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# Blessed Sacrament

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

[www.blessedsacramentchapel.org](http://www.blessedsacramentchapel.org) or email at [pa@blessedsacramentchapel.org](mailto: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](mailto:jthomas@sscobo.org)

**Parochial Vicar:** Father Christopher Grief

[cgrief@sscobo.org](mailto:cgrief@sscobo.org)

**Parish Life Coordinator:** Sr. Monica Seaton, OSU

[pa@blessedsacramentchapel.org](mailto:pa@blessedsacramentchapel.org)



## Sunday's Readings

### First Reading:

They asked Abraham, "Where is your wife Sarah?" He replied, "There in the tent." One of them said, "I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah will then have a son." (Gn 18:10)

### Psalm:

He who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord. (Ps 15)

### Second Reading:

It is Christ in you, the hope for glory. It is he whom we proclaim. (Col 1:27-28)

### Gospel:

The Lord said to her in reply, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried about many things. There is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part and it will not be taken from her." (Lk 10:42)

## July 20, 2025 16th Sunday Ordinary



## 16<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

The Lord said to her in reply, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried about many things. There is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part and it will not be taken from her." - Lk 10:41-42

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

## 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.**

My Dear Parishioners:

The Gospel story of Martha and Mary is one worth spending some time reading, and re-reading. In this story we see two sisters - Martha and Mary. They represent two different approaches to Jesus. You could say a lot about each of the sisters, but I would express the difference this way: Martha wanted Jesus to listen to her, while Mary wanted to listen to Jesus.

I do not say this, in any way, to put down Martha. She is a great saint and Jesus clearly had a deep affection for her. "Martha, Martha," he says. To repeat someone's name does not necessarily indicate exasperation, but rather in this case, warmth. "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried about many things."

When I have discussed this Gospel with groups of people, almost everyone (including me) identifies with Martha. We have work to do, problems on our mind, things to finish before we can relax. When we try to pray, our minds spin with a dozen distractions. We remember a phone call we should make, something we need to get at the store, a task that just can't wait or simply allow our minds to wander.

And - God forgive us - like Martha we sometimes put down the "Mary's": "It must be nice. Look at all the stuff I have to do. I wish I could get a break." “Someone has to ‘get it done’.

Fair enough, but that's not the point. All of us know deep down that the best gift we can give someone is not a thousand dollar or a delicious meal. That would be wonderful, but we want something else. When you and I think about our lives, we recognized that the best gift someone ever gave us was this: open-ended, undistracted listening. That is the gift Mary gave to Jesus. Martha was busy doing something for Jesus - and, to accomplish it, she wanted Jesus to listen to her. Mary on the other hand, just wanted to listen to Jesus. "Mary," said Jesus, "has chosen the better part."

In our human relationships (friend to friend, husband to wife, parent to child) we can easily recognize the power of open-ended, undistracted listening. Something similar applies to prayer. Jesus has all the time in the world to listen to you or me. He comes from the point of view of eternity, which by definition is undivided and perfectly open-ended. The problem is not on Jesus' side. He can listen to each one, all day and all night. The problem is on our side. We are reluctant to do what Mary did - to put aside other activities and to listen.

Just to sum up: Martha is a beautiful person - and all of us can identify with her desire to get things done. And I think all of us would appreciate the meal she prepares. Still, she also a liability that we can equally identify with - her anxiety to have other (including Jesus) listen to her. Mary, on the other hand, simply listened to Jesus. And "Mary has chosen the better part," says Jesus, "and it will not be taken from her.

I remember a time in seminary when my advisors were encouraging me to ‘slow down and listen’. The question for me became, ‘what am I avoiding by filling so much of my time with activity?’ My spiritual director actually dared me (I still love a challenge) to take just 10 minutes every day and simply sit before the Blessed Sacrament. I felt that was certainly possible until he gave further instruction. He said, ‘No Scriptures, no prayer books, no rosary, no journals, just you and God.’ I did it, but was honestly frightened as I began.

Isn’t it amazing how ‘full’ our lives are of activity? Even our prayer is ‘active’ and there is certainly a time for that- - But not at the exclusion of ‘silent, listening prayer’. During the Mass we are busy with processions, responses, collections, dismissals, counts, positions, etc. etc. The General Norms for the Celebration of the Eucharist do call for some silence during the Mass. We are to pause between the readings, after the homily, and especially after Holy Communion. Even for the opening and closing prayers I am to ‘pause’ after the invitation, “Let us pray”.

