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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  
[office@bscobo.org](mailto:office@bscobo.org)

## Sunday's Readings

### First Reading:

Then the king ordered Ebed-melech the Cushite to take three men along with him, and draw the prophet Jeremiah out of the cistern before he should die. (Jer 38:10)

### Psalm:

Lord, come to my aid! (Ps 40)

### Second Reading:

Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us rid ourselves of every burden and sin that clings to us and persevere in running the race that lies before us. (Heb 12:1)

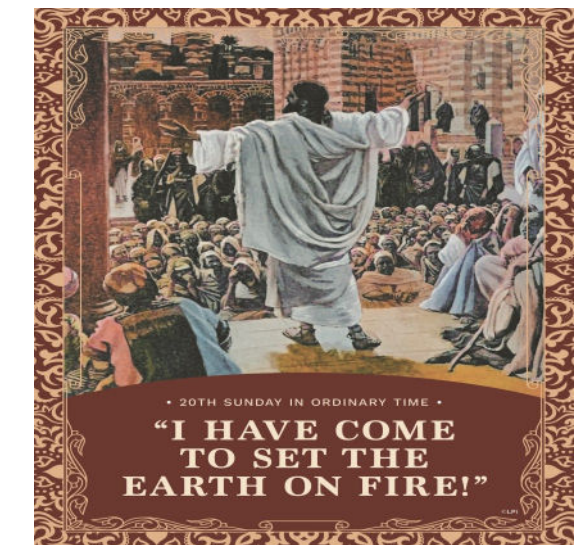
### Gospel:

Jesus said to his disciples: "I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing!" (Lk 12:49)

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



August 17, 2025 20th Sunday Ordinary Time



My Dear Parishioners:

As Christians, we must bear the consequences and shoulder the responsibility of following Christ. The message and teachings of Christ are beautiful; they are all about love, the one and truest commandment. But, love is not about fancy words or sentimental feeling; love here is a decision.

Today’s gospel calls on us to make the kind of decisions in our lives that are Christ-anchored, that come down on the side of the gospel. Some people, it appears, like to sit on the fence, to play the game of compromise, by giving into sin and the ways of the world while offering lip-service to the gospel. We all do this in one way or another. We cannot completely separate ourselves from the world (quite the contrary, the Church calls us to transform it . . by being present).

Jesus tells us in today’s gospel that now is the time of ripening, when the best decisions are called for and when the results can be seen. “I have come,” He says, “to light a fire on the earth. How I wish the blaze was ignited.” The decision to follow Jesus is not an easy one. It can be an unpopular decision: the kind of choice that may “split... son against father, mother against daughter...daughter-in-law against mother- in-law.” Jesus saw clearly what lay ahead of Him when He accepted God’s will. He would be abandoned by his closest friends because they were afraid of the consequences of following Him. He sees clearly what lies ahead of us when we follow Him. The cost is often a separation that is not intended or willed, but implied. But, growing is like this. Death and Resurrection are like this. They leave their tracks everywhere.

Jesus does not wish to “light a fire on the earth” that will destroy and consume the environment. He wants to light a fire that purifies the soul that achieves the kind of cleansing that clear decisions bring about. Clear decisions to follow Jesus call for letting go and for taking up. When we embrace this way of life some will understand, some will not. Some will join us on this journey some will not. The first decision however lies within us with our own sin, our own struggles, and our own failures to live the Gospel. Only then can we be credible witnesses of Gospel love.

Today’s gospel reminds us that now is decision-time; it is time to let go of our own sin and grab hold of eternal mercy. The responsibility and the consequence belong to us . . but at the same time so does the beauty and realization that Christ’s promise is true.

Blessings,

Fr. John

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

The wonderful diversity of life and worship among Roman Catholics of East and West is an example of God writing straight with crooked lines. The steady hand of the villainous Emperor Diocletian drew a line across Europe and Africa that split the empire in two, and for the most part determined how Christians would worship two thousand years later.

