



BLESSED SACRAMENT

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

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:

The spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him: a spirit of wisdom and of understanding, a spirit of counsel and of strength, a spirit of knowledge and of fear of the LORD. (Isa 11:2)

Psalm:

Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever. (Ps 72)

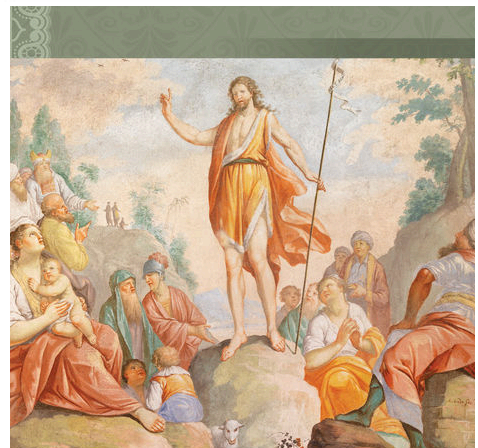
Second Reading:

Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you, for the glory of God. (Romans 15:7)

Gospel:

"I am baptizing you with water, for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is mightier than I." (Mt 3:11)

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2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"John the Baptist appeared, preaching in the desert of Judea and saying, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!' - Mt 3:1

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08/05

My Dear Parishioners:

Three drunken men were walking down the road. The first one noticed the wind, and said, “It’s windy, isn’t it?” The second one replied, “No. It’s Thursday.” The third guy said, “Yes, me too. Let’s get some more beer.”

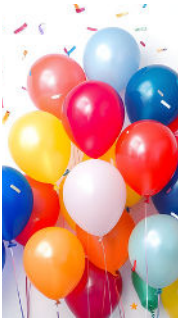
The three men were not able to hear each other properly because they were drunk. Alcohol impairs the senses. When a person is drunk not only with alcohol, but also figuratively drunk with the pleasures and concerns of this world – promiscuity, lust, rivalry, jealousy, ambition – he will surely be deaf to truth and right reason, and definitely, deaf also to God’s voice.

According to medical findings, more and more people nowadays, especially the young, have defective hearing faculties. This generation is turning deaf. With cell phones and iPods stuck to their ears all the time, this is expected. With noise and sound at all times, and with defective ears, who will hear the word of God? With all the excitement and attractions all around, who will be interested to listen to teachings about salvation and eternal life?

Back when portable sound systems were still unknown People would be excited to hear the clanging of a tin can. That means the town crier is going around reading an announcement from the office of the mayor. They would run to the street corner and listen to the announcement, and rush back home to relay the news to others. As expected, the news reaches every nook and cranny of the town. That’s because there was no other competing sound or noisy distraction in the town.

This was similar to the condition during the time of John the Baptist. He was the “voice crying out in the wilderness”. The people flocked to him and listened to his message. This does not happen anymore nowadays. Although the amazing technological inventions have made communications faster and easier, it has also brought in more noise, distractions and confusion among the people. The voice of truth is muffled, and the facts are subjected to manipulations and distortions. Worst of all, the voice of God is drowned and rendered irrelevant and ineffective in the world.

On this second Sunday of Advent, the image of St. John the Baptist is presented to us to remind us of two things. First, we need to heed the call of the Precursor. His call to repentance is serious and urgent, for he knows how infinitely destructive the evil of sin is. Blessed John Henry Newman pointed this out: “The Catholic Church holds it better for the sun and moon to drop from heaven, for the earth to fail, and for all the many millions on it to die of starvation in the extremest agony, as far as temporal affliction goes, than that one soul . . . should commit one single venial sin, should tell one willful untruth, or should steal one poor farthing without excuse.”



December Birthdays

16—Joyce Moorman

Greg Gough

19—Ron Moorman

Barbara Bisel

20 – Gary Wahl

22—Trey Hatchett

Mass Intentions

December 7 - Larry Allen

December 14 - Danny and Cindy
Clark

November 30 - Jean Murphy

Our thoughts and prayers are with the sick: 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, especially Curtiss “JC” Greene.

Remember to pray for the souls in purgatory, especially for those who have no one to pray for them.

Time, Talent and Treasure Pledge Form 2026

You should have received your form in the mail. Please remember to complete the form and return to the office by mail or in the collection basket by December 8, 2025.

Thank you for the many ways you support our Blessed Sacrament Chapel community.



