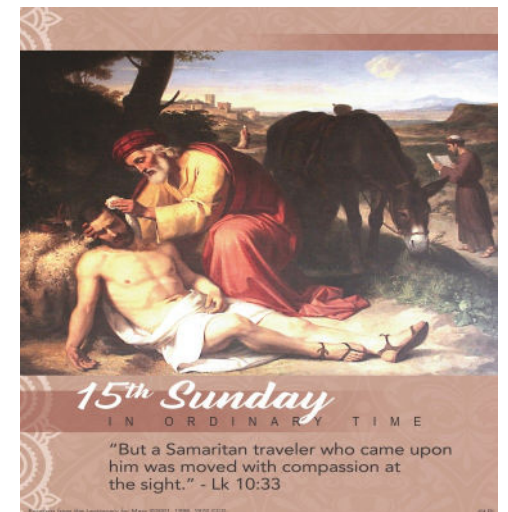
Second Reading:

Christ Jesus is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. (Col 1:15)

Gospel:

You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself. (Lk 10:25)

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



My Dear Parishioners:

Every once in a while it is valuable to take a parable and turn it upside down. This is particularly true of today's parable of the Good Samaritan, because the meaning of this parable is so well known that it is almost a cliché: we are to act like the Good Samaritan and help others who are in need. The parable has even influenced the English Language. If you were to stop and help someone fix a flat tire, that person could likely call you a "Good Samaritan." We have "Good Samaritan laws" that penalize people who do not help others in certain circumstances. Now there is nothing wrong with reading this parable as an invitation for us to help those in need. But if any parable needed a new twist or a different perspective, it would be this one.

So how can we read the parable differently? We can do so by changing the character in the parable with whom we identify. Instead of seeing ourselves as the character who gives (that is the Samaritan – the good guy) we can see ourselves as the character who receives (the man who fell in with the robbers). This radically changes the meaning of the parable. Instead of inviting us to give to others, the parable shows us how God gives to us, how salvation comes to us, how the kingdom enters our lives. We can even change the name of the parable. Instead of calling it the parable of "The Good Samaritan," we can call it the parable of "The Man in the Ditch." I often think about how we can change the names of bible stories . . . but I will save that idea for an upcoming homily.

It comes as a surprise and as a gift. The parable is telling us that often God comes into our life as a surprise. The man in the ditch would have expected that the priest and the Levite, good people that they were, would stop to help him. They did not. But who could have thought that a Samaritan would have pity on him? Remember Jews and Samaritans were enemies and would not even greet one another on the street. So who could have guessed that this Samaritan would stop and show him mercy? No one. It was a surprise. In the same way, God surprises us.

God's coming is also a gift. The parable tells us that God sends us life without our ability to earn or merit it. The man in the ditch could have called out to the priest or the Levite, reminding them of their obligation to help him as a fellow Jew. But what claim could he make upon his enemy, the Samaritan? The Samaritan could rightly say to him, "I owe you nothing," and he would be right. Therefore, his willingness to stop and help was a total gift, a complete grace. That is how God comes into our lives.

The parable of The Man in the Ditch tells us that life comes to us in ways we can never predict or ever deserve. Your own experience of life confirms this. Look at the surprises in your life: the way you met your spouse, the work your children chose to do, the decisions that led you to where you live and with whom you associate. Who could have predicted any of these things? Look at how much in your life is unearned: that you were born in this country, your health, the people who love you. No one owes this to you. Yet it is your life. It comes as a gift.

If God comes to us as a surprise and as a gift, it is clear that there is no way we can control God's presence. We can, however, get ready for it. We can open ourselves to God's will. The stance of the believer is a radical openness to whatever God will do. We should never say to ourselves, "God can not do this for me." God is always surprising us. So we can find someone to love us, we can fight this cancer or this addiction, we can find the strength to understand and forgive. We should never try to limit God's activity to only the things that are due to us. God is always giving us more than our due.

Therefore, we should willingly seize whatever opportunity is given, appreciate the relationships that are ours, and be willing to accept help from another.

