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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:

And thus were the paths of those on earth made straight. (Wis 9:18)

Psalm:

In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge. (Ps 90)

Second Reading:

Perhaps this is why he was away from you for a while, that you might have him back forever. (Phlm 1:15)

Gospel:

Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. (Lk 14:27)

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



September 7, 2025 23rd Sunday Ordinary Time



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.**

My Dear Parishioners:

One of the most famous blunders in the history of construction is the so-called Leaning Tower of Pisa.

Begun in the year 1173 it took nearly two centuries for the completion of the tower. Its stated purpose was to be a bell tower but in fact it was intended to be a monument to the greatness of the community that built it. Something that people from miles around would look up to. We know today however that the leaning tower stands not as a monument to greatness but rather its architects and builders are remembered more for their careless engineering. It is a story similar to the examples Jesus uses in the Gospel today.

Jesus tells the crowds that they cannot rush ahead without making sure they have what it takes to reach their goal. A King shouldn’t fight a battle when he is not sure if he has enough soldiers. A builder shouldn’t start a construction project before he knows if he has enough money and material or before he has studied whether the land will provide a suitable foundation for the project. And we, we who want to be followers of Christ need to the count the cost. We need to know the price of being a disciple if we are going to accept that invitation. And the price, as laid out in the Gospel today is to carry the cross that Jesus carries. The cost is nothing less than our lives.

Someone once approached the famous pianist, Victor Borge (*one of my favorites*) to ask for an autograph. The adoring fan, in her enthusiasm, said to the musician, “I would give my life to play the piano the way you do.” Borge’s response was, “that’s what I did.” And it’s true. We know that in order to be a great musician or a great artist or a great athlete we must spend our whole life dedicated to the endeavor. For most of us it costs too much to be great and we are happy to just dabble.

We plonk away at the piano; we play a bit of golf on the weekend. For many of us, at times, the same hold true for our Christianity. We play at it. We do good works; we are kind to our neighbor. But when the crunch comes and being a Christian begins to cost us too much, our inclination might be to put it aside, just for a little while. Young people face the pressure of their peers to try drugs and alcohol or, if not, risk being uncool and unpopular. Business people face the temptations of using unethical practices in order to stay competitive. When somebody does something to wrong us we might want to hold a grudge refusing to make the first step toward reconciliation. But Jesus says the call to discipleship doesn’t have room for dabblers, it asks nothing less than our full commitment.

I often reflect on my own ordination and call to service. The Church didn’t ordain the ‘good part of John Thomas’ or the ‘holy areas of my life’. The Church ordained all of me. I attempt to bring ‘all of me’ to my priestly service.

So it is when we come to Mass. We bring everything. We place EVERYTHING at the Altar of Service. We place our joys, hopes, and dreams. We also place our sins, failures, disappointments, and fears. God receives it all.

All he asks of us is the same in return; to offer ourselves completely to Him. If we wish to be ‘successful or good’ at being a Christian or Catholic, it takes giving our entire life. And we know all the while, in the end, like the Tower of Pisa, it may not be perfect, but we will know we were faithful.

Blessings, Fr. John

Saint John Chrysostom | September 13

Born in Antioch in the 4th century, and raised by his widowed mother, Saint John received a rigorous classical education. He was first called to the ascetic life, even spending time as an anchorite living in a cave near Antioch. However, this life of extreme mortification was hard on his physical body, and he eventually returned to the city to recover.

Saint John was ordained in 298. He spent the next 12 years preaching in the Cathedral of Antioch, and it was most likely during this time that he earned the name Chrysostom which means “golden-mouthed.”

In 397 or 398 he was made archbishop of Constantinople against his will. This post placed Saint John in the midst of imperial politics. But he would not be drawn in. He kept a modest household without extravagance and refused to serve the sumptuous suppers for political supplicants that predecessors in the position had. He preached against corruption and decadence and fought for the reform of clergy even deposing corrupt bishops.

Unfortunately, this high moral stance made enemies of powerful people at court and in the Church. They conspired against him and eventually Saint John was exiled to Armenia. He died in exile in 407. He was made a Father of the Church at the Council of Chalcedon in 451 and declared a Doctor of the Church in 1568..

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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

September Birthdays

7—Aubrey Ottofy

8—Mary Hagan,

Mamie Farish Watkins

9—Luke Bisel

18—Samuel Hollis



23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Mass Intentions

September 7--Sam Thruston

September 14 -- Larry Allen

September 21-- Dan Halbig

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.**

Coming Events



Blessed Sacrament Happenings

September 7 -- Parish Meeting After Mass

September 14 -- Religious Ed Classes Begin



August 31--\$1,577.50

Budget--\$1,300.00

MTD Collection--\$9,553.60

MTD Budget--\$6,500.00

YTD Collection--\$14,498.59

YTD Budget--\$11,700.00

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 hot Arizona summer afternoon my car ran out of gas. I phoned the parish office and begged for help. My secretary came and helped me fill the gas tank. She chided me, “If you can’t manage getting your car from A to B, how can we expect you to guide the parish where it needs to go?” Point taken, Julie. I vowed to always make sure I have plenty of gas in my car.

The Lord Jesus chides us in this week’s Gospel, too. He uses the two images of a man building a tower and a king marching soldiers into war to make this single point: acquire what is needed to follow him or look ridiculous. We rightly mock the builder who lacks money for his tower and the king with a short-handed army. But our mocking boomerangs back on us. How do we expect to follow Jesus to the end with insufficient detachment from our possessions and divided hearts?

