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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
office@bscobo.org

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

"We have sinned in complaining against the LORD and you. Pray the LORD to take the serpents from us." (Nm 21:7)

Psalm:

Do not forget the works of the Lord! (Ps 78)

Second Reading:

He humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross. (Phil 2:8)

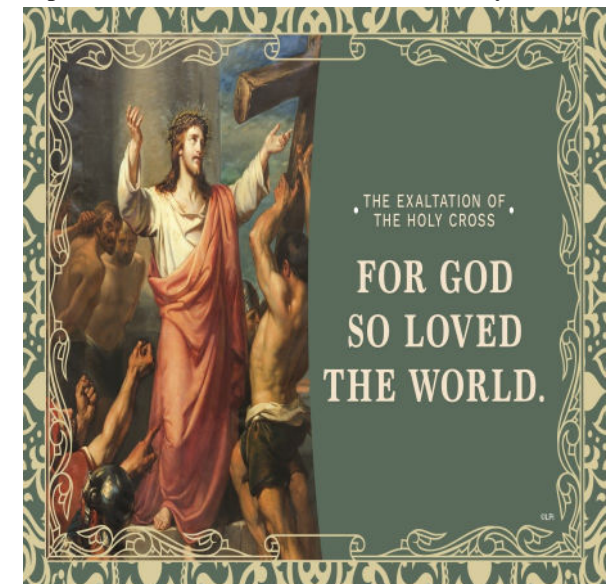
Gospel:

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. (Jn 3:16)

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



September 14, 2025 Exaltation of the Holy Cross



My Dear Parishioners:

In the time of Jesus no one would have considered crucifixion a triumph or a win of any sort. It may have been considered a triumph for those who were doing the crucifying; it certainly would never have been considered a triumph for the person crucified. Yet, that is what we are celebrating. Jesus, in being crucified, triumphed. It was a triumph of love over hatred. As John the evangelist says in today’s gospel, ‘God so loved the world that he gave his only Son.’ Jesus revealed God’s love in all that he said and did, but he revealed God’s love most fully on the cross. John the evangelist would say that on the cross Jesus revealed God’s glory. That is why in John’s gospel Jesus speaks of his coming crucifixion as the hour when he is glorified. Authentic love is always life-giving and that is uniquely so of God’s love. As well as being the triumph of love over hatred, the cross of Jesus is the triumph of life over death. Jesus was put to death in the most cruel way but through his death he passed over into a new life and that life was offered to us all.

The blood and water flowing from the side of Jesus in John’s gospel speaks to us of the life that flows through the death of Jesus. The cross has been celebrated in art as the tree of life. The triumph of the cross, which is the triumph of God and of Jesus over Satan and all the forces of evil and death, is a triumph in which we all share. From the cross Jesus draws all of us into the love and life of God. As he says in John’s gospel, when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all people to myself. We simply have to let ourselves be drawn by him.

Blessings,

Fr. John

Litany, Explained!

A litany is an ancient form of prayer incorporating repetitive refrains (often “hear our prayer” or “pray for us”). Litanies are used in a variety of liturgical settings and in both private and public acts of devotion.

The basis of the word “litany” comes from the Greek word for “supplication” or “petition.” In a litany, the leader will make an appeal or a statement and the congregation will make the response. Litanies can also be said by one person acting as both the leader and the respondent.

Many litanies have been written, including litanies to the Holy Name of Jesus, the Sacred Heart, the Most Precious Blood, litanies appealing to the intercession of various saints, and litanies to the Blessed Mother under her different titles. There are also litanies composed for the attainment of graces and virtues, including the Litany of Humility and the Litany of Trust.

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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*.

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

Mass Intentions

September 14 -- Larry Allen

September 21-- Dan Halbig

September 28--Larry Allen

September Birthdays

18—Samuel Hollis

Lila Clark



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.**

TRIUMPH OF THE CROSS



Coming Events



Blessed Sacrament Happenings

September 14 -- Religious Ed Classes Begin



September 7--\$886.00

Budget--\$1,300.00

MTD Collection--\$886.00

MTD Budget--\$1,300.00

YTD Collection--\$15,384.59

YTD Budget--\$13,000.00

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

One of my favorite movies is the 1991 comedy *What About Bob?* Bill Murray plays a troubled, paranoid hypochondriac named Bob Wiley who innocently but annoyingly hounds Dr. Leo Marvin, played by Richard Dreyfuss. Bob is paralyzed by his fear of, well, everything, and is convinced the psychologist can heal him. But Dr. Marvin's failed attempts to heal Bob end up driving the doctor to attempt to murder Bob. He fails. The surprise is that, having faced death head on, Bob is suddenly healed. He attributes his healing to Dr Marvin for break-through "death therapy." In facing the cause of his deepest illness and dysfunction, Bob is healed.

