



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 said, "Men of Galilee, why are you standing there looking at the sky? This Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven will return in the same way as you have seen him going into heaven." (Acts 1:11)

Psalm:

God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord. (Ps 47)

Second Reading:

May the eyes of your hearts be enlightened, that you may know what is the hope that belongs to his call. (Eph 1:18)

Gospel:

"Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." (Mt 28:19)



THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD



"All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." - Mt 28:18b-19

My Dear Parishioners:

Today's final paragraph of St Matthew's gospel does not describe the ascension, but reports some of our Lord's final instructions to his disciples before leaving them. I was once speaking to an elderly parishioner who was troubled over making a will. In her mind making a will, or receiving what were then called "The Last Sacraments" were things that you put off until the last moment. There was something rather ominous about it. Some of us may know families that became completely divided because someone hadn't decided to clearly make their will. In today's gospel, Jesus has little to say, but he is clear about what he has to say. This is in sharp contrast to the fact that, even at this last minute, some of his disciples still doubted.

The first thing about the disciples is that at least they did what he told them to do. He asked them to meet him on the mountain, and they did that. Like any gathering of human beings, each had his own emotions. Some of them worshipped him, while some of them still doubted. Jesus didn't seem to have any great problem with that, because he knew that, when the Spirit came, all of those doubts would be ended. It would seem, indeed, that he was in a hurry to take his leave of them, so that the second part of his plan of salvation could get underway.

Notice that Jesus begins his few words by telling them that he, not they, have full authority in heaven and on earth. In an earlier account in Luke's gospel, he says, "I have given you full authority over all the power of the evil one." The full authority over everything, however, is something that he reserves to himself. Those who go in his name, do so with his full authority. The authority goes with the mission. That is why he adds, "Go, therefore."; in other words, because I have the authority, you can go wherever I send you. My power, my promises, and my Spirit will go with you, and will see you through. After telling them what to do, he concludes with the clear and definite promise, "and be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

The mission of the apostles was essentially to teach others all that he had taught them. As Jesus asked his disciples to obey him, they were to ask that others should obey his directions and instructions also. This is like when a doctor puts you on a course of antibiotics. The original sin was a lie. The Spirit is a spirit of truth. One of the rules connected with taking antibiotics is that it is essential to complete the course. Some people begin to feel well after a few days, and they discontinue taking the medicine and, of course, their condition gets worse. The programme of redemption and salvation must continue from generation to generation, until the end of time. With all the changes in the church and in society, the two things that have not changed are Jesus himself, and every word of his message. The Message and the Messenger have never, and never will change. People who are bothered about changes in the church today should be reminded that the only things that matter have not changed at all:

*We write a page of our gospel each day
through the things we do and whatever we say.
People will know if it's faithful and true.
What is the gospel according to you?*



May Birthdays

22—Charles Brown, Sr.
26—Diane Hatchett
30—Karen Leachman,
31—Barbara Hammond,
Layson Brooks

Our thoughts and prayers are with the sick: Nicole Melton, 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.

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

May 17 - Jean Murphy

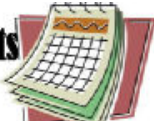
May 24 - April Brown

May 31 - Kenneth Higgs

ASCENSION



Coming Events



May 17—Graduate Blessing
at Mass

May 25—Memorial Day

June 7—Diocesan Corpus
Christi procession 3:00pm



May 10--\$1,706.50
Budget--\$1,300.00
MTD Collection--\$3,684.00
MTD Budget--\$2,600.00
YTD Collection--\$88,371.46
YTD Budget--\$59,500.00

*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

I recently read a book called “The Defining Decade” by psychologist Dr. Meg Jay. She convincingly argues that a person’s 20s are the most impactful decade of one’s life. For example, a twenty-something who waits until she has absolute clarity before making commitments typically drifts and regrets it later. But those who dive into something meaningful — even with doubts and questions — tend to grow and find joy and better outcomes in life. In other words, it takes courage, not perfect certainty, to move forward.

As we celebrate the Ascension of the Lord, that insight comes alive in a new way. Matthew tells us: **“When they saw him, they worshiped, but they doubted.”** (Matthew 28:17) Even standing before the risen Christ, the disciples were a mixture of adoration and hesitation. It is as though they were in their spiritual 20s...unsure, doubting, but nonetheless called to act in worship and mission.

Here is the key: Jesus does not tell them to wait until they are sure of things. He sends them anyway: **“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations.”** (Matthew 28:19) The mission of the Church begins not with perfect certainty but with imperfect disciples who wonder and worship. Then they get going.

That is us, too. We may feel unsure of ourselves, perhaps full of hesitation about following Christ more fully. But now is not the time to wait for perfect clarity. Now is the time to worship and to go, trusting that he is with us always, even to the end of the age.

