

4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 26, 2026



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:

Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:38)

Psalm:

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

Second Reading:

By his wounds you have been healed. For you had gone astray like sheep, but you have now returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls. (1 Pt 2:24-25)

Gospel:

"I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly." (Jn 10:10)



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"Whoever enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens it for him, and the sheep hear his voice, as the shepherd calls his own sheep by name and leads them out." - Jn 10:2-3

My Dear Parishioners:

Jesus says 'I am'. The Gospel today identifies Jesus as 'The Good Shepherd'. This Sunday is often referred to as 'Good Shepherd Sunday'. These "I am" sayings in the gospel of John are simply stated and easily grasped at a basic level. They are, at the same time, invitations into a lifelong relationship with Jesus in which we live into the promises they make. That means that the Good Shepherd who was there for me as a child is still here for me as an adult seeking to grow in faith amid personal and cultural challenges to that faith. John's Gospel has been aptly described as a book in which a child can wade and an elephant can swim.

It is through the Gospel of John that we learn this basic truth: Jesus' Identity Shapes Ours.

Each promise says something about Jesus' identity and something about ours as individuals and communities when we live in relationship to him. Put another way, each one says something about Christology and something about discipleship:

Food: I am the bread of life (John 6:35)

Light: I am the light of the world (8:12)

A path to follow: I am the Way, the truth and the life (14:6)

A gate to get onto the path: I am the Gate for the sheep (10:7)

Someone trustworthy to follow: I am the Good Shepherd (10:11)

An eternal journey: I am the Resurrection and the Life (11:25)

A life that bears the fruit of that walk: I am the True Vine (15:1)

Jesus is a Strange Kind of Shepherd. . .

Let's zoom in on this image of the Good Shepherd and see if we can move beyond familiarity to understanding and deeper faith for our daily lives.

It comes right after the expulsion of the formerly blind man from the synagogue, so the "thieves and robbers" Jesus refers to are probably the Pharisees. Jesus warns about thieves and bandits, and then elaborates on their failings. They speak with an unfamiliar voice, they come only to steal and kill and destroy. They see the wolf coming and leave the sheep because they do not care for the sheep. In this swirling mass of negatives, the Good Shepherd stands firm, undaunted by danger, not intimidated by threats. He is unmoved because his motivation is love for the sheep.

April Birthdays

26—Vivian Higgs
27—Ruth Coble
29—Jeffrey McCarter,
Katie Goins

May Birthdays

8—Mary Ann Terry
12—Cindy Clark
Brent Hatchett
14—Steve Coble
16—Brennah Brashear

Our thoughts and prayers are with the sick: Barb Bisel, Mike Dunn, 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.**

Mass Intentions

April 26 - Jean Murphy

May 3 - Carl Millay

May 10 - Larry Allen

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.

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Coming Events



April 26—Religious Ed

May 3—First Holy

Communion 10:00am

Reception following Mass in
parish Hall



April 19--\$1,754.50

Budget--\$1,300.00

MTD Collection--\$6,466.50

MTD Budget--\$3,900.00

YTD Collection--\$83,835.96

YTD Budget--\$55,600.00

*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

“I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.” John 10:11

My most boring job was working at an insurance company as a college student. My main task? Filing. Now imagine if I had told my supervisor, “I just want you to know, I’m willing to die for these files.” She would have called a psychiatrist — or at least security.

There is something absurd in Jesus’ words in today’s Gospel: **“I am the good shepherd... I lay down my life for the sheep.”** (John 10:11) It sounds noble, until you think about it. No one dies for sheep. Not a hired hand. Not even a good shepherd. Sheep are important, sure, but not worth a human life.

And yet, Jesus insists: *I will die for them.* The crowd understandably responds: **“He is out of his mind.”**

C.S. Lewis once said that Jesus does not leave us the option of calling him merely a good teacher. If someone speaks like him, he is either lying, crazy, or telling the truth. John’s Gospel won’t let us stay sentimental. Jesus means it. He reveals a love that surpasses logic — a love that measures worth not by strength or success, but by the willingness to suffer unto death.

The Good Shepherd’s madness is mercy. His cross makes no earthly sense and yet it makes divine sense. He lays down his life not for kings or saints but for sheep — for the ordinary, the unworthy, for you and me.

Think of someone who may feel unworthy of love. Do something simple and generous for them, not because they deserve it, but because Jesus did the same for you.

— Father John Muir

Readings for the Week

Monday: Acts 11:1-18/ Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4/Jn 10:11-18

Tuesday: Acts 11:19-26/ Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7/Jn 10:22-30

Wednesday: Acts 12:24-13:5a/ Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8/Jn 12:44-50

Thursday: Acts 13:13-25/ Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25 and 27/Jn 13:16-20

Friday: Acts 13:26-33/ Ps 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11ab/Jn 14:1-6

Saturday: Acts 13:44-52/ Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Jn 14:7-14

Observances for the Week

Tuesday: St. Peter Chanel, Priest and Martyr; St. Louis Grignion de Montfort, Priest

Wednesday: St. Catherine of Siena, Virgin and Doctor of the Church

Thursday: St. Pius V, Pope

Friday: St. Joseph the Worker; National Day of Prayer

Saturday: St. Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor of the Church



World Day of Prayer for Vocations,
also known as "Good Shepherd
Sunday."

