



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 will make you a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth. (Is 49:6)

Psalm:

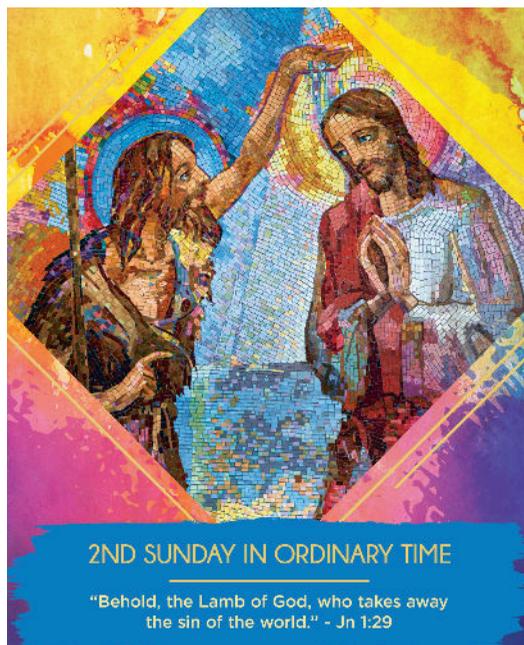
Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will. (Ps 40)

Second Reading:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Cor 1:3)

Gospel:

John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world." (Jn 1:29)



2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world." - Jn 1:29

My Dear Parishioners:

This Sunday I write about a very basic issue: the value of human life. How we value human life determines how we treat ourselves and others: the poor, the immigrant, the handicapped, the unborn, the infirm and the dying - not to mention the person who makes my life difficult or who I just cannot forgive. The question is fundamental: Where does the value of human life come from? Why does human life have worth at all? Today's Gospel gives us the answer. To put it in a nutshell: Human life has value for the same reason that gold has value.

To illustrate what I mean by the value of gold, I offer a story. In his book on the Holocaust, Martin Gilbert tells about a concentration camp prisoner. Before his arrest, the man was a successful jeweler in Holland. The Nazis robbed him of his possessions, but he managed to smuggle a small amount of gold into prison. He hoped to survive the encampment and use the gold to begin his life over again. But, with the lack of food, he grew thinner and hungrier. In desperation he took the gold and showed it to a guard. He asked the guard what he would give for it. The next day the guard returned, reached into his pocket and pulled out two potatoes. They were small, shriveled and had begun to rot. The prisoner looked at them. He hesitated for a moment, then handed the gold to guard and quickly ate the uncooked potatoes.

Martin Gilbert comments that the exchange represented a precise scale of worth. In that concentration camp, a few scraps of food were more valuable than gold. Right now that same gold would be worth a couple thousand dollars. With it you could buy one of those new cars from India. What we see here is that gold has value because of the price someone is willing to pay for it.

Something similar applies to the value of human life. This Sunday we hear the price someone is willing to pay for a human life - for yours and for mine. When John the Baptist saw Jesus coming, he said, "Behold, the Lamb of God."

In the Old Testament, each year, they used to select a lamb - that is, a young male sheep. He was a year old, the time when his meat and wool fetched their highest price. Each family, who could afford it, would offer a young sheep for the sacrifice. The priest placed the lamb on the altar and opened its throat so blood would flow out. The blood of the lamb brought forgiveness - it restored people to God.

When St. John saw Jesus, he said: "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world." Like a young sheep placed on an altar, Jesus would give his blood - his life - for us. That is the greatest price, because Jesus is perfect man and true God.

If you were to ask where our value comes from, you would have to say: It is not because we are so intelligent. Nor because we are so charming, or so good, or so beautiful or so strong. We may have some of those qualities, but they do not last for very long. Ultimately our worth does not come from our brilliance or virtue or beauty or strength.* We are valuable because someone is willing to pay a great price for us.



January Birthdays

20--Janet Clark,
Jean Seaton
26--Phaedra Fuchs
30--Pam Wilson

Mass Intentions

January 18 - Dan Halbig
January 25 - Larry Allen
January 11 - Jean Murphy

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: Renee Perkins, 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 18--No Religious Ed,
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

January 25--Religious Ed

February 15--Anointing of the Sick
at 10:00 am Mass

February 18--Ash Wednesday Mass
6pm

March 7--Italian Dinner



January 11--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

It's common to hear belief in Jesus and the Church mocked as blind faith and credulity. But in reality, it is deeply human and rational. Think about it: we rely on the testimony of others constantly. I trust chemists who certify the safety of toothpaste and cleaning products. I trust engineers when I use a microwave or drive over a bridge. Why? Because they have studied and seen what I have not, and their testimony proves itself in daily life. That kind of trust is not irrational; it is how human knowledge works.

