

18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

AUGUST 2, 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: All you who are thirsty, come to the water! (Is 55:1)

Psalm:

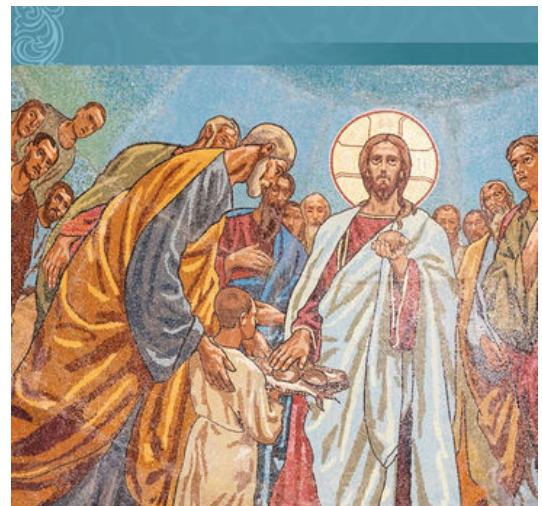
The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs. (Ps 145)

Second Reading:

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Rom 8:38-39)

Gospel:

Taking the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, he said the blessing, broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, who in turn gave them to the crowds. (Mt 14:19)



18th Sunday
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"Taking the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, he said the blessing, broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, who in turn gave them to the crowds."
Matthew 14:19

My Dear Parishioners:

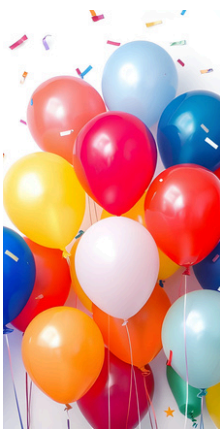
A research company was anxious to do an extensive study of wolves in one of our national parks. Wolves, however, are rather clever, and have no desire to cooperate with scientific studies. So, with the backing of a major donor, the company placed a bounty of \$5000 on any wolf that could be safely captured for research. Two young college students, Tom and Dave, decided this would be a way to make their fortunes. They were familiar with the park because they had camped there frequently. For two weeks they scoured the park without much success. Then one night, exhausted, they retired to their sleeping bags under the stars, and fell asleep thinking of their potential wealth. In the middle of the night, Tom woke up and realized that he and Dave were surrounded by at least 50 wild wolves with glaring eyes and bared teeth. He nudged his companion. “Dave,” he said, “Wake up! We’re rich!”

Rich? Maybe. Doomed? For sure. Today’s parable also relates riches and death. In the parable, a rich man is busy making plans to store his wealth for the future. He decides to build bigger barns to hold what he owns. But all of his industrious planning is cut short by his sudden death. The parable does not deny the need to plan for the future, but it asks us to look at wealth from the ultimate perspective. The man in the parable is called a fool, not because he is stupid, but because he does not appreciate the true purpose of his wealth. All his crops, all that he has is a gift from God. That gift, of course, is meant to be used for his benefit, but not in an unlimited way. Once his own needs are met, his excess wealth should not be hoarded away for the future, but used. And according to the gospel, it is to be used for the benefit of others.

This truth is not new to any of us. I think all of us are aware that God entrusts things to us to be used for the benefit of others. Yet I think many of us, much like the man in the parable, go about from day to day without reflecting on what the purpose is for the gifts we have received. When God places money, or time, or ability into our hand, we are delighted. We begin planning how we can use these things for our own benefit – and to a point, that is okay. But how often do we think of the responsibility we have to use our gifts for the sake of others?

Now this blindness might result in part from our culture which is always pushing us to accumulate excess wealth: more money, more friends, more possessions. Our culture persuades us that bigger is better, that growth is always desirable. Watching TV just a few weeks ago I heard someone say, “Beautiful. Nothing succeeds like excess!” How often do we ask ourselves, “Do I really need this? Shouldn’t some of this be given to someone else? What part of my excess wealth or talent or time should I give to someone who needs it?”

Clearly today’s parable might not be intended for everyone. There could be people here this morning who have no excess wealth, no excess time, no excess talent. But the people with no excess of gifts are few. Most of us need to listen to this parable as it reminds us that the excess gifts that we keep for ourselves are not an advantage, but a liability. The scriptures even use the image of a storehouse in heaven, a storehouse in which we can invest. We can place things in our heavenly storehouse each



August Birthdays

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

Mass Intentions

August 2 - Sandra Brown
August 9 - Larry Allen
August 16 - Sam Thruston

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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"THEY ALL ATE
AND WERE
SATISFIED,
AND THEY
PICKED UP THE
FRAGMENTS
LEFT OVER -
TWELVE
BASKETS
FULL."



IS THAT
WHERE THOSE
ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT
RESTAURANTS
GOT THE IDEA?