The purpose of this day is to publicly fulfill the Lord's instruction to, "Pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his harvest" (Mt 9:38; Lk 10:2). Please pray that young men and women hear and respond generously to the Lord's call to the priesthood, diaconate, religious life, societies of apostolic life or secular institutes.



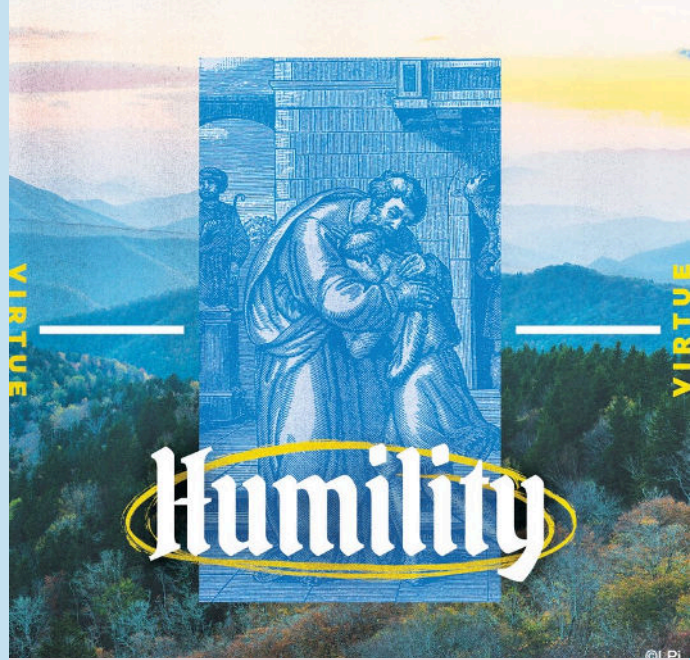
Humility, Explained!

“If anyone wishes to be first,” Christ told the Apostles in the Gospel of Mark, “he must become the last of all and the servant of all.”
(Mark 9:35).

True humility does not require us to ignore, underestimate or hide our gifts — it merely demands that we use these gifts rightly, with the knowledge that they are from our Creator and meant for His glory, not our own. “Man is a beggar before God,” said St. Augustine.

The Blessed Mother is the perfect model of this, and her Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55) is a blueprint for a life lived in joyful humility.

Humility, says the Catechism, is also the key to a fruitful prayer life: “Humility is the foundation of prayer. Only when we humbly acknowledge that ‘we do not know how to pray as we ought,’ are we ready to receive freely the gift of prayer.” (CCC 2559)



Blessing of the Good Shepherd

Dear Jesus,

Be the Good Shepherd in my life.

Help me to know your voice and to respond.
Help me to find your fold and the paths on
which you lead.

Bless me with verdant pastures and restful
waters.

Refresh my soul. Amen.

Ministry Schedule

	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Collection & Gifts
April 26	Volunteer Misty Sanford	Cindy Clark Denise & Greg Richardson	Berndette Thames
May 3	Jacques Williams Barb Bisel	Sr. Monica Seaton Misty Sanford Greg Gough	Burnell Hamilton Steve Coble

Pastor's Corner Continued...

All seven "I am" sayings have the effect of unifying Jesus' followers. The unity of the Father and the Son, a key theme in John's gospel, is to be mirrored in the unity of the community that gathers around Jesus. Because there is one and only one Good Shepherd, there is one flock that gathers around him.

Listen to how the "I am" sayings serve to unify those who believe in Jesus.

Since Jesus is food, discipleship means gathering around the table.

Since Jesus is light, discipleship means coming out of our dark corners and gathering in the middle of the room together.

Since Jesus is a path to follow, discipleship means walking together along it.

Since Jesus is an eternal journey, discipleship means a group pilgrimage of walking in the way that leads to life.

Since Jesus is the Vine, discipleship means being the branches, people whose lives derive their fruitfulness from him.

Since Jesus is the Good Shepherd, then discipleship means being sheep who find their life and well-being in his care.

Jesus was and is the Good Shepherd. He is with us always. He will never leave us. His only desire is to draw us to himself. And yes, that makes all of us his little sheep. Where he leads . . . we follow - together.

Easter blessings,

Fr. John



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for Vocations ©LPI



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IMP—Kroger

Thank you to everyone who has designated Blessed Sacrament as your community reward partner. If you do not have a community reward partner, please designate Blessed Sacrament. Blessed Sacrament's # is WX799.

Go to krogercommunityrewards.com to register. Thanks for your support.

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