

20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

AUGUST 16, 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:

Thus says the Lord: Observe what is right, do what is just; for my salvation is about to come, my justice, about to be revealed.
(Is 56:1)

Psalm:

O God, let all the nations praise you! (Ps 67)

Second Reading:

For God delivered all to disobedience, that he might have mercy upon all. (Rom 11:32)

Gospel:

Then Jesus said to her in reply, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." (Mt 15:28)



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"She said, 'Please, Lord, for even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table of their masters.' Then Jesus said to her in reply, 'O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.'" Matthew 15:27-28

My Dear Parishioners:

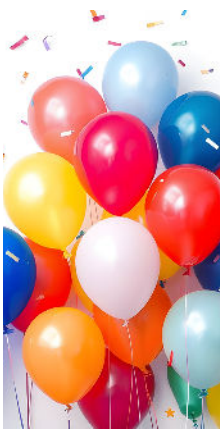
Today's Gospel account contains one of the most memorable verbal duels recorded in the four Gospels, and one of the most important. We need to pick it apart and draw some golden nuggets out of this wonderful passage. First of all, it is important to note that Jesus is speaking here to a woman, something rabbis back in those days did not do in public. Not only that, but she was a foreigner, a Canaanite woman from the area that these days we call Lebanon. Like the Magi, those wise men from the East that we find at Christ's birth, this non-Jew presents herself to Jesus and addresses him as "Son of David" as she begs His help for her daughter who is possessed by some mysterious, inner demonic force. In this account there are three movements. The first involves Canaanite woman's journey of faith. Leaving her own religious tradition behind, she turns to a Jewish rabbi, Jesus, and places her faith in Him. She looks to Him for a miraculous cure for her daughter. For her trouble, she received silence from Jesus. She was rebuffed, humiliated, and given a cold shoulder from Him. His disciples, annoyed by the fact that she was bothering Him with her loud crying, seek to get rid of her. They want Jesus to send her away. So Jesus says to her, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

Then comes the second movement. The woman presses in on Jesus and falling on her knees in front of Him she cries out, "Lord, help me." For her second effort Jesus tells her, "It is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs." How utterly humiliating. In effect He was calling her a dog! Her humility was turned into what appeared to be a terrible humiliation. People in the Middle East are very sensitive to such things.

Then comes the final movement. Now, in abject humility with her face in the dirt, stripped of her dignity, having abandoned her own religious background, she has nothing left, not even her pride. "Please, Lord," she softly insists, "even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table of their masters." What the Canaanite woman is saying is that she doesn't deserve anything, "but how about giving me scraps that accidentally fall from your abundance?" With that, the heart of Jesus is vanquished.

The scene would be repeated later at the end of His life. His own humiliation and abandonment would, connected as it was with the Last Supper, play out in a way strikingly similar to this account. The key that unlocks the mystery contained in this verbal duel is to recognize that Jesus saw in this Canaanite woman a reality that she didn't even see herself. He saw in her a faith that could withstand any assault; a love that was divine; a hope that could not be shaken. He tested her mettle and she found something within herself that she didn't know even existed. Joined into the humiliation of Christ, she transcended ordinary humanity and came into a level of life that was God's. Her three-step journey in faith mirrored Christ's.

The critical point of it all is that Jesus sees the same thing in you and in me. For He has an unrealized dream about who you really are and what you're really made of. In Christ's life, passion, and death we find the stuff of our real humanity, particularly so when we share in His suffering, passion, and death. If Jesus had granted her request right away, this woman would never have ascended to the heights of glory that she did.



August Birthdays

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

Mass Intentions

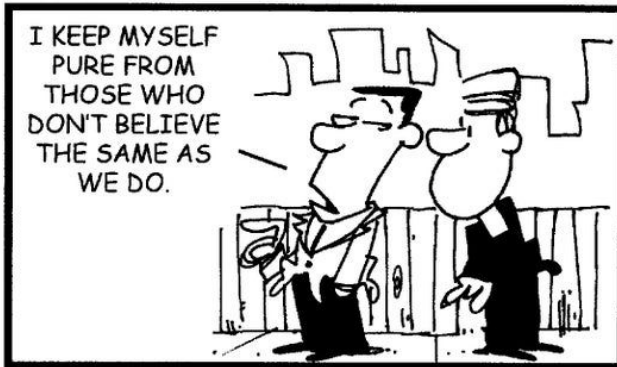
August 16 - Sam Thruston
August 23 - Curtiss 'JC' Greene
August 30 - Carl Millay

