



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:

Then Samuel, with the horn of oil in hand, anointed David in the presence of his brothers; and from that day on, the spirit of the LORD rushed upon David. (1 Sm 16:13)

Psalm:

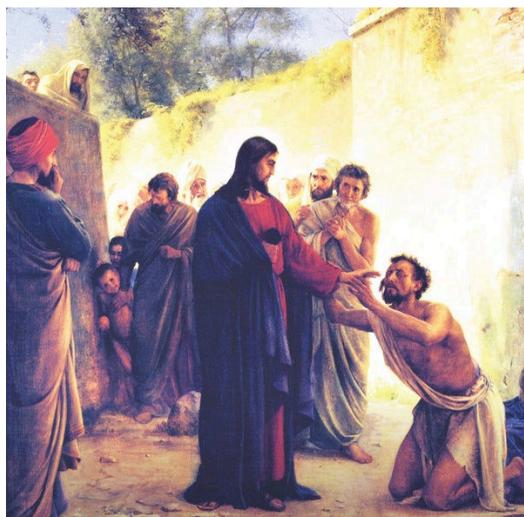
The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. (Ps 23)

Second Reading:

"Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light." (Eph 5:14)

Gospel:

He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva, and smeared the clay on his eyes, and said to him, "Go wash in the Pool of Siloam" — which means Sent — .So he went and washed, and came back able to see. (Jn 9:6-7)



4TH SUNDAY OF LENT



When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, he found him and said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" - Jn 9:35

My Dear Parishioners:

"None is so blind as one who will not see." I pick up old proverbs. It's true, you know, this proverb on blindness. Jesus said, "If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, 'We see,' your guilt remains (John 9.41)." Just as there is a wicked or culpable (irresponsible) ignorance, so there is a wicked, spiritual blindness. It certainly results from the practice of vice. It is, in fact the self-defense of sin. The more thoroughly a person willfully practices a vice (sinning), the more deeply the conscience is silenced, the more spiritually blind and ignorant that person becomes. Just as behind each vice and sin is a cowardly self-protecting fear ("Each man for himself, devil take the hindmost!"), so the consequence of vice is a failure to see the neighbor and one's own true need to love. Each of the seven deadly sins or vices refuses the light of God and brings its own form of blindness. The vices even mix together to make some deadly "cocktails."

Every vice spiritually boils down to pride, self-idolatrous vanity. Materially and otherwise quite innocently, the seed bed that goes along with the vice of pride, and that which gives specific shape to the other vices, is fear, ignorance, hunger, injury, pain, loss, and weakness. These latter human conditions are never in and of themselves sinful. They only become so by way of their being infected by self-seeking vanity. God's grace has accomplished monumental victories of love in the very same contexts of human fear, ignorance (lack of knowledge and error), hunger, injury, pain, loss, and weakness by way of generous self-sacrifice. When these human conditions are shaped by virtue, they are saintly, even heroic. When shaped by vice, they are pathetic, even demonic.

Pride, anger, and sloth in combination warp together to produce self-righteous autocrats and terrorists. Such people are all blind to faith, mercy, hope, divine providence, human solidarity, and self-sacrifice. The rulers in Jerusalem who condemned Jesus were invested in the political compromises of the status quo with Rome. This protected their self-interests and status of authority, their perks. To be perceived as threatening that status and its benefits provoked an anger and defensiveness to a murderous degree. Sloth is the path of least risk and creativity. For one with political power and legitimacy it is easier to destroy an opponent than to risk a new potential for the common good and step aside so that another and better hope may prevail. A terrorist in our day, if a suicide-murderer, ignites anger and pride to destroy, intoxicated by evil, the devil's own gin. The terrorist leaders fool such agents to do their own cowardly bidding, for sloth draws them back from such fruitless exertion and the exertions of painstakingly spending themselves for building the common good. They are all, nonetheless, cut from the same cloth. Their blindness is lethal.

