



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:

They ate their meals with exultation and sincerity of heart, praising God and enjoying favor with all the people. (Acts 2:46-47)

Psalm:

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting. (Ps 118)

Second Reading:

Although you have not seen him you love him; even though you do not see him now yet believe in him, you rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, as you attain the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls. (1 Pt 1:8-9)

Gospel:

Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed." (Jn 20:29)



2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER

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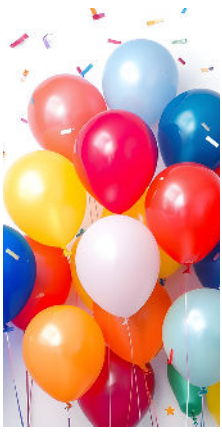
My Dear Parishioners:

Curious . . . Curiouser . . . Most Curious . . . The Most Curious of all . . .

Mercy. Most people believe that they can forgive someone who offends them, particularly if: they are sorry; they apologize; they make up for the offense (pay the damages); they intend not to offend again; and the offense wasn't so bad or the hurt very prolonged. That is, at least, one time. Some people do not believe in forgiving at all. Either they reject the offender and write them off or they exact vengeance. The well of human mercy tends to be shallow, partly because we are so vulnerable and easily harmed or offended. We tend to be defensive or vengeful. Is it any surprise, then, that Jesus' teaching on loving one's enemies and forgiving one's siblings seventy times seven times a day are so largely ignored. "Who can forgive sins, except God alone?" they ask in scripture. It is a well-formed and intelligent question. The biblical answer is that whoever desires forgiveness from God must forgive by God's measure, for the measure we use is the measure by which we will receive. Interestingly, there is not, as far as I can tell, any consideration whatever of anyone deserving God's mercy. God's love and mercy are never deserved. Jesus taught that our love and mercy should be the same.

Curious. For over 30 years, I have been absolving the sins, which people confess with sorrow and intention of avoidance in the future. For the last several years, I have been very aware that this means ministering Jesus taking the sins and guilt upon his own crucified body for their deliverance. On the front side of the crucifixion this was done by the Roman executioners. On the Resurrection side of the crucifixion, Jesus authorized and empowered the Apostles and their successors and assistants to be ministers of his taking away the sins of the world. I have learned that the Lord wants to relieve each person of the burden of their sins and all the effects of the sins committed against them. He offers his own Risen body and blood as restitution and healing to redeem us from the effects of sin. The Cross is the unloading dock, set up for the transfer. For that matter, it is the busiest port in the cosmos. It is as private as a one on one meeting with Christ. It is as crowded as necessary to uproot the tangle of each and every sin. The justice of God is the Divine Act to exterminate sin personally. Its only limit is the freedom required for love to be true. As no one is forced to love, no one is forced to forgive. Hell is not the failure to be forgiven. It is the failure, the refusal to forgive, that is, the refusal to love.

Curiouser. "Who can love except God alone?" This would make a fine biblical question, but it is not to be found in the bible. No one can truly love except by God's loving them and giving them a communion in Divine love. Mercy works the same way, for it is an aspect of the same mystery. Left to my own resources I am quickly emptied of kindness. If I tap into the flood of God's love in the Holy Spirit being poured into my heart by Christ, I have an inexhaustible supply. Unlike a hose or pipeline, however, I can only be a minister or conveyer of God's love if I let my will be conformed to Christ. Unless I say yes to being personally transformed by God's mercy and love, I cannot be its vessel. To be a bearer I must be an undeserving beneficiary. Just as God teaches me to love, so God teaches me how to forgive and to be forgiven. I am learning it all at the foot of the Cross.



April Birthdays

13—Jerry Fuchs
21—Kathi Skidd
23—Misty Sanford
25—Charlene Meadows
26—Vivian Higgs
27—Ruth Coble
29—Jeffrey McCarter,
Katie Goins

Mass Intentions

April 12 - Dan Halbig
April 19 - Larry Allen
April 26 - 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, especially parishioner **Frank Fulton**, nephew of Shelby Webster.*

Remember to pray for the souls in purgatory, especially for those who have no one to pray for them.

