



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:

Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you. (Is 60:1)

Psalm:

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you. (Ps 72)

Second Reading:

It was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body. (Eph 3:5-6)

Gospel:

"Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." (Mt 2:2)



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. - Mt 2:10-11a

My Dear Parishioners:

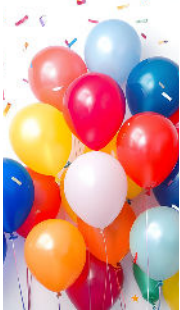
In Matthew 2: 9-11, the ageless story describes a Star in the East guiding three wisemen, or magi, to the place of the divine birth of Christ. Legends of the Celtic peoples tell that their druids and seers, through study of astrology and signs seen in the sacred fires, also foretold this divine birth.

According to medieval legends, the three wisemen were named Melchior, Balthazar and Gaspar. Each of them came from a different culture: Melchior was Asian, Balthazar was Persian and Gaspar was Ethiopian, thus representing the three races known to the old world. For me, this is such an important point on which to reflect. Because these wisemen represented the only known races in all the world, this means Christ, even in his infancy, calls ALL PEOPLE to himself.

These three priest-kings and wisemen brought royal gifts to the divine infant: gold, frankincense and myrrh. Melchior brought a golden cup. Balthazar brought a gold box of frankincense. Gaspar brought a curiously chased flask of myrrh, a royal embalming oil.

The gift of gold symbolizes the kingship of Christ, which represents our own true royal Selfhood and our giving of love and service as directed and commanded by that Self. The gift of frankincense symbolizes the Godhead of Christ and our own gifts of honor and reverence to our indwelling Divinity. The gift of myrrh is a prophecy of the death and burial of the earthly body of Christ, which represents our understanding and empathy for the suffering of humanity.

The word Epiphany comes from the Greek meaning “to appear,” “to be shown forth,” or “to make known.” According to Roman Catholic tradition, Epiphany signifies the first appearance of Christ to the gentiles in the story of the visit of the three wisemen to the divine infant Jesus. As the three wisemen represent all the known peoples of the world, this signifies an appearance to the entire world, not just a few.



January Birthdays

7--Jacques Williams II
10--Whitney Williams
14--Burnell Hamilton
20--Janet Clark,
Jean Seaton
26--Phaedra Fuchs
30--Pam Wilson

Mass Intentions

January 4 - Larry Allen

January 11 - Jean Murphy

January 18 - Dan Halbig

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



January 4--Religious Ed
Resumes

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



December 28--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 22, I went on a pilgrimage to Rome for the Jubilee Year of 2000. I was traveling light with just a backpack, one blue shirt and black pants, little money, and no Italian. I had a few close friends and one goal: to reach the Eternal City. Despite the challenges and deprivations, I felt alive in a way I had never known before.

When do you feel most alive? I'd wager it's not when you're most comfortable or surrounded by stuff. Rather, it's when your life is aimed at something great; when you're on a meaningful and challenging journey with good friends.

That's the image the Magi give us in today's Gospel. They set out from the East not with certainty, but with hope. They study the signs, discipline their attention, and journey together, offering the best they have when they find the newborn King.

The Church gives us their story at the start of the year to reawaken something in us. We are not meant to drift. We're meant to journey as pilgrims. The Jubilee Year of 2025 may have ended, but our pilgrimage has not. Like the magi, the closer we get to Christ, the more alive we become.

— Father John Muir

Readings for the Week

Monday: 1 Jn 3:22-4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8/Mk 6:34-44

Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13/Mk 6:45-52

Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19-5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17/Lk 4:14-22a

Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/Lk 5:12-16

Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b/Jn 3:22-30

Observances for the Week

Monday:

St. John Neumann, Bishop

Tuesday:

St. André Bessette, Religious

Wednesday:

