



# 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 LORD God formed man out of the clay of the ground and blew into his nostrils the breath of life. (Gn 2:7)

### Psalm:

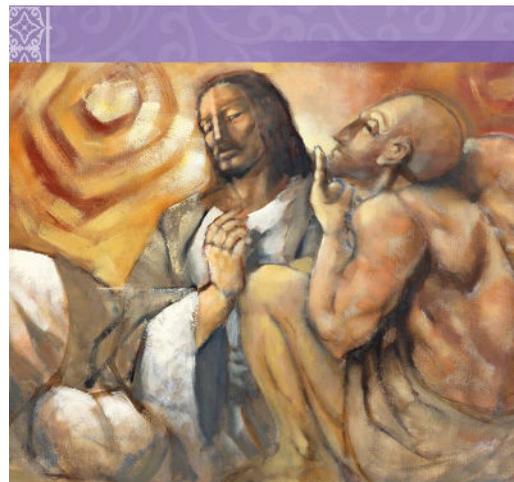
Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned. (Ps 51)

### Second Reading:

For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so, through the obedience of the one, the many will be made righteous. (Rom 5:19)

### Gospel:

At that time Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights. (Mt 4:1-2)



## 1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

"The tempter approached and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become loaves of bread.' He said in reply, 'It is written: One does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.'"  
Mt 4: 1-4

## My Dear Parishioners:

One reason why we cannot sit in judgment on anyone in terms of salvation or condemnation (as if we were God) is that we do not know the nature of anyone's personal experience of temptation. It is a very different thing to discern and judge the objective morality of actions. This we must do. Temptation lurks in that place in which we are faced with a choice to be made for or against God, either to obey God or to set God aside choosing one's own will. Who of us has not at times affirmed God and passed the test or set God aside and failed the temptation? Just as our strengths and weaknesses differ so do our temptations. One thing that is true for all of us is that without the strength God graciously offers us, each and all would fail. Jesus himself, at the Last Supper, affirmed, "Apart from me, you can do nothing." He also assured us that "by remaining in him" we would "bear much fruit." Growth in relationship with God, which gives growth in the theological and cardinal virtues, offers such strength in God that sin is avoided and love flourishes. Refusing the love of God leaves one weaker and weaker in the face of temptation and sin.

Teens learn quickly and almost all adults know many of their particular sins and the paths normally taken by the temptations leading to them. The habit of sin, however, dulls or blinds the awareness of sin and its evil. If we give in to sin and no longer resist its temptation, we can be so swept away by its lie or its sense of futility that it merely seems normal, the way things are. The final objective of temptation is, after all, despair and the implosion of the self.

All sin is idolatry, the placing of the self or something else in the place of God. Similarly, the door to all sin is self-centered pride. I have always said that PRIDE is the center of all sin. The battle of every temptation is self-denial—rejecting one's own will in a matter for the sake of what is true, good, right, loving, and holy, that is for the sake of the will of God. The bait of temptation is some hunger or other, a misinterpreted need. No one is tempted unless and until something is perceived to be desirable, but then conscience, or the Scriptures, or the Church, or some other right authority, informed by nature and/or Christian faith, says "no" or "probably not." Most do not like to be challenged in face of their desire. And one of the most telling signs of temptation is that its loudest argument in favor of the deed is the strength of desire and self-will. Have you ever known a temptation to argue, "but it's true, and good, and right, and loving, and holy, and the Church urges us to do this"? Temptation never suggests that we consider what the Holy Spirit urges of us to be worthy of the Gospel.





## February Birthdays

27—Sondra Hibbs

## March Birthdays

2—Marsha Allen

7—Britney Carmona

13—Riley Hess

18—Jean Higgs

20—Louie Fuchs

25—Carol Hatchett

31—Frank Fulton

## Mass Intentions

February 22 - Dan Halbig

March 1 - Larry Allen

March 8 - Jean Murphy

**Our thoughts and prayers are with the sick:** Phaedra Fuchs, 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.*

## Blessed Sacrament Chapel Italian Night March 7, 2026

*Doors open at 6:00pm  
Festivities begin at 6:30pm*

*Join us for a fun night with  
good food, music, and games.*

*\$400 per table of 8  
Number of tables are limited*

*To reserve please contact  
Nataly at (270) 929-5728 or  
Denise at (270) 929-0528*

## West Deanery Lent Communal Reconciliation Services



Monday, February 23 - 6:00 pm

*Mount Saint Joseph*

Monday, March 23 - 6:00 pm

*Immaculate*

Tuesday, March 10 - 6:00 pm

*St. Peter of Alcantara, Stanley*

Tuesday, March 24 - 6:00 pm

*Precious Blood*

Thursday, March 19 - 6:00 pm

*St. Sebastian, Calhoun*

Sunday, March 29 - 2:00 pm

*Saint Stephen Cathedral*

God never tires of forgiving us; we are the ones who tire of seeking his mercy.

~ Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium: The Joy of the Gospel*

## Coming Events



**February 22**--Religious Ed

**February 26**--Finance Committee Meeting 5:00pm

**March 7**--Italian Dinner 6:00pm

**March 27**--Blessed Sacrament Chapel Fish Fry 5:00pm



**February 15**--\$2,166.00

Budget--\$1,300

MTD Collection--\$5,354.50

MTD Budget--\$3,900

YTD Collection--\$67,197.96

YTD Budget--\$43,900.00

*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

In my second-to-last year of seminary, I woke up one September morning to devastating news: two beloved classmates had died in a car crash. I was overwhelmed with grief and anger like I had never known. I entered therapy for the first time and had intense conversations with my spiritual director. For months I felt lost in a spiritual wilderness. But something unexpected happened: I encountered Christ there. The fear and sorrow didn't destroy me. In fact, that spiritual desert was a time of intense growth in faith.

Today's Gospel begins: "Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil" (Matthew 4:1). The word "led" denotes a gentle, humble submission to the Spirit. Jesus does not send himself into this desolate place where wild beasts roam and Satan tempts. Who wants to be around roaming, wild beasts? The Church Fathers saw them as symbols of our inner chaos: fears, temptations, wounds. The Spirit leads us there, sometimes against our wishes. But those same Fathers also saw that this deserted place is also where angels ministered to Jesus, amidst his great trial and temptation.

Lenten Challenge: This Lent and throughout life's struggles, the Spirit leads you and me into the wilderness. Name one "desert" into which the Spirit has led you: perhaps grief, fear, silence, change, disappointment. Ask for the grace to go there willingly. The beasts may be real, but they will not harm you. There, the angels are waiting to minister to the Christ living in you, who always goes where the Spirit leads.

— Father John Muir

BE  
MERCIFUL,  
LORD,  
FOR  
WE HAVE  
SINNED.

PSALM 51



## Readings for the Week

**Monday:** Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/Mt 25:31-46

**Tuesday:** Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19/Mt 6:7-15

**Wednesday:** Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19/Lk 11:29-32

**Thursday:** Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8/Mt 7:7-12

**Friday:** Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8/Mt 5:20-26

**Saturday:** Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8/Mt 5:43-48

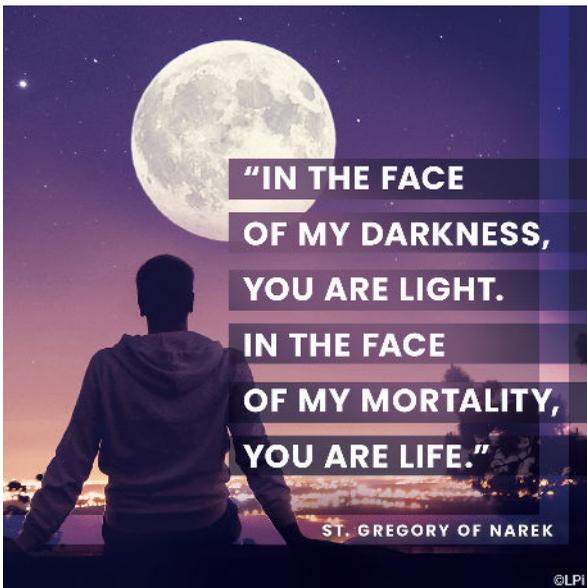
## Observances for the Week

**Monday:**

*St. Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr*

**Friday:**

*St. Gregory of Narek, Abbot and Doctor of the Church*



## Take Up Our Cross

### Question:

What does Jesus mean when he talks about taking up our cross?

### Answer:

Our journey of faith begins in baptism. When we are faithful to it, we find God's plan for us, his way of allowing us to participate in his saving work, which in turn becomes for us our own salvation. Stated simply, we share in the mission of Jesus each day. We live our life with all of its ups, downs, joys, and sorrows in union with the mission of Jesus. Our work then is holy. It is joined to the cross, God's will for Jesus — the way in which he destroys sin and death and makes eternal life possible. His sacrifice accomplishes what we ourselves cannot do.

To take up the cross, then, means that we share in the mission of Jesus and so embrace the sufferings of the cross. It is our daily life made holy, given a redemptive mission. It is our purpose and goal to unite our life to that of Christ. St. Paul says it best, "If we have grown into union with him through a death like his, we shall also be united with him in the resurrection" (Rom 6:5).

## Into the Desert

When we first got married, I wanted to know everything my husband was thinking, exactly when he was thinking it.