December 7 -- Religious Ed
December 7 -- Immaculate
Conception Holy Day Vigil
Mass 6pm



November 30--\$824.50
Budget--\$1,300.00
MTD Collection--\$9,390.50
MTD Budget--\$6,500.00
YTD Collection--\$42,615.09
YTD Budget--\$29,600.00

*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

This week we hear that John the Baptist is out in the wilderness eating “locusts and wild honey” (Mark 1:6). It’s not just a strange historical detail. It’s a symbolic expression of a healthy spiritual diet. The path to Christ includes both the hard and the beautiful, the gritty and the sweet. We have to learn to gulp the locusts and savor the honey.

I remember working with a young couple preparing for marriage. They were sincere, but raw — barely beginning to discover faith. Part of me wanted to rush them ahead, to fill in all the gaps, to bombard them with scripture and church documents. I swallowed that instinct. It was like eating locusts.

But I also recall them light up as they spoke about each other, about their first child, then their second. And they wanted to be close to God. Something innocent and beautiful was unfolding. That was the honey. I knew God was asking me to savor it.

This Advent, maybe we’re each being invited to accept both locusts and honey. Maybe it’s time to stop avoiding the difficult parts of faith — prayer that feels dry, the call to repentance, the patience with the troublesome. It’s time to eat some locusts.

But we also need to notice the small gifts God gives us: a peaceful moment, a good conversation, the joy of serving someone else, new life, good intentions of our friends. That’s the honey. Savor it! John didn’t avoid either. He took it all in. And so can we. What are your locusts? Your honey? If we let God feed us with both, we’ll be ready — really ready — for the coming of Christ.

Readings for the Week

Monday:

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday:

St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin
Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13/Mt 18:12-14

Wednesday:

Our Lady of Loreto
Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10/Mt 11:28-30

Thursday:

St. Damasus I, Pope
Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab/Mt 11:11-15

Friday:

Our Lady of Guadalupe
Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13:18bcde, 19/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

Saturday:

St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr
Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19/Mt 17:9a, 10-13

St. Lucy |Feast Day December 13

A name that means “light,” St. Lucy (283 – 304) is the patron saint of those blind or suffering with eye trouble. Not much is known about her life, except that she was determined to remain a virgin and thus refused marriage. History tells the story of a frustrated suitor who eventually accused St. Lucy of being a Christian (at crime at the time), and she was executed in Syracuse, Sicily, in the year 304.

Today, we celebrate a number of traditions that incorporate symbolic meaning of St. Lucy as the “bearer” of light in the darkness of winter. This is particularly seen in Scandinavian countries, with their long dark winters. There, a young girl dressed in a white dress and a red sash (as the symbol of martyrdom) carries palms and wears a crown or wreath of candles on her head. In Denmark, Norway and Sweden, girls dressed as Lucy carry rolls and cookies in procession as songs are sung.

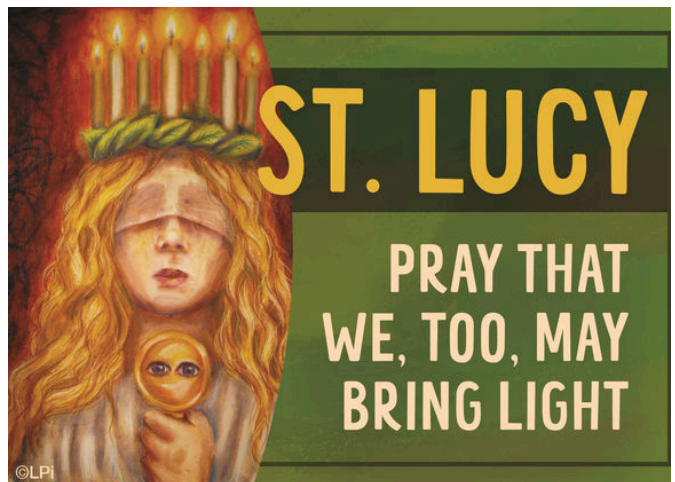
Prayer for Advent – Peace

Come, Lord Jesus!

Bring your peace to our world.
Inspire reconciliation, heal divisions, bind wounds, rewrite scripts.

You are the Prince of Peace,
bring that light into every space.

Amen.



Culturally Catholic

Catholic culture is so thick, you could spread it on a scone. Or a baguette. Or a slice of ciabatta bread. Or naan (Wait, do you put butter on naan? I would, because I'm Midwestern, but I sense that this is, perhaps, incorrect).