St. Raymond of Penyafort, Priest

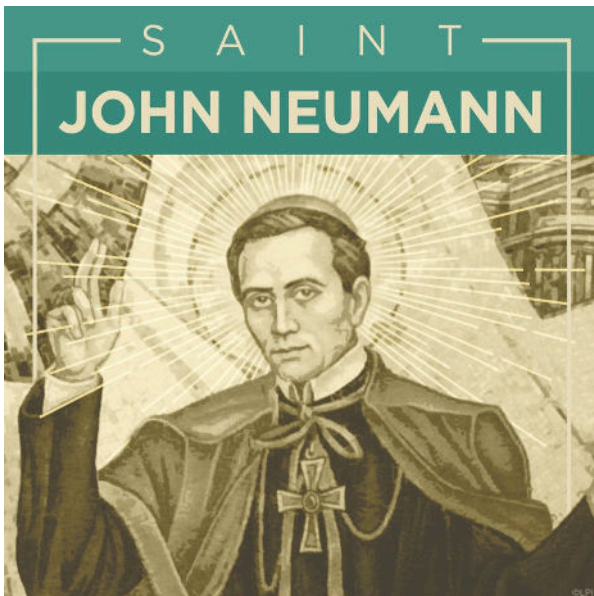
St. John Neumann

The patron saint of educators, immigrants, and, due to the miracles that secured his canonization, sick children. This is a fitting patronage as he was a lover of education and learning from a very young age. In fact, when he was a child, his mother called him “my little bibliomaniac” due to his preoccupation with reading. Born in 1811 Bohemia, in what is now the Czech Republic, he attended the university in Prague preparing for ordination. However, his local bishops were not ordaining new priests at the time because Bohemia was overstocked with priests. He inquired about ordination all over Europe but received the same answer everywhere. Not one to be deterred, John then applied to several United States dioceses. Receiving no immediate responses, the saint took a leap of faith and decided to just immigrate to the United States in 1836, during his 25th year, with only \$40 in his pocket. This risk paid off when he was ordained in New York a month later.

Early in his priesthood he worked primarily as a missionary to German immigrants in Buffalo. His missionary work also created an opportunity for him to spend time in Maryland, Virginia, Michigan, and Ohio. When he was 29, he joined the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer (Redemptorists), a congregation of priests and brothers dedicated to helping the poor and most abandoned. He was their first member to profess vows in the United States.

In 1852, at the age of 41, Neumann became the fourth Bishop of Philadelphia. During this time, he organized the individual parochial schools in his region into a diocesan system. This change allowed Catholic schools to quickly increase the number of pupils enrolled by almost twentyfold. Over the course of his ministry, St. John expanded the number of Catholic schools in his diocese from 2 to 100! His passion for education extended to immigrants, like himself, and his love for learning languages made it possible for him to hear confessions in English, Spanish, French, Italian, Dutch, and Gaelic!

A man of the people, he could often be found outside the church walls visiting people who were sick, staying in taverns and public houses to teach, and celebrating Mass in people’s homes at their kitchen tables. He was canonized on June 19, 1977, following three miracles, two of which regarded the healing of youth from grave illnesses. St. John Neumann was the first American man to be canonized a saint.



The Stars We Follow

Everyone follows a star.

It is human nature to seek. If we are rich, we want to be richer. If we are smart, we want to be smarter. If we are powerful, we want to be more powerful.

We cannot stay in one place, so to speak – to say, “I am what I am, I have what I have, and it is enough.” Even the very act of maintaining a status quo, be it health or wealth or spiritual goodness, requires action. It requires effort. It requires movement. This is human nature. There is nothing wrong with it. When we stop seeking, we die.

But what are we looking for? Where are we going?

I often wonder if the Magi knew what they were seeking – really, truly knew. They were seeking “the newborn king of the Jews,” yes, but did they understand who he was? What he was? I don’t see how they could have. They were wise men, but they were not prophets. They simply knew this was an endeavor they had to undertake. They knew it in their souls.

There really is very little that we know for certain about the Magi. We don’t know how many of them there were. We don’t know their religion. We don’t know where they came from. All we know for certain is that they listened to a voice they heard deep within themselves. And, heeding that voice, they went forth.

And what did they find? They found what we all seek, even if, foolishly, we seek it in riches or power.

They found the face of the Child.

So tell me this. Of all the stars you could follow, which one does the voice – that one deep within you– tell you to chase?

Point to it. And go forth.

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman ©LPi

Ministry Schedule

	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Collection & Gifts
January 4	Wayne Stephens Katie Goins	Sister Monica Seaton Barbara Bisel Greg Gough	Burnell Hamilton Steve Coble
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

Pastor's Corner Continued...

My brothers and sisters, as we continue to make our way through the Christmas Season, I beg you to reflect on the diversity of people in our own congregation. Each person and culture brings with it such beauty, strength, and history. We are all drawn together in the name of Jesus and each of us has a 'gift' to offer.

On this Epiphany Sunday, we remember the wisemen and what they can mean for us today. The same truth is made known. Let us keep our eyes open, our mind clear, and our hearts soft, so that the truth of Jesus can be revealed.

Blessings,

Fr. John

Epiphany Blessing, Explained

The Epiphany household blessing is a centuries-old tradition that invokes God's blessing on all who enter one's home.



20+C+M+B+26

All you need for an Epiphany blessing is chalk. There are a few different formulas for blessings out there, but the essence of the ritual is always the same: a priest or the head of the household calls down God's blessing on the house and everyone who comes into it, and an inscription is made above the door in chalk.

The inscription reads: the first two digits of the year + C + M + B + the last two digits of the year. The initials C, M and B represent the names of the magi – Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar – and also signify the Latin phrase *Christus mansionem benedicat*: “May Christ bless the house.”



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