



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:

I, the LORD, have called you for the victory of justice, I have grasped you by the hand; I formed you, and set you as a covenant of the people, a light for the nations. (Is 42:6)

Psalm:

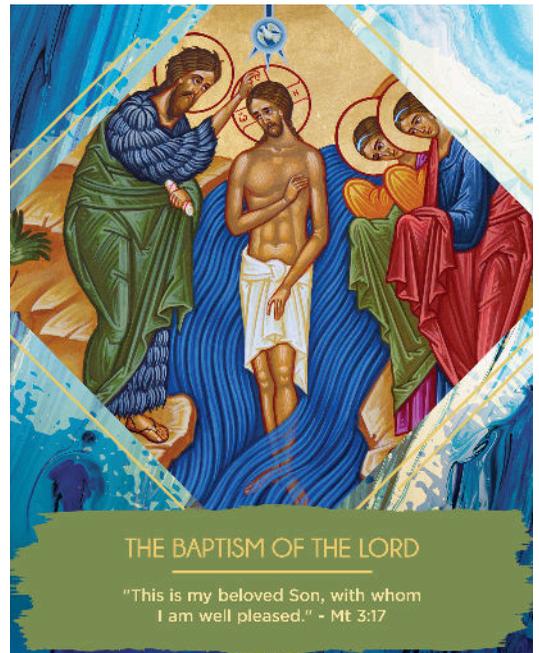
The Lord will bless his people with peace. (Ps 29)

Second Reading:

"In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him." (Acts 10:34-35)

Gospel:

And a voice came from the heavens, saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." (Mt 3:17)



My Dear Parishioners:

An atheist said, "If Christians are the light of the world, somebody has forgotten to turn the switch on."

"Since 1960, there has been a 560% increase in violent crimes, more than a 400% increase in illegitimate births, a quadrupling of divorce rates, tripling of children in single-parent homes." The speaker was William F Buckley, Jr. The world, according to him, does seem to be going to hell in a hand-basket.

But was the world of Jesus really that different when He was baptized by John in the Jordan? Listen to John as he answers that question in Matthew, Mark, and Luke. "Turn away from your sins. You snakes. Don't collect more than is legal. Don't take money from anyone by force or accuse anyone falsely." The world of Jesus' time seems to resemble our own. John the Baptizer could very easily recycle his Jordan sermons to speak to our problems. Listening to him, contemporary preachers might be tempted to whisper, "I could use John's material. He describes our times."

The crucial question is how the Christ responded to the dry rot all about Himself. The answer is to be found in the cleansing waters of the Jordan and in today's feast.

It is important to note that all four Gospel writers refer to the baptism of Jesus. So, in their minds, the baptism is e-mailing an important message. It is our job to discover what that message is. The baptism was important to Him. He uses this dramatic event to commence His public life and work. If one could say Jesus had an inauguration, this was it.

The silent Jesus waded out to the spot where John stood in the Jordan river. He asked for baptism. John went into immediate shock. He intuitively knew that this baptism was not designed for the Man from Nazareth. He waved Him off. He had no desire to hold a fully grown tiger by the tail. Yet, Jesus insisted and gave him no choice. John knew who it was standing in the cold rushing water before him. The reluctant John baptized Him, but he must have sensed the Savior had a method in His apparent madness.

Artists from day one have wrestled with the Master's baptism. You will find drawings in the catacombs, in early sculptures, in books on liturgy, in mosaics, and in stained glass. Curiously though, the artists have invariably treated the subject in a minimalist style. One finds neither embroidery nor embellishment. What you see is what you get.

Even the untutored eye will find this minimalism in the stained glass window at the Chartres cathedral outside Paris. It is the case even more so in a famous medieval psalter by the Dane, Ingeborg. His work portrays Christian subjects in rich and opulent colors with one exception. Yes, Jesus' baptism! But why?



January Birthdays

14--Burnell Hamilton

20--Janet Clark,
Jean Seaton

26--Phaedra Fuchs

30--Pam Wilson

Mass Intentions

January 11 - Jean Murphy

January 18 - Dan Halbig

January 25 - Larry Allen

Address if you would like to send a card to parishioner Rita Moorman:

Rita Moorman
10471 Stablehand Drive
Cincinnati, OH 45242

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, 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.

