



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
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Parish Life Coordinator: Sr. Monica Seaton, OSU
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Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

"Strike the rock, and the water will flow from it for the people to drink." (Ex 17:6)

Psalm:

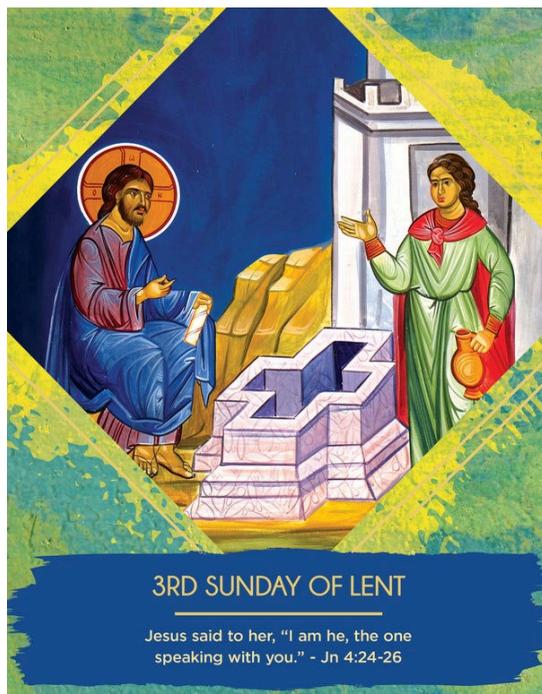
If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts. (Ps 95)

Second Reading:

And hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. (Rom 5:5)

Gospel:

"Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again; but whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst; the water I shall give will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." (Jn 4:13-14)



3RD SUNDAY OF LENT

Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one speaking with you." - Jn 4:24-26

My Dear Parishioners:

Shocking!! That's what it was! The gospel story we have today is absolutely, unequivocally shocking! Jesus, who was a Jewish man, was sitting there by a well having a conversation with, and even requesting water from, a *Samaritan*. Not only that, but this person with whom He was conversing was a *woman*. And furthermore, it appears they might have been *alone*. And it was high noon, not the usual time for women to be out gathering water. Some scholars speculate she may have been coming to the well at this unique time (a location which was typically a social gathering place for the women of a community) because, given her long, and some suggest *sordid*, history with men, the other women of the village *may* have been shunning her -- after all, when she later left the well, returning to the city to advise the residents of the person she had met, we are informed that she went *to the men* (vs. 28). What on earth was He thinking?! Wasn't He aware of the cultural norms of His day? Even John felt the need to comment on this rather remarkable incident, pointing out in a parenthetical statement that "Jews have no dealings with Samaritans" (vs. 9). His disciples, with whom He had been traveling, weren't around -- they had gone into the village to find food (vs. 8). However, when they returned to the well, and took in the scene, "they *marveled* that He had been speaking with a woman" (vs. 27). The Greek word the apostle John employs in this particular passage is *thaumazo*, which means to be filled with *astonishment, wonder, and amazement*. Behavior such as was being evidenced by the Lord Jesus on this occasion was *unheard of*. It was radical ... extreme ... scandalous! It could get you "talked about" ... it could get you "written up" ... it could even get you *killed* in certain circles.

Well, welcome to the wonderful, wondrous world of *Jesus*! He came to seek and to save souls, and no "cultural norm" was going to stand between Him and a sincere seeker. Jesus came to break down barriers between the races, the classes, and the sexes. There was no more rich or poor, slave or free, male or female, Jew or Greek ... or even Samaritan. *All* were equally precious in *His* sight ... and still are. Oh, that we could learn that lesson today!