In today's Gospel, John the Baptist declares: "Now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God" (John 1:34). That is the language of an eyewitness. It invites us into a very human act: trusting someone who has directly encountered something — or Someone — we have not yet fully seen ourselves.

The Church's faith is built on this kind of reliable sight-based testimony. The Apostles did not make abstract claims. They saw, followed, suffered for, and proclaimed Jesus Christ. Over centuries, their witness — carried in Scripture, in the lives of the saints, and in the sacramental life of the Church — has proven dependable. We come to know its truth by assenting to it, by living and studying it, praying with it, trusting it.

Faith in Christ is not a childish leap into the dark. It is a step into the light of testimony that proves itself over time.

— Father John Muir
©LPi

Readings for the Week

Monday:

1 Sm 15:16-23/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23/Mk 2:18-22

Tuesday:

1 Sm 16:1-13/Ps 89:20, 21-22, 27-28/Mk 2:23-28

Wednesday:

1 Sm 17:32-33, 37, 40-51/Ps 144:1b, 2, 9-10/Mk 3:1-6

Thursday:

1 Sm 18:6-9; 19:1-7/Ps 56:2-3, 9-10a, 10b-11, 12-13/Mk 3:7-12

Friday:

1 Sm 24:3-21/Ps 57:2, 3-4, 6 and 11/Mk 3:13-19

Saturday:

2 Sm 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27/Ps 80:2-3, 5-7/Mk 3:20-21

Observances for the Week

Monday: Martin Luther King Day

Tuesday: St. Fabian, Pope and Martyr; St. Sebastian, Martyr

Wednesday: St. Agnes, Virgin and Martyr

Thursday: Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children

Friday: St. Vincent, Deacon and Martyr; St. Marianne Cope, Virgin

Saturday: St. Francis de Sales, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

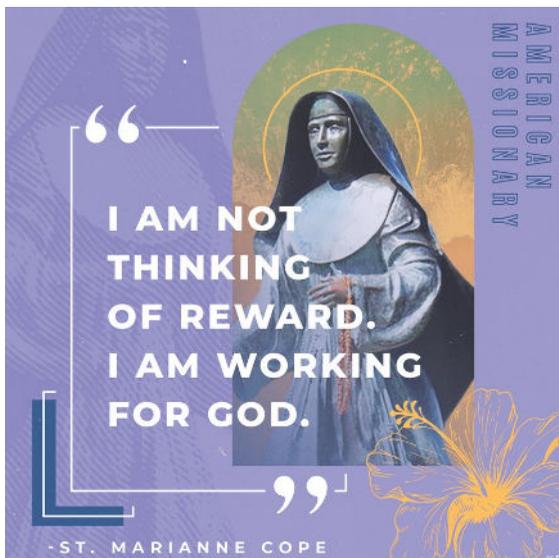
St. Marianne Cope

Barbara Koop, later Mother Marianne Cope, was born in Germany on January 23, 1838, and immigrated with her parents to New York when she was 2 years old. In August of 1862 she went to the sisters of the Third Order of Saint Francis in Syracuse, New York and took her vows the next year. Her early religious life saw her working as a teacher and administrator for local Catholic schools until she was called upon by the bishop to use her administrative skills as superior of St. Joseph's Hospital in Syracuse, New York. She devoted herself to the care of the sick and infirm and the hospital flourished under her leadership. As the Provincial Mother of her order in Syracuse, Cope, along with six other sisters, she answered a call made by the Hawaiian government to run the Kaka'ako Branch Hospital on Oahu that served as a receiving station for people suspected of having leprosy.

Of the more than 50 religious communities in the United States and Canada who were asked by the government to help the suffering communities and hospitals for those with leprosy (Hansen's disease) in Hawaii, Mother Marianne and her sisters were the only ones to answer the call. They immediately got to work transforming the hospital environment for those with leprosy and their families. Of this mission, she said —

“I am hungry for the work and I wish with all my heart to be one of the chosen ones, whose privilege it will be to sacrifice themselves for the salvation of the souls of the poor Islanders.... I am not afraid of any disease, hence, it would be my greatest delight even to minister to the abandoned ‘lepers’.”