Our thoughts and prayers are with the sick: Judy Aronold, 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



August 27 - 5pm Finance
Committee Meeting

September 20 - Religious
Ed begins



August 9--\$1,565.79
Budget--\$1,300.00
MTD Collection--\$2,670.29
MTD Budget--\$2,600.00
YTD Collection--\$9,592.48
YTD Budget--\$7,800.00

*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

Does God ignore or act a bit rough with you? Jesus crosses the border into the pagan region of Tyre and Sidon, the territory long outside the covenant. There, a Canaanite woman calls out, **“Have pity on me, Lord, Son of David.”** At first, he is silent. Then he rebuffs her. **“It is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs.”** But the Church Fathers saw this not as an insult but as an initiation. Christ draws out of her heart a deeper faith.

She presses on. **“Please, Lord, even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table of their masters.”** Jesus’ silence and response solidify her humility and trust. She thus becomes a model for prayer for centuries of Christians. St. Augustine said she shows how sinners come to grace by moving from silence to humility to perseverance.

This woman is the Church. She is you and me. She is every soul who dares to cry out from the margins, who endures divine silence until it turns to compassion. When Jesus says, **“O woman, great is your faith,”** it is the joyful cry of God discovering faith where the world least expects it. Even the smallest crumb of Your mercy, Lord, is enough to heal the soul. Do we have the courage to show faith like that?

— Father John Muir

Readings for the Week

Monday: Ez 24:15-23/Dt 32:18-19, 20, 21/Mt 19:16-22

Tuesday: Ez 28:1-10/Dt 32:26-27ab, 27cd-28, 30, 35cd-36ab/Mt 19:23-30

Wednesday: Ez 34:1-11/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Mt 20:1-16

Thursday: Ez 36:23-28/Ps 51:12-13, 14-15, 18-19/Mt 22:1-14

Friday: Ez 37:1-14/Ps 107:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 22:34-40

Saturday: Ez 43:1-7ab/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14/Mt 23:1-12

Observances for the Week

Wednesday: St. John Eudes, Priest

Thursday: St. Bernard, Abbot and Doctor of the Church

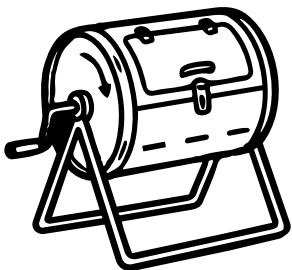
Friday: St. Pius X, Pope

Saturday: The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Congratulations,

Randy Taylor

Randy won the 50/50 Raffle which was \$2,795



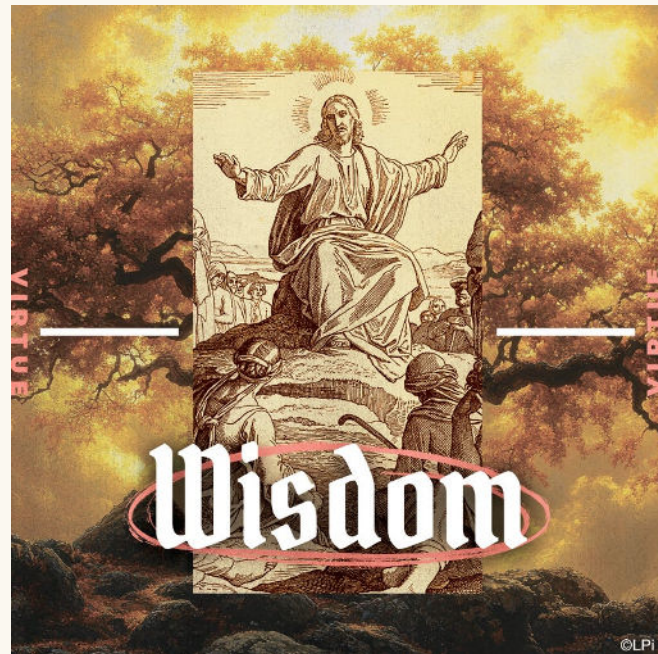
Wisdom, Explained!

It may seem unfair, at first, to say that wisdom is a virtue — after all, doesn't everyone know one or two people who seem incapable of wisdom?

Well, that depends on what we actually mean when we talk about "wisdom." Wisdom is not mere scholarliness. It is more than being smart. They say that wisdom comes with experience, and it does — but only if you accept it.

Wisdom, St. Thomas Aquinas wrote, is a gift of the Holy Spirit born of charity and originating in the human will. But it is also connected to the intellect, because the intellect is where we discern between right and wrong based on all we have been taught and all we have experienced (Sum. II-II, 45, Art. 2).

Therefore, we must ask the Holy Spirit for wisdom, and we must make ourselves ready to receive it — remembering always that we cannot recognize it alone.



QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK - REFLECT AND RESPOND TO SCRIPTURE

1st Reading Question

The Lord reveals to Isaiah that He desires a house of prayer for all peoples.

Do you see your faith community being open to outsiders?

2nd Reading Question

Paul sees how God used Israel’s unbelief in Jesus as an opportunity to extend His mercy to the Gentiles.

Have you ever shown mercy to someone in an unexpected way?

Gospel Question

The Canaanite woman is persistent with Jesus to heal her demon-possessed daughter, and so he does.

When have you felt heard by Jesus?

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LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

The Canaanite woman did not take Jesus’ initial refusal as rejection, but as an invitation to engage with God, to show him the depth of her faith. When our prayers are not answered as we wish, will we have the courage to do the same?

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Ministry Schedule

	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Collection & Gifts
August 16	Leland Herzog Katie Goins	Holly Hollis Greg Gough Vivian Higgs	Bernadette Thames Janet & Lila Clark
August 23	Jacques Williams Wayne Stephens	Cindy Clark Janet Clark Michelle Jones	Jamie, Beau, Luke Bisel

Pastor's Corner Continued...

We must see that in the divine scheme of things, the more we lose the more we win. The more we give away, the more we gain. The more we go down, the higher we ascend. In that, we pass from what is human into what is divine. It's the path of Jesus. Should Jesus grant our prayer requests right away, we would never ascend to the heights of glory that are hidden within your destiny and mine. That is why, when in the Garden of Gethsemane Jesus prayed that His Father rescue Him, and His Father did not. The answer to Jesus' prayer was not rescue, it was resurrection. We can expect that our prayers will be answered in the same way. St. Paul presents this journey in three parts in his Letter to the Philippians. In Chapter two we find that threefold movement in Christ's own life when Paul writes: His state was divine, yet he did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are; and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him on high and gave him a the name which is above all other names so that all being in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the same of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The first movement is His abandonment of His proper place, His native place at the right hand of His Father in heaven. He moves from His Father's side into a place of separation, into total immersion with us where we are at, more importantly into who we are. The second movement is downward into our sinful humanity, and not only that but to a level below that which we are usually willing to accept. He is spit upon, humiliated, and stripped naked of all His dignity. He face is rubbed in the dirt, as was the Canaanite woman's face. The third movement is upward. He rises from the dead into a new Spirit-filled, resurrected life and then ascends into glory, back to His Father's side.

Victorious over all that is demonic within our humanity he heals far more than the Canaanite woman's daughter – He gives His healing power to us all. In the divine scheme of things, the more we lose the more we win. The more we give, the more we receive. The more we go down, the higher we ascend. Ask anyone who has ever successfully completed a recovery program, they will tell you that you find power over whatever demons beset you when you surrender to your Higher Power. God came among us with healing power and He is looking for our faith. The Canaanite woman came to God in faith and in search of healing and found it. Your task, and mine as well, is to live a life-story just like hers. Can you? Can I? Yes, we can, because Jesus lived it first and give you the power and the capacity to live lives like that. The question is not: Can we? The real question is: Will we?

Blessings,

Fr. John

Congratulations, Vivian Higgs!

Vivian is the 2026 recipient of the Diocese of Owensboro Sophia Award from Blessed Sacrament Chapel. She will be recognized by Bishop Medley at Mass on Sunday, August 16, 2026, at St. Stephen Cathedral.

This award is given to individuals who have exemplified the values of stewardship by generously giving their time, talent, and treasure to our parish and beyond.



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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