— Father John Muir

Readings for the Week

Monday: Acts 19:1-8/Ps 68:2-3ab, 4-5acd, 6-7ab/Jn 16:29-33

Tuesday: Acts 20:17-27/Ps 68:10-11, 20-21/Jn 17:1-11a

Wednesday: Acts 20:28-38/ Ps 68:29-30, 33-35a, 35bc-36ab/Jn 17:11b-19

Thursday: Acts 22:30; 23:6-11/Ps 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11/Jn 17:20-26

Friday: Acts 25:13b-21/Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20ab/Jn 21:15-19

Saturday: Acts 28:16-20, 30-31/Ps 11:4, 5 and 7/Jn 21:20-25

Observances for the Week

Monday: St. John I, Pope and Martyr

Wednesday: St. Bernardine of Siena, Priest

Thursday: St. Christopher Magallanes, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs

Friday: St. Rita of Cascia, Religious



Congratulations to Lucinda H. Fuchs who will graduate from Daviess County High School. Blessings as you continue your education at the University of Kentucky!

St. Rita of Cascia | May 22

St. Rita of Cascia (1381 – 1457) had the opportunity to live her life as a wife, mother, widow, and eventually, member of a religious community. Born in central Italy, St. Rita felt the calling to become a nun, but was pressured at a young age into marriage. During her 18-year marriage to a cruel man, she raised two sons. When her husband was killed in a brawl and her sons died, St. Rita decided to go back to her first love and attempted to join the Augustinian nuns in Cascia. Her status as a widow caused some complications to her entering, but she eventually succeeded in professing vows. Throughout her lifetime, St. Rita of Cascia was known for her prayerfulness and charity. She also experienced stigmata on her forehead, meditated frequently on Christ's passion, and cared for the nuns of her religious community and those in the lay community who came to her for counsel.

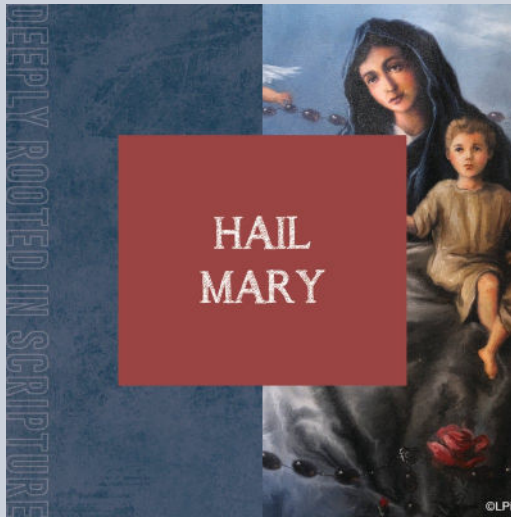


Hail Mary, Explained

The words of the Hail Mary — undoubtedly the most recognizable Catholic prayer after the Lord’s Prayer — are deeply rooted in scripture. The opening lines of the prayer are taken from the words of the angel Gabriel at the Annunciation — “Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.” This line is known as the Angelic Salutation. The following words — “Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus” — echo the sentiments expressed by Elizabeth at the Visitation.

The Angelic Salutation is regarded as the earliest devotional prayer to Mary, since it forms the very first words spoken to her as the Mother of God, but Catholics did not begin to utilize the Hail Mary prayer in its current form until around the 11th century.

An in-depth explanation of each line of this prayer is provided in the Catechism of the Catholic Church 2676-2677.



Ministry Schedule

| | Lectors | Eucharistic Ministers | Collection & Gifts |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| May 17 | Greg Gough Sister Monica Seaton | Greg & Denise Richardson Misty Sanford | Barbara Hammond Wonet Taylor |
| May 24 | Jacques Williams Layson Brooks | Vivian Higgs Cindy Clark Janet Clark | Bernadette Thames |

Pastor's Corner Continued...

Even sharing with another something you heard here today that you find helpful could be a way of witnessing to Christ. It will be clear to anyone who wishes to see, that someone who is trying to live the sort of life Jesus taught us must be a powerful witness, indeed. There seems to be a lot of loneliness and depression around today, or maybe we are now more aware of it. Being alone is not the same as being lonely. I could be among a crowd and still be lonely. On the other hand, as the wise Cicero once said, *one may feel never less alone than when alone (minus solum, quam cum solus esse)*. This applies especially to any who take seriously the final words of today's gospel, "I am with you always." Like a young mother, nursing her baby while it is sound asleep, communication doesn't always need words. If one is open to the presence and reality of the Lord in my life, then God responds to that, and we can live with a conscious awareness of his presence.

Blessings,

Fr. John



The Roman Catholic Diocese of Owensboro and
Saint Stephen Cathedral Invite you to:

CORPUS CHRISTI PROCESSION



Beginning at Sts. Joseph and Paul Catholic Church

609 E 4th St, Owensboro, KY 42303

Ending at Saint Stephen Cathedral

SUNDAY | JUNE 7 | 3:00 PM

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Go to [krogercommunityrewards.com](https://www.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