Coming Events



August 9- 50/50 Raffle
Drawing after 10:00am
Mass



August 9- Parish Meeting
after Mass/Raffle



July 26--\$1,883.19
Budget--\$1,300.00
MTD Collection--\$6,622.19
MTD Budget--\$5,200.00
YTD Collection--\$6,922.19
YTD Budget--\$5,200.00

*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

In his song, "Lose Yourself," the artist Eminem raps, **"the mood all changed."**

We all know that moment when the mood changes, when life turns from lighthearted to deadly serious. That happens in today's Gospel. Jesus has just heard that John the Baptist, his cousin, forerunner, and friend, has been murdered. As Matthew tells us, **"When Jesus heard of it, he withdrew in a boat to a deserted place by himself."** Until now, he had been teaching in parables and healing quietly. But John's death signals a new phase. The shadow of the Cross begins to fall. Evil shows its teeth.

And how does Jesus respond? Not with rage or despair. He goes to a lonely place to go into deep communion with his Father. From that silence comes action. He feeds the multitude. Out of grief comes generosity. Out of sorrow, life.

This is the rhythm of every disciple's life. When tragedy or violence breaks our hearts, we face a choice. We can react, or we can retreat into prayer — like and with Christ. This is the hidden place where pain becomes compassion and compassion becomes self-gift.

Lord Jesus, when life intensifies, draw me into Your quiet strength. In that hidden place with You and the Father, turn my heartbreak into the bread of love for the world. Amen.

— Father John Muir

Readings for the Week

Monday: Jer 28:1-17/Ps 119:29, 43, 79, 80, 95, 102/Mt 14:22-36

Tuesday: Jer 30:1-2, 12-15, 18-22/Ps 102:16-18, 19-21, 29, 22-23/Mt 14:22-36 or Mt 15:1-2, 10-14

Wednesday: Jer 31:1-7/Jer 31:10, 11-12ab, 13/Mt 15:21-28

Thursday: Dn 7:9-10, 13-14/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 9/2 Pt 1:16-19/Mt 17:1-9

Friday: Na 2:1, 3; 3:1-3, 6-7/Dt 32:35cd-36ab, 39abcd, 41/Mt 16:24-28

Saturday: Hb 1:12-2:4/Ps 9:8-9, 10-11, 12-13/Mt 17:14-20

Observances for the Week

Tuesday: St. John Vianney, Priest

Wednesday: The Dedication of the Basilica of St. Mary Major

Thursday: The Transfiguration of the Lord

Friday: St. Sixtus II, Pope, and Companions, Martyrs; St. Cajetan, Priest

Saturday: St. Dominic, 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.

Respect, Explained!

Respect, as defined in the Oxford Dictionary, means a feeling of admiration for someone's good qualities or achievements.

This is also how we understand respect in terms of Catholic virtue. Let's consider that: the Catechism tells us that “man must...respect the particular goodness of every creature” (CCC 339) in God's world. So what are the admirable qualities shared by each and every creature?

There is only one, and it's quite simple: the Creator himself. Respect, wrote the theologian Fr. Romano Guardini, is the “everyday form of reverence.”

Respect is an admiration of the sacredness of a thing. Respect for those made in God's image flows from our primary respect for God himself. Because of this, it is particularly important that we, as Christians, show respect for those segments of society that only we will recognize as being sacred: the unborn, the elderly, the poor, the stranger.

If we do not respect them, who will?



QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK - REFLECT AND RESPOND TO SCRIPTURE

1st Reading Question

Isaiah speaks of the Lord’s invitation to all to join in His feast of rich food and drink without cost.
To whom can you show generosity to this week?

2nd Reading Question

Paul is convinced that nothing in this life can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
When do you feel closest to God?

Gospel Question

Moved with pity for the crowds, Jesus healed the sick among them and fed thousands with only five loaves and two fish.
Can you think of a time when someone showed compassion toward you?

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LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

When Jesus multiplied the loaves and fishes, he didn’t create only what was needed – there were leftovers that could be saved and shared again. God is lavish in bestowing His grace upon us. He always gives enough to share.

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Ministry Schedule

	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Collection & Gifts
August 2	Barb Bisel Misty Sanford	Cindy Clark Janet Clark Michelle Jones	Barbara Hammond Wonet Taylor
August 9	Jerry Fuchs Layson Brooks	Greg & Denise Richardson Misty Sanford	Steve Coble Burnell Hamilton

Pastor's Corner Continued...

time we give away some of our resources here on earth. And that image of the heavenly storehouse should be taken seriously, because at any time, just like in the parable, God could choose to call us home.

When John D. Rockefeller died at the age of 98 at the beginning of the twentieth century, he was the wealthiest man in the world. And a reporter who was assembling his obituary asked his chief aide, "Just how much did your boss leave behind?" The aide answered, "All of it."

The same is true for us.

Blessings,

Fr. John

50/50 Raffle

SELL, SELL, SELL! We are in our final week of sales.

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

All tickets and money need to be turned in by noon Friday, August 7th





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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