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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

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

Therefore, now they shall be the first to go into exile, and their wanton revelry shall be done away with. (Am 6:7)

Psalm:

Praise the Lord, my soul! (Ps 146)

Second Reading:

But you, man of God, pursue righteousness, devotion, faith, love, patience, and gentleness. (1 Tm 6:11)

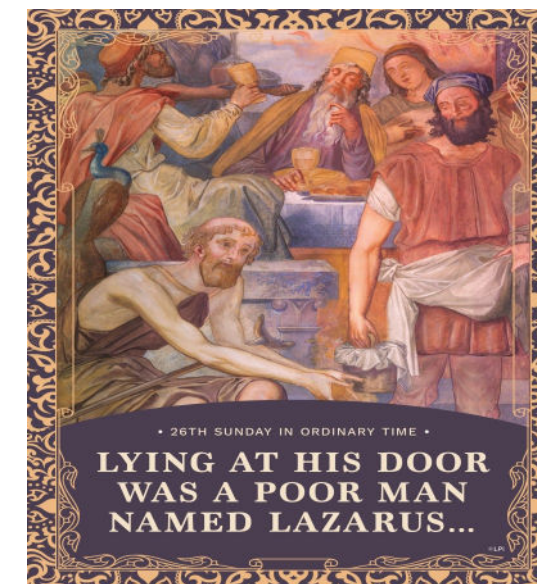
Gospel:

Then Abraham said, 'If they will not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded if someone should rise from the dead.' (Lk 16:31)

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



September 28, 2025 26th Sunday Ordinary Time



My Dear Parishioners.

Every once and a while I pick up a hitchhiker. Yes, I know, it can be a dangerous act. If I have someone else in the car with me, I definitely will offer a ride to someone thumbing it. When I'm alone in a car I only pick someone up if I have on my collar. A few years ago I was driving to Alabama and I gave a lift to a man. He was a musician, a busker and basically lived by busking on the streets; not an easy way of life. He had practically all his possessions with him. He told me he knew over 350 songs, which was quite impressive. When he realized that I was a priest (one would think my manner of dress would tip him off) he began asking me about religion. I can't remember much of what he said except for one thing. He said that he wasn't very religious but that he preferred to stay out of it and sit on the fence. When we spoke about death and meeting God he said that he would plead ignorance. That was the thing that struck me the most. He said, 'I'll just plead ignorance.'

I suppose if God were just another human being, we might get away with pleading ignorance, but since God knows everything about us, including our motivations, all the things that have influenced us during our life that cause us to act as we do, how free or not we are to make choices, I don't think that pleading ignorance will be much use! This is not to just focus on the negative as if we should be afraid of God because He is out to get us. On the contrary, the Lord loves us and wants to help us in every way possible. He knows our weaknesses and what we struggle with, but He also knows when we avoid responsibility.

In the readings today we are presented not so much with the rich and the poor, rather with those who deliberately turn their back on justice. We are shown the two extremes. The poor man Lazarus was at this rich man's gate. In other words the rich man couldn't have missed him because he was right under his nose. And it says that 'Lazarus longed to fill himself with the scraps that fell from the rich man's table', which implies that he was offered absolutely nothing, not even a small amount. So it's not as if the rich man did a certain amount and it wasn't enough. Jesus is telling us that he did absolutely nothing. That is why he lost heaven, not because he had riches. There is nothing wrong with having riches. What you do with it is what's important. If I am wealthy then that is the situation God has put me in in this life (provided I acquired it in a just way, of course!). What I do with it is what's important.

Equally you might think that Lazarus could have got off his back-side and done something for himself. But the fact that he 'lay' at the rich man's gate and that he was covered in sores, tells us that he was sick and helpless. You could say that God put him there deliberately to allow the rich man to help him, but he chose to do nothing. I have no doubt that God often puts people in our path that may need our help, but we always have the choice to help them or not. God has given us that freedom. And the help we give people may not even be financial help. It may be something as simple as a smile or an encouraging word that is needed. All the time we are coming across people who need our help and if we are open to it we will recognize them. If we have plenty, well thank God for it, but it does mean that we also have an obligation to help those who are in need and there is no shortage of them, both in this country and all over the world. 'The poor will always be with you.'

So you could say there is a double message here. First, let us thank God for what we have. Second, let us also ask God to help us make good use of what we have. God has given us freedom to do what we want in this life, but we are also asked to be responsible. There is a common misconception today that being free means being able to do anything you want, good or bad. However, true freedom is the freedom to choose what is good. That is what the Lord wants for us and that is also what will help us the most.