Building a Family of Faith

The Diocese of Owensboro is offering a workshop for all parents called “Building a Family of Faith” in three separate locations this winter in English and Spanish. We would highly encourage all our parents to consider taking part in one of these experiences. In a world where there are so many challenges facing our families, these workshops intend to offer practical strategies for building faith at home. Please check out <https://owensborodiocese.org/building-a-family-of-faith/> for more details and to register.

Coming Events



January 11--Religious Ed

January 11--Change of Environment following Mass

January 18--No Religious Ed, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

January 25--Religious Ed

February 25--Anointing of the Sick at 10:00 am Mass



January 4--\$1,839.50

Budget--\$1,300.00

MTD Collection--\$1,839.50

MTD Budget--\$1,300.00

YTD Collection--\$58,406.59

YTD Budget--\$36,100.00

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

Apple ran a commercial not long ago called “Behind the Mac – Greatness.” It shows artists and creators, such as Kendrick Lamar, Billie Eilish, and Lady Gaga, working behind their MacBooks. The narration says, “There’s a certain kind of person who doesn’t wait for greatness. They make it.” It’s a compelling message. There’s beauty in using our gifts with passion and purpose. But there lies a hidden weight in that idea: If you are what you make, what happens when you can’t anymore? When the project fails, the passion fades, or the spotlight moves on, where is greatness then?

Today’s Gospel offers a differing vision of greatness. Jesus steps into the Jordan River. He hasn’t preached, healed, or performed a single miracle. Then the heavens open, and the Father speaks: “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.” It’s not a reward for success. It’s not earned. Before he does anything “great,” Jesus receives the greatness of his identity from the Father.

And so do you. At your baptism, God said the same thing over you: “You are my beloved.” That is your true identity, not constructed or earned but received. When we see ourselves and others this way, everything changes for the better. We discover a greatness that can never be taken away.

This week, reflect on your baptism: look up the date, thank God for it, pray for those baptized with you, or visit the church where it happened. Let your identity be rooted there.

— Father John Muir
©LPi

Readings for the Week

Monday:

1Sm 1:1-8/Ps 116:12-13, 14-17, 18-19/Mk 1:14-20

Tuesday:

1 Sm 1:9-20/1 Sam 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Mk 1:21-28

Wednesday:

1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20/Ps 40:2 and 5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Mk 1:29-39

Thursday:

1 Sm 4:1-11/Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25/Mk 1:40-45

Friday:

1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a/Ps 89:16-17, 18-19/Mk 2:1-12

Saturday:

1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a/Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mk 2:13-17

Observances for the Week

Tuesday:

St. Hilary, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

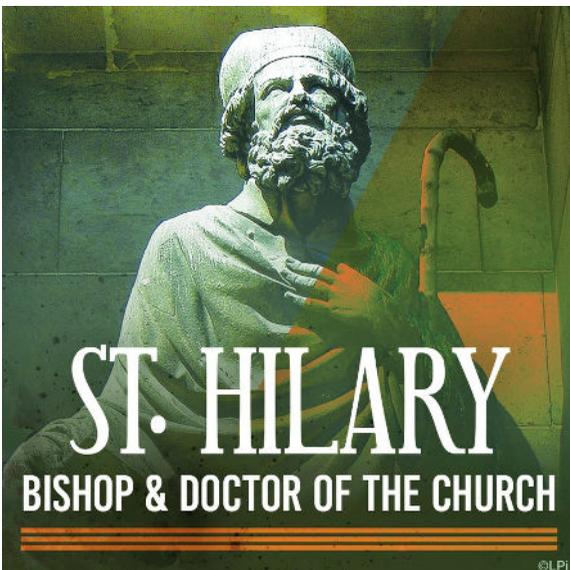
Saturday:

St. Anthony, Abbot

St. Hilary of Poitiers

Born a pagan, St. Hilary (c. 315 – c. 367) studied philosophy and the meaning of life, eventually making his way through the bible. He became a convert and was appointed bishop of Poitiers in 353. Sometimes referred to as the Hammer of the Arians, St. Hilary defended the Nicene Creed against a popular heresy, Arianism. He was exiled to Phrygia for opposing Roman emperor Constantius II, who preferred the heresy which denies Christ's divinity. From Phrygia St. Hilary fought with his pen, zealously writing against the heresy.