2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER

IN THE SPIRIT OF THE EARLY CHURCH, I WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WHAT I HAVE WITH YOU!



BILLS...

ISYDOR WEBB!
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WWD

Coming Events



April 12—Divine Mercy
Sunday

April 12—No Religious Ed
(Spring break)

April 19—Religious Ed class
resumes

May 3—First Holy
Communion 10:00am



March 29--\$1,488.50
Budget--\$1,300
MTD Collection--\$7,730.50
MTD Budget--\$6,500
YTD Collection--\$77,369.46
YTD Budget--\$51,700.00

*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

“Then he said to Thomas, ‘Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe.’” (John 20:27)

In my early 20s, I volunteered at a parish youth group. I witnessed teens encountering Jesus with a fresh, romantic wonder that reminded me of my own teenage conversion. But something had changed in me. I was quietly jaded and cynical. When teens shared stories of encountering Christ, I’d want to sarcastically murmur, “Well, good for you.” I had grown suspicious of the zeal I once knew.

Then we brought the group on a pilgrimage. I was standing in an old church in France, ignoring a long-winded tour guide. I found myself before a crucifix. In that moment, I heard something, not audibly, but unmistakably in my heart: “I came to be your friend... and you wish to be my enemy? Why do you stand far from me? I suffer gladly for you. I was pierced for you. Why do you run from me?” My heart opened. I saw how cold and cynical I had become. But Jesus had not given up on me. He had returned, and his mercy broke through.

So I can relate to the scoffing — and transformation — of Thomas when the Risen Jesus presents his wounds for inspection. Thomas is not simply doubting; he is guarded, suspicious, even cynical. But Jesus comes to him. No lecture. Just understanding and mercy. He invites Thomas to touch his wounds. This burns away his cynicism like the morning mist.

Divine Mercy Challenge: This week, rejoice with someone who is newly alive in faith. If your own heart has grown skeptical or tired, ask Jesus to help you. He will.

— Father John Muir

Readings for the Week

Monday: Acts 4:23-31/Ps 2:1-3, 4-7a, 7b-9/Jn 3:1-8

Tuesday: Acts 4:32-37/Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5/Jn 3:7b-15

Wednesday: Acts 5:17-26/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Jn 3:16-21

Thursday: Acts 5:27-33/Ps 34:2 and 9, 17-18, 19-20/Jn 3:31-36

Friday: Acts 5:34-42/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Jn 6:1-15

Saturday: Acts 6:1-7/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19/Jn 6:16-21

Observances for the Week

Monday: St. Martin I, Pope and Martyr

+

ecumenical
Taizé
prayer

For protection and healing for victims of sexual abuse

THURSDAY, APRIL 16 | 6 PM
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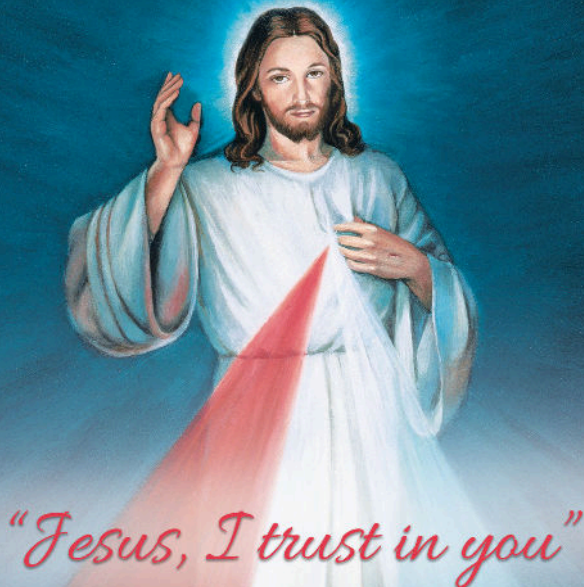
Taizé prayer (pronounced “tay-zay”) is a form of prayer developed since World War II in an ecumenical Christian community in France. The service is musical, simple, rich and meditative. During Child Abuse Awareness Month, we especially hold in our hearts all victims of sexual abuse. We take this time to present to Christ the scars and wounds of abuse and know that Christ bears them within his own wounds and his own suffering. We hope the prayers we offer and the songs we sing may strengthen us to work for an end to abuse in our churches and in our world.