The key to the kingdom of God is radical openness to God's will, knowing that God will always surprise us and even embarrass us with generosity.

The lawyer in the Gospel asks Jesus, "Teacher, what I must I do to gain eternal life?" The Parable of the Man in the Ditch has the answer. It tells us that each day we should wake up, put our two feet on the floor and say, "Lord, here I am. Surprise me with more than I deserve!"

Blessings, Fr. John



JULY BIRTHDAYS

13--Francine Epison
15--Georgia Holland
17--Wayne Stephens
21--Meredith Fain
22--Marcia Whilhite
24--Lori Robinson
27--Robert Hagan
29--Hugh Moorman
30--Yvonne Mundy



Mass Intentions

July 13--Jerry Wedlake
July 21--Larry Allen
July 28--Sam Thruston
August 3--Benefactors

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, 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.**

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

On a summer day, with the windows open, we may hear the sound of church bells. Bells seem to have come into church life in Irish monasteries around the seventh century, and spread around the Christian world by Irish monks on missionary journeys. By the eighth century, bells were standard equipment in even small parish churches. An ancient ceremony, once called the “baptism of the bells,” recognizes that the church bell has a voice to call people to awareness and summon them to worship, and even bestows a name on the bell.

In a world without clocks or watches, the bell had an indispensable role. For calling monks in from the fields for prayer, or alerting far-flung visitors, the bell’s voice was enhanced by hoisting it high into a tower. Soon it was learned that the sound of several bells clanging together in harmony imparted a sense of joy to great celebrations, and bell towers prospered, some chock full of bells. Different combinations of rings could indicate a death, a Mass, a wedding, a fast day, the curfew at the end of day, and the Angelus. Before electricity, bell-ringing was hard work indeed: the biggest bell in the Catholic world, in Cologne, Germany, weighs twenty-seven tons! There’s no substitute for the resonant roar of a mighty bell; electric chimes are not eligible for blessing!—James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

Coming Events



Blessed Sacrament Happenings

July 13--Picnic meeting after Mass

July--Raffle tickets on sale. Sell!!!

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



July 6--Info not available at publication time

Budget--

MTD Collection--

MTD Budget--

YTD Collection--

YTD Budget--

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

I used to be a bad neighbor. I’d get wrapped up in my life and ignore those around me. Then I found sage advice from Benjamin Franklin to this effect: to be a better neighbor, ask someone to do a favor for you. It’s counterintuitive, isn’t it? Tell strangers that I need their help? Yuck. I’ll risk looking needy. Worse, I’ll be indebted to them. But I tried it, and it works like a charm. Recently I asked my neighbor Alan for a hacksaw, and Inga for an egg. They kindly obliged, and our friendship is growing.

This week we hear a scribe of the law cynically ask Jesus, “**And who is my neighbor?**” (Luke 10:29). Like him, we prefer to keep the list of our “neighbors” as short as possible. It requires less interruption and inconvenience. But when Jesus tells the parable of the Good Samaritan, he exposes the lonely, cold-heartedness tendency of the scribe’s (and our) heart. My “neighbor” is anyone I encounter who manifests a concrete need. There isn’t time to require any other credential because human need opens us to the happy reciprocity which is love.

Jesus’ words challenge us this week to ask a neighbor for help in some small way. How marvelous that God himself shows us how. He moves into our world and asks us to love Him with small deeds of love. Maybe that’s where Ben Franklin got the idea.

— Father John Muir

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MINISTRY SCHEDULE	
	Lectors
<u>July 13:</u>	Greg Gough, Wayne Stephens
<u>July 20:</u>	Layson Brooks, Misty Sanford
<u>July 27:</u>	Katie Goins, Jacques Williams
	Eucharistic Ministers
<u>July 13:</u>	Barbara Bisel, Janet Clark, Rita Moorman
<u>July 20:</u>	Denise and Greg Richardson
<u>July 27:</u>	Holy Hollis
	Cindy Clark, Michelle Jones, Misty Sanford
	Collection & Gifts
<u>July 13:</u>	Jamie, Beau. Luke Bisel
<u>July 20:</u>	Laverne Thames
<u>July 27:</u>	Barbara Hammond, Burnell Hamilton

Prayer for Charity

Give me the grace, Lord, to truly see those around me: the overlooked, the uncomfortable, the odd and disliked.

