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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

office@bscobo.org

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

Humble yourself the more, the greater you are, and you will find favor with God. (Sir 3:18)

Psalm:

God, in your goodness, you have made a home for the poor. (Ps 68)

Second Reading:

You have not approached that which could be touched and a blazing fire and gloomy darkness. (Heb 12:18)

Gospel:

"For every one who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted." (Lk 14:11)

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



August 31, 2025 22nd Sunday Ordinary Time



22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"Rather, when you hold a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; blessed indeed will you be because of their inability to repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous." - Lk 14:13-14

My Dear Parishioners,

If you will allow me, I wish to address two points of great importance in the life of our parish. First, I wish to write about Eucharistic Adoration, and secondly, I wish to write about vocations to the priesthood, the diaconate and religious life.

Pope Benedict XVI issued, *The Sacrament of Charity, Sacramentum Caritatis* on February 22, 2007. This 138 page document complements the Pope’s first encyclical “God Is Love”. Among the many observations the Pope makes about the Eucharist in the life of the Church and in the life of every disciple, he includes several paragraphs about adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Eucharistic devotion.

He emphasizes in the letter the need for true reverence for the Blessed Sacrament since the Eucharist is Jesus present among us. He underlines the intrinsic relationship between Eucharistic celebration (*the Mass*) and Eucharistic adoration. He states that during the early phases of the liturgical reform following the Second Vatican Council, the inherent relationship between Mass and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament was not always perceived with sufficient clarity. The Holy Father writes: “For example, an objection that was widespread at the time argued that the Eucharistic bread was given to us not to be looked at, but to be eaten. In light of the Church’s experience of prayer, however, this was seen to be a false dichotomy. . . . In the Eucharist, the Son of God comes to meet us and desires to become one with us; Eucharistic adoration is simply the natural consequence of the Eucharistic celebration, which is itself the Church’s supreme act of adoration.”

Pope Benedict heartily recommends to the Church’s pastors and to the People of God the practice of Eucharistic Adoration, both individually and in community. Here at Saint Stephen Cathedral we are blessed to offer Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament each Saturday. It is in and through this prayer that we particularly encourage prayers for vocations to the priesthood, the diaconate, and religious life for our Diocese. Adoration of Jesus Christ in the Blessed Sacrament has brought many blessings to our Church and to each of us. I always say prayer before the Blessed Sacrament softens our hearts and opens our hearts to God and his Son Jesus. It calls us to honesty. It calls us to truth.

As a parish we are strong in our belief in and prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. This is shown in our reverence, but is shown, too, in our behavior when we are not in prayer in the Church. It is shown in our humility, our hunger for justice, our generosity to our neighbor, and our simple kindness to those we know and those who are strangers. As a parish we are strong as well in our support and belief in vocations to the Church.

One of the greatest gifts that Christ gave his Church was the Eucharist in which He is present body and blood, soul and divinity. He comes to us to strengthen us and to make us one with Him. Our reverence and respect for this Sacrament reflect our belief in the Eucharistic presence of Jesus at the Mass and in the tabernacles in our churches.

In the Eucharist, the Son of God comes to us; in Eucharistic adoration we go to meet the Son of God. It is through this prayer that more men and women will come to discover their call in life - - their call to serve the Church.

I invite you to consider an hour of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. Formally we offer this opportunity each Saturday morning at the Cathedral from the conclusion of Mass till 11:00. However, anyone can pray before the Blessed Sacrament at any time, any day. Please join this parish, your parish, in recognition of the greatest gift we have and the opportunity to encourage our young to a life of service in the Church. Our prayer should be: “O Sacrament most holy, O Sacrament divine, all praise and all thanksgiving be every moment thine!”

Blessings,

Fr. John

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 ReportBishopAbuse.org or call 1-800-276-1562

September Birthdays

1—Norwetta Taylor
2—Emma Latta
3—Venice Higgs,
6—Shelby Webster,
7—Aubrey Ottofy
8—Mary Hagan, Mamie Farish
Watkins
9—Luke Bisel
18—Samuel Hollis, Lila Clark



Mass Intentions

August 31-- Larry Allen
September 7--Sam Thruston
September 14 -- 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.**

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

The readings today center on mindfulness, awareness of where we stand in God's plan. The mountain of Sinai carries a message of the majesty and distance of God, while Jesus' presence as host of the banquet speaks of intimacy and mystery. September's shadow calls us all to mindfulness as we prepare to return to life outside of summer. The Christian life holds these two places of knowledge of God in careful balance. Even in the accounts of the Passion we see the table of the upper room in balance with the Mount of Olives.

Altar means "high place," yet it is also a table. The former liturgy of the Latin Rite began with the priest bowing at the foot of the altar's three steps, chanting *Introibo ad altare Dei*, or "I will go to the altar of God," followed by the altar servers' response, "The God who gives joy to my youth." Many parishioners can recall and recite this scene by heart. As with so many things in liturgy, there are layers of meaning in our worship. The altar table evokes memories of the high places once reserved for encounter with the holy, and the intimacy of the table where hospitality draws us to share food and drink.