The first thing that genuinely impresses me, as I reflect upon this account from John 4, is that there was an open and honest *dialogue* taking place. And it was happening between persons one would *least* expect to be engaging in such -- a leading Jewish teacher and a Samaritan woman of perhaps questionable repute. As noted, this dialogue shocked the disciples of Jesus. It even shocked the *woman herself* (vs. 9). But, that was the nature of our Lord's ministry. He reached out to people that "the religious elite" regarded as *beneath* them. Although Jesus was truly *above all men*, NONE were "beneath" Him!! This fact generated considerable criticism of Christ and His ministry. "Both the Pharisees and the scribes began to grumble, saying, 'This man receives sinners and eats with them'" (Luke 15:2). *Shocking*. What was Jesus thinking?! "And it came about that He was reclining at the



March Birthdays

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

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.

Mass Intentions

March 8 - Jean Murphy
 March 15 - Dan Halbig
 March 22 - Larry Allen

West Deanery Lent Communal Reconciliation Services

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

Monday, March 23 - 6:00 pm
Immaculate



Coming Events



March 8--Italian Dinner Cleanup
after Mass

March 8--No Religious Ed

March 15--Religious Ed

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



March 1--\$1,433.50

Budget--\$1,300

MTD Collection--\$1,433.50

MTD Budget--\$1,300

YTD Collection--\$71,072.46

YTD Budget--\$46,500.00

*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

Recently I received a note from a teenager I met years ago. He wrote, “Dear Father Muir, you probably do not remember me, but I wanted to thank you for your inspiring and humorous homilies at the parish. They helped me appreciate the beauty of Catholicism, which I have now embraced in a personal way.” That small note moved me more than he probably imagined. I had no idea my words had taken root in him. I was simply sowing seeds — week by week, Mass by Mass. Someone else — his parents, a youth minister, or God Himself — was doing the deeper work. Now this young man is joyfully reaping a harvest of faith.

In today’s Gospel, Jesus offers living water to a Samaritan woman whose life had been full of searching and disappointment. By the end of their encounter, she becomes a bold and joyful evangelist. Then Jesus turns to his disciples and says something easily overlooked: **“One sows and another reaps” (John 4:37)**. He is helping them — and us — understand how evangelization works. Often, the one who sows the seeds of faith is not the one who sees the fruit.

This Lent, ask yourself: Are you in a sowing phase or a reaping phase? If you are sowing — raising children, praying for someone, mentoring — be patient. Your work matters. If you are reaping — seeing someone come alive in faith — be grateful. You are standing on sacred ground, tilled and watered by others.

Lenten challenge: Thank someone who once sowed faith into your life. And keep sowing, even when the harvest is unseen.

— Father John Muir

Readings for the Week

Monday:

2 Kgs 5:1-15ab/Ps 42:2, 3; 42:3, 4/Lk 4:24-30

Tuesday:

Dn 3:25, 34-43/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9/Mt 18:21-35

Wednesday:

Dt 4:1, 5-9/Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20/Mt 5:17-19

Thursday:

Jer 7:23-28/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9/Lk 11:14-23

Friday:

Hos 14:2-10/Ps 81:6c-8a, 8bc-9, 10-11ab, 14 and 17/Mk 12:28-34

Saturday:

