

21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

AUGUST 23, 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:

I will place the key of the House of David on Eliakim's shoulder; when he opens, no one shall shut, when he shuts, no one shall open.
(Is 22:22)

Psalm:

Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands. (Ps 138)

Second Reading:

For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen. (Rom 11:36)

Gospel:

"I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." (Mt 16:19)



My Dear Parishioners:

There are two ways of knowing people or things. We can either know about them or know them. The former is having facts or information about them. The latter is having a personal experience of them. Before I came to the United States, I had facts about the country, the people, and the weather condition. America has fifty states, ethnically diverse with four seasons. This is not knowledge by experience. I got my information from people, books, magazines, and journals. Upon arrival in the United States, I saw the land, met the people, and experienced the weather. What I have heard and read now I see and touch. It is no longer book knowledge or hearsay. It is a personal experience.

What Jesus wants is not for us to know about him, but to know him. He put this question to his disciples: “Who do people say that I am?” They answered: “Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” Then he personalized the question: “But you, who do you say that I am.” The disciples were all reduced to silence except for Peter who declared: “You are the Christ, the Son of living God.”

When Jesus asked the disciples what people thought of him they had no difficulty providing the answers. Knowing about Jesus can be easy. All you need to do is pick up a theology book, or hear a lengthy sermon from the pulpit, or sign up for a course on the Bible. What is difficult is to have your own experience or revelation of Jesus. Peter did not repeat second hand information concerning Jesus. He spoke from his own encounter with Jesus.

I fear that most of us derive our knowledge of Jesus from books or others. Jesus distinguished between knowledge of him from human beings and knowledge of him from God. He said to Peter, “Blessed are you Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my father in heaven.” “Flesh and blood” stands for us human beings. The “father in heaven” refers to God. For Jesus, Peter’s knowledge of his true identity did not derive from human beings but God himself.

When Jesus said, “Blessed are you Simon son of Jonah,” he was not simply elevating Peter above the other disciples. He was doing something far more important. He was affirming that knowing about him or having some information about his identity is not the ideal. Over and above all, who he is to us as individuals is what really matters.

Jesus continues, “You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it.” Notice that Jesus did not say he would build his church upon the twelve apostles but on Peter the rock. There is something special about Peter. He alone correctly understood Jesus’ identity. Building the church on Peter would then mean Jesus established his church not on doctrines or dogmas. Rather, he built his church on the correct understanding of who he was. This correct understanding of Jesus’ identity did not depend on human authority but the power of God who made the revelation to Peter.

August Birthdays

24—Celena Hagan
25—Denise Richardson

September Birthdays

1—Wonet Taylor
2—Emma Latta
3—Venice Higgs
6—Shelby Webster
8—Mary Hagan
Mamie Watkins
9—Luke Bisel
18—Samuel Hollis
Lila Clark

Mass Intentions

August 23 - Curtiss 'JC' Greene

August 30 - Carl Millay

September 6 - Peter X Armendarez

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.

21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

IT'S AN
E-MAIL
FROM THE
BISHOP.

HE'S SENDING OVER
A TECH TO CHANGE
ALL THE CURSORS
TO BLESSORS.

ismpd/lls
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Coming Events



August 23 - Registration for Religious Education

August 27 - 5pm Finance Committee Meeting

September 20 - Religious Ed begins



August 16--\$1,309.34
Budget--\$1,300.00
MTD Collection--\$3,979.63
MTD Budget--\$3,900.00
YTD Collection--\$10,901.82
YTD Budget--\$9,100.00

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

The first time I stood inside St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, its majesty overwhelmed me. The sheer beauty of Michelangelo's dome seemed to lift my soul right out of my body. Later, I joined the Scavi tour that winds below the basilica, down into the ancient pagan cemetery where Peter was buried. There, in the dim light and narrow passageways, I found myself looking at the bones of a murdered Jewish fisherman, his feet cut off so his crucified body could be taken down more easily.

What a paradox. Above me, the most glorious church ever built. Beneath me, the remains of a backwater fisherman. But this man dared to answer Jesus' question, "**Who do you say that I am?**" And crowning that immense dome above his tomb are the words from today's Gospel, "**You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church.**"

Within you and me is the drama of the lowest and the highest. Every time we confess Christ, humbly, imperfectly, maybe even trembling, we enter that same mystery. The dust of our humanity, touched by the splendor of heaven. God's presence and our dry bones together. Humility and glory. May our lives embrace both the lowest and the highest, like that great basilica, as we profess Jesus.