LEARN MORE AT:
OWENSBORODIOCESE.ORG/SAFE

Divine Mercy Blessing

Dear Jesus,
May your mercy flow over us,
filling our gaps and healing our wounds.
Open our hearts more deeply
with knowledge of your love for us,
understanding of the depth of your passion,
and trust in your never-ending mercy.
Amen.

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While It Is Still Dark

If you are a person who is religious in any way, chances are that at some point, someone has asked you to give a reason why.

I meet lots of people who identify as spiritual but not religious, lots of people who are more comfortable splashing in the shallow end of belief but hesitating to wade into the more uncertain depths of doctrine. So when they ask the question “Why do you believe what you believe?” it usually comes out as “Why do you go to church?”

They want to know why I come to this specific place at this specific time. What am I expecting to happen?

We read that Mary Magdalene went to the tomb “while it was still dark.” I imagine she could not sleep. She was traumatized. Grieving. Confused. Angry, perhaps. Doubting? Maybe. It’s possible. We cannot know what was in her heart.

We only know what she did. We only know where she went. And we know that it was dark, that the light of Easter’s dawn had not yet pierced the sky.

Often, I am grieving when I go to church, or angry, or confused, or all three. I have gone many times with a doubting and resentful heart.

Because, you see, it is still dark. The dawn of eternity, which will illuminate all understanding, has not yet even begun to creep across my horizon.

My answer to the question, when I am asked, is that I go to church — to Catholic Mass, specifically — for the same reason Mary Magdalene went to the tomb. I go because it is the last place I saw Christ, and I am desperate to see him again.

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Ministry Schedule

	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Collection & Gifts
April 12	Jacques Williams Layson Brooks	Misty Sanford Denise & Greg Richardson	Burnell Hamilton Steve Coble
April 19	Katie Goins Greg Gough	Barb Bisel Michelle Jones Holly Hollis	Jamie, Beau, and Luke Bisel

Pastor's Corner Continued...

Most Curious. Jesus is by Divine Choice a co-defendant and co-plaintiff in every human life. This is an aspect of the mystery of the Incarnation. "Whatever you do to the least of these..." As co-defendant he offers himself to bear the guilt. As co-plaintiff he offers pardon to the offender. More than any other, because God is Love, Christ is the great Meddler in human interrelations. Who does he think he is? Without so much as a 'by your leave' or 'beg your pardon' he intervenes to reconcile us to each other and to God and this lands him square on the cross. This is the justice of God. This is Righteousness. He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, the Great Lover and friend of all.

The Most Curious of all. God's mercy is ours for the asking. It is not deserved, it is not earned, and it is not something to which we have a right. Yet it is ours, freely given, always poured out, running over. What we have been given, we are to give. "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who have trespassed against us. . . ." I remind everyone that we formally hear confessions at the Cathedral every Saturday morning from 9:30 – 11:00.

Easter Blessings, Fr. John

Fortitude, Explained!

"When you go out to war against your enemies and you see horses and chariots and an army greater than your own, you shall not be afraid of them," we read in Deuteronomy 20:1. "For the Lord, your God...will be with you."

The virtue of fortitude actually requires, first and foremost, the feeling of fear. In order to grow in fortitude, one must face a thing which frightens him; in that way, it is distinct from patience and perseverance. Christ shows perfect fortitude as he endures his Passion and death, of which he was indeed afraid; it is likewise shown by martyrs. But fortitude doesn't require a cinematic battle.

Fortitude can be shown by someone who is afraid of losing his job or of being in bodily danger simply for adhering to the laws of God. What is important is that the courage shown is in pursuit of the good, not just bearing with an attack.





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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