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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.**



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



September 21, 2025 25th Sunday Ordinary Time

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob:
Never will I forget a thing they have done!
(Am 8:7)

Psalm:

Praise the Lord who lifts up the poor. (Ps 113)

Second Reading:

There is also one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as ransom for all. (1 Tm 2:5-6)

Gospel:

"No servant can serve two masters. He will either hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and mammon." (Lk 16:13)

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



My Dear Parishioners:

There is a story of a mother shopping with her eight-year-old son who spotted a toy that he wanted but did not have enough money to buy it. He lacked a dollar. Of course he asked his mother for the extra money. Wanting to teach him some fiscal responsibility, she explained that she couldn't just give him the needed dollar. He would have to wait until he had saved it. In a brilliant display of resourcefulness, the boy reached in his mouth, and to the astonishment of the onlookers, he pulled out a loose baby tooth and gave it to his mother. The tooth fairy is generous these days. Needless to say, he got the toy.

Today's Gospel, the so-called parable of the unjust servant and the associated collection of sayings, is one that poses many questions to those who attempt to interpret it. Chief among them is the question, "Why does Jesus make the point that the master praised the squandering steward after the steward has curried the favor of the debtors by reducing their debt?" "And the master commended the dishonest steward for acting prudently." It would seem that the steward was further shirking his duty by not collecting the full measure of the debts, and thus continuing to squander the master's money.

Allow me to add a bit of information to the story that might help to make some more sense of it. One interpretation maintains that stewards functioned somewhat like tax collectors in those days. Tax collectors collected the debt of taxes owed by the Jews to their Roman masters. Tax collectors regularly added their fee to the tax bill; this is how they made their salary. Sometimes they added excessively large amounts to increase their salaries and to thus unfairly tax the Jews. Tax collectors were despised by the Jews, not only because they collected tax for the Roman Emperor, but also because they often cheated their fellow Jews.

Most probably the steward, who was squandering the master's money, was likewise looking out for himself. The amounts owed by the debtors were probably inflated by the steward, so that he could be sure to get his cut. And, he might not have always been returning the master's full cut to him. This may be why he had been reported as squandering.

In this light, we can see the prudence in what the steward did. It wasn't just a matter of his resourcefulness that he wanted to make some friends that might be able to help him later in life, but it might also have been his resourcefulness that led him to relinquish his fee by reducing the debts. Maybe, just maybe, he truly deserved the acclamation that he was now prudent, because he decided that he valued the love and compassion he should have for the servants AND THEIR LOVE AND COMPASSION FOR HIM, more than he valued his own desire for wealth.

Prudence is one of the four cardinal virtues of the Church. The four are prudence, justice, fortitude and temperance. The term cardinal comes from the Latin "cardo" meaning "hinge." On these virtues hinge all the other lesser virtues. And prudence is called the "rudder" virtue, because it "steers" all the others. To live a moral life one must know what is good AND have the intelligent discernment to translate the general demands of morality into concrete actions. That intelligent discernment and its translation to action is prudence. Prudence requires really good thinking, darn good thinking. St. Thomas Aquinas said that prudence is the virtue which enables us to do the right thing at the right time. The steward did the right thing at the right time, both for the debtors and himself.

Because we squander the gifts God has given us, when we sin, Jesus is teaching us that we must be prudent like the steward who reduced the debts. We must seek to do the right thing at the right time.

Fr. Lou Guntzelman of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, in an article listed some practices that can help us to become more prudent. I will mention four of them.

1. We must have the facts; we must inquire, look at all sides of a situation. The steward realized that there was more than just his relationship with his master. He knew he needed friends; he saw the bigger picture.

2. We must think. Reason deeply. While emotion may play a part, acting solely out of emotion can be dangerous. We may not be accustomed to the level of deep thinking required for prudence. We may be used to making decisions based on slogans, impressions and "gut feelings." We must determine with good reasoning what would be good for ourselves and for others. We must discover what love demands, what authentically expresses love, love of self and love of the other. I believe the steward was not just looking out for himself, acting out of the emotion of self-preservation. I believe that as he thought the situation through, he found a way that his actions could also benefit others. If we are faced with what to do after we have been hurt by another, we must listen to reason not emotion. Emotion leads us to retaliation. Retaliation adulterates love. Forgiveness authenticates love, love of the other person in our forgiveness of them, and love of ourselves in removing that burden of the need for retaliation. When we take this view, it becomes simply prudent to forgive.