Italy’s heel and the far northern city of Trieste fell on the Eastern side, and have had a form of Eastern liturgy ever since. Constantinople, which soon became the seat of the Roman Empire, became a base for Christianizing the East up to Russia and Poland. Poland was on the Eastern side, but a series of wars and medieval mayhem pushed the religious boundary back to the Ukraine, and Poland remains an outpost of the Latin Church to this day.

An old rule of thumb declared that whatever religion was observed by the local prince, the people had to follow. This gave rise to persecution and migration as people sought toleration for their expressions of faith. In the United States, we are accustomed to peaceful collaboration among Christians of East and West, a situation that challenges churches that still feel the pinch of age-old division.

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

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).

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



### August Birthdays

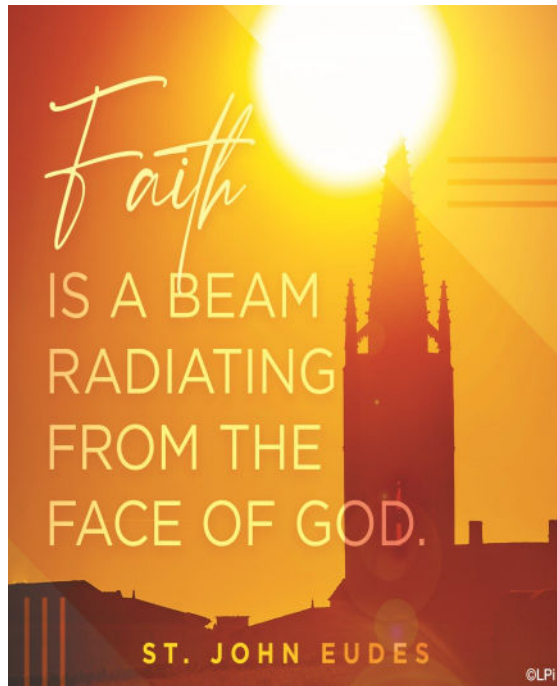
21 -- Kyler Carmona, Dee Brasher  
24 -- Celena Hagan

### Mass Intentions

August 17--Larry Allen

August 24 -- Larry Allen

August 31-- Larry Allen



*Let us remember to pray for those who are dying and those who have recently died.*

*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, 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.**

#### Devotions, Explained! Gregorian Chant

Defined by a monophonic (meaning a single melody without harmony or chords), unaccompanied song, Gregorian chant is a form of sacred music used in liturgical settings and prayer. It has been synonymous with Catholic musical worship since the first millennium.

## Coming Events



### Blessed Sacrament Happenings

#### August 28-- Finance Committee Meeting



August 10 \$1,759.50

Budget--\$1,300.00

MTD Collection--\$2,868.50

MTD Budget--\$2,600.00

YTD Collection--\$7,813.49

YTD Budget--\$7,800.00

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

During my baseball career, my best coach often said, “You shouldn’t be worried if I yell at you. Be worried if I don’t. If I stop pushing you, it means I don’t think you have any more potential.” He demanded a lot, and I knew it meant he saw that I could be something special on the baseball field.

Jesus says some demanding words to us this week. **“Do you think I have come to establish peace on the earth?”** he asks, **“No, tell you, but rather division” (Luke 12:51).** He wants you and me—in fact, all the earth—to participate in the luminous glory of God. That’s why he speaks of himself as a divine arsonist. Divine fire is like a good coach: it demands the removal of all that obstructs the achievement of the lofty goal.

How is your life demanding right now? That inconvenient family situation, the unfair boss at work, the kids who reject their parents’ wishes, the nagging health issue? Maybe things would be more peaceful devoid of these seemingly arbitrary difficulties. But for us who believe in the one who comes to set the earth of fire, we should be much more worried if he stops demanding so much from us. In fact, let’s thank him for it. He sees how glorious we can become.

— *Father John Muir*

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

August 17:

Lectors

Katie Goins, Jacques Williams

August 24:

Greg Gough, Wayne Stephens

Eucharistic Ministers

August 17:

Cindy Clark, Michelle Jones, Misty Sanford

August 24:

Barbara Bisel, Janet Clark, Rita Moorman

Collection & Gifts

August 17:

Barbara Hammond, Burnell Hamilton

August 24:

Dee and Brennah Brasher



**Mini reflection:** If we let Christ set fire to our lives, what would that fire burn away? What dead and festering undergrowth in our souls would be consumed by the flames? What promise of future holiness would sprout from beneath the ashes?