Our world is filled with so much noise. Can you receive the same challenge? Are we able to sit in quiet, stillness, and simply listen? Remember, there is a time for everything. There is a time for work and activity. There is also a time for stillness and quiet. It actually isn’t as difficult as it might seem. And in the end, I bet we are surprised by what we might hear? Go ahead, I dare you.

Blessings, Fr. John

**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](https://ReportBishopAbuse.org) or call 1-800-276-1562

## Mass Intentions

July 20--Larry Allen

July 27--Sam Thruston

August 3-- Benefactors

August 10-- 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: 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.**

## JULY BIRTHDAYS

21--Meredith Fain

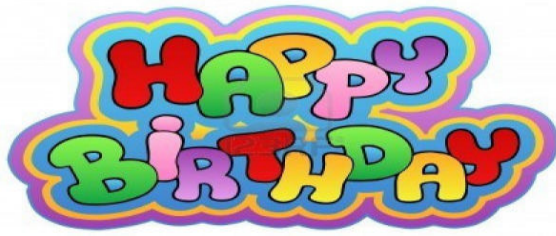
22--Marcia Whilhite

24--Lori Robinson

27--Robert Hagan

29--Hugh Moorman

30--Yvonne Mundy



## TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

There's a different pace to a summer Sunday, especially on those days when we dream of air conditioning and wave any available paper to stir the air. Yet we persist in gathering, even with so many breaks from the usual routines. We distance ourselves not only from routines, but from schedules and familiar well-worn paths. These are playful days and contemplative days. We see long-lost friends and visit almost-forgotten places. We have more leisure than any people before in the history of the world, and we need it because our lives are so care-worn and tiring. More of us walk barefoot and look up at the stars or dip our toes in the lake or sea, sing around campfires, read novels on the beach, and eat comfort food with our fingers. We see how beautiful life can be, and are more aware than usual of how God is always breaking in with signs of love.

In Genesis today, Abraham and Sarah practice hospitality to their visitors, who turn out to be God dropping in. During the summer months, God practices hospitality in return, inviting us into a season of celebration. Keeping Sunday holy is a good habit to cultivate in these days when our spirits are especially receptive to God's deep desire for us to know divine love.

—James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

## Coming Events



### Blessed Sacrament Happenings

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

**August 2--Picnic (Drive through sale of meat only) 12pm-2pm**



July 13---\$1,625

Budget--\$1,300

MTD Collection--\$2,643.49

MTD Budget--\$2,600.00

YTD Collection--\$2,643.49

YTD Budget--\$2,600

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

One of my close friends is a hermit priest who lives on a desert mountain. Recently I found myself in a group conversation about him. One vehemently objected, “What does he do up there all day? Nothing! Priests are down here working, running parishes, making a difference, and he...he is doing nothing! What a waste.” The words dripped with indignation and resentment. Most of the group quietly nodded in silent agreement. Were they correct?

No! To see why, consider a similar scenario in this week's gospel. Jesus visits his friends Martha and Mary. A hardworking and exasperated Martha complains to Jesus that her sister is attending to him rather than to urgent household tasks. Our Lord, rather than praising hospitality, explicitly celebrates the less-productive sister for doing the “**one necessary thing.**” He praises her for she “**has chosen the better part**” (Luke 10:42). Mary is busy doing what matters.

Before we freak out like Martha, consider that all work—domestic, manual, professional, ministerial, contemplative—is done to help us (sooner or later) to experience the love that makes us happy. We should be thankful for those who focus on the “better part” of radical, ceaseless prayer. They invite us to remember the purpose of all work is the enjoyment of love. Contemplatives, hermits, anyone fervently committed to prayer—they invite us to cast aside our forgetful, resentful, and self-aggrandizing attitudes in exchange for hearts ready to do what is finally necessary.

— Father John Muir

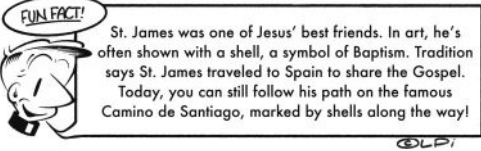


MINISTRY SCHEDULE	
	<b>Lectors</b>
<u>July 20:</u>	Layson Brooks, Misty Sanford
<u>July 27:</u>	Katie Goins, Jacques Williams
<u>August 3:</u>	Greg Gough, Jerry Fuchs
	<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>
<u>July 20:</u>	Denise and Greg Richardson Holy Hollis
<u>July 27:</u>	Cindy Clark, Michelle Jones, Misty Sanford
<u>August 3:</u>	Barbara Bisel, Janet Clark, Rita Moorman
	<b>Collection &amp; Gifts</b>
<u>July 20:</u>	Laverne Thames
<u>July 27:</u>	Barbara Hammond, Burnell Hamilton
<u>August 3:</u>	Dee and Brennah Brasher

“What kinds of photos does St. James take?”