3. Don't let fear be your enemy. Some act impulsively without deeply thinking something through for fear that they will be mired in complexity. "Just make the decision and get it over with." Or, some do not follow a reasoned approach, for fear of being out of step with others. I believe that most couples who decide to live together before marriage make that decision without much serious thinking, because they are fearful of what will happen to their relationship, if they actually tried to deal with all of the complex issues that are raised by seriously considering all the implications of their cohabitation. On the other hand some couples make this decision, because they fear that other couples will wonder what is wrong with them.

4. When in doubt, seek advice. When we are unsure about our capacity to make a decision, we must be open to seeking out someone we can trust, not to make the decision for us, but to give input AND to provide the confidence that will help to validate our decision.

We must know the facts of the situation, and the teachings of Jesus related to the situation, and the teachings of the Church. We must do some deep thinking; take the reasoned approach, not the emotional approach. This is how Jesus operated. We might measure what we are about to do against the question, "What would Jesus do?" We must not let fear keep us from a decision, based on right reasoning. Our faith in Jesus must be stronger than those fears. If we need help, we must be open to seeking it, either from those around us who can advise us, or from the Lord in prayer.

God wants us to be prudent, to make decisions that will ensure that we do the right thing at the right time. We cannot serve two masters: God and the world. Some know only one master, the world. It controls their decisions and sadly they are often not the right decisions. We know another master: God. He has given each of us gifts, among them our intellect, which we must use to make prudent decisions. Each of us must look within ourselves, know where those "little loose teeth" are so that we can pull them out and use them at the right time.

Blessings,

Fr. John

October Birthdays

6—Holly Hollis

10—Jacques Williams III



Mass Intentions

September 21-- Dan Halbig

September 28--Larry Allen

October 5 -- Joseph M. Seaton

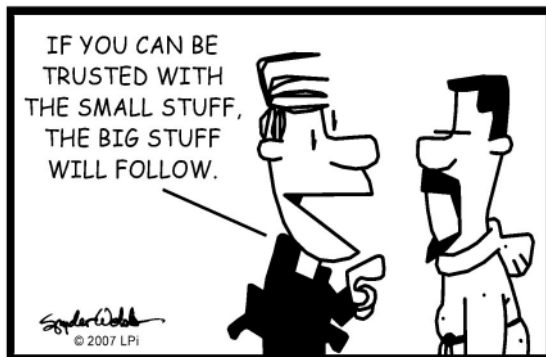
Let us remember to pray for those who are dying and those who have recently died.

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, David Strawn, Teresa Luebbert, Diane Selby, Kathi Skidd, Ray Higgs, Pam Wilson, 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.**

25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Coming Events



Blessed Sacrament Happenings

September 21-- Religious Ed

September 21 - Catechetical Sunday

September 28 -- Priesthood Sunday



September 14--\$1,525.50

Budget--\$1,300.00

MTD Collection--\$2,411.50

MTD Budget--\$2,600.00

YTD Collection--\$16,910.09

YTD Budget--\$14,300.00

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

Before I was a priest, I was a lazy worker for a retail Apple store. Hearing a rumor that my boss was going to fire me, I secretly sold iPhones for half-price, gave away dozens of free iPads, and donated several brand-new laptops to managers in other stores in the mall. After a week, my boss called me into his office. He knew what I was up to. He said I had cost the store thousands of dollars. “Really great work, John,” he said. “I am going to recommend you to be my assistant manager and double your pay.” I was amazed.

And so are you. Which is understandable because it never happened. How could it? My tall tale is a retelling of Jesus' brow-furrowing parable we hear this week. A lazy, dishonest steward defrauds his boss and then the **“master commended the dishonest servant for acting prudently” (Luke 16:8)**. What is the Lord saying to us?

Most of us treat our spiritual lives like a lazy teenager at an Apple store. We really don't care. We go through the motions. Then, if we are lucky, something happens that shakes us to spiritual action; to employ whatever time, money, and resources we have to build around us a strong network of love. Every saint did that. Our Lord is so good he *wants* us to use his stuff to forgive debts and to bless others. He wants us to ensure our future. So do it!