Okay, maybe my comparison is imperfect, but what I'm saying is this: Catholic culture is delicious, it's versatile, and it's nourishing. It's the same everywhere, even though it also looks and feels totally unique in every place. The Day of the Dead in Mexico, Simbang Gabi in the Philippines, St. Patrick's Day in Ireland, Meskel in Ethiopia, Semana Santa processions in Spain: these are all touchstones of Catholic culture.

It is so, so beautiful to be culturally Catholic. But today, when I hear John the Baptist's words to the Pharisees and the Sadducees, I am reminded that Catholicism is so much more than just cultural expression.

The Pharisees and Sadducees were loyal sons of Abraham and scrupulous observers of the law of Moses. Their culture, you could say, was strong. But John the Baptist is telling them — and he's telling us — that culture isn't enough.

Actions, rituals, traditions, sentiments, nostalgia — none of it matters unless it bears the fruit of a transformed heart.

It's something to remember especially as we approach Christmas, a time when culture and cultural rituals become so (beautifully) prominent. In the cultural practice of Christmas, we are like the Wise Men approaching the manger, bearing our gifts. But how terrible would it have been if the wise men had hurried away, their culture expressed, their ritual complete, and gone back to the world unchanged by the gaze of the Infant?

So be culturally Catholic. Bring these gifts to the Christ Child — but linger there. Reflect. And then when you return to the world, you will bring Catholic culture with you.

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman ©LPi

Ministry Schedule

	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Collection & Gifts
December 7	Wayne Stephens Katie Goins	Sister Monica Seaton Barbara Bisel Greg Gough	Wonet Taylor Barbara Hammond
December 14	Barbara Bisel Greg Gough	Cindy Clark Misty Sanford Janet Clark	Burnell Hamilton Steve Coble
December 21	Jacques Williams Misty Sanford	Denise and Greg Richardson Michelle Jones	Jamie, Beau, and Luke Bisel

In other words, he is saying that the worst calamities may befall upon the world, but that is only in the temporal order. Sin, even only venial sin, is more destructive than any of these calamities because it pertains to the eternal order, affecting the soul for eternity. The worst calamity ever that is happening now in the world is the loss of the sense of sin among many people. They are not anymore afraid of God. They do not mind if they offend Him. They do not see and feel the need to repent. I am sure most of us here know of some Catholics who publicly live in habitual mortal sin and still regularly receive Holy Communion. Many sins, even the most grievous ones, are tolerated and justified. As a result, the world has now come up with a new set of moral standards. Morality depends not anymore on God's laws and natural laws but on what the majority decides. Pope Francis in his writings is calling us back to the Sacrament of Reconciliation. He said (especially to us priests), "The confessional is not to be a torture chamber, but a place of mercy".

Second, we need to become precursors ourselves. John announced the first coming of Jesus. But He will come again, and this time, no longer as an Infant in a manger, but as the Glorious Judge of both the living and the dead. As Christians, it is our duty to continually remind ourselves and other people about this and to lead them to repentance and conversion – the best ways to prepare for the Lord's Second Coming. We are called to be the new John the Baptist of our time. We must announce the imminent coming of the Lord and point out to the people: "Look, there is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world!"

In a remote parish, an elderly woman went to Sunday Mass. A male usher greeted her at the door and politely asked, "Where would you like to sit?" "The front row please," the woman answered. "Oh, really?" the usher said. "You would not want to be in that place. I tell you, the priest is really boring." The woman looked at him and asked, "Do you happen to know who I am?" "No," he said. "Well, I'm the mother of the priest!" The usher tried to recover from his shock. "By the way, ma'am, do you know who I am?" he asked. "No," she said. "That's good," he answered.

Jesus is asking us: "Do you know who I am?" More and more people do not know that Jesus Christ is the only reason for Christmas. There is no Christmas without Christ. So, the best way to celebrate this season is by having Jesus in our hearts. It is only He who can give us true and lasting peace and joy. At this time we are already contemplating on what gifts to give to our friends and loved ones. Working on a tight budget, this may not be easy. How about giving them the gifts of peace and joy? – Free of charge and infinitely more meaningful and lasting! But this will only happen through reconciliation with God. Hence, bringing a loved one or a friend to Confession during Advent is the best apostolate we can do, so that we all can receive the best gifts for Christmas: peace and joy in the Lord. And in case you were wondering . . . a Communal Reconciliation Service will be at St. Stephen on Sunday, December 21 @ 2PM!

Blessings, Fr. John



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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