Blessings, Fr. John

Special Collection: On Sunday, October 5, there will be a Special Collection to support humanitarian relief for children and families in Gaza and across the Middle East through Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and the Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA). The Holy Father continues to call for a cease fire and for aid to enter the territory, noting with great sorrow that 'Gaza is starving,'" and encouraged the bishops to consider the special collection in their dioceses at their earliest opportunity. Since 2023, CRS and its partners have reached 1.7 million people in Gaza, delivering lifesaving aid, such as food, clean water and shelter. These efforts are heroic—and they are made possible by you and Catholics across the United States. However, the need continues to grow.

Envelopes will be available. Thank you in advance for your generosity.



October Birthdays

6—Holly Hollis
10—Jacques Williams III
13—Vicki Leonard
17—Kelly Hollis
20—Dorothea Melton

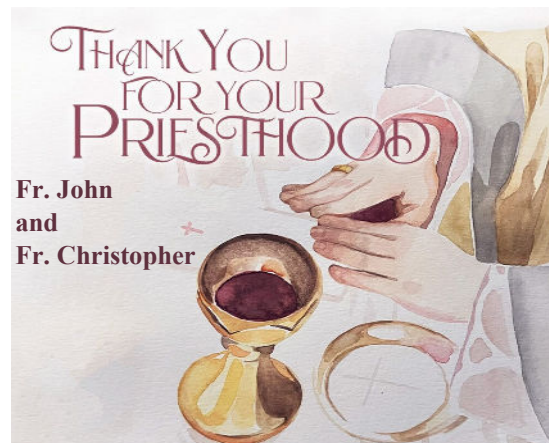
Mass Intentions

September 28--Larry Allen
October 5 -- Joseph M. Seaton
October 12-- Jean Murphy

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.**



Coming Events



Blessed Sacrament Happenings

September 28-- Religious Ed

September 28 -- Priesthood Sunday



September 21--\$4,222.50

Budget--\$1,300.00

MTD Collection--\$6,634.00

MTD Budget--\$3,900.00

YTD Collection--\$21,132.59

YTD Budget--\$15,600.00

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

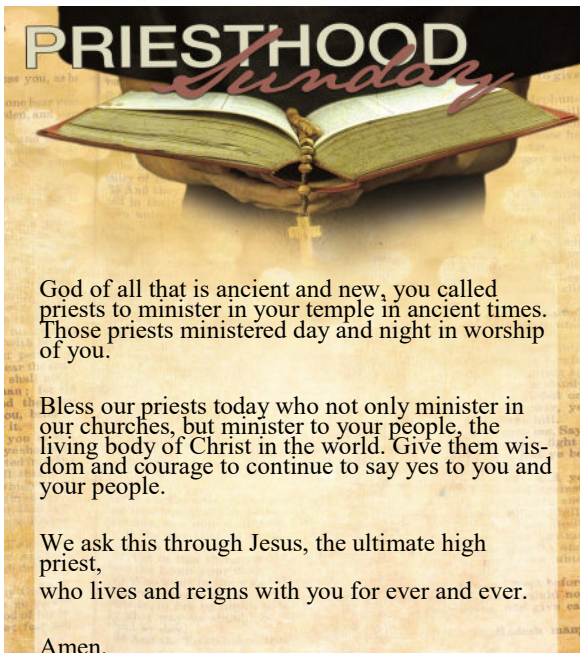
I am embarrassed to admit that I frequently find myself dining and socializing with people who have millions and sometimes billions of dollars. I've eaten more caviar, lobster and wagyu steak than most people on the planet. I justify it by saying it's part of my job. But I have seven pairs of nice jeans and expensive shoes.

So it is rather uncomfortable to hear Our Lord say: **“My child, remember that you received what was good in your lifetime, while Lazarus likewise received what was bad; but now he is comforted here, whereas you are tormented” (Luke 16:25).** Fellow rich people, do we not vehemently though quietly object to this parable's karma-esque reward system? Why bless the rich man just to curse him later? And curse Lazarus just to bless him later? What is going on?

One clue is that the condemned rich man doesn't complain of injustice. Rather, he simply begs to help his brothers to repent. Of what? We don't know exactly. Perhaps another clue is that the rich man now seems more like the down-trodden Lazarus. He knows what it is to be hungry and thirsty, to be wounded in the gutter; that he deserved *that*, not fancy meals and clothes. Maybe the rich man finally understands how to receive true blessings, but it is too late for him. But not for me. Not for us.

