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# BLESSED SACRAMENT

602 Sycamore Street • Owensboro, KY 42301 • 270-926-4741  
www.blessedsacramentchapel.org or email at office@bscobo.org

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**Sunday Mass: 10:00AM**

**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.*

**St. Stephen Cathedral Parish Office:** 270-683-6525

**Pastor:** Father John Thomas  
jthomas@sscobo.org

**Parochial Vicar:** Father Christopher Grief  
grief@sscobo.org

**Parish Life Coordinator:** Sr. Monica Seaton, OSU  
office@bscobo.org



**Sunday's Readings**

**First Reading:**

Whoever honors his father atones for sins, and preserves himself from them. (Sir 3:3)

**Psalm:**

Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways. (Ps 128)

**Second Reading:**

And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (Col 3:17)

**Gospel:**

He rose, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. (Mt 2:21)



**THE HOLY FAMILY**

"Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." - Mt 2:20

## My Dear Parishioners:

I wonder if when we hear ‘holy family,’ we might have a mistaken notion that everything was perfect and easy in this family we call Holy. We might think that they are nothing like our families. So let’s remember some of what this family faced.

Think of the scandalous circumstances of Mary’s pregnancy, the disturbing pregnancy of her cousin Elizabeth. Think of having to travel to another town, right when the baby is due. Not finding room in Bethlehem; the arrival of smelly shepherds and magicians from the East.... Things certainly don’t feel perfect.

Imagine the fright and terror of having to flee from a mad king that is intent on killing your young son – and who is willing to kill all the first-born male children in the area, just to get him.

Imagine the joy and fun of traveling to the big city of Jerusalem when Jesus was 12 years old. This is his first trip to the Temple. Imagine sharing the sights and sounds, the activity and the energy of the big city. And then while traveling back home; you discover that your son, Jesus is missing. For three days you search, all the while your heart is being ripped apart. Finally when you find him in the Temple you hear Jesus’ strange response: “didn’t you know that I had to be in my father’s house?”

Think also of the times that aren’t recorded in scripture:

- Imagine the joy Mary and Joseph shared when Jesus took his first steps, spoke his first words;
- Imagine all the times they gathered around a table sharing meals, conversations and playing games;
- Imagine Joseph and Jesus fishing together, working in the shop.

Now image when, as an adult, Jesus puts down his carpenter tools and wanders the countryside as an itinerant preacher? Large crowds follow him at first, but then things change. Your son is arrested, condemned as a criminal and then brutally put to death on the cross, as you kneel at the foot of that cross. And then three days later – the mystery of the resurrection.



**December Birthdays**  
29—Linda Wahl

**January Birthdays**  
7—Jacques Williams II  
10--Whitney Williams  
14--Burnell Hamilton  
20--Janet Clark

### Mass Intentions

December 28 - Jean Murphy

December 31 - Dan Halbig

January 4 - Larry Allen

January 11 - Jean Murphy

**Our thoughts and prayers are with the sick: Rita Moorman, Joanne Kendall, Rollie Pike, Larry Leachman, Dorothy Simmons, Steve Coble, 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.****

*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.*

### Thank You Christmas Flower Donations:

**Jean Higgs**-- In memory of Rachel Hersey and Lucille Higgs

**Cynthia Clark**--In memory of Chick, Betty Jo, and Holly Thompson

**Jeff and Misty Sanford**--In memory of Nancy Arlene Brey, Mary T. Smith, and Linda Sanford

**Ruth Coble**--In memory of Loved Ones

**Steve Coble**--In memory of Loved Ones

**Dee Brashear**

**Shelby Webster**-- In memory of Jess Payne Family and George Webster Family

**John and Riley Hess**--In memory of Martha Hughes



## Coming Events



**December 28--** No Religious  
Ed Christmas Break

**December 31** – Solemnity of  
Mary, the Holy Mother of God  
Vigil Mass 6pm

**January 4--**Religious Ed  
Resumes



December 21--Information not  
available at time of publication

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

When I was ten, my dad gathered our family around the table in small-town Vermont and told us we were moving to the big desert city of Phoenix, Arizona. We were leaving behind family, friends, and everything familiar. None of us knew what to expect.

But something beautiful happened. As we made the move together, our family grew closer. In retrospect, I'm amazed at my parents' courage to go on that adventure. Even as a kid I realized our family found, in that challenge, a deeper unity and mutual love.

In today's Gospel, Joseph is told: "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee..." (Matthew 2:13, 20). First to Egypt, then later to Israel. The Holy Family is frequently challenged to move and change, to adapt to God's will for them, in order to find safety in the midst of threat. It's not just an idiosyncratic story about survival. It's a spiritual pattern for all of us. Every Christian family is called to be a kind of sanctuary, especially in a world full of noise, busyness, and fear.

May I make a practical application for us? The Lord's Day, Sunday, is perhaps the most practical way we imitate this dynamic we see in Joseph and his family. Sunday is not meant to be just like every other day, filled with errands and stress. It's meant to be a day set apart; a holy "escape" into rest, worship, joy, and peace. A day to rise, take your family, and flee, into God's presence.