Hos 6:1-6/Ps 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab/Lk 18:9-14

Observances for the Week

Monday: St. Frances of Rome, Religious

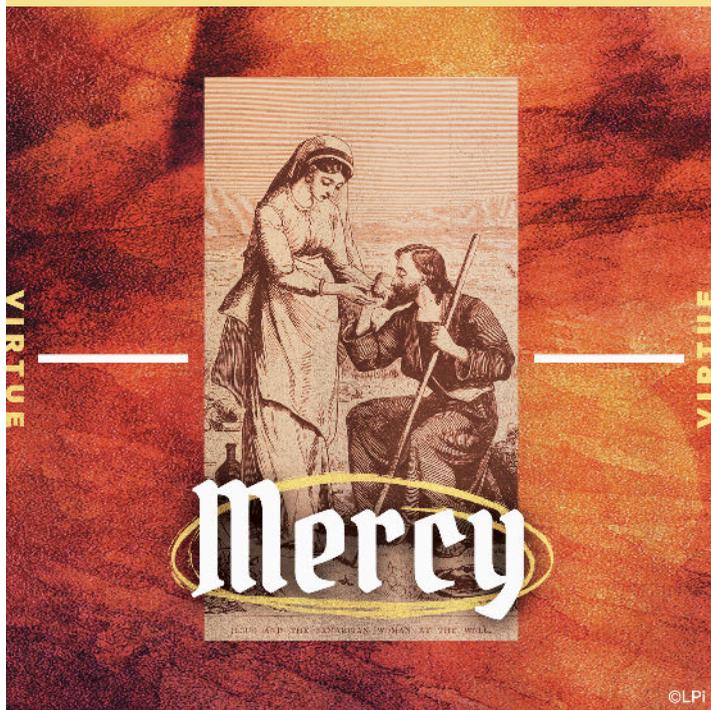


Mercy, Explained!

“And what does the Lord require of you? Only this: to do what is right, to show mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.” (Micah 6:8)

But what does it mean to show true mercy?

God’s mercy to us knows no bounds, but that mercy does not compel Him to grant us everything our appetitive passions desire. God’s perfect mercy could never allow for something that would harm His children. A father whose child has a toothache cannot, out of mercy, give the child the candy he wants, no matter how the tears of the child grieve the father’s heart. The father can, and should, surround the child with love and sympathy, and help him to remedy the problem that lies at the heart of his grief. This is true virtuous mercy — a choice governed by reason, not merely an emotion.



Dear Blessed Sacrament Family,

In order to provide care for my father, I am stepping away from Blessed Sacrament effective immediately with the intent of coming back as soon as possible.

This decision comes from a place of family necessity, as my presence is required to support him and the family during this time. I humbly ask you for your prayers and your understanding as I devote my full attention to his recovery. I am grateful for Bishop Medley's blessing for this time away.

Thank you all for your continued support and prayers.

Fr. Christopher E. Grief

Blessing of Living Water

Lord, where there has been dryness in my life, bless me with Your living water!
Where I fear to dream of new hope and growth, bless me with Your living water!
Where I'm thirsty for new and abundant life, bless me with Your living water!
Drench the parched earth with Your promise, bless me with Your living water!
Amen.

Ministry Schedule

	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Collection & Gifts
March 8	Jacques Williams Wayne Stephens	Sr. Monica Seaton Greg Gough Misty Sanford	Wonet Taylor Barbara Hammond
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...

table in Levi's house, and many tax-gatherers and sinners were dining with Jesus and His disciples" (Mark 2:15). *Unheard of. Outrageous.* Not overly insightful, was He?! Not very discriminating! As one Pharisee observed, when, during the course of a meal being hosted at his house, a particular woman anointed the feet of Jesus with her tears and wiped them with her hair, "If this man were a prophet He would *know* who and what sort of person this woman is who is touching Him, that she is a sinner" (Luke 7:39).

Well, guess what . . . Jesus is still doing it. He still is meeting unworthy characters at the 'well'. Every time we gather around His altar, every time we gather to reflect on his Word, every time we receive his Body and Blood in the Most Holy Eucharist, Jesus is meeting with US! Jesus is in dialogue with US! We are no more worthy than the woman we hear about in today's gospel.

This Sunday and the next two, those who are seeking entrance into the Church and the reception of the Sacraments will be experiencing the *Rite of Scrutinies*. They have for months participated in study, reflection, and conversion. For months they have been doing what this season calls each of us to do over and over.

God is compassionate, God is forgiving, God is merciful. Are we not created in his image? Would he not expect the same from each of us? This is the 'season of change'. This is the 'season of mercy'. If we desire God's mercy . . . we must first show mercy to those who are daily around us. I dare say . . . it would be *shocking!*

Blessings,

Fr. John

3RD SUNDAY OF LENT





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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