Eventually he was allowed to return to Poitiers, but did so by a circuitous route, preaching against Arianism all the way. St. Hilary was likely the first writer of hymns in the West, his writings on the Trinity, Psalms and Gospel of Matthew survive today. St. Hilary was created Doctor of the Church, a title given to those who provided important contributions to theology and doctrine, in 1851 by Pope Pius IX.



When Jesus Wades In

Usually, when God comes to us, we aren't ready.

We think we are. Like John the Baptist, we stand in our waters of baptism, certain of our mission. We know how it's going to go. We know what's going to be asked of us. We're sure of it.

Christ wades into the waters. And he screws up all our plans.

To be clear, I don't think John the Baptist lacks faith when he balks at the idea of baptizing Jesus. I think it is, in fact, a testament to his humility. But whatever motivated John's actions, he is — if even for a brief moment — hesitating to do the will of God. Just a few chapters after this in the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus will acknowledge that John is the greatest person “born of women” — with the caveat that even he is not perfect enough for the Kingdom of Heaven.

Not yet.

Jesus didn't give John an explanation as the two stood in the River Jordan. He merely said, “Allow it for now.” John could have resisted further, demanding to understand why. He could have grown suspicious at the simplicity of Jesus' answer, at the strangeness of this request. He could have clung desperately to his version of How Things Are Supposed To Be, and in doing so, fostered doubt in his heart. He could have even stormed off, confused and angry.

He did none of these things, because John is, as Jesus says, the greatest born of women.

When the Holy Spirit descends and the voice of God declares, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased,” he is referring, of course, to Jesus. But I think He would say the same of John the Baptist — and of all those who welcome Jesus into the waters, ready to do as he bids.

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman ©LPi

Ministry Schedule

	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Collection & Gifts
January 11	Jacques Williams Layson Brooks	Denise & Greg Richardson Michelle Jones	Dee and Brennah Brasher
January 18	Barbara Bisel Greg Gough	Holly Hollis Janet Clark Cindy Clark	Jamie, Beau, Luke Bisel
January 25	Wayne Stephens Katie Goins	Sr. Monica Seaton Greg Gough Misty Sanford	Bernadette Thames

Pastor's Corner Continued...

Jesus is telling us that we must first direct our attention to our own personal lives with little ceremony and less pomp. We must cleanse ourselves with rough brown laundry soap in clean waters as He did. Then and only then can we properly address ourselves to the many human problems referred to by Mr Buckley. Every reformation must first begin in one's own home and with oneself. It must be done as simply and quickly as possible.

It was St Paul who told us that "He was like unto us in all things except sin." And yet that sinless Christ took it upon Himself to enter the waters and wash Himself before He set out to reform anyone else. Can anyone of us do less?

The Teacher is a doer, not a talker. He wants action, not pious platitudes or vague resolutions. The Associated Press breathlessly reported that a British astronomer speculated that the Christmas star was the "coming together of Jupiter and Saturn in the constellation of Pisces in 7 BC." Perhaps and of course perhaps not.

Yet might we not all agree that one can still see traces of that Christmas star in the night sky? But this time it is illuminating not the creche but the confessional in your church.

Why not step in there and first purge yourself of your sins? Then, like the renewed Christ, tackle the problems in your families, community, and the world.

St. Peter of Alcantara puts the case this way. "Truly matters are in a bad state. But if you and I begin to reform ourselves, a really good beginning will have been made."

Remember the monk's dictum. To show His love, Jesus died for us. To show our love, we must live for Him.

Blessings,

Fr. John



Pipe, Valves, Fittings, Pneumatics, Actuation, & Steam



Supply Company Inc.
"Since 1978"

270-685-4919
800-787-6803 (Fax) 270-685-2559
PO Box 1796, 1611 West 7th St., Owensboro, KY 42302

Greg Gough
(Cell) 270-993-7120
greg@pvfsupplyco.com



- Carpet Cleaning
- Upholstery Cleaning
- Ceramic/Grout Cleaning
- Auto Interiors
- Area Rugs Cleaned

715 Cumberland St.
Owensboro, KY 42303
Phone: 270-684-0969 (Owensboro)
Phone: 270-827-1130 (Henderson)
Emergency: 270-315-2294

Jacques Williams
Manager



G&K
LAWNCARE

Mowing, Mulch/Rock, Spring/Fall Cleanup
- Free Estimates -
Call/Text
Ethan Gough
270-993-7122

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 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 or call 1-800-276-1562