“Shell-fies!”



**Mini reflection:** Are you anxious about many things? Then you need to be right where Mary is: at the feet of Jesus, with all your burdens.

**Martha’s Burdens**

It’s time to admit it: I’ve been unfair to Mary in the past. Been a little catty about her. *Oooh, Mary, she’s so holy.* Well, do you like to eat, Mary? Who made your lunch? Yeah, that’s right: it was Martha. Because you know what? It’s the Marthas who get things done in the world while the Marys lounge around reading Aquinas and attending silent retreats and going to Eucharistic Adoration whenever they want.

And there you have it, folks: my bitterness on full display! I tend to identify with Martha, not with Mary, and I need to stop doing that.

Because I am not Martha instead of Mary. I am both. We are all both.

Mary was a woman; she was expected to do the serving, too. She shared that burden; she wasn’t abandoning it, heaping her portion on Martha. And it’s so wrong to assume that Mary didn’t have the same cares and anxieties as Martha — perhaps she even had more!

Here’s the difference: Mary, unlike Martha (and me, I guess) knew where to go with them.

We typically see our burdens as an impediment to a relationship with Christ. *I’m so busy. I’m so overwhelmed. There are so many demands on me, on my time, on my person, on my finances. Take a number, Jesus. Get in line.* But we’re thinking the wrong way. Burdens aren’t an obstacle that stands between us and Christ. Burdens are the straightest path to his feet.

God knows about burdens, okay? Aside from being all-wise and all-knowing, he basically completed a doctorate in suffering, taking on a human form (itself kind of a burden, if you think about it) and for 33 years lived among the hardest and heaviest burdens this world has to offer.

Why did he do this? Well, part of the reason was so that we could finally understand that our burdens aren’t a barrier between us and God. On the contrary, they connect us to him.

Are you anxious about many things? Then you need to be right where Mary is: at the feet of Jesus, with all your burdens.

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman ©LPi

©LPi Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Readings for the Week	
Monday:	Ex 14:5-18/Ex 15:1bc-2, 3-4, 5-6/ Mt 12:38-42
Tuesday:	Sg 3:1-4b or 2 Cor 5:14-17/Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9/Jn 20:1-2, 11-18
Wednesday:	Ex 16:1-5, 9-15/Ps 78:18-19, 23-24, 25-26, 27-28/Mt 13:1-9
Thursday:	Ex 19:1-2, 9-11, 16-20b/Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56/Mt 13:10-17
Friday:	2 Cor 4:7-15/Ps 126:1bc-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-5, 6/Mt 20:20-28
Saturday:	Ex 24:3-8/Ps 50:1b-2, 5-6, 14-15/ Mt 13:24-30

Observances for the week of July 20	
Monday:	St. Lawrence of Brindisi, Priest and Doctor of the Church
Tuesday:	St. Mary Magdalene
Wednesday:	St. Bridget, Religious
Thursday:	St. Sharbel Makhlūf, Priest
Friday:	St. James, Apostle
Saturday:	Sts. Joachim and Anne, Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary

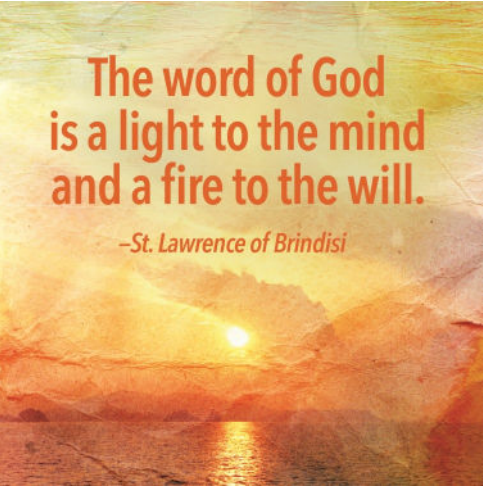
**Prayer for Focus**

Lord, help me to remember what matters and who matters.

And then help me to prioritize rightly and wisely, with Your heaven as my guide.

Amen.

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**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](https://krogercommunityrewards.com).