



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:

My word shall not return to me void, but shall do my will, achieving the end for which I sent it. (Is 55:11)

Psalm:

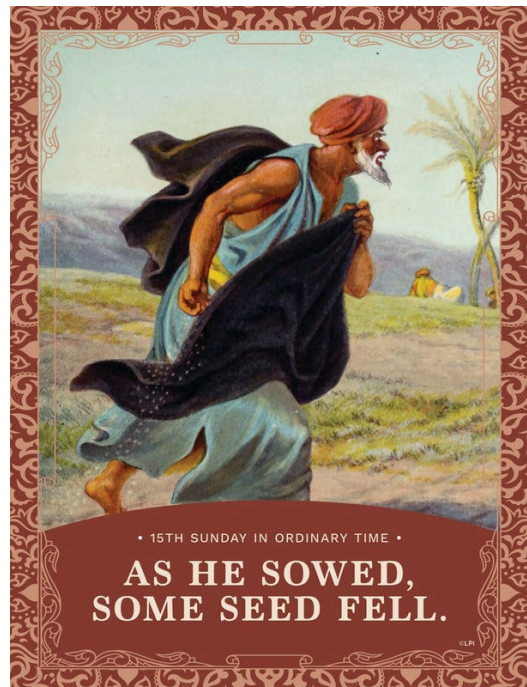
The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest. (Ps 65)

Second Reading:

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us. (Rom 8:18)

Gospel:

Amen, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it. (Mt 13:17)



My Dear Parishioners:

When it comes to facing failures in life, the farmer in today's Gospel parable sounds a lot like many of us. We work hard, and only sometimes succeed. Most of the best things that we give to others are not by them well received. Most of what we want to plant in the lives of those around us doesn't "take"; it doesn't become rooted and permanently planted in their lives. All of us have to deal with failure, those areas where the best we've given to others comes up lacking, falling short of our hopes, our dreams, and our great expectations.

There are some biblical commentators who suggest that the parable of Jesus we've just heard was autobiographical. That may well be true. Jesus certainly had to face a whole lot of apparent failure. He knew full well the pain of failure: - He was born and raised in Nazareth, and his own hometown folks rejected Him. - His own Hebrew countrymen rejected His message. - His handpicked twelve apostles? Well, one of them sold Him out for thirty pieces of silver and the others fled when He was crucified. - Peter wasn't too swift to take His message to heart, Thomas was the doubter, and the others weren't much better, either. Elijah, long before Christ, along with Jeremiah and other prophets as well, were notable failures, most of them being taken outside the walls of Jerusalem and then stoned to death.

Up to this point my remarks all sound terribly dismal and discouraging. But my point today is that we need to remember that Jesus did not let apparent failure stop Him. In His parable, Jesus went on to speak about a crop that yielded a harvest in successful amounts, some yields bringing spectacular success. Today's Gospel parable is not a dirge - it is a celebration; it is a story of hope, not of despair. Crisis is made up of both danger and opportunity. True there are evils that surround us, but many of those evils are slowly being overcome. God is at work among us bringing good out of evil. We must remember that in the hands of God the slightest good can be multiplied to feed thousands if we but hand our efforts into His care and providence.

You and I, like all good farmers who continually face floods and disasters of every sort, need to seriously engage ourselves in the enterprise of faith and hope, planting what we have, planting the best of what we have, and then letting God's sun, wind, and gentle rains do the rest. God's only-begotten Son, along with the gentle breath of His Holy Spirit, provide waters of grace to nourish and sustain what He has planted in the lives of those we love. The best years of our lives, and the best that we have given to others in them, or are giving right now, or will give in the future, will not be fruitless.

Many times I am called upon to console distraught parents who poured out all of their love and faith into their children, taught them the Catholic faith, sent them to religious education classes, or to Catholic schools, only to have them, as adults, leave our Church and go elsewhere, many times to a type of religion that requires little if any faith but which gives good feelings. We must remember in such cases that the love and the faith that we've planted in the hearts of those around us, particularly in the hearts and souls of our children, will eventually blossom. The hopes and dreams that we've planted in others, even when they seem to be buried under too much dirt, will germinate, grow, and yield a harvest of some extent, even if our efforts do not now appear to be unqualified successes.

July Birthdays

13—Francine Epison
15—Georgia Holland
17—Wayne Stephens,
21—Meredith Fain
22—Marcia Wilhite
24—Lori Robinson
27—Robert Hagan
29—Hugh Moorman
30—Yvonne Mundy

Our thoughts and prayers are with the sick: Phaedra Fuchs, Mary Ann Terry, Nicole Melton, Mike Dunn, 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

July 12 - Larry Allen

July 19 - Carl Millay

July 26 - Sam Thruston

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.

15th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Coming Events



July 25&26 - Raffle sales at Saint Stephen Cathedral after Masses

July 31-Picnic Prep - Volunteer sign up coming soon

August 1-Picnic Drive-Thru 11am-1pm



August 9-Raffle Drawing after Mass



July 5--\$1,292.50
Budget--\$1,300.00
MTD Collection--\$1,292.50
MTD Budget--\$1,300.00
YTD Collection--\$1,292.50
YTD Budget--\$1,300.00

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

Sometimes I feel capable of absorbing almost anything except God's Word. My mind soaks up song lyrics, sports trivia, and endless online content. But what was the reading at Mass this morning? I struggle to recall. That realization discourages me, and it leads to an uncomfortable question. What is my heart really for? Is it shaped for constant information and distraction, or is it truly designed for God? Am I capable of deeply receiving His Word?

Jesus speaks directly to this today with a simple image. **"The seed sown on rich soil is the one who hears the word and understands it."** By comparing the Word of the Kingdom to a seed, Jesus reveals something hopeful about us. The human heart is made for that seed. Soil and seed belong together. No matter how compacted, rocky, or overgrown the ground has become, the Sower never stops sowing.

God loves our hearts. He sees them as a farmer sees his fields, full of potential. Human hearts can indeed **"understand the Word."** Understanding does not mean mastering information. It means letting the Word sink in, interacting with it, and giving it a home. It means trusting that, beneath the surface, God is at work in quiet and hidden ways.

When we allow the Holy Spirit to loosen the soil of our hearts through prayer, repentance, and simplicity, the same Word that created the universe begins to bear fruit in us, 30, 60, even a hundredfold.

Lord Jesus, Sower of life, soften the soil of my heart. Let Your Word take root in me again, and bring forth the fruit You desire. Amen.

— Father John Muir

Readings for the Week

Monday: Is 1:10-17/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23/Mt 10:34-11:1

Tuesday: Is 7:1-9/Ps 48:2-3a, 3b-4, 5-6, 7-8/Mt 11:20-24

Wednesday: Is 10:5-7, 13b-16/Ps 94:5-6, 7-8, 9-10, 14-15/Mt 11:25-27

Thursday: Is 26:7-9, 12, 16-19/Ps 102:13-14ab and 15, 16-18, 19-21/Mt 11:28-30

Friday: Is 38:1-6, 21-22, 7-8/Is 38:10, 12abcd, 16/Mt 12:1-8

Saturday: Mi 2:1-5/Ps 10:1-2, 3-4, 7-8, 14/Mt 12:14-21

Observances for the Week

Monday: St. Henry

Tuesday: St. Kateri Tekakwitha, Virgin

Wednesday: St. Bonaventure, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Thursday: Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Saturday: St. Camillus de Lellis, Priest

“In the Word with Bishop Medley”

This video series is an effort to offer faith formation across the diocese in the most effective format for adult learners – small groups!

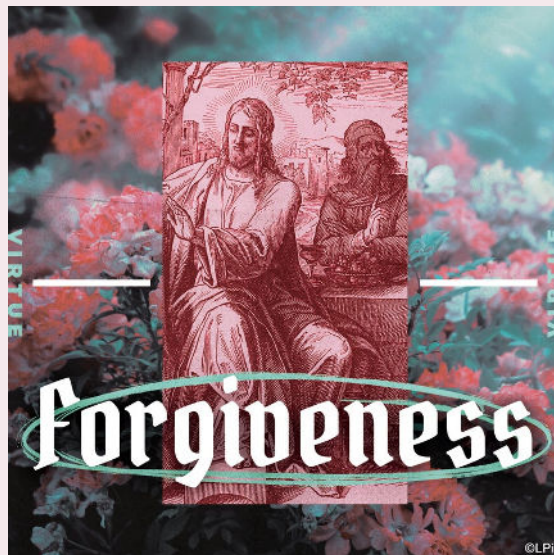
This specific series will meet once a month running from September through May. The content is twofold. It covers basic scripture scholarship and the liturgical calendar, and Bishop Medley will offer a video reflection on the readings for the fourth Sunday of the month.

If you are interested in participating contact Sr. Monica for more details.

Forgiveness, Explained!

The virtue of forgiveness is described to us in detail by Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 18, when he tells Peter that he must forgive his brother “not seven times, but seventy-seven times” before relating the parable of the unforgiving servant. Here we see that exercising forgiveness is an absolute requirement of the Christian life. What we have received from God through no merit of our own, we must likewise extend to others.

Forgiveness is love in action — and as is the case with most virtues, if we find it hard to practice, that means we’re doing it right. The Catechism says that forgiveness “bears witness that...love is stronger than sin” (CCC 2844) and points out that it “is not in our power not to feel or to forget an offense; but the heart that offers itself to the Holy Spirit turns injury into compassion and purifies the memory in transforming the hurt into intercession.” (CCC 2843)



QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK - REFLECT AND RESPOND TO SCRIPTURE

1st Reading Question

Isaiah encourages us to trust in the reliability of God’s word and purposes.
When do you find yourself trusting in the Lord?

2nd Reading Question

Paul places his hope in God’s promised future, when both people and creation itself will be freed from corruption and decay.
Is there something you or your family have been hoping for lately?

Gospel Question

Jesus teaches his disciples to be open (be “rich soil”) to the often mysterious meaning of the parables about the kingdom of Heaven.
Are you someone who is open to new or different ideas?

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LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Our hearts are fertile ground for the Word of God, but we must be careful gardeners. Be conscious of what damages and depletes the soil of your heart. Pay attention to what nourishes it, so that the goodness of the Word can bloom forth into the world.

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Ministry Schedule

	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Collection & Gifts
July 12	Jacques Williams Leland Herzog	Holly Hollis Michelle Jones Barb Bisel	Janet and Lila Clark
July 19	Jerry Fuchs Katie Goins	Greg & Denise Richardson Misty Sanford	Kelly, Holly, & Sam Hollis

Pastor's Corner Continued...

But that is life - and Jesus knew it. His parable could well have been autobiographical for it is truly a vignette of His life. Sure, our world is a mess now, but it always has been. We need to see that there is also an amazing amount of goodness in it. The greatest miracle of all isn't found at Lourdes, or Fatima, or Medjugorje, it's found in those around us, in those who are, in spite of terrible odds, yielding up love, kindness, caring, and sensitivity thirty, sixty and a hundred fold.

We have our modern day heroes among us who are leading us as never before in efforts to rid our world of oppression, racism, and injustice. And so, I encourage, keep on planting God's good seeds in the lives of those near to you. For God Himself has said through His prophet Isaiah that His Word shall go forth from His mouth " ... and it shall not return to me void, but shall do my will, achieving the end for which I sent it." (Isaiah 55:11) Faith and hope are what should be in our hearts, not defeat and despair.

Blessings,

Fr. John

BLESSED SACRAMENT CHAPEL PICNIC

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1

50/50 Raffle Tickets on sale now
Buy from a parishioner or message on
Facebook. 1 Ticket for \$5

BBQ ribs, chicken, and pulled pork
Whole Chickens- \$12
Pound of Pulled Pork- \$12
Ribs Full Rack- \$25 Half Rack \$13

Drive-thru Pick Up
11:00am-1:00pm

50/50 Raffle

\$650 in ticket sales have been
turned in.

SELL, SELL, SELL!

Thank you for your efforts to
support our major fundraiser.

To turn in sold tickets or if you
need more tickets please
contact Cindy Clark,
Michelle Jones,
or Sister Monica



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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