Pride, covetousness (avarice, "never enough"), gluttony (intemperance), lust (regarding a person or the human body as a object for one's own pleasure rather than one to be loved and honored for her or his own sake), and envy (resentment of another's good) grown in a seed bed of human weakness and injury can produce a jungle of viciousness. The variations are almost too many to be counted. Each weed of sin works to mute the interior light of God's grace. None of them, however,



March Birthdays

18—Jean Higgs
20—Louie Fuchs
25—Carol Hatchett
31—Frank Fulton

April Birthdays

3 – Rita Moorman,
Ethan Gough,
Bobby Hardin
6—Marshall Williams
10—Steven Fain
13—Jerry Fuchs

Mass Intentions

March 15 - Dan Halbig

March 22 - Larry Allen

March 29 - 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.

West Deanery Lent Communal Reconciliation Services

Thursday, March 19 - 6:00 pm
St. Sebastian, Calhoun

Monday, March 23 - 6:00 pm
Immaculate

Tuesday, March 24 - 6:00 pm
Precious Blood

Sunday, March 29 - 2:00 pm
Saint Stephen Cathedral



Coming Events



March 15--Parish Meeting for Fish Fry after Mass

March 15--Religious Ed

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



March 8--\$1,429.50

Budget--\$1,300

MTD Collection--\$2,863.00

MTD Budget--\$2,600

YTD Collection--\$72,501.96

YTD Budget--\$47,800.00

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

If you are like me, it's easy to fixate on our shadows: failures, guilt, shame. Especially when we suffer, it is easy to want to blame ourselves or others. In this week's Gospel, Jesus' disciples ask about the blind man, **"Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents?"** (John 9:2) They, like us, focus on blame. But Jesus sees the entire situation differently: **"Neither he nor his parents sinned; it is so that the works of God might be made visible through him."** He does not deny sin, but he sees deeper — through the light of mercy, not the lens of judgment. The scene hinges on Jesus' strange claim: **"I am the light of the world"** (John 9:5). He sees things differently than everyone. They see shadows and light. He is the light.

Thought experiment: imagine you are the sun looking at everything on the earth. What do you see? Everything. What do you *not* see? Shadows. Everything is illuminated. If you see it, it is illuminated. For the light, nothing is dark.

Because he is the light, Jesus sees us in the glow of his redemptive love. Even our sin becomes a place where his glory can shine. The man's healing is not just about sight — it is about seeing as Christ sees. Lent is not a season of staring into darkness. It is a time to step into the light — to let Christ's gaze reframe how we see ourselves and one another.

Lenten challenge: Spend 10 quiet minutes this week asking Jesus to show you how he sees you. Not through shame or fear, but through the light of his mercy.

— Father John Muir

Readings for the Week

Monday: Is 65:17-21/Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b/Jn 4:43-54

Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12/Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9/Jn 5:1-16

Wednesday: Is 49:8-15/Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18/Jn 5:17-30

Thursday: 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29/Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22/Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a

Friday: Wis 2:1a, 12-22/Ps 34:17-18, 19-20, 21 and 23/Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

Saturday: Jer 11:18-20/Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12/Jn 7:40-53

Observances for the Week

Tuesday: St. Patrick, Bishop

Wednesday: St. Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Thursday: St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Hope, Explained!

“Hoping against hope, he believed, and thus became the father of many nations.” (Romans 4:18)

This is how Paul describes the hope of Abraham, who allowed himself to believe in and wish for what seemed like an impossible thing — all because it had been promised to him by God. In this same way, Christian hope “is the theological virtue by which we desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness” (CCC 1817), even as we recognize that our own strength and merit can never achieve this.

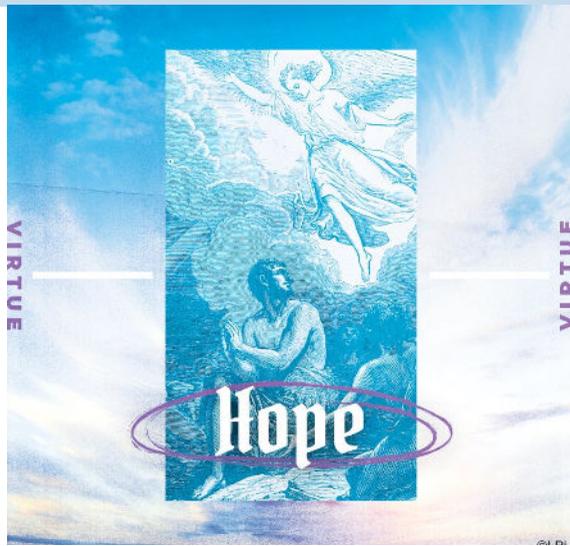
Hope, simply, is remembering that God keeps His promises.