The good news is, there is still time. Jesus is building a great tower to heaven—his own body. So we renounce all and give ourselves to him as his precious stones. Jesus is waging a battle against our enemy. So we forsake all and swear allegiance and march under his banner. In this way, we will finish what has begun in our discipleship. Or better put, our Lord will have the stones and soldiers required to see his great work through.

— Father John Muir

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MINISTRY SCHEDULE	
	Lectors
<u>September 7:</u>	Katie Goins, Jacques Williams
<u>September 14:</u>	Greg Gough, Wayne Stephens
<u>September 21:</u>	Barbara Bisel Misty Sanford
	Eucharistic Ministers
<u>September 7:</u>	Denise and Greg Richardson Holly Hollis
<u>September 14:</u>	Barbara Bisel, Janet Clark, Rita Moorman
<u>September 21:</u>	Cindy Clark, Michelle Jones, Katie Goins
	Collection & Gifts
<u>September 7:</u>	Barbara Hammond, Wonet Taylor
<u>September 14:</u>	Laverne Thames
<u>September 21:</u>	Burnell Hamilton, Steve Coble

Prayer of Simplicity

Dear God,

In my desire for You, take away anything that keeps me from knowing You, myself, or my mission here on earth. Help me to remember what is truly important, and to seek and treasure that.

Amen.

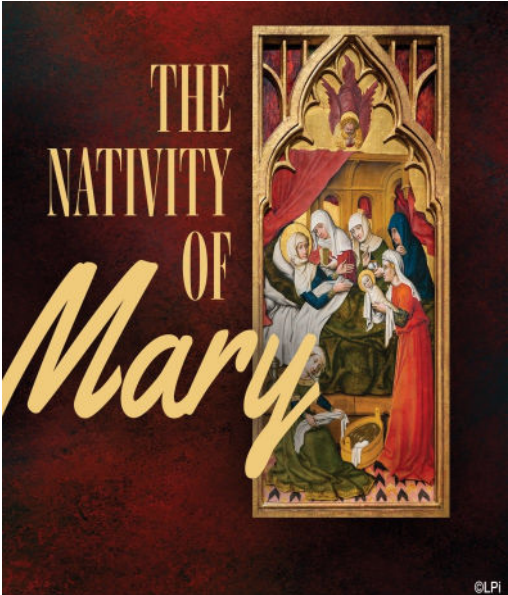
Celebrating St. Peter Claver

“Who is my neighbor?” Jesus’ answer to this question was the parable of the Good Samaritan. In short, the person you least expect. Peter Claver was born in 16th century Spain. Peter became a Jesuit and was deeply influenced by the missionary call. At age 30, he set out for modern-day Colombia. At the time, Cartagena was one of the largest slave markets in the New World. As a priest, Peter knew his role was spiritual service. He quickly dedicated his ministry to these “neighbors” whom the world rejected. When a slave ship entered the harbor, Peter would rush on board with food, water, and a human touch. He introduced some slaves to Christ in a more formal way. As these new converts were moved to plantations, he would visit them, stay in their quarters, and advocate with the masters to act humanely. St. Peter Claver called himself “the slave of the slaves forever.” May we, too, have a powerful sense of our neighbor.

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Readings for the Week	
Monday:	Mi 5:1-4a or Rom 8:28-30/Ps 13:6ab, 6c/Mt 1:1-16, 18-23 or 1:18-23
Tuesday:	Col 2:6-15/Ps 62:6-7, 9/Lk 6:12-19
Wednesday:	Col 3:1-11/Ps 145:2-3, 10-11, 12-13ab/Lk 6:20-26
Thursday:	Col 3:12-17/Ps 150:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6/Lk 6:27-38
Friday:	1 Tm 1:1-2, 12-14/Ps 16:1b-2a and 5, 7-8, 11/Lk 6:39-42
Saturday:	1 Tm 1:15-17/Ps 113:1b-2, 3-4, 5a and 6-7/Lk 6:43-49
Observances for the week of September 7	
Monday:	The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Tuesday:	St. Peter Claver, Priest
Friday:	The Most Holy Name of Mary
Saturday:	St. John Chrysostom, Bishop and Doctor of the Church



Reach Out in Love

We are all called to be accountable to one another. As brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ, we have a responsibility to reach out in love when we see someone lost and to offer support when the need is the greatest. In that same regard, we must never stand between a loved one and him. Our goal when it comes to those we love is to lead them toward heaven and eternal life with the source of all love, Jesus Christ.

This is the “why” of our stewardship. Our generosity and our giving of very selves back to God need to bear witness to the transforming power of Jesus. It is easy to fall into the trap of loving someone so much that we place them before God. We make our human relationships the main thing and ultimately make decisions that keep our loved ones away from that which they need the most. If we truly love another, we will offer them the example of how we love God even more than them.

We live in a world where romantic and parental love are seen as the highest forms of affection. Stories are often told in books and on the screen of how nothing will keep someone from his or her beloved. Although we are called to love one another, we must never be trapped into the portrayal of love that comes from the world. We are gifts from God to one another, and like all other gifts given to us, we are accountable to God for that which He has given. If you can give a loved one back to God completely, then you are worthy of their love in the first place.

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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