— Father John Muir

Readings for the Week

Monday: Rv 21:9b-14/Ps 145:10-11, 12-13, 17-18/Jn 1:45-51

Tuesday: 2 Thes 2:1-3a, 14-17/Ps 96:10, 11-12, 13/Mt 23:23-26

Wednesday: 2 Thes 3:6-10, 16-18/Ps 128:1-2, 4-5/Mt 23:27-32

Thursday: 1 Cor 1:1-9/Ps 145:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mt 24:42-51

Friday: 1 Cor 1:17-25/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 10-11/Mt 25:1-13

Saturday: 1 Cor 1:26-31/Ps 33:12-13, 18-19, 20-21/Mk 6:17-29

Observances for the Week

Monday: St. Bartholomew, Apostle

Tuesday: St. Louis; St. Joseph Calasanz, Priest

Thursday: St. Monica

Friday: St. Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Saturday: The Passion of St. John the Baptist

St. Monica & St. Augustine

This week we celebrate two saints, a mother and son: St. Monica and St. Augustine. As a young Christian woman, St. Monica was married to a pagan. Early in their marriage, he was bitter and critical. After nearly 20 years, Monica's holy example led to his conversion to Christianity. In the meantime, Augustine was a teenager beginning to live a wild life of self-indulgent excess. This lifestyle would continue into his adulthood. Like with her husband, Monica prayed and fasted for the conversion of her son. Augustine met another future saint, the bishop Ambrose of Milan, who greatly influenced his perspective on life. Augustine was baptized a Christian! Augustine later became a bishop and one of the most influential thinkers in Christian history. *How's that for the power of patience and intercessory prayer?*

Valor, Explained!

Though valor itself is not a cardinal or theological virtue, as a Latin-based word that means “strength,” we often associate it with the gift of fortitude. Specifically, it conjures an image of fortitude on the battlefield — of fidelity to the good fight, regardless of the coming attack.

When Christ presides at the Last Supper in the Gospel of John, he speaks to his Apostles of the persecutions that will soon be suffered by him and by them. He also speaks of the Advocate (the Holy Spirit) who will “guide you to all truth” — a significant choice, since fortitude is not only a virtue, but a gift of the Holy Spirit.

“Behold, the hour is coming...when each of you will be scattered...and you will leave me alone,” Christ tells them. “But I am not alone, because the Father is with me.”

In the world, he concludes, there will be pain and suffering. “But take courage, I have conquered the world.” (John 16:13-33).



QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK - REFLECT AND RESPOND TO SCRIPTURE

1st Reading Question

For disobeying the Lord, Shebna, the master of King Hezekiah’s palace, is stripped of his authority and honor, and it is given to Eliakim.

Are there people in your life or family that you honor and revere?

2nd Reading Question

Reflecting on the unimaginable depth of God’s wisdom and knowledge, Paul asks, “Who has known the mind of the Lord or who has been his counselor?”

What question do you have for the Lord?

Gospel Question

Jesus establishes Peter as the rock upon whom he will build his church.

In what ways do you help build your church community?

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LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

“Who do you say that I am?” Jesus asks his apostles. Peter is the first to answer. He knows who Jesus is. Do we? In everything we do and everything we are, let us say together with Peter: “You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God.”

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Ministry Schedule

	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Collection & Gifts
August 23	Jacques Williams Wayne Stephens	Cindy Clark Janet Clark Michelle Jones	Jamie, Beau, & Luke Bisel
August 30	Jerry Fuchs Greg Gough	Greg & Denise Richardson Misty Sanford	Kelly, Holly, & Sam Hollis

Pastor's Corner Continued...

Jesus also said to Peter, "Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." True, Jesus has given Peter the power to bind and loose. It is important, however, to realize the basis of this power. It was not dependent on Peter's person or personality. The power to bind and loose was given to Peter on the basis of his accurate understanding of Jesus. On another occasion, when Jesus told his disciples how he was going to suffer and die, Peter opposed the whole idea of a suffering Messiah, saying that this must not happen to Jesus. Jesus condemned Peter, telling him, "Get behind me Satan."

When Peter had an accurate understanding of Jesus' messianic identity, Jesus declared him blessed, and gave him power over his followers. But when Peter was wrong concerning Jesus' vocation by opposing his suffering and death, Jesus referred to Peter as Satan. From this it follows that Peter's authority came, not so much from his office or personality as from his proper understanding of Jesus. May God help us to make the transition from knowing about Jesus to to knowing him.

Blessings,

Fr. John



New parishioners:
Nikki Janiak & family



Vivian Higgs and Bishop Medley at
Sophia Award Mass at St. Stephen
Cathedral.



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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