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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:

The rash one has no integrity; but the just one, because of his faith, shall live. (Hb 2:4)

Psalm:

If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts. (Ps 95)

Second Reading:

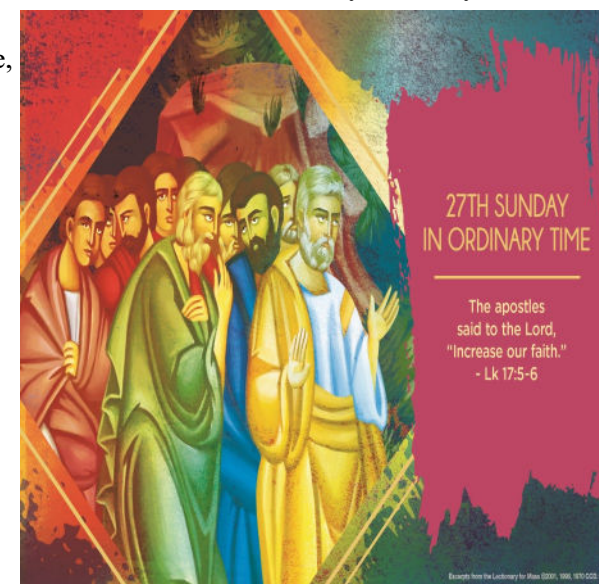
For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather of power and love and self-control. (2 Tm 1:7)

Gospel:

"If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you would say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you." (Lk 17:6)

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

October 5, 2025 27th Sunday Ordinary Time



My Dear Parishioners:

Faith. This is a word that we throw around a lot in religion. But what does it mean? Before we look at today’s readings, let’s perhaps review its meaning. Faith is about the future. It is about belief, and it is about trust and loyalty.

If we look at faith as belief, it means that we accept things that don’t have any real evidence or logical proof. For example, belief in God or belief in an afterlife. People have come up with proofs for God’s existence, but in reality most people believe it in faith.

If we look at faith as trusting in something, we believe in the truth of something and are loyal to that belief. The faith of our fathers (and mothers) that we talk about is our trust that the religion we accept, the path that Jesus taught, is truthful and right. We accept it, live it and believe in it.

But, it is not always easy in our culture to have faith in something, to have faith in anything. Faith, we say, is a gift. When the apostles ask Jesus to increase their faith, they are asking for something that most humans have felt in their lifetimes. We want to believe in something. We need to believe in something. But we have doubts. So how can we increase our faith, lose our doubt and believe more deeply than we do? The Apostles were with Jesus and still had to ask the question: how can we increase our faith?

The prophet Habakkuk (not one we often read about) was asking the same question. He had faith – he was addressing God, but he didn’t think God was listening. How long did he have to see violence and destruction and misery before he lost his faith in God and was no longer loyal to the one God. How many times can we be depressed and alone and unanswered before we give up? The answer to Habakkuk was that if you are a just person, and act justly to others with integrity, your faith will be strengthened as a result of your living, and even though the rewards are delayed, you can be sure they will come. In this case, faith seems to be increased by living morally and honestly which is being loyal to God’s commands. I find this interesting because we, in our culture, feel that we live morally and truthfully because we have Christian faith. But here God puts the cart before the horse and says that by living morally and truthfully, you will increase your faith. You become more loyal to God by acting loyally to God.

Paul, in the second reading to Timothy, tells Timothy that his faith will be increased by his ordination, the imposition of Paul’s hands on him, in which the spirit increases the gifts we have of power, love and self-control. This is the reverse of Habakkuk, but is what we normally think of – that faith leads to integrity. So at this point it seems that we are developing a circle here of being moral leading to faith and loyalty to Jesus, leading us to be more moral.

When the Apostles ask Jesus how they can be more faithful, what they are asking in the context of what has just gone before, is how they can be more loyal to Christ, how they can strengthen their belief and trust in Christ and all that Christ demands. Jesus has made it very clear to his close followers that he demanded loyalty from them. As we have seen recently, he demanded that even that they put Jesus ahead of their families. Jesus was demanding a lot from his twelve apostles. Their question, then, was one of asking for help in making that commitment.