A desire for happiness is a seed planted by God in each heart. The virtue of hope pours down like rain to nourish that seed, but a barrier has been created by original sin. The Holy Spirit removes the barrier, allowing the hope to pour forth upon the roots of our sprouting happiness in great abundance.

Blessing to See

Bless us, Lord, to see as You see.
Remind us that heartbeats and hopes can
outshine outward show.
That quiet witness can overcome violence
and darkness.
That Your Light can break like the dawn.

Amen.



Sent

I don't know about you. But if I was a blind person sitting by the side of the road, minding my own business, and a stranger came along and rubbed spit-mud in my eye, I'm just salty enough that I would ignore his words out of spite.

Even though he was, admittedly, super-nice about the whole thing.

Obviously I would wash the mud out, because ... spit. But I wouldn't go to the Pool of Siloam. I would go to a pool on the whole other side of town, just to be contrary. I would make frustrated, grossed-out noises while I splashed water on my eyes: "Ugh! I can't believe this! People are the worst!" I would feel satisfied that I wasn't tricked or conned or taken advantage of.

And I would stay blind the rest of my life.

When Jesus performs a miracle in the Gospel, we sometimes think of it like a fireworks show. Something people point at — "Ooh! Aah!" — and move on from. But a miracle of Jesus is not a party trick. It is a commissioning.

And each of us, in our own way, has the choice of accepting it or not.

Nowhere in the Gospel story does it say that Jesus promised the man sight if he washed in the pool. I wonder what it was that made the blind man feel he could trust Jesus. Was it something in his voice? Was it something in his touch? Was it the humanity with which he spoke of the blind man to his disciples — a gentleness missing from most other interactions of his life?

We'll never know. But we do know this: the blind man's sight wasn't restored until he made a decision. A decision to be sent.

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Ministry Schedule

	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Collection & Gifts
March 15	Katie Goins Misty Sanford	Denise & Greg Richardson Janet Clark	Burnell Hamilton Steve Coble
March 22	Barbara Bisel Greg Gough	Cindy Clark Michelle Jones Holly Hollis	Jamie, Beau, Luke Bisel

Pastor's Corner Continued...

are greater than God's grace and its light. These will come breaking back through all the self-defended deceptions as long as the human being walks this earth. If one surrenders humbly to the light and mercy of Christ, there is deliverance, conversion, and redemption. If the response is a self-defended fury and an even stronger, vain refusal, the downward spiral may descend into a final self-implosion, an irreversible "NO" to God. If all one sees is one's own fractured and waning self, the blindness is complete.

The cure is in the Crucified and Risen Hands of Jesus Christ. Place each and every item and element of fear, ignorance, hunger, injury, pain, loss, weakness, and personal sin in the Hands of Christ. He calls each of us to come to him and give ourselves this way to his care. Truly give, surrender, each matrix in which vice and sin can grow to the Lord. Give the Lord the story of each of these. From each in turn he will pull out the vice or sin growing there. Let him set the pace and duration of His therapy. Into each gaping hole he will pour his own life and Spirit. As each blinding weed is removed, his Light will shine ever brighter. Listen to him as he teaches how to walk in the dazzling light.

We continue our journey through the season of Lent to the joy of Easter. Our time is moving quickly. Our journey is more than half-way complete. We can look to the last weeks and see where we have kept our resolutions and Lenten promises and also see where we have failed. As we now move through the second half of the Lenten Season, let us put on the life of the virtues that work against the 'Seven deadly sins'. . They thrive in the garden of humility, service and sacrifice for another where no weeds of darkness can dare grow.

Against **Pride** wear **Humility**

Against **Envy** wear **Love**

Against **Wrath / Anger** wear **Kindness**

Against **Sloth** wear **Zeal**

Against **Avarice / Greed** wear **Generosity**

Against **Gluttony** wear **Faith & Temperance**

Against **Lust** wear **Self Control**

Lenten Blessings,

Fr. John

JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL

CHRISM

Mass

6:30 PM TUESDAY MARCH 31
OWENSBORO SPORTSCENTER

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
30	31	1



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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 or call 1-800-276-1562