— Father John Muir

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MINISTRY SCHEDULE	
	Lectors
<u>September 28:</u>	Katie Goins, Jacques Williams
<u>October 5:</u>	Wayne Stephens, Greg Gough
<u>October 12:</u>	Barbara Bisel Misty Sanford
	Eucharistic Ministers
<u>September 28:</u>	Denise and Greg Richardson Holly Hollis
<u>October 5:</u>	Sr. Monica Seaton, Misty Sanford, Karen Leachman
<u>October 12:</u>	Cindy Clark, Michelle Jones, Janet Clark
	Collection & Gifts
<u>September 28:</u>	Barbara Hammond, Wonet Taylor
<u>October 5:</u>	Dee and Brennah Brasher
<u>October 12:</u>	Jamie, Beau, and Luke Bisel

Prayer for the Sick

For those in pain and in sorrow,
God be their comfort.

For caretakers and medical staff,
God give them grace.

Surround those afflicted with
Your love, care, and mercy, You
who are our healing and hope.

Amen.

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Called to Compassion

What does a homeless person need? That may seem like an odd question since being homeless would indicate they certainly need a home. Beyond that though, what does a homeless person need? Most would guess the person needs food, money, clothing, medical care, and toiletries. Many parishes put together drives for those items. Is that all the person needs? It is easy to get caught up in all the things that easily come to mind so that we miss a key thing needed by someone homeless as well as all human beings: to be seen.

How many of us pass by homeless people and pretend they are not even there. We don't have money in our pocket, we don't have food to give, and we don't have material items that they need, so we offer them nothing. We don't even offer ourselves.

Welcoming someone with a kind word is free. Amazingly, we act like it costs us more than anything else. It is easier to hand someone \$5 than it is to engage in a 15-second exchange of words. We talk about being generous, but we need to remember that sometimes the greatest gift we have to give is simply ourselves. The Jesus in me meets the Jesus in you. One day, you or I may find ourselves in a tough spot, and we will be looking for compassion. Let's hope that all those who profess to know Jesus don't simply pass on by pretending not to see us.

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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Readings for the Week	
Monday:	Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 or Rv 12:7-12ab/ Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 4-5/Jn 1:47-51
Tuesday:	Zec 8:20-23/Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7/ Lk 9:51-56
Wednesday:	Neh 2:1-8/Ps 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6/Lk 9:57-62
Thursday:	Neh 8:1-4a, 5-6, 7b-12 (458)/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11/Mt 18:1-5, 10
Friday:	Bar 1:15-22/Ps 79:1b-2, 3-5, 8, 9/ Lk 10:13-16
Saturday:	Bar 4:5-12, 27-29/Ps 69:33-35, 36-37/Lk 10:17-24
Observances for the week of September 28	
Monday:	Sts. Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels
Tuesday:	St. Jerome, Priest and Doctor of the Church
Wednesday:	St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus, Virgin and Doctor of the Church
Thursday:	The Holy Guardian Angels
Saturday:	St. Francis of Assisi



Snow Days and Second Chances

Yesterday morning, my kids were playing outside in the snow, and I decided to take advantage of the quiet house to make a few important phone calls.

Fool. I forgot Murphy's Law of Parenting, which dictates that as soon as you dial a phone number, a bomb of irritation and neediness explodes within the heart of your loudest child. Sure enough, as soon as the person on the other end of the line picked up, my son was at the back door, whimpering loudly. Horror of horrors, he had snow in his boot.

I gestured to the phone. He whimpered more loudly. I mouthed and mimed threats. He threw his boot at me. I gave him The Look. He started to scream.

Well, needless to say, the phone call didn't go well, and my son's snow day was cut short. He begged for a second chance, but I explained to him that life doesn't always give you second chances. The phone call was over. Ruined. I couldn't get it back.

But that's when I remembered that moms have a superpower: creating second chances where none had existed before. So I told him that if he could be quiet while I made the rest of my calls, he could go back outside.

My son is young right now. I give him lots of second chances because second chances help him learn. Second chances are the training wheels of life.

I dread the day when the training wheels come off, and I can't save him from his bad decisions. I think every parent does.

The parable of the rich man and Lazarus highlights a reality that we often wish to ignore: at some point, we will run out of chances, and it's not because God tires of giving them to us. It's because a truly endless supply of chances would strip us of our free will. It would deny us the right of being taken at our word — and God respects us too much to do that.

My son saved his snow day. It's a good reminder: take the second (and third and fourth) chance. Don't wait for the next one.

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