



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
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Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; (Is 9:1)

Psalm:

The Lord is my light and my salvation. (Ps 27)

Second Reading:

I urge you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree in what you say, and that you be united in the same mind and in the same purpose. (1 Cor 1:10)

Gospel:

He left Nazareth and went to live in Capernaum by the sea, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali, that what had been said through Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled. (Mt 4:13-14)



3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



"Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." - Mt 4:19

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

26--Phaedra Fuchs
30--Pam Wilson

February Birthdays

1—Natalie Clark
2—Nancy Bumm
3—Jacques Williams
5—John Hess
6—Philip Moorman

Mass Intentions

January 25 - Larry Allen

February 1 - Jean Murphy

February 8 - Dan Halbig

February 7 - Joy, Laughter, Holiness Women's Retreat

Joy, Laughter, and Holiness Women's Retreat will return to Union County Kentucky on February 7, 2026, St. Ann Parish Hall, 304 S. Church St., Morganfield, KY. Doors open at 8:00am with programming from 9:00 am – 2:30 pm. All are welcome to attend. Stay tuned for the key-note speaker announcement and visit <https://owensborodiocese.org/womensretreat/> to register – preregistration is highly encouraged since the retreat sold out in 2025!

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.

February 21 - Catholic Men's Conference of Western Kentucky 2026

The Catholic Men's Conference returns February 21st, 2026 at the Riverpark Center in Owensboro with the theme "Fatherhood & Heroic Discipleship". There will be four dynamic speakers, including key-note speaker Bob Allen Kroll, Dr. Jason Winkle, Dr. Jeff Andrini, and Fr. Larry McBride. To learn more about the speakers, theme, and register to attend visit <https://kycatholic.com/>

Coming Events



January 25--Religious Ed

February 1--Religious Ed

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

February 18--Ash Wednesday Mass
6pm

March 7--Italian Dinner



January 18--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

I was 22 years old, lying in bed one night while on a pilgrimage, when I suddenly sensed an idea in my mind: "Go to the seminary." There was no voice, no vision, but a gentle and unmistakable clarity. I simply prayed, "Lord, if that's from you, let me find great joy in it." Three days later, my heart was bursting with joy. I dropped everything and entered the seminary. The older I get, the stranger my rather careless and hasty departure seems to me. I followed not because it made sense, or because I was especially brave. I went because the Lord called me.

Something like this happens in today's Gospel. Jesus walks by Simon, Andrew, James, and John and says, "Come after me" (Matthew 4:19). And immediately they leave their nets and follow. There's no explanation, no hesitation ... just movement. Why? As St. John says, "In this is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us" (1 John 4:10). They do not leave their nets because his call made perfect, calculable sense. They left them because they were called. And Jesus' call is powerful.

Take a moment this week to remember when Christ first called you. However small or quiet it was, recall it, and give thanks. The more we marvel that Christ has called us personally, the more passionately and freely we will follow him

— Father John Muir

©LPi

Readings for the Week

Monday:

2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 7-8a, 10, 21-22, 25-26/Mk 3:22-30

Tuesday:

2 Sm 6:12b-15, 17-19/Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10/Mk 3:31-35

Wednesday:

2 Sm 7:4-17/Ps 89:4-5, 27-28, 29-30/Mk 4:1-20

Thursday:

2 Sm 7:18-19, 24-29/Ps 132:1-2, 3-5, 11, 12, 13-14/Mk 4:21-25

Friday:

2 Sm 11:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6a, 6bcd-7, 10-11/Mk 4:26-34

Saturday:

2 Sm 12:1-7a, 10-17/Ps 51:12-13, 14-15, 16-17/Mk 4:35-41

Observances for the Week

Monday: Sts. Timothy and Titus, Bishops

Tuesday: St. Angela Merici, Virgin, Founder of Ursuline Sisters

Wednesday: St. Thomas Aquinas, Priest and Doctor of the Church

Saturday: St. John Bosco, Priest

St. Thomas Aquinas | January 28

One of the most famous members of the Dominican Order, St. Thomas Aquinas (1225 – 1274) is well-known by many for his theological work, “The Summa Theologiae.” Born in Italy, his mother wanted him to become a Benedictine and had high hopes that he would eventually become abbot of Monte Cassino, where he spent much of his youth. To change his vocation, she had him kidnapped by his brothers on his way to Paris at the age of 19. He spent two years in their captivity. Despite this, nothing could shake him from his vocation to become a Dominican priest and he was eventually released. Once free, he went to Paris and then to Cologne, where he finished his studies with Albert the Great.

His greatest contribution to the Catholic Church is his writings. The unity, harmony, and continuity of faith and reason, of revealed and natural human knowledge, encompasses his writings. The Summa Theologiae, his last and, unfortunately, uncompleted work, deals with the whole of Catholic theology.

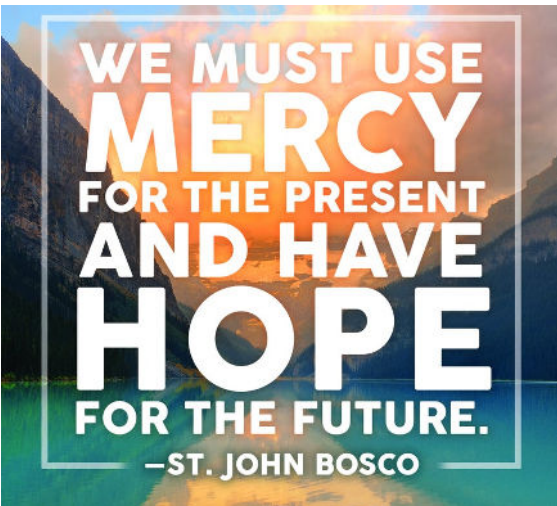
The patron saint of teachers, theologians and students, St. Thomas Aquinas died in 1274. His life and the impact he had on the whole Church, however, remains alive today.

Blessing of Light

Where you have known darkness, may the light stretch and shine.

Where you have dwelt in shadows, may the sun reach its gentle rays.

Where you have hidden in shame, may you know light-filled redemption, healing, belonging, and rest in Jesus. Amen.



WE MUST USE
MERCY
FOR THE PRESENT
AND HAVE
HOPE
FOR THE FUTURE.
—ST. JOHN BOSCO

Sea of Galilee Moments

Young or old, believer or non-believer, rich or poor, healthy or sick: it doesn't matter who we are. It doesn't matter what our life looks like. If we are a human being, if we have a soul, we stand on the shore of a great and powerful sea, a net in our hands and a hunger in our soul.

So what's in the sea? I don't know about yours, but mine is filled with feelings of inadequacy. It's filled with fear and resentment and confusion. It's filled with misplaced pride. It's deep. It's dark. It's well-stocked.

I cast my net, over and over again. What else is there to do? If I draw back a harvest, it can sustain me for days, weeks, maybe even years. The nourishment of the sea can keep away the hunger pangs — for a time. You can survive on fear and resentment and pride if it's all you have. You'll never feel full, and you'll never be strong, but you'll survive on what the world can offer you — so long as you keep coming back to the shore.

This is where Jesus finds us.

If I close my eyes, I can picture the moments exactly, all of them: my Sea of Galilee moments. I could describe them to you — the day, the year, what was happening in my life, what I wanted and what I needed and what gnawing hunger had brought me, once again, limping, crawling back to the shore.

But you wouldn't understand my Sea of Galilee moments, just like I wouldn't understand yours. There is only one who understands, and his is the voice we heard, clear and strong: "Put down the net, and come with me."

- Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Ministry Schedule

	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Collection & Gifts
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
February 8	Jacques Williams Barbara Bisel	Michelle Jones Holly Hollis Janet Clark	Dee and Brennah Brasher

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

3rd 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