**The Fire**

This past week I have been reading a biography of St. Francis of Assisi. I admit I didn’t know much about Francis going into the book, but I always had this image of him as a hippie — an easygoing nature-lover who sang about peace and let animals climb on him.

I’m not sure where that caricature of Francis came from, but since I’ve been reading this book I’ve come to see that it’s not true at all. He was a lover of nature, yes. A poet who sang of God’s peace, yes. And I’m sure he let a few animals climb on him from time to time (he did live in a hut in the woods).

But St. Francis of Assisi wasn’t the lost fourth member of Peter, Paul and Mary. He was a man on fire. He was a man burning.

Francis walked around barefoot and slept on the ground. He abandoned a life of wealth to embrace the material poverty that Christ experienced. He embarrassed his family and they disowned him. When his father would encounter Francis in the streets of Assisi, he would curse him.

Sometimes we get this idea that Christianity is a comfortable, cozy thing. We give our lives to Christ, and we expect to feel instantly satisfied, happy, safe and warm. But the saints knew better.

The saints knew that Christ had not come to wrap us in a warm blanket. Christ has come to set us on fire. And though fire is often seen as a sign of death and destruction, it is also the precursor of new life.

Think of a field of native plants and how it benefits so richly from a controlled burn — an action that clears away detritus and releases nutrients back into the soil.

If we let Christ set fire to our lives, what would that fire burn away? What dead and festering undergrowth in our souls would be consumed by the flames? What promise of future holiness would sprout from beneath the ashes?

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Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Readings for the Week	
Monday:	Jgs 2:11-19/Ps 106:34-35, 36-37, 39-40, 43ab and 44/Mt 19:16-22
Tuesday:	Jgs 6:11-24a/Ps 85:9, 11-12, 13-14/Mt 19:23-30
Wednesday:	Jgs 9:6-15/Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mt 20:1-16
Thursday:	Jgs 11:29-39a/Ps 40:5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Mt 22:1-14
Friday:	Ru 1:1, 3-6, 14b-16, 22/Ps 146:5-6ab, 6c-7, 8-9a, 9bc-10/Mt 22:34-40
Saturday:	Ru 2:1-3, 8-11; 4:13-17/Ps 128:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Mt 23:1-12

**Observances for the week of August 17**

Tuesday:	St. John Eudes, Priest
Wednesday:	St. Bernard, Abbot and Doctor of the Church
Thursday:	St. Pius X, Pope
Friday:	The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Saturday:	St. Rose of Lima, Virgin

Prayer for Bravery

Dear God,

In the moments when my faith is met with others' disdain or ridicule, give me the grace to be grounded in You. Remind me that Your mission matters, and that You alone bring comfort, healing, and salvation.

Amen.

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Set the Earth on Fire

My wife can get so invested in a sporting event where one of her favorite teams is playing that she sometimes must leave the room due to the stress. That is heavy-duty investment! I remember her on the sidelines for our son’s soccer games or our daughter’s lacrosse games. Her emotions were intense, and she cheered loudly for her children. She never yelled at a referee because it wasn’t about them. It was about wanting to see her children, or her favorite team, achieve something great. Her passion was fueled by love and her connectedness to something or someone.

When we look at our Church, we need to see greater passion. Sometimes that passion is there, but many times, we approach our discipleship as just another aspect of who we have become. It needs to be more than that. As we call ourselves Christian, we need to “put on Christ” so that a world in need sees not us, but Jesus. By being serious about our discipleship and living as transformed Everyday Stewards, we bear witness to the power of Jesus Christ.

Jesus said in Luke 12, “*I have come to set the earth on fire.*” Those words sound pretty emotional to me! If we are to be like him, then we need to set the earth on fire. We need to be bold and proclaim the Good News without apology. By our actions of love and justice, we need to show the world that with the Body of Christ on earth, it is not business as usual. Surely our emotions about these things should trump the emotions we have about a sporting event. We need to ask ourselves what truly sets *us* on fire.

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS  
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