

16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JULY 19, 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
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Parochial Vicar: Father Christopher Grief
grief@sscobo.org

Parish Life Coordinator: Sr. Monica Seaton, OSU
office@bscobo.org

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

For your might is the source of justice; your mastery over all things makes you lenient to all. (Wis 12:16)

Psalm:

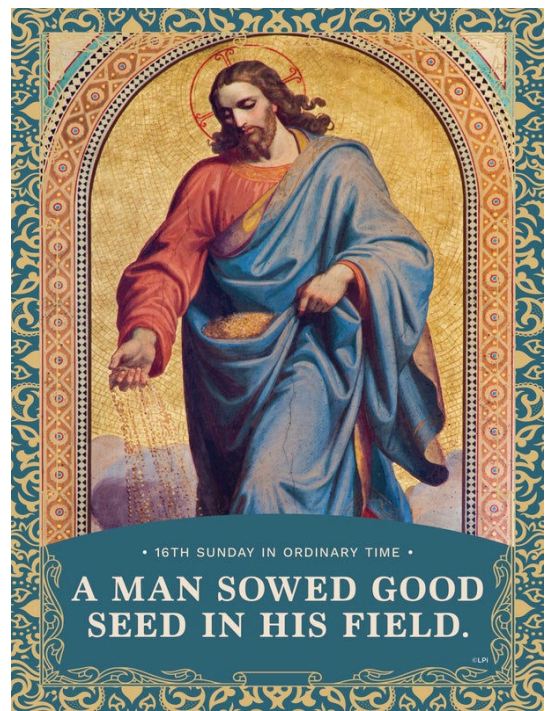
Lord, you are good and forgiving. (Ps 86)

Second Reading:

And the one who searches hearts knows what is the intention of the Spirit, because he intercedes for the holy ones according to God's will. (Rom 8:27)

Gospel:

"The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that a person took and sowed in a field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, yet when full-grown it is the largest of plants." (Mt 13:31-32)



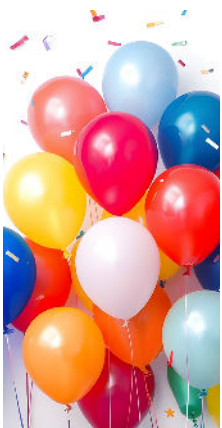
My Dear Parishioners:

So many people begin things with good intentions, wonderful visions, and really want to make things better, both in their own lives and in the lives of others. Marx and Lenin, the fathers of communism, really wanted to make the lives of their countrymen better. We went to war in Vietnam with good intentions. Atomic energy was supposed to make the world a better place. But, as in so many great efforts, things are likely to eventually go wrong. The same is true in our own personal lives. People fall in love and get married with nothing but the best of intentions, with high hopes, with hearts filled with love, and with wonderful visions. Then, somewhere along the line, things turn sour. Life is a mixture of good and evil.

We are imperfect people living in an imperfect world. There's much in our nation that is both good and bad. Our governmental officials are both good and bad. There's much in our Church that is good, and there are some bad things in it too. If we're honest, we see that there is both good and bad in us individually and collectively. Everywhere we look we find this strange mixture of what's right and what's wrong. The world of great literature and the world of great art try to help us deal with this mixture of good and evil. The famous Star Wars movie series presents good people who, for some mysterious reason, go over to the Dark Side. The authors and producers of Star Wars don't give us an explanation of why this happens, they give us only the epic struggle of good trying to overcome evil. The world's great writers, novelists and poets give us no ultimate answer to the problem of evil's origins; the only thing they can do is help us deal with the problem. The Bible tells us that Lucifer was one of the greatest of all God's angels. His name, Lucifer, means "Light Bearer." He was one of the highest of God's creatures; he bore God's own light. And yet... for some reason he became the Prince of Darkness. The reason? Lucifer put his will before God's will. He refused to obey God. He opted to go his own way. He defied God. The mystery is: Why did he do that?

As followers of Jesus Christ, what do we do with the problem of evil? That's the question raised in today's readings. Answering the question is a big problem for all of us. Just what do we do when it comes to ridding ourselves and our world of evil? The Scripture passages in today's first reading and today's gospel account suggest that we deal with evil as God deals with it, with patience and forbearance. Evil will eventually reveal itself and evil will eventually suffer the consequences it brings down upon itself. Sin brings with it its own suffering and punishment.

There are a couple of interesting points about the parable of Jesus we just heard that I want to point out to you. One is that when He was asked where the weeds came from Jesus replied: "An enemy has done this." He doesn't tell us why God has enemies; He simply takes it as a fact. He is a realist, not a dreamy eyed idealist. To take a realistic view of life we simply must begin with the facts – evil exists and it comes from people who have chosen to defy God. It may not make any sense to us, but we simply must take it as a fact of life. People, of their own free will, choose to defy God and do things quite apart from Him. In the world of human choices, things are not as they ought to be, things are quite apart from what God intended them to be. The price of human freedom of choice is terribly costly, not only to us, but to God. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, had to pay that price. Why,



July Birthdays

21—Meredith Fain
22—Marcia Wilhite
24—Lori Robinson
27—Robert Hagan
29—Hugh Moorman
30—Yvonne Mundy

Mass Intentions

July 19 - Carl Millay

July 26 - Sam Thruston

August 2 - Sandra Brown

Our thoughts and prayers are with the sick: Ginny Singleton, 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.**

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



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

July 31-Picnic Prep - Volunteer sign up coming soon

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

August 9-Raffle Drawing after Mass



July 12--\$1,995.50
Budget--\$1,300.00
MTD Collection--\$3,288.00
MTD Budget--\$2,600.00
YTD Collection--\$3,288.00
YTD Budget--\$2,600.00

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

A man recently told me he was losing patience with the Church. **“It’s supposed to be God’s Kingdom on earth,” he said, “but it’s full of contradictions and hypocrisy. Why can’t the Church just be better?”** That last word landed with a judgmental thud. It hurt. Because at times the Church can look painfully ordinary, even disappointing.

But Jesus’ parables in today’s Gospel meet that frustration head-on. He says, **“The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a man who sowed good seed in his field,”** yet the weeds grow up with the wheat, and the master allows both to grow together until harvest. To his listeners, this sounded strange, even offensive. They expected God’s reign to be pure, powerful, and glorious, anything but mixed up, hidden, or small.

Jesus is showing us something essential. The Kingdom always begins small and grows amid imperfection. Grace and weakness exist side by side until the harvest. That is why the Church often looks messy. Yet within that mess, God’s quiet work continues. The weeds do not stop the wheat from growing.

When we see the Church’s flaws or our own, it helps to remember that this is exactly the field in which Christ chose to plant. The miracle is not that everything looks perfect, but that his Word keeps taking root anyway.

Lord, give me patience with Your field, the Church. Help me see Your hidden life growing even among the weeds. Amen.

— Father John Muir

Readings for the Week

Monday: Mi 6:1-4, 6-8/Ps 50:5-6, 8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23/Mt 12:38-42

Tuesday: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20/Ps 85:2-4, 5-6, 7-8/Mt 12:46-50

Wednesday: Sg 3:1-4b or 2 Cor 5:14-17/Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9/Jn 20:1-2, 11-18

Thursday: Jer 2:1-3, 7-8, 12-13/Ps 36:6-7ab, 8-9, 10-11/Mt 13:10-17

Friday: Jer 3:14-17/Jer 31:10, 11-12ab, 13/Mt 13:18-23

Saturday: 2 Cor 4:7-15/Ps 126:1bc-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-5, 6/Mt 20:20-28

Observances for the Week

Monday: St. Apollinaris, Bishop and Martyr

Tuesday: St. Lawrence of Brindisi, Priest and Doctor of the Church

Wednesday: St. Mary Magdalene

Thursday: St. Bridget, Religious

Friday: St. Sharbel Makhlūf, Priest

Saturday: St. James, Apostle

“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.

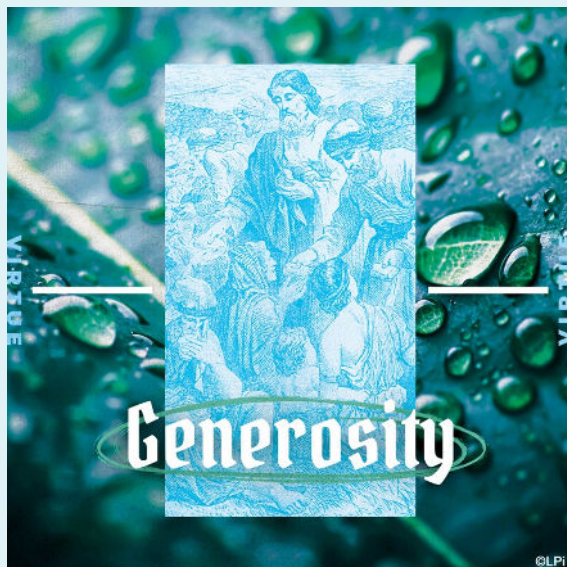
Generosity, Explained!

In the early Church, we read in the Acts of the Apostles, “all who believed were together and had all things in common; and they sold their possessions and goods and distributed them to all, as any had need.” (Acts 2:44-45)

This doesn’t mean we are obligated to sell our homes and cars, move in with our fellow parishioners and split the water bill. But it certainly does describe the spirit with which we must live as Christians — and it is a generous spirit, a spirit of self-denial, a spirit that prioritizes the welfare of our brothers and sisters as it does our own.

Generosity is a fruit of the Holy Spirit, cultivated in our hearts by a closeness to the sacraments and a persistence in prayer: “The one who provides seed for sowing and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed and increase the harvest of your righteousness.” (2 Corinthians 9:10)

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QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK - REFLECT AND RESPOND TO SCRIPTURE

1st Reading Question

Wisdom speaks of God’s power in terms of kindness, leniency, and mercy.
What words would you use to describe God?

2nd Reading Question

Paul explains that the Spirit intercedes on our behalf, especially when we struggle in our prayer life.
How can the Spirit help you in your prayer life?

Gospel Question

In the parable of the weeds and the wheat, Jesus warns the disciples of the presence of the devil active in the world.
How do we stay on guard against the evil one?

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LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

The mustard seed was the smallest seed, but it grew to be the largest plant because it was well-tended. This is faith: looking past what is to see what can be, if only we make the necessary choice.

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Ministry Schedule

	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Collection & Gifts
July 19	Jerry Fuchs Katie Goins	Greg & Denise Richardson Misty Sanford	Kelly, Holly, & Sam Hollis
July 26	Wayne Stephens Greg Gough	Vivian Higgs Sr. Monica Seaton Holly Hollis	Dee and Brennah Brashear

Pastor's Corner Continued...

we ask, doesn't God simply pull up all of evil's weeds? Why doesn't God, with fire and brimstone, simply blast evil off the face of the earth? Well, that's a lot easier said than done. Suppose God did, what would happen? What would happen to each one of us? Aren't we all a mixture of good and evil? Wouldn't we get caught up on their firestorm of evil's destruction? Which brings me to the second point, namely the fact that so very often what is evil appears to be good, and what is good appears to be evil.

We can't make the sorting, only God can. In today's parable Jesus speaks of the weeds are darnel. Now at the beginning of the growing process darnel looks just like wheat. It's only as harvest time approaches that the difference between the two becomes apparent. We know that to be true, don't we, when it comes to the great enterprises we begin. It's only after the passage of time that we find out what's really good and what's really bad in our marriages. It was only after communism matured that we came to know just how evil it was.

And the same principle applies in so many areas of our lives. Everything has something wrong within it. We certainly know that's true in our own Church, in our nation, in our world, and in our own personal lives. There are no "quick-fix" and easy solutions. Patience and forbearance are necessary, and to have patience and forbearance one must have faith. This is what Jesus is calling us to have – faith in His heavenly Father's plan, faith in His heavenly Father's ultimate ways of dealing with us and with our world. We have to believe in God's goodness and believe in His love for all that is good in our world. Isn't that the faith Jesus had when we suffered His agony in the Garden of Gethsemane and as He hung dying on the cross? The Evil One tempted Him to despair, tempted Him to go over to the Dark Side. But Jesus remained steadfast, confident that in the end, at harvest time, His Father in heaven would harvest the good wheat and burn the darnel. Dying, Jesus handed over His fate to His Father in heaven.

Yes, it is a strange world we live in. But at the same time, it is a beautiful world, a beautiful world filled with beautiful, wonderful, and even heroic people. The miracle is that goodness and love have survived evil's onslaught. What is the vision in which you live? Do you really have faith in your heavenly Father? Today, once again, Jesus invites you to share in His, vision, in His hope, and in His faith that in the end God will bring good out of evil.

Blessings,

Fr. John

50/50 Raffle

\$1,450 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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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