



# 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 of you a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. (Gn 12:2)

### Psalm:

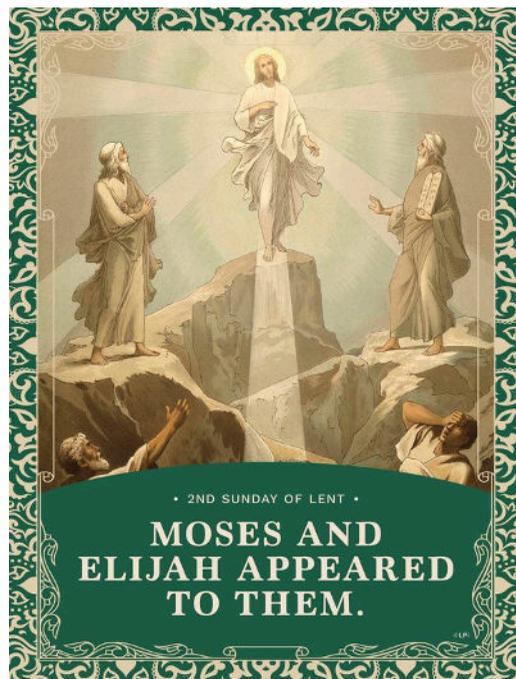
Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you. (Ps 33)

### Second Reading:

Bear your share of hardship for the gospel with the strength that comes from God. He saved us and called us to a holy life. (2 Tm 1:8-9)

### Gospel:

Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them; his face shone like the sun. (Mt 17:1-2)



## My Dear Parishioners:

*“During Lent, we have the opportunity to hear voices that are usually lost in the din of pleasure and meaningless talk. We can enter into a private desert even in the midst of the world and face our own demons. We can tear down false idols only to be heartbroken at finding others behind them. If we are brave, we can run through this desert trying to find the real God amid all the false gods.”* Drew Stevens

It is difficult to believe, but it is definitely true. The Season of Lent is upon us. On Wednesday, we joined the Church universal in praying the prayers of Ash Wednesday. We marked our foreheads with ash reminding ourselves how transitory everything we know here on Earth really is. I spoke in my homily about the fact that we must be **PEOPLE OF SUBSTANCE**. The Season of Lent is an opportunity to examine our lives and discover the true meaning of our existence, the truth of why we were born and the truth of the promise of eternity that awaits each of us.

I have spoken before in a Sunday homily about the opportunity we are given to ‘begin again’. The Church is wise in yearly (sometimes several times a year through the sacramental life of the Church) reminding us we need to begin again. So often in our busy lives the Spirit is drowned out by the clamoring noises of possessions, addictions, anger, stress, and demands of jobs, family, and friend.

The Season of Lent is an opportunity to calm the noise of the world to allow Jesus to enter our hearts. The Season of Lent is an opportunity to ‘de-clutter’ our homes and offices, our minds and hearts.

Please consider how you and your family can simplify even one area of your life. Maybe it will be turning off the TV one evening a week. Perhaps you can make it part of your Lenten sacrifice to come to Mass on Wednesday evening or Stations of the Cross on Fridays. This Lent might be a good time to sit as a family around the table in your house and share a meal. I **STRONGLY ENCOURAGE** you to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation this year in preparation for the Season of Easter. The Sacrament is offered at St. Stephen Cathedral each Saturday morning from 9:30 – 11:00. The Sacrament is also offered any time by appointment. I offer myself to you in the name of Jesus a priest who is compassionate, patient, humble, and welcoming. Our associate priests offer themselves to you as well, in the Name of Jesus Christ. I especially make an invitation to those of you who have avoided this Sacrament for whatever reason. “Jesus says, this is the time of salvation, the Kingdom of God is at hand.” Jesus is calling us to himself.