Your kingdom is one of belonging, help us to be the types of neighbors who see and respond with Godly generosity.

Amen.

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Mini reflection: As Christians we know that everyone is our neighbor. It’s drilled into us from the first time we hear this reading. But do we approach the victims that we see? Or do we draw away from the suffering of others in fear and confusion, thinking: “That’s not my problem”?

Crossing the Street

It takes a cold, hard, godless heart to step over a wounded man on the street.

But in the parable of the Good Samaritan, the priest and the Levite didn’t step over the half-dead traveler. I think we picture them doing so, in our collective imagining of this well-known story, but the words of the Gospel are quite clear. “When he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side,” Jesus says of both.

So they saw him. They saw his need. It made them uncomfortable; it confused them — many scholars have said that Judaic law concerning the touching of dead bodies might have made them reluctant to approach — and so they decided the simplest way to file this situation in the Not My Problem category was to cross the street.

But that still leaves a half-dead guy on the road. And we all, 2,000 years later, still think of the priest and the Levite as cold and hard and godless — even if they didn’t want to be, even if they didn’t think of themselves that way — because the bottom line is, they didn’t see the half-dead guy as their problem.

As Christians we know that everyone is our neighbor. It’s drilled into us from the first time we hear this reading.

Well, I don’t know about you, but I find myself crossing the street a lot more than I should.

There is so much pain and suffering in the world. We certainly can’t begin to alleviate it all. But we have to start with the pain and the suffering that we see, that’s right in front of us — even if it’s something we really, really want to ignore. Even if we find it inconvenient or confusing or scary or weird.

The heroism of the Good Samaritan wasn’t in his selfless actions, although those were certainly commendable. It was in his courage. “He approached the victim,” Jesus said.

Can we approach the victims we see? Do we have that courage?

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Readings for the Week

Monday:	Ex 1:8-14, 22/Ps 124:1b-3, 4-6, 7-8/Mt 10:34—11:1
Tuesday:	Ex 2:1-15a/Ps 69:3, 14, 30-31, 33-34/Mt 11:20-24
Wednesday:	Ex 3:1-6, 9-12/Ps 103:1b-2, 3-4, 6-7/Mt 11:25-27
Thursday:	Ex 3:13-20/Ps 105:1 and 5, 8-9, 24-25, 26-27/Mt 11:28-30
Friday:	Ex 11:10—12:14/Ps 116:12-13, 15 and 16bc, 17-18/Mt 12:1-8
Saturday:	Ex 12:37-42/Ps 136:1 and 23-24, 10-12, 13-15/Mt 12:14-21
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 July 13

Monday:	St. Kateri Tekakwitha, Virgin
Tuesday:	St. Bonaventure, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Wednesday:	Our Lady of Mount Carmel
Friday:	St. Camillus de Lellis, Priest

“How does St. Kateri Tekakwitha greet her turtle friends?”



“Shell-o!”



St. Kateri Tekakwitha was a Native American woman whose holiness led to her canonization. Her father was a Mohawk Chief, belonging to the Turtle Clan, so she is sometimes depicted with a turtle in art.

GOLPI

Thank You

I just want to say thanks for all you have meant to me for the past ten years. I have been very blessed to have met you and walked with you. God planted me at Blessed Sacrament and I feel that I have bloomed. My hope and prayer are that we have all bloomed and are part of a beautiful garden together reaching out to bring joy to many others. I know that I am not alone; I am grateful for you and I have many memories which bring me joy that now I can share with others who come my way. My prayer is that you continue to share the joy you have especially through your hospitality and outreach to others.

Thanks so much for your participation in my Jubilee Mass and your farewell gifts. I am trying to learn much in my new job. New computer programs are some of the challenges that I have faced in the past two weeks. Keep me in your prayers.

Lots of love. Sister Jeannette, SSND