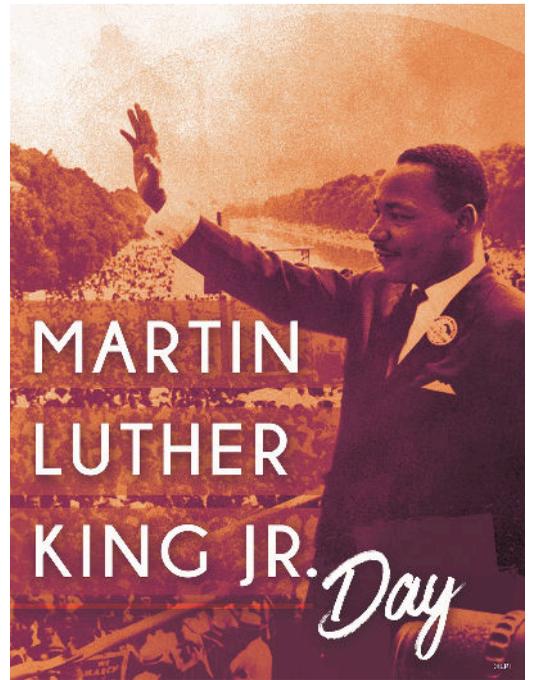
In 1888, Mother Marianne and two sisters took on an even more challenging assignment and went to the Hawaiian island of Moloka'i, a leper colony, to open a new home devoted to the protection of girls and women with leprosy as well as to take charge of the home that her friend, Saint Damien de Veuster, had established for men and boys. She helped improve life on the island by introducing pride, cleanliness, and a little fun to the colony. She often provided bright scarves and dresses for the women she served and cheerfully carried out her mission until she died on August 9, 1918. While in service, she was awarded the Royal Order of Kapiolani by the Hawaiian government for her selfless love and care of those in need and never contracted leprosy. She was canonized in 2012.



“Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that.”

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

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Ministry Schedule

	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Collection & Gifts
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
February 1	Misty Sanford Layson Brooks	Denise & Greg Richardson Barbara Bisel	Burnell Hamilton Steve Coble

Pastor's Corner Continued...

It is important for us to say that today. We live in a society confused about the value of human life. I remember, Washington state had a former governor who considered his life so worthless that he wished to end it. But he didn't want to do it by jumping off a bridge or taking an overdose. He wanted to implicate the rest of us and the medical profession in his suicide - and, then, call it "death with dignity." As Christians we cannot do that. We know that his life has incalculable value. Someone is willing to pay an enormous price for it. The Lamb of God has paid the price.

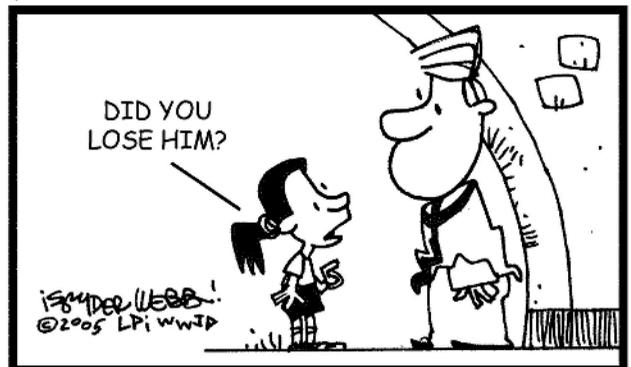
We of course want to do what we can to ease the other person's discomfort. But we do not believe that suffering in itself is absurd. We can join our suffering to the Lamb of God. Pope Benedict wrote in his encyclical *Spe Salvi* - in hope we are saved - about the importance of offering our daily trials in union with Christ. What a person endures - for the sake of Christ - can have great value. This applies particularly to the suffering involved in one's final illness. This message is hard to proclaim - and even harder to live: That each human life has incalculable worth - even in the face of great suffering. As Christians we know we have been purchased at a high price.

This basic message ties in with an observance which commences this weekend: The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Once someone asked C.S. Lewis if he thought it was a good time to pray for Christian unity. He responded that it is always a good time to pray for Christian unity. Still, in light of the assault on basic values - including human life itself - now more than ever we need to pray for a united Christian witness. For sure, there are natural reasons for valuing human life - but ultimately human life has value for the same reason that gold has value - yet even more so. This Sunday, St. John the Baptist tells us the price - and who is willing to pay it: Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. He sees the value in each one of us.

Blessings,

Fr. John

2nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME





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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 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