## 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

- March 1 - Larry Allen
- March 8 - Jean Murphy
- March 15 - Dan Halbig

**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      Monday, March 23 - 6:00 pm  
*Mount Saint Joseph*                      *Immaculate*

Tuesday, March 10 - 6:00 pm      Tuesday, March 24 - 6:00 pm  
*St. Peter of Alcantara, Stanley*              *Precious Blood*

Thursday, March 19 - 6:00 pm      Sunday, March 29 - 2:00 pm  
*St. Sebastian, Calhoun*                      *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



**March 1**--First Reconciliation

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

**March 8**--No Religious Ed

**March 27**--Blessed Sacrament

Chapel Fish Fry 5:00pm



**February 22**--\$2,441.00

Budget--\$1,300

MTD Collection--\$7,795.50

MTD Budget--\$5,200

YTD Collection--\$69,638.96

YTD Budget--\$45,200.00

*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

When I sit down to answer emails or write a Gospel reflection or return a phone call, I sometimes wonder: Does any of this humdrum work matter? Maybe you ask the same thing about your daily labor. Today's Gospel, the Transfiguration, offers a surprising answer.

Jesus leads Peter, James, and John up a mountain. There, "his face shone like the sun face and his clothes become white as light" (Matthew 17:2). That detail regarding his clothes is worth considering.

We know Jesus' body is inseparably united to the divine nature. But his clothing? That's something made by human hands. It's an artifact. And yet it shines with the same uncreated light. What does this detail mean? The early Church noted that Adam and Eve's first act after the Fall was to make clothing. This clothing symbolizes all human labor that supports our dignity. In Jesus' glorified garments, we see not just the redemption of our body, but of human effort to protect and uplift human dignity.

Parents, your family is your work. Baristas, plumbers, nurses, accountants — your labor, your emails, your phone calls, your spreadsheets — can all become radiant when offered to God in love. The question isn't just do I believe in Jesus' glory, but do I believe he can share it with the work of my hands?

**Lenten Challenge:** Identify the "artifact" you are making to uplift the dignity of others: your job, your home, your relationships. Consciously bring it to the Lord this Sunday at Mass. Offer it to share in His glory. It will begin to shine in you, who always goes where the Spirit leads.

— Father John Muir

## Readings for the Week

**Monday:** Dn 9:4b-10/Ps 79:8, 9, 11 and 13/Lk 6:36-38

**Tuesday:** Is 1:10,16-20/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23/Mt 23:1-12

**Wednesday:** Jer 18:18-20/Ps 31:5-6, 14, 15-16/Mt 20:17-28

**Thursday:** Jer 17:5-10/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Lk 16:19-31

**Friday:** Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a/Ps 105:16-17, 18-19, 20-21/Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

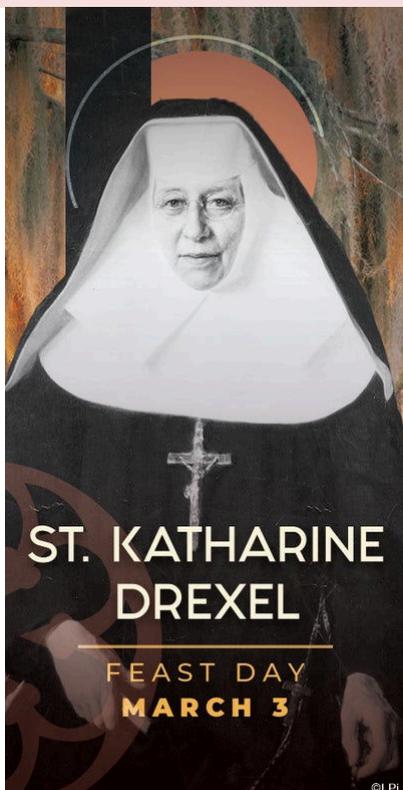
**Saturday:** Mi 7:14-15, 18-20/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

## Observances for the Week

**Tuesday:** St. Katharine Drexel, Virgin

**Wednesday:** St. Casimir

**Saturday:** Sts. Perpetua and Felicity, Martyrs



## St. Katharine Drexel

(November 26, 1858 – March 3, 1955)

Born in Philadelphia, she grew up to become one of the first American-born saints. Her mother passed away when she was only five weeks old. Her father, a renowned banker, remarried a wonderful woman, and together they raised St. Katherine Drexel and her two sisters in a life of privilege. Both financially and spiritually well-endowed, the Drexels were devout Catholics and set an excellent example of true Christian servitude with prayer and care for the poor.