— Father John Muir

## Readings for the Week

**Monday:** 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6/Lk 2:22-35

**Tuesday:** 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Lk 2:36-40

**Wednesday:** 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13/Jn 1:1-18

**Thursday:** Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

**Friday:** 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Jn 1:19-28

**Saturday:** 1 Jn 2:29-3:6/Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6/Jn 1:29-34

## Observances for the Week

### Wednesday:

St. Sylvester I, Pope

### Thursday:

Mary, The Holy Mother of God;  
World Day of Peace

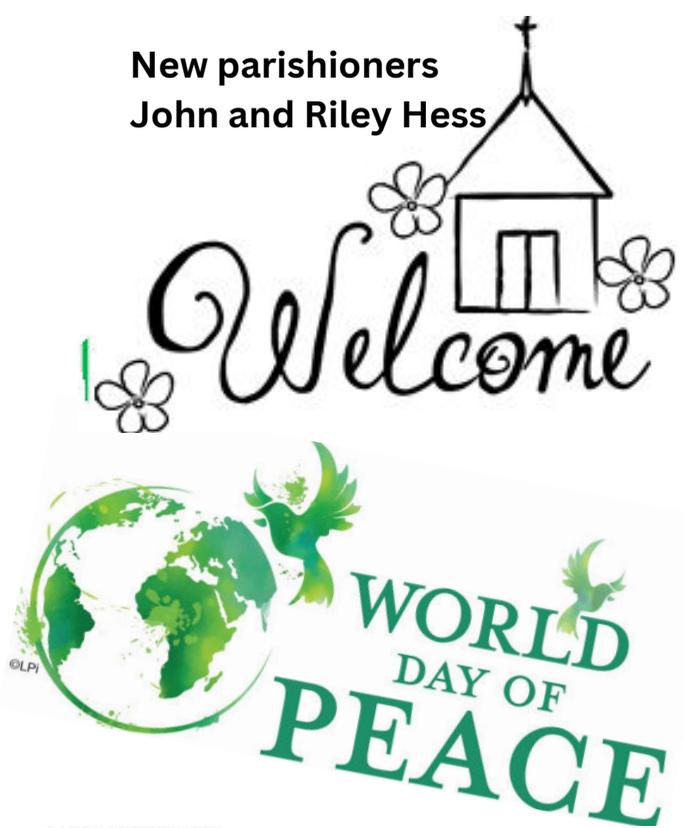
### Friday:

Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church

### Saturday:

The Most Holy Name of Jesus

## New parishioners John and Riley Hess



### HOLY FAMILY



## Other Plans

I don't know exactly what kind of life Mary and Joseph envisioned when they were first betrothed – back in those simple times when they were just like any other couple who had hopes, dreams and no angels telling them what to do.

Whatever their plans were, I think it's safe to say that the future God had in store for Mary and Joseph was not one either of them expected. I would imagine they both anticipated something a little quieter. A little more stable (no pun intended). A little less tumultuous.

It exhausts me simply to read through the chaos of their movements in today's Gospel. Flee to Egypt, return to Israel (but not Judea! Herod's son is there! Divert to Galilee! Divert!). Settle in Nazareth (let me remind you, this is all happening with a baby in tow, and without the aid of a minivan). Take a deep breath, but don't get too comfortable – now it's almost time to lose your kid in Jerusalem. Then you'll have about 20 years off before he starts raising people from the dead, and that's when things start to get really crazy.

The story of the Holy Family is the ultimate example of the phrase "God had other plans." If any four-word sentence encapsulates what we can expect from the Christian life, it is this.

I thought I was meant for that job, but God had other plans. I thought I would live in this place, but God had other plans. I thought I was supposed to become this person, but God had other plans.

We can do all the right things. We can make all the right choices. We can say, over and over again until our voice wears out, "Thy will be done." But all we can know for sure is that God has other plans.

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman ©LPi

## Ministry Schedule

	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Collection & Gifts
<b>December 28</b>	Greg Gough Layson Brooks	Holly Hollis Janet Clark Cindy Clark	Barbara Hammond Wonet Taylorl
<b>December 31</b>	Volunteers	Volunteers	Volunteers
<b>January 4</b>	Wayne Stephens Katie Goins	Sister Monica Seaton Barbara Bisel Greg Gough	Burnell Hamilton Steve Coble

## Pastor's Corner Continued...

This certainly doesn't sound easy or perfect. It isn't how we would write the story; but here's the thing: God came to us telling God's story and it is full of surprises and wonder.

I invite you now to think of another holy family, your family— yes even the crazy in-laws and out-laws and uncles. Think about your family – single parent, adoptive parents, divorced, remarried, separated, poor, struggling . . . Remember your joys and struggles, the successes and disappointments, the ups and downs, the bumps and bruises. Families are strong and fragile. And families take on many different arrangements. Remember the love.

I invite you also to think of holy family of the church. We have our own struggles, our ups and downs, our disappointments and our joys, our own crazies. We certainly are not perfect, but again there is love.

In this season, we celebrate our God, who took on flesh in Jesus. We celebrate family. But maybe we miss seeing our holy family because we are so busy with whatever seems important at the time. Maybe this is the same reason that the people in the first century also missed it. We can get so busy, with 'important things' like work, prayer, and life, that we do not notice our holy family.

But family is where God moves through the world: disguised as our children asking us to play, in the street worn man on the corner whose eyes we try to avoid, in the woman who made our coffee this morning, in our crazy families.

We are all brothers and sisters. We are family, holy, surprising, fragile, imperfect, a bit scandalous and crazy and even maybe a little smelly. But we are family and inside this holy family, we do not judge who's in and who's out. Love understands, love forgives, and love holds us in union in ways that take into account weakness, hurt, complexity, absence and even sin. God keeps us together in family and walks with us.

This is the holy family that we celebrate; an example to all of us . . . calling us to be holy.

Blessings,

Fr. John



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### Families Enrolling NEW Students for OCS 26-27

Families, if you need to add a NEW student for the 26-27 school year, please visit [owensborocatholic.org](http://owensborocatholic.org) and fill out a New Student Inquiry form under the Admissions tab. If you have questions regarding the enrollment process, please contact Jenny Glenn in Central Office at (270) 686-8896 ext. 3. Scan the QR code for instant access to the New Student Inquiry form!



**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](http://ReportBishopAbuse.org) or call 1-800-276-1562