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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



November 23, 2025

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

"And the LORD said to you, 'You shall shepherd my people Israel and shall be commander of Israel.'" (2 Sm 5:2)

Psalm:

Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord. (Ps 122)

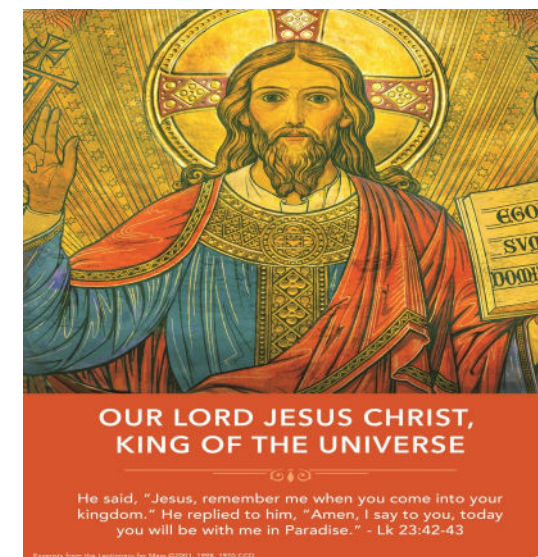
Second Reading:

For in him all the fullness was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile all things for him, making peace by the blood of his cross through him, whether those on earth or those in heaven. (Col 1:19-20)

Gospel:

He replied to him, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise." (Lk 23:43)

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



My Dear Parishioners:



Iesus Nazarenus, Rex Iudaeorum
Jesus (of) Nazareth, King (of the) Jews

Have you ever really thought about the letters **I.N.R.I** at the top of every crucifix? Most people realize (*if only vaguely*) the letters mean “The King of the Jews”. This weekend, the Church calls us to celebrate the Solemnity of Christ the King. In every Catholic Church all over the world, people will hear and reflect on this awesome title. Especially here, we should be aware of His presence, title, and what that means in our lives.

Pope Pius XI instituted the Feast of Christ the King in his 1925 encyclical letter *Quas Primas*, in response to growing nationalism and secularism. In Pope John XXIII's 1960 revision of the Calendar, the date and title remained the same and, in the new simpler ranking of feasts, it was classified as a feast of the first class. The Pontiff's encyclical quotes with approval Cyril of Alexandria, noting that Jesus' Kingship is not obtained by violence: "'Christ,' he says, 'has dominion over all creatures, a dominion not seized by violence nor usurped, but his by essence and by nature.'" Pope Pius XI instituted the feast of Christ the King to remind Christians that their allegiance was to their spiritual ruler in heaven as opposed to earthly supremacy, which was claimed by Benito Mussolini.

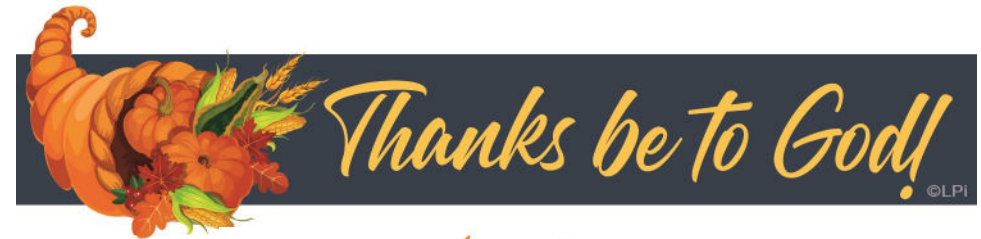
In his 1969 motu proprio *Mysterii Paschalis*, Pope Paul VI gave the celebration a new title: “D. N. Iesu Christi universorum Regis” (*Our Lord Jesus Christ King of the Universe*). He also gave it a new date: the last Sunday in the liturgical year, before a new year begins with the First Sunday in Advent, the earliest date for which is 27 November. Through this choice of date, “the eschatological importance of this Sunday is made clearer”. He assigned to it the highest rank, that of “Solemnity”.

The liturgical vestments for the day are colored white and/or gold, in keeping with other joyous feasts honoring Christ. The name is found in various forms in scripture: **King Eternal** (1 Tim. 1:17), **King of Israel** (Jn. 1:49), **King of the Jews** (Mt. 27:11), **King of kings** (1 Tim. 6:15; Rev. 19:16), **King of the Ages** (Rev. 15:3) and **Ruler of the Kings of the Earth** (Rev. 1:5).