After her father's death, St. Katharine considered joining a contemplative order. However, during an audience with the Pope while on a trip to Rome with her sister, when she asked for more missionaries to be sent to the American West, the Pope asked her to become a missionary herself! Now known as the Apostle for Social Justice, St. Katharine gave up her inheritance and instead devoted her life to the material and spiritual well-being of Black and Native Americans. She established the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament for Indians and Colored, and together they opened a boarding school in Santa Fe, the first of 50 missions for Native Americans in 16 states. At the time of her death, she had also established a system of 63 schools, including Xavier University in New Orleans, the first Catholic university in the United States for African Americans. Believing that education was the key to opportunity, her love of the Blessed Sacrament sustained her mission.

At 77, she suffered a heart attack and was forced to retire from active ministry. She spent the next 20 years of her life in quiet yet intense prayer. She died at the age of 96 and was canonized in 2000 by Pope John Paul II. St. Katharine Drexel, pray for us!

## Three Tents

You guys, I was such a good Catholic at the National Eucharistic Congress.

Mass every day? Check. Rosary every day? Check (and check — we said a lot of rosaries). Deep thoughts and deep conversations about God with total strangers? Check. Hours in adoration reflecting on the state of my soul? Check.

When I went to Indianapolis in the summer of 2024 to cover the NEC for our archdiocesan newspaper, I knew it would be a fun and spiritually rich experience. But I didn't expect that it would make me think differently about my whole life (and afterlife). And when people ask me why — “What happened in Indianapolis that changed you?” — I can only tell them this: I spent time with God.

Of course, I do all these things in my regular life at home, too. I try to be a good Catholic here. But good grief, it's a lot harder. In Indianapolis, I didn't have a calendar full of appointments and to-do lists that filled me with dread. I didn't have the world crowding around me, grasping at my attention and my will.

Indianapolis was the mountain, and if I could have, I would have built three tents.

So I understand Peter's feelings at the Transfiguration. He's thrilled — he sees it all clearly now. Here is the fullness of Truth, revealed in all its glory, and he's ready to start bringing groups of tourists up to see it. He's ready to bring people to Christ. But in the blood-soaked, fear-filled days to come, Peter will realize that it's not his job to bring the world to the Truth. His job is to bring the Truth into the world.

What a tragedy it would be, if Truth only lived on the mountaintop.

So build three tents, strong and durable shelters for the Truth to dwell. But build them in your heart. And then, the Transfiguration won't be just an event, something that happened at a certain time and a certain place. It'll be a reality that lives within us all. And we will bear it with us wherever we go.

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

## Ministry Schedule

	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Collection & Gifts
<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...

This might be the time for you to attend a Mass during the week. At St. Stephen we offer Mass M, T, W, TH, & F at 7 AM & 12:05 PM. Mass is also offered every Saturday morning at 9 AM. I promise you; to attend Mass during the week is a powerful and meaningful activity. I encourage you to receive the Eucharist as often as possible during this season of reflection and change.

Above all, I encourage you to pray for all families. This is a parish-wide activity and is one that can truly support families in our parish that are struggling. Many among us are struggling with finances, anger, regret, disrespect, loneliness, addictions, and betrayal.

Perhaps this is a time to examine our lives in a specific way. I suggest the following: **Let us replace PRIDE with HUMILITY, ENVY with LOVE, WRATH & ANGER with KINDNESS, SLOTH with ZEAL, AVARICE & GREED with GENEROSITY, GLUTTONY with FAITH & TEMPERANCE, and LUST with SELF-CONTROL.**

There are so many opportunities to quiet the noises and strengthen our faith. Maybe this Lent is the time set aside for you, for your family, for our parish. Let us move through the desert together - - and in the end discover the spring of eternal life.

Lenten Blessings,

Fr. John

**Please pray for Beau Bisel, Lila Clark, and Sam Hollis who will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time today.**



### **Blessing of Hope**

In Your goodness Lord, bless us. Help us to know Your abundance and Your gifts. Help us to hear Your voice and know Your assurance. Help us remember what You have done, and look forward to what You will do. 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