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

Coming Events



Blessed Sacrament Happenings

September 7 -- Parish Meeting After Mass

September 14 -- Religious Ed Classes Begin



August 24--\$3,779.75

Budget--\$1,300.00

MTD Collection--\$7,976.10

MTD Budget--\$5,200.00

YTD Collection--\$12,921.09

YTD Budget--\$10,400.00

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

Once I was invited to a group meeting with Pope Francis. Entering the room, I paused, eyeing the seats next to the Pope's fancy chair. Someone saw my paralysis and invited me to sit in the seat farthest from what I wanted. Hiding my disappointment, I sat. We waited. To our surprise, an aid pointed out that those seats were still empty and invited me and another to have them. We calmly but gleefully strode across the room and sat. Pope Francis entered, and we enjoyed two hours of amazingly uplifting conversation.

Jesus says this week to us: **"When you are invited, go and take the lowest place so that when the host comes to you he may say, 'My friend, move up to a higher position.' Then you will enjoy the esteem of your companions at the table" (Luke 14:10).** This is not about how to score free seat upgrades. Rather, it is a wise pattern for the whole of life. It is how to live free from the anxiety of constantly grasping for status and recognition.

Jesus perfectly embodies his seat-taking advice. He eschews his glorious throne for the lowest: death on a cross, that lonely chair we all deserve. In his resurrection, he calls us up higher to his marvelous banquet seats. This week, perhaps we should look for opportunities to choose the lowest seat. We'll be pleasantly surprised when we do.

— Father John Muir

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MINISTRY SCHEDULE	
	Lectors
<u>August 31:</u>	Jerry Fuchs, Misty Sanford
<u>September 7:</u>	Katie Goins, Jacques Williams
<u>September 14:</u>	Greg Gough, Wayne Stephens
	Eucharistic Ministers
<u>August 31:</u>	Cindy Clark, Michelle Jones, Kaie Goins
<u>September 7:</u>	Denise and Greg Richardson
<u>September 14:</u>	Holly Hollis Barbara Bisel, Janet Clark, Rita Moorman
	Collection & Gifts
<u>August 31:</u>	Jamie, Beau, Luke Bisel
<u>September 7:</u>	Barbara Hammond, Wonet Taylor
<u>September 14:</u>	Laverne Thames,

Prayer for Humility

Dear God,

Mold my heart after Yours. Help me to see myself as You see me: surrounded by Your love. Help me to see others as You see them as well. Give me knowledge of your ways, today and always.

Amen.

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What Did You Expect?

Moms have a lot of jobs, and it’s usually the case that none of them pay very well.

My work as a chef? Zero compensation, and my clientele are very rarely pleased with my efforts. My role as a teacher, a maid, a chauffeur, a therapist — same deal. Ironically, these jobs consume so much of my time that I am constricted in my work as a writer — the only sphere where I do actually garner any earnings.

It is so easy to grumble about all of this, and I do it all the time. Because despite the fact that I know better, I expect repayment for my good deeds. Deep in my soul, I expect it.

That’s a huge problem.

In my defense, I don’t think this is a very uncommon thing. I think, if we’re being really honest, we all expect “payment” for being a good person. We want God to give us what we ask. We want people to treat us a certain way. We want our day to go smoothly. We expect these things as a matter of course; we feel entitled to them, and we become grumpy when we are denied them. *I worked so hard. I gave so much. What was it all even for?*

But what if we expected absolutely nothing?

When you hold a banquet, Jesus said, invite those who cannot return the favor. Give not just without the expectation of repayment, but without the possibility of it.

Think about that for a minute. What does that even *look* like — no possibility of payment?

I know what that looks like in my own life. It’s giving more to the literal poor, yes, but it’s also giving more — and more happily, more lovingly — when I cook and clean and drive and write and console. It’s not lamenting that no one appreciates me — it’s actually hoping no one does.

It’s learning to love the lowest place at the table. Because in the lowest place, we are closest to God.

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

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Readings for the Week	
Monday:	1 Thes 4:13-18/Ps 96:1 and 3, 4-5, 11-12, 13/Lk 4:16-30
Tuesday:	1 Thes 5:1-6, 9-11/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Lk 4:31-37
Wednesday:	Col 1:1-8/Ps 52:10, 11/Lk 4:38-44
Thursday:	Col 1:9-14/Ps 98:2-3ab, 3cd-4, 5-6/Lk 5:1-11
Friday:	Col 1:15-20/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Lk 5:33-39
Saturday:	Col 1:21-23/Ps 54:3-4, 6 and 8/Lk 6:1-5
Observances for the week of August 31	
Monday:	Labor Day
Wednesday:	St. Gregory the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church



Do You Know Him, or Just Know About Him?

Facebook, Twitter, and other forms of social media can be powerful tools of communication. They allow people to stay in touch. They provide an avenue for fresh ideas. People can be engaged in conversations and be exposed to issues of the day in ways few could have dreamed of just a few decades ago. But social media can also give the false sense of really knowing someone, when only the surface has been scratched about who a person is in reality.

You don't really know someone just because you know a lot about him or her and are linked to a profile online. Unfortunately, people develop emotional attachments to the idea of a person all the time. If they do find themselves fortunate enough to meet the person face-to-face one day, they can often find out they never really knew the person in the first place.

There are people who believe they know Jesus so very well. They can readily share their view of what Jesus would do or wouldn't do in a given situation. They own items like crosses and Bibles that seem to provide evidence of this person they know so well. Sometimes, they even strongly admonish others because their view of Jesus is certainly not in line with their own.

But in Luke 13, Jesus speaks about those who claim to know him, but they really do not belong to him at all. They make claims based upon what they have seen and heard, but they have never allowed Jesus to truly change them. They are like Facebook followers; seemingly close, but with no real relationship at all.

Do you know Jesus? Don't just be a fan. Invite Jesus into your life and let the real relationship begin.

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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