With his metaphor of the mustard seed, a very tiny seed, Jesus tells them that even with a small amount of faith, God will hear them and answer their needs, even if it was something that needed a miracle. But Jesus also tells them that their faith at this point is very weak. He doesn’t mean this as a put down. Jesus explains that the Apostles do have faith and that with the amount of faith they already have, they can do impossible things.

Then Jesus tells a short parable about a man who has only one servant. And that servant is expected to do not only the outside work, but also the inside work or preparing meals. A servant is hired and expected to do what an employer asks. Some tasks will be more difficult and time consuming than others. We shouldn’t expect the employer to do the servant’s task of making supper and having the servant sit down to eat with him. It doesn’t work that way. Do we give special favors to a person who is just doing his or her job adequately? The end of the parable simply means that a good servant is expected to just do his or her job. This is similar to the Habakkuk reading in that by doing what you are supposed to do, your faith will increase. The Twelve, to increase their faith, have to do the work of Jesus has taught and expects them to do. Faith is a gift! We don’t get it by working harder for it.

So what can this mean for us this week? I am sure we all struggle with our faith at some time or another. First of all we need to recognize that it is a gift to us. It is a grace. We sing “Amazing Grace” often because it explains that the word grace means ‘gift’. Faith is our gift – it has been given to each of us here, some more than others. Some of us might have the faith of a mustard seed, others might have been given a greater faith. But we can use what we are given and do amazing things with it – move mountains! All we need to do is to accept and come to grips with this gift of faith. We need to do the things that we are expected to do, the things Jesus asks us to do – love our neighbor, love God. If we work at these things, we will be increasing our faith. To work to bring an end to injustice in the world and to work toward making the kingdom of heaven happen here on earth is what we must do as Christians. It is expected of us.

So let us think this week about how we are doing in what has been expected. Have we shown love to our God and neighbor? In what little ways? Have we fought to bring justice to all people? In what little ways? Have we tried to transform the world and make it a little better place? In what little ways? If we are not using our gift, it will not grow. From the littlest seeds, great trees can grow. And even a tiny mustard seed bears much fruit!

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.

October Birthdays

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



Mass Intentions

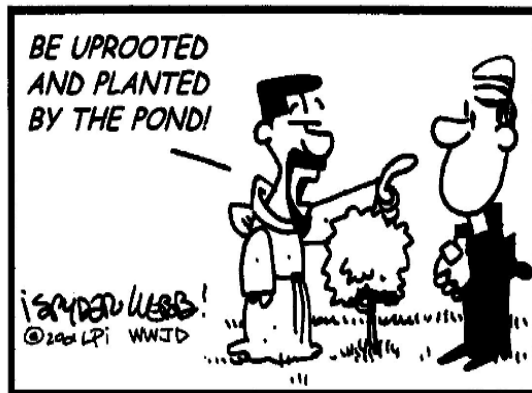
October 5 -- Joseph M. Seaton
October 12-- Jean Murphy
October 19--Dan Halbig

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, 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.**

27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Coming Events



Blessed Sacrament Happenings

October 5 -- Religious Ed

October 5 -- Respect Life Sunday



September 28-- Info not available at publication time

Budget--

MTD Collection--

MTD Budget--

YTD Collection--

YTD Budget--

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

A priest friend of mine received a call from a family whose elderly mother was dying. Within thirty minutes, he was at her bedside, offering the consolation of the sacraments, anointing her with the oil of the sick, and commending her soul to God. She passed not long after, and for months, her family spoke of their deep gratitude for his presence. When I phoned him to commend his faithful ministry, he simply said, "I was just doing my job."

His words brought to mind Jesus' teaching this week in Luke 17:10: **"So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty.'"** In a world that often seeks recognition and applause, the Lord invites us into a different mindset — one of humble service. The priest did not see his response as extraordinary; he saw it as a grace to fulfill his vocation.