Underneath this light-hearted comedy is a dead-serious resonance with this week's feast: the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. Christ is lifted up on the cross to force us to face the truth of sin and death. In that reckoning we find healing. Like Moses' snake on a pole, the cross says: this is what is causing your sickness – rebellion, disobedience, sin. Look at it! Don't run from it. Now seeing it exposed, we see life. We see our physician mercifully healing us. In this sense, we are all like Bob Wiley. The "death therapy" of the cross is our only hope for healing.

This week I invite you to "exalt the cross." If you don't have one in your house, get one. Use it for prayer. Gaze on it frequently. It teaches us to not be afraid. It heals us.

— Father John Muir

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MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Lectors

September 14: Greg Gough, Wayne Stephens
September 21: Barbara Bisel Misty Sanford
September 28: Katie Goins, Jacques Williams

Eucharistic Ministers

September 14: Barbara Bisel, Janet Clark, Rita Moorman
September 21: Cindy Clark, Michelle Jones, Katie Goins
September 28: Denise and Greg Richardson Holly Hollis

Collection & Gifts

September 14: Laverne Thames
September 21: Burnell Hamilton, Steve Coble
September 28: Barbara Hammond, Wonet Taylor

Prayer of Love

Dear God,

Expand my heart in new ways today, to understand the love You have for me, to take that love deeply into myself, and to act from that love.

Amen

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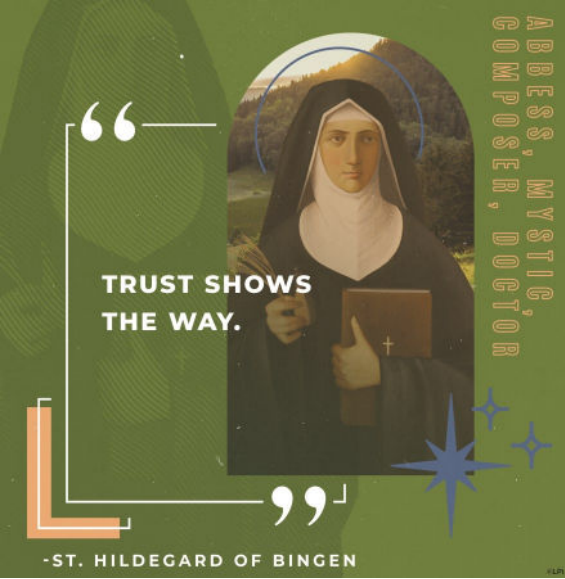
BECAUSE BY YOUR
HOLY CROSS YOU
HAVE REDEEMED
THE WORLD.

Readings for the Week

Monday: 1 Tm 2:1-8/Ps 28:2, 7, 8-9/
Jn 19:25 -27 or Lk 2:33-35
Tuesday: 1 Tm 3:1-13/Ps 101:1b-2ab, 2cd-
3ab, 5, 6/Lk 7:11-17
Wednesday: 1 Tm 3:14-16/Ps 111:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/
Lk 7:31-35
Thursday: 1 Tm 4:12-16/Ps 111:7-8, 9, 10/Lk
7:36-50
Friday: 1 Tm 6:2c-12/Ps 49:6-7, 8-10, 17-
18, 19-20/Lk 8:1-3
Saturday: 1 Tm 6:13-16/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/
Lk 8:4-15

Observances for the week of September 14

Monday: Our Lady of Sorrows
Tuesday: Sts. Cornelius, Pope, and Cyprian,
Bishop, Martyrs
Wednesday: St. Robert Bellarmine, Bishop and
Doctor of the Church;
St. Hildegard of Bingen, Virgin
and Doctor of the Church
Friday: St. Januarius, Bishop and Martyr
Saturday: Sts. Andrew Kim Tae-gŏn, Priest,
and Paul Chŏng Ha-sang, and
Companions, Martyrs



The Cross is Not Negotiable

“Holiness isn’t for wimps,” Mother Angelica famously said. “And the cross isn’t negotiable, sweetheart — it’s a requirement.”

I love Mother Angelica, and I love this quote. Following God is *tough*, and to do it you have to make a decision to *be tough*, to endure tough things — and ultimately, to love the toughness of it all, because within that struggle God meets us with mercy and salvation.

But in light of today’s readings, I think Mother Angelica would forgive me for tweaking her words a tiny bit.

Holiness *is* for wimps, *because* the cross isn’t negotiable.

When the unfaithful among the Israelites were bitten by the serpents, they were healed by looking upon the instrument of their suffering: the serpent itself, mounted on Moses’ staff. With a literary flourish that puts Homer and Shakespeare to shame, God inverts that primitive symbol. To heal us, he invites us to look upon the cross — the sacrifice which achieved our redemption.

Jesus came here to die on that cross for us. For the wimps. Because we couldn’t do it ourselves, even if we tried. We couldn’t right all of our wrongs, not if we had a million years to do it. We would keep screwing it up. We would keep failing. We’re wimps; that’s what we do.

But the cross — the cross is a magnificent invitation to something more. Divinity Himself, assuming the cloak of flesh and the weight of sin, so that when we look at the cross we might recognize ourselves. So that we might see what we have been, what we are, what we could be.

And none of it is negotiable.

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Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman