

17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JULY 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:

"Give your servant, therefore, an understanding heart to judge your people and to distinguish right from wrong. For who is able to govern this vast people of yours?" (1 Kgs 3:9)

Psalm:

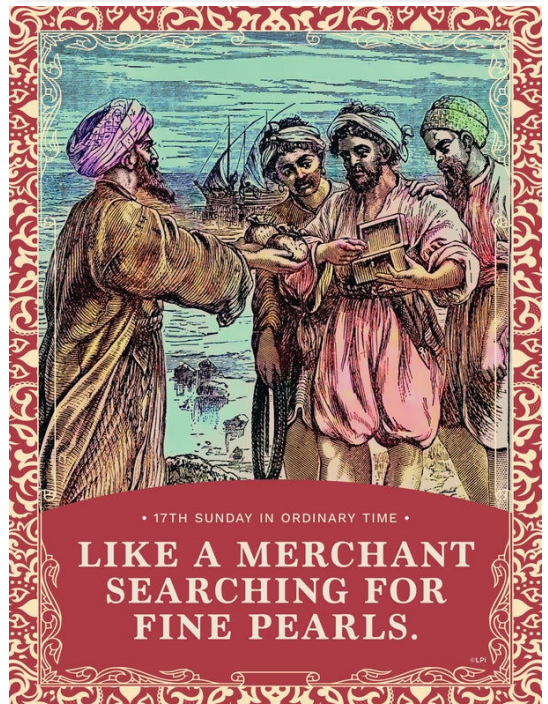
Lord, I love your commands. (Ps 119)

Second Reading:

We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. (Rom 8:28)

Gospel:

"The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field, which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field." (Mt 13:44)



My Dear Parishioners:

The kingdom of God was always on the mind of Jesus. There are about 150 references to God's kingdom in the New Testament, 52 of them in St. Matthew's Gospel alone. It seems that the more Jesus spoke of the kingdom the more otherworldly it seemed to be. Perhaps that's because in an insanely self-centered world, sanity seems unrealistic.

In today's Gospel, Jesus called it a hidden treasure, a box filled with golden coins hidden somewhere in a farmer's field, a jewel found by an astute businessman who sold everything he owned in order to buy it. Elsewhere Jesus spoke of the kingdom as a fishing net filled with fish both good and bad. He called it leaven, light, salt and seed. He called it a ripe harvest, a royal feast, and wedding banquet, and so forth.

But what is the kingdom in everyday terms? What is it in the life we live out this week, next month, next year?

Some think the kingdom is a remote and distant heaven that follows our life here on earth. Others think it is an ideal political and economic system. Some think it is exclusively God's business; some think the kingdom is only within the Church.

But what IS the kingdom of God? When did it start? Where did it come into being?

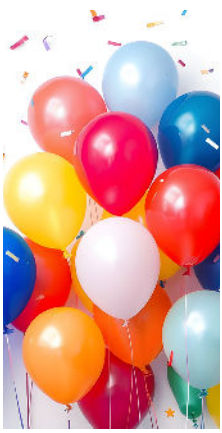
The answer is found in the beginning of things. In their genesis God divided light from darkness. Then God divided the land from the waters of the earth. Then He made the earth fertile so that it would grow living things. Then He made the oceans, rivers and lake teem with fish. The air He filled with birds and the ground with animals of all kinds.

Then as things evolved God made the likes of you and me. He took the face of a man and then of a woman between His hands, bent their faces back, and blew into them the breath of life saying, "Live! Live you man, live you woman, live as I live. I place you as my agents over all the earth I have made. Have life. Increase life. Give my life to your children."

Where is the kingdom of God? Jesus tells us it is here on earth; here as it is in heaven. The kingdom is in us as God has made us. It is in human life, that sacred space in which lives the very Spirit of God, the very life of God. That is where it started; that is where it is now.

God's kingdom is discovered and made real in doing God's will. It is realized in God's desire for our life, a quality, joy-filled life in you and in those He has put into your life. Whenever we pray the Lord's Prayer we pray: "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth..." God's will is nothing else but our well-being and happiness. God's will is realized in living a healthy human life. The kingdom of heaven is here on earth, in high quality human life.

Jesus was recognized and acknowledged as the Son of God because people saw in Him that divine purpose and God's divine will in the life Jesus lived.



July Birthdays

27—Robert Hagan
29—Hugh Moorman
30—Yvonne Mundy

August Birthdays

21—Kyler Carmona
Dee Brashear
24—Celena Hagan
25—Denise Richardson

Mass Intentions

July 26 - Sam Thruston
August 2 - Sandra Brown
August 9 - Larry Allen

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.**

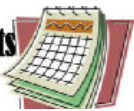
Let us remember to pray for those who are dying and those who have recently died.

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 in the back of church

August 1-Picnic Drive-Thru

11am-1pm



August 9-Raffle Drawing after Mass



July 19--\$1,751.00

Budget--\$1,300.00

MTD Collection--\$5,039.00

MTD Budget--\$3,900.00

YTD Collection--\$5,039.00

YTD Budget--\$3,900.00

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

Around the time that the gold rushes ended in the nineteenth-century West, a curious phenomenon arose in New England known as money diggers. These were men who roamed the countryside with shovels, divining rods, and superstitious hope, convinced that treasure lay buried beneath their feet. Surely there must be gold under our feet. But there was not. The craze of these wild goose chases caused many to lose farms, families, and sanity.

In this week's Gospel, Jesus inaugurates a new era of spiritual money digging. He announces, "**The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field.**" He invites us to become treasure seekers who search in the right place. What is of greatest value is not money beneath our feet, but the infinite treasure hidden deep in the humanity of Jesus himself, God's own blessed life. The glory of heaven lies veiled in his ordinary life, his teaching, his suffering, his Church.

This teaching about the Kingdom changes things. Now we see the Church's doctrinal and moral teachings are not arbitrary rules. They are a treasure map. Follow them, and we will uncover divine happiness. Ignore them, and we will wander aimlessly, spade in hand, digging in empty fields, discouraged.

Where have we wasted energy seeking treasure in the wrong places? How have we given up on seeking the treasure of truly finding God's love for us? If so, let us repent of both. Then let us dust off our shovels and get back to digging deep into the field of Christ Jesus and his Church. After all, He never ceases seeking his treasure in us.

— Father John Muir

Readings for the Week

Monday: Jer 13:1-11/Dt 32:18-19, 20, 21/Mt 13:31-35

Tuesday: Jer 14:17-22/Ps 79:8, 9, 11 and 13/Mt 13:36-43

Wednesday: Jer 15:10, 16-21/Ps 59:2-3, 4, 10-11, 17, 18/Jn 11:19-27 or Lk 10:38-42

Thursday: Jer 18:1-6/Ps 146:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6ab/Mt 13:47-53

Friday: Jer 26:1-9/Ps 69:5, 8-10, 14/Mt 13:54-58

Saturday: Jer 26:11-16, 24/Ps 69:15-16, 30-31, 33-34/Mt 14:1-12

Observances for the Week

Wednesday: Sts. Martha, Mary and Lazarus

Thursday: St. Peter Chrysologus, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Friday: St. Ignatius of Loyola, Priest

Saturday: St. Alphonsus Liguori, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

“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.

Hospitality, Explained!

When three strangers came to Abraham’s tent at Mamre on a sweltering day, he rushed to offer them respite from the heat (Genesis 18:2-3).

When the prophet Elisha visited Shunem, a woman set aside a special room in her house for him, so that he would return and feel comfortable (2 Kings 4:10).

These Old Testament examples show people living out the law of welcoming the sojourner (Leviticus 19:33), a law that found fulfillment in the Christian mandate to “practice hospitality” (Romans 12:13) and show “brotherly love” (Hebrews 13:1-2).

The virtue of hospitality is characterized by kindness and welcome, particularly to those who are strangers. Since the stranger, by nature, has no particular claim on our affections, the love we extend to him is true Christian love — love purely for the sake of the one “who loved us first” (1 John 4:19).



QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK - REFLECT AND RESPOND TO SCRIPTURE

1st Reading Question

The Lord grants Solomon’s request to give him a wise and discerning heart so he can rule justly over the people of Israel.

Have you ever had a wish come true?

2nd Reading Question

Paul speaks of God working with believers according to his purposes.

How would you describe your purpose or passion in life?

Gospel Question

Jesus often speaks in parables about the kingdom of Heaven that invite you to imagine how God works in the world.

Where do you see God at work in your family?

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LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Christ compares the kingdom of Heaven to buried treasure — the find of a lifetime, one you would risk everything to keep. Are we doing all we can to hold onto this treasure that we have been lucky enough to discover? What is Heaven worth to us?

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Ministry Schedule

	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Collection & Gifts
July 26	Wayne Stephens Greg Gough	Vivian Higgs Sr. Monica Seaton Holly Hollis	Dee and Brennah Brashear
August 2	Barb Bisel Misty Sanford	Cindy Clark Janet Clark Michelle Jones	Barbara Hammond Wonet Taylor

Pastor's Corner Continued...

Stop being deaf, Jesus cried. Listen! Stop being blind. Search and see. Stop being crippled. It's no good to live a paralyzed life. Move, change, and act. Stop being mute. Speak about what is good, what is beautiful, and what is true! Speak God's mind and purpose; speak God's will.

When Jesus encountered the widow of Nain with her only child and now dead son, and when He was taken into the room of the dead daughter of Jairus, and when He wept at the tomb of His dead friend Lazarus, He cried out: "Come forth! Get up! Live!" He cried out with the same voice and word of God that in the beginning brought forth everything out of nothing and life out of inert matter. It was God our Creator's voice calling us through His incarnate Word, Jesus Christ, to live.

Jesus gave life; He restored life; He required life, He calls us to life. He lived life with prostitutes, adulterers, outcasts, widows, and He does so today. He lives today in street people, in the homeless, and in migrants. He is present in everyone you meet today, no matter how badly those around you have disfigured and disguised His presence.

Jesus changed Zacchaeus, that greedy, grasping, mean little man who sat on his piles of money. Zacchaeus became prodigally generous, insanely generous, as generous as God is generous.

Jesus detested injustice; He hated unfairness; He was revolted by sickness, deformity and disease. He set His face against oppressors. When the Prince of Darkness, our Ancient Enemy and the Father of Lies tempted Him to do things other than in God's ways, He stood His ground. When Pilate condemned Him, Jesus stood in simple silence, grounded as He was in His Father's kingdom.

We must all ask ourselves whether we are living in God's kingdom. Do we sacrifice our comfort and convenience for the sake of those around us? Does our work add value to the value of human life around us? Do our choices, our attitudes, and our decisions contribute to the wellbeing of those around us? Do we give life and add to life, or do we drain it out of others? Do we give joy to others, or do we ignore them or even cause them unhappiness?

If you are a savvy businessperson you will invest in that which will last, and in that which others value in you. If you are a savvy businessperson you will serve your customers and they, in turn, will reward you. God's own personal investment was in the humanity of Jesus Christ. In the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God invested us with his Holy Spirit, His very own life. He wants us to live His life in our everyday life, something that is of infinitely more value than anything this world can offer you.

If you know how to invest, then make this investment. God has made a risk-capital investment in you. Why can't you do the same for God? If you do, you will live a happy, high-quality life because you will be doing God's will, and you will have a very valuable life in His kingdom.

Blessings, Fr. John

50/50 Raffle

\$1,905 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 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