How tempting it is to seek affirmation for doing what I ought to do! Yet Jesus reminds us that true discipleship is not about grandstanding but about quiet faithfulness. It is enough to have served. It is enough to have loved. It is enough to be grateful that we were given the chance to do our duty in the first place. Whether in priesthood, parenthood, or any vocation, what peace-soaked freedom there is in simply doing what is asked of us. No more, no less. Jesus, that is how you quietly love us.

— Father John Muir
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MINISTRY SCHEDULE	
	Lectors
<u>October 5:</u>	Wayne Stephens, Greg Gough
<u>October 12:</u>	Barbara Bisel Misty Sanford
<u>October 19:</u>	Katie Goins, Jacques Williams
	Eucharistic Ministers
<u>October 5:</u>	Sr. Monica Seaton, Misty Sanford, Karen Leachman
<u>October 12:</u>	Cindy Clark, Michelle Jones, Janet Clark
<u>October 19:</u>	Denise and Greg Richardson Holly Hollis
	Collection & Gifts
<u>October 5:</u>	Dee and Brennah Brasher
<u>October 12:</u>	Jamie, Beau, and Luke Bisel
<u>October 19:</u>	Barbara Hammond, Wonet Taylor

Special Collection: Today, 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.



Prayer to Respect Life

Dear God,

Help us to hear Your voice, especially when You speak on behalf of the voiceless, the overlooked, and the forgotten.

Keep our ears attuned, and work through us in a way that loves, blesses, assures, supports, and strengthens LIFE.

Amen.

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Readings for the Week	
Monday:	Jon 1:1—2:2, 11/Jon 2:3, 4, 5, 8/Lk 10:25-37
Tuesday:	Jon 3:1-10/Ps 130:1b-2, 3-4ab, 7-8/Lk 10:38-42
Wednesday:	Jon 4:1-11/Ps 86:3-4, 5-6, 9-10/Lk 11:1-4
Thursday:	Mal 3:13-20b/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Lk 11:5-13
Friday:	Jl 1:13-15; 2:1-2/Ps 9:2-3, 6 and 16, 8-9/Lk 11:15-26
Saturday:	Jl 4:12-21/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Lk 11:27-28
Observances for the week of October 5	
Monday:	St. Bruno, Priest; Bl. Marie Rose Durocher, Virgin
Tuesday:	Our Lady of the Rosary
Thursday:	St. Denis, Bishop, and Companions, Martyrs; St. John Leonardi, Priest
Saturday:	St. John XXIII, Pope



Our Lady of the Rosary,
Pray for us!

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The Father Who Knows What You Want

It’s easy to give your kid what he’s asking for. It’s hard to give him what he wants.

If a kid asks to eat an ice cream cone, there’s nothing wrong with giving him one. But if he’s grumpily demanding an ice cream cone at 7:45 in the morning, what he wants — whether he realizes it or not — is some protein and whole grains and a little encouragement to get him going on his day.

So you give him eggs and toast, and you watch him struggle to accept it. Sometimes he does and sometimes he doesn’t, but either way, you’ll be here. You’ll forgive him for whatever names he calls you and you’ll put the healthy breakfast in the fridge, waiting for him when he’s ready to eat it.

“Increase my faith.” I’ve said it to God plenty of times, imagining a prayer life that is effortless and a sacramental life that is uncomplicated, an acceptance of truth that is unshakeable. Easy faith — that’s what I’m asking for, and lots of it, please.

But easy faith isn’t faith at all, and faith that you aren’t strong enough to hold will break your arms. And what God will never do is say, “Sure, kiddo, here you go,” and pass off a false gift as the real thing, just to make us both feel good. He won’t hand me something I’m not strong enough to hold.

That would be a classic lazy-father move. That would be an ice-cream-cone-at-7:45 a.m. move.

Instead, He watches carefully while I navigate the bumpy terrain of the spiritual life, ready to whisper directions in my ear. He holds his breath while the challenges of this world create deep grooves in my soul — and then He irrigates those grooves with the life-giving waters of grace, transforming them into valleys of consolation and respite.

Sometimes I call Him names. Sometimes I refuse what He’s offering. It’s not what I asked for, after all.

But it’s what I want. Luckily, He knows that better than me.

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

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