— Father John Muir

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MINISTRY SCHEDULE	
	Lectors
<u>September 21:</u>	Barbara Bisel Misty Sanford
<u>September 28:</u>	Katie Goins, Jacques Williams
<u>October 5:</u>	Wayne Stephens, Greg Gough
	Eucharistic Ministers
<u>September 21:</u>	Cindy Clark, Michelle Jones, Katie Goins
<u>September 28:</u>	Denise and Greg Richardson Holly Hollis
<u>October 5:</u>	Sr. Monica Seaton, Misty Sanford, Karen Leachman
	Collection & Gifts
<u>September 21:</u>	Burnell Hamilton, Steve Coble
<u>September 28:</u>	Barbara Hammond, Wonet Taylor
<u>October 5:</u>	Dee and Brennah Brasher

Prayer for Trust

Jesus,

With your gentle mercy, build my trust. Help me to believe you when you say you want good for me. In every season, give me grace. In every need, be my answer.

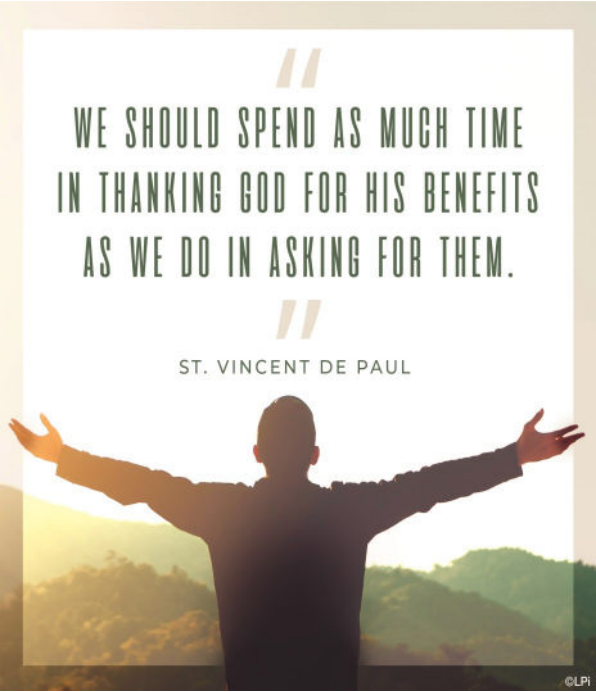
Amen.

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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

Readings for the Week	
Monday:	Ezr 1:1-6/Ps 126:1b-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-5, 6/Lk 8:16-18
Tuesday:	Ezr 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5/Lk 8:19-21
Wednesday:	Ezr 9:5-9/Tb 13:2, 3-4a, 4befghn, 7-8/Lk 9:1-6
Thursday:	Hg 1:1-8/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b/Lk 9:7-9
Friday:	Hg 2:1-9/Ps 43:1, 2, 3, 4/Lk 9:18-22
Saturday:	Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a/Jer 31:10, 11-12ab, 13/Lk 9:43b-45
Observances for the week of September 21	
Tuesday:	St. Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest
Friday:	Sts. Cosmas and Damian, Martyrs
Saturday:	St. Vincent de Paul, Priest



What’s Most Important?

I hold to the belief that you cannot have allegiances to both Duke and UNC, the Packers and the Bears, or the Yankees and the Red Sox. In Matthew 6:24, it says, “*He will either hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other.*” That verse isn’t talking about sports! It’s talking about God and money. Most of us love both of those and that can be a problem. If you were to love any of the sets of teams mentioned above, you have a huge problem as well.

Simply put, you can only have one thing that is the most important in your life. When I ask my children what is the most important thing in their lives, they know to respond, “God.” But just because you know that is the right answer doesn’t make it the truthful answer. Total allegiance to a sports team seems easier. You won’t find a Packers fans secretly wearing a Bear’s jersey. However, we can find Christians secretly hoarding their money or doing things based solely on the love of money.

Maybe the problem lies in the fact that, at times, we are merely lukewarm fans of Jesus and not disciples. If we truly have matured in our faith and strengthened our relationship with him, then real commitment comes easier. There will always be a temptation for money to take the place of Jesus, but the more committed we are, the harder it is to allow anything to come between us and our God. The question we all must continually ask ourselves is, “Is God truly the most important thing in my life?”

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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