Pope Benedict XVI remarked that Christ's Kingship is not based on “human power” but on loving and serving others. The perfect exemplar of that acceptance, he pointed out, is the Virgin Mary. Her humble and unconditional acceptance of God's will in her life, the Pope noted, was the reason that “God exalted her over all other creatures, and Christ crowned her Queen of heaven and earth.”

We recognize Christ as our King and follow his example of humble service. His reign was not one of power by force or fear, manipulation, or violence. Christ showed us the way of meekness, humility, service, and putting others needs before our own. Our KING hung on a cross and became a slave. As we celebrate Christ the King of the Universe, may we all honor Jesus as our King and place ourselves at the service of others.

Blessings, Fr. John



December Birthdays

16—Yulanda Williams
18—Robert Johnson
23—Greg Richardson
24—Susan Mutter
29—Linda Wahl

Mass Intentions

November 23--Larry Allen
November 30--Jean Murphy
December 7--Larry Allen

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: Joanne Kendall, Rollie Pike, Larry Leachman, Dorothy Simmons, Steve Coble, Teresa Luebert, 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.**

Prayer for Christ the King

King Jesus,

Thy Kingdom Come!
May thy Kingdom where mercy and compassion reign, come in haste.
Come, Lord Jesus, Be our Lord and King.

Amen.

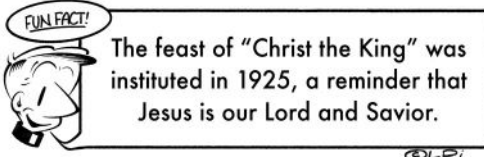
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"What is a dentist's favorite hymn?"



"Crown Him with many crowns!"



Coming Events



Blessed Sacrament Happenings

November 23 -- No Religious Ed

November 30 -- No Religious Ed

November 23 -- Annual Thanksgiving Dinner



November 16--\$4,087.50

Budget--\$1,300.00

MTD Collection--\$7,053.00

MTD Budget--\$3,900.00

YTD Collection--\$40,277.59

YTD Budget--\$27,000.00

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

Not long ago, I was called to a hospital to anoint a woman in her early 80s. She was dying, and visibly in pain. But what struck me most wasn't her suffering — it was the atmosphere in the room. She had eight children and 30 foster kids, and many of them were gathered around her. You'd expect sorrow, fear, maybe even despair. But the room was filled with something else entirely — a quiet strength, a kind of sweetness. It was as if she was suffering not just with them, but for them. And they, in love, were suffering for her. The pain was real. But so was the peace. I didn't want to run. I felt as if I was in a little paradise, beeping machines and all.

I think of that moment when I hear today's Gospel. Jesus, hanging on the cross, doesn't look like a king. But one of the crucified, dying men beside him sees through the suffering and says, **"Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom" (Luke 23:42).** That word — *remember* — literally means to make someone a member again. He's asking to be joined to Christ, to become part of his Body. And Jesus says, **"Today you will be with me in paradise."**

He doesn't say, "I'll take your suffering away." He says, **"You will be with me."**

That's the strange power of Christ the King. He doesn't rule by avoiding suffering. He reigns by entering into it, and transforming it with love.

What are you suffering right now in your life? Likely you want it to stop. But if we are willing to suffer with him — paradise begins even today.

— Father John Muir

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MINISTRY SCHEDULE	
	Lectors
<u>November 23:</u>	Barbara Bisel, Greg Gough
<u>November 30:</u>	Jacques Williams, Misty Sanford
<u>December 7:</u>	Wayne Stephens, Katie Goins
	Eucharistic Ministers
<u>November 23:</u>	Cindy Clark, Misty Sanford, Janet Clark
<u>November 30:</u>	Rita Moorman, Michelle Jones, Holly Hollis
<u>December 7:</u>	Sr. Monica Seaton, Barbara Bisel, Greg Gough
	Collection & Gifts
<u>November 23:</u>	Burnell Hamilton, Steve Coble
<u>November 30:</u>	Dee and Brennah Brasher
<u>December 7:</u>	Wonet Taylor, Barbara Hammond

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Blessed Sacrament’s number is WX 99. You can register at krogercommunityrewards.com.

The King Who Hangs Beside Us

We love to hate the bad thief.