Thirteen years later, I still want to know it all. But I want to know it after he's had a snack.

I think he still wants to know what I'm thinking, too. But he wants to know it after I've had 10 minutes without hearing the word, "Mommy!"

Life has taught us, you see, that it's hard to be a good person, a nice person, a gentle person, when your body doesn't feel good or nice or gentle. When you're hungry. When you're exhausted. When you're anxious.

It's not impossible, of course. It's just ... hard.

We're entering a penitential season, a time in which we purposefully deprive ourselves in certain ways. During Lent, we intentionally enter into the desert of physical hunger and weakness. Why, in preparation for Easter and in an effort to spiritually purify ourselves, do we go to this place where it's so hard to be good? Why do we go to the desert?

Because Christ has shown us that the desert is where decisions are made.

There are many reasons why the Word became flesh to accomplish God's plan for our salvation. But I think one of the most important reasons must have been that God wanted to show us that He knows, intimately, how easily the devil exploits our physical experience of this world. We see it in today's Gospel: Jesus, hungry and weary. Jesus, taunted and tempted.

We see him. We recognize him. We are him.

And we hear his voice, even though it trembles with fatigue: "Get away, Satan!"

Today, we enter the desert. Because the desert is where decisions are made.

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

## Ministry Schedule

	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Collection & Gifts
<b>February 22</b>	Misty Sanford Layson Brooks	Denise & Greg Richardson Barbara Bisel	Burnell Hamilton Steve Coble
<b>March 1</b>	Barbara Bisel Greg Gough	Cindy Clark Michelle Jones Holly Hollis	Jamie, Beau, Luke Bisel
<b>March 8</b>	Jacques Williams Wayne Stephens	Sr. Monica Seaton Greg Gough Misty Sanford	Wonet Taylor Barbara Hammond

## Pastor's Corner Continued...

Many people have divided hearts. Even after many battles, the war of conversion to God and the good of neighbor and self continue. But the sin and its temptations are both familiar and even comfortable. The person says, "I know the desire is approaching. I have fallen for it many times. Maybe it's not really a sin or not a sin for me in my circumstances. How can so many people be wrong and the Church be right on this? I won't think about it, but it will show up anyway. What can I do? Right now I do want what God wants of me, but when the urge is strong, what can I do? I even go to confession and mean what I say in the act of contrition, but when I turn around I fall again. The same circumstances, the same people, the same opportunities, the same desires." Again, the objective of temptation is despair. Satan, if nothing else, is predictable. The opposite of Jesus can be said as well. Jesus is the most unpredictable character in all of Sacred Scripture. Jesus, our Savior shocks us! He surprises us! He is unpredictable. The Savior unpredictably appeared as a helpless infant. The 'carpenter's son' taught with authority. The Son of God ate with tax collectors and sinners, prostitutes and lepers. The one who fed thousands with a few fish and loaves of bread encouraged his apostles to pick grain and eat on the Sabbath. The King became the slave. The one dead and placed in an empty, cold tomb rose to save us all.

Jesus died so that you and I could enter into his death and its power to deliver us from the slavery of sin. Jesus was tempted in every way we ARE and was sinless so as to give us the victory over temptation. He was faithful so that we might be freed from despair. But how to gain this power, victory, and freedom? In obedient submission of my will to Christ I accept his cross in place of my desire. I place my will and each desire in his hands as his property and, believing that he will do so, ask him to help me. Over and over, moment by moment, day by day, until I am walking with Christ, I unite myself with his crucifixion: my mind to his truth, my every desire to his faithfulness, my will to the obedience of his cross, my soul to his devotion to the Father, and my spirit to his anointing in the Holy Spirit. Practical union with Jesus Christ in his Cross destroys the power of temptation. It acknowledges God alone as true God and self as creature, made and beloved in Christ. That we might face our temptations with Christ, the Church begins Lent with the Gospel of his Temptation by Satan in the wilderness. He journeys with us. We journey with him. He suffered, we suffer. He was victorious . . . one day we will share his VICTORY!

Blessings,

Fr. John

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### Lenten Blessing

Bless us in Your mercy, Lord, as we enter these 40 Days of Lent.

Use this time to call, anoint, bind, strengthen, and inspire us anew.

Like a good shepherd, teach us Your voice, and give us the strength to follow. Amen.



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## LENTEN DISCIPLINES OF FASTING & ABSTINENCE

Catholics in good health ages 18 to 59 are required to fast and to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

Fasting consists of eating only one meal, with the possibility of two smaller snacks that do not add up to a single full meal.

Catholics age 14 and older are to abstain from meat on all Fridays in Lent.

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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](https://ReportBishopAbuse.org) or call 1-800-276-1562