Ancient Christian tradition has called him by the name “Gestas.” In contrast to Dismas, “the good thief” who recognized and repented of his own sins, Gestas goes down bitter and swinging. With his last breaths he taunts Jesus, poking fun at the absurdity of a deity who allows himself to be crucified by mortals. “Are you not the Christ?” he sneers.

But his final words betray an undercurrent of desperation. Of terror. In the end, Gestas just wants Jesus to save him.

It’s taken me a few hundred read-throughs of this Gospel passage to finally understand a painful truth: I am Gestas. I hang from my own cross — we all do, in this life. But I’m lucky enough that my cross is right beside Jesus, because the sacraments bring him as close to me as he was to Gestas — closer, even. How unfathomable is the mercy of God.

And yet, I am not grateful. I don’t rejoice at my proximity to my Lord, to the flesh and blood that have bought my salvation. I don’t do what I should do, and what Dismas does. I don’t say, “Wherever you are King, please, let me be your subject. Wherever you are going, please, take me with you.”

“Are you not the Christ?” I say instead. And what I mean is exactly what Gestas meant: “Get me down. Take this cross away. I don’t want it. I can’t take it.”

What a tragedy it would be, if all Christ had to offer us was an easier life.

None of this looks like anyone thought it would. The long-foretold Messiah, whose majesty and might would eradicate violence and establish peace. The guy who was going to make everything okay again. The King of the Jews. And here he hangs: bleeding and dying and doing what looks like nothing. Staring at Gestas. Staring at me. Staring at you.

What will you say to him?

Readings for the Week


Monday:	Dn 1:1-6, 8-20/Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56/Lk 21:1-4
Tuesday:	Dn 2:31-45/Dn 3:57, 58, 59, 60, 61/Lk 21:5-11
Wednesday:	Dn 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28/Dn 3:62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67/Lk 21:12-19
Thursday:	Dn 6:12-28/Dn 3:68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74/Lk 21:20-28
Friday:	Dn 7:2-14/Dn 3:75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81/Lk 21:29-33
Saturday:	Dn 7:15-27/Dn 3:82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87/Lk 21:34-36

Observances for the week of November 23


Monday:	St. Andrew Dũng-Lạc, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs
Tuesday:	St. Catherine of Alexandria, Virgin and Martyr
Thursday:	Thanksgiving Day

CHRIST THE KING

THIS IS A TEST~ PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING SENTENCE:

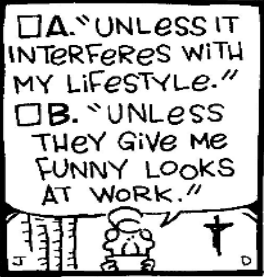


“I WILL OBEY JESUS, NO MATTER WHAT THE COST—”




☐ A. “UNLESS IT INTERFERES WITH MY LIFESTYLE.”

☐ B. “UNLESS THEY GIVE ME FUNNY LOOKS AT WORK.”



☐ C. “UNLESS IT COSTS ME MONEY.”

☐ D. NONE OF THE ABOVE. THE SENTENCE IS ALREADY COMPLETE.



— Tracy Earl Welliver
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How Would You Rule Your Kingdom?

It would be kind of awesome to be a king or queen! Absolute rule, untold wealth, and people answering your every beck and call are things that wouldn’t be half bad. Of course, I would be a benevolent monarch, and I would hope that all my subjects would love me. They could cheer me as I came out of the palace, and I think my popularity ratings in the polls would be through the roof. But if they weren’t, that would be fine, too, because I would rule the kingdom. And that means no throwing me out of office. Talk about job security!

As great as that sounds, the King of kings could have had all that as well, but instead, he chose quite a different path. He gave up absolute rule so all his subjects could have the free will to choose to follow him. He gave up untold wealth so he could be treated like a common criminal and receive a death sentence. He gave up having servants at his disposal so he could be the servant of all his subjects himself. Yes, he was the King of kings, but he was nothing like a typical king. As much as I think it would be great to be a king myself, I would rather emulate this King instead.

Who would you rather be like? You could have it all or choose to give away everything. You could choose a path of luxury or a path of trial. You could be respected by many or find yourself in a culture that increasingly finds you objectionable. Who would you rather be like? Do you arrive at an answer quickly, or do you need some time to think about it? The King of kings awaits your reply.

— Tracy Earl Welliver
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