



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 say to myself, I will not mention him,
I will speak in his name no more.
But then it becomes like fire burning in my heart,
imprisoned in my bones. (Jer 20:9)

Psalm:

My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God. (Ps 63)

Second Reading:

I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God,
to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice,
holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship. (Rom 12:1)

Gospel:

"For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it,
but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." (Mt 16:25)



22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



"Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." - Mt 16:24b-25

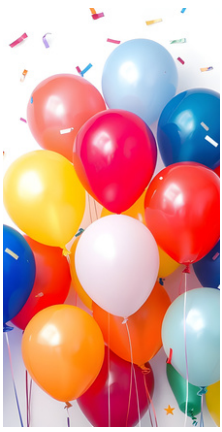
My Dear Parishioners:

We've all heard the expression "When the going gets tough, the tough get going." Easily said, hard to do. What do we do? Sometimes the cost of "staying in there" is a terrible cost, one that makes us question whether it's worth it. Pain, suffering, loss, agonizing disappointment... they all put us to the test; they all test our mettle, that steely, iron will that we can muster up if we look deep enough within our hearts and souls. This is particularly so when it comes to sustaining our relationships with others, even our relationship with God, or our Church, or our country, or our marriages, our careers, our jobs. No one escapes these trials. No one sails through life without these kinds of testings.

You and I have watched wives stay with husbands that have been unfaithful, husbands that have been boorish, insensitive, uncaring, and totally self-centered. We've seen husbands stay with wives who have, for all intents and purposes, shut them out of their hearts, turned into cold, unforgiving, complaining, and accusing women who make life hellish for their husbands. We've seen parents who have continued to love and care for teenage kids who have completely ridiculed, rejected, defied, and denied any respect or consideration toward their mothers and fathers. Is there any suffering quite like that when you discover your son has given himself over to drugs, who has died his hair orange, pierced his body parts with rings, needles and the most offensive and even obscene tattoos? Is there any pain quite like that of seeing a young daughter flaunt and use her body in order to be noticed, and usually noticed by young men who are little more than users of girls? Each of us here today could present stories of excruciating loss, pain and suffering. But what's new about that? What's new in observing that life is hard, that bad things happen to good people?

So, in talking about loss, pain, suffering, and terrible challenges, the question isn't why, or how all of this happens. The question is "what do we do about it?" It's our response that is at issue, not who is responsible or what they're going to do about it. The fundamental question is not whether we're going to call a hotshot lawyer and start suing anybody and everybody, along with whatever institution or group to which they belong. No. The first and foremost question is whether or not we are going to flee, to escape into some form of denial, or simply give up, quit, opt out, and leave the scene.

Some parents fantasize about the day when the last of their children will leave the home, and when the kids go those same parents miss them and regret their loss. People who have difficult jobs may fantasize about the day they no longer have to work, and then miss that work one month after they've retired or gone elsewhere. Not always, mind you, but many times. What former, non-practicing Catholic does not have a still, small voice within them that calls them back to the Church and the Holy Communion that they've left. What priest, teacher or coach hasn't considered quitting, yet each Monday morning they're back at their posts? There is compelling power in a life filled with purpose. For it is love that puts fire in our bones. Love has a seductive power to it, one that will not let us go. We yearn for freedom and then when we have it we yearn for belonging along with the commitments that are inherently within any belonging. One cannot belong and be free of loss, pain or suffering. All belonging costs. Belonging to God costs. Belonging to the Catholic Faith costs. Being a loyal citizen of these United States, being an American, costs. Loyalty isn't something that's cheap. Faith is never easy, nor is faith's sibling, namely love. Anything of great value costs. Oh, we can (and do) from time to time lapse into escapism and denial. We can (and do) allow anger to replace patient and enduring commitment. We can flee or we can feel -- feel the pain, that is. Simon Peter sought to flee,



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 30 - Carl Millay

September 6 - Peter X Armendarez

September 13 - Larry Allen

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.

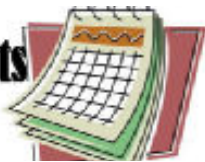
THANK
YOU

To my Blessed Sacrament Family. Thank you for thinking I was worthy of The Sophia Award. No award is needed for me to Serve, but I am grateful and honored to receive.

Thanks again and continue to spread the LOVE 💕💙...

Viv Higgs

Coming Events



August 30 - Registration
for Religious Education

September 20 - Religious
Ed begins



August 23--\$1,535.15
Budget--\$1,300.00
MTD Collection--\$5,514.78
MTD Budget--\$5,200.00
YTD Collection--\$12,436.97
YTD Budget--\$10,400.00

*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

Do you know what it is like to be thrilled by the power of Christian faith one moment and then utterly fail in it the next? I do. That is Peter in today's Gospel. After last week's bold confession, he now hears Jesus speak of suffering and death, and something in him recoils. He takes Jesus aside and tries to correct him. Jesus responds with the shocking rebuke, **"Get behind me, Satan."**

Peter is the mirror of every disciple. We love Jesus until he contradicts the script we have written for our lives. Peter does not reject Jesus. He rejects a *suffering* Jesus. So do we, whenever we avoid a hard responsibility, resist a demanding relationship, or cling to comfort instead of choosing love. We want a Lord who supports our plans, not one who overturns them.

Yet Jesus does not discard Peter. He redirects him. **"Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me."** In effect, Jesus says, stop trying to lead me. Let me lead you. Discipleship does not begin with heroism or clarity but with surrender. It means trusting that God's path to life often passes through places we would never choose.

Peter is all of us. We move from insight to confusion, from confidence to correction. That is why we should have hope. Jesus patiently teaches us again and again. Trust me. Get behind me. Follow me. When we stop fighting the crosses that come and start carrying them with him, we discover a freedom deeper than comfort and a love stronger than fear.

— Father John Muir

Readings for the Week

Monday: 1 Cor 2:1-5/Ps 119:97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102/Lk 4:16-30

Tuesday: 1 Cor 2:10b-16/Ps 145:8-9, 10-11, 12-13ab, 13cd-14/Lk 4:31-37

Wednesday: 1 Cor 3:1-9/Ps 33:12-13, 14-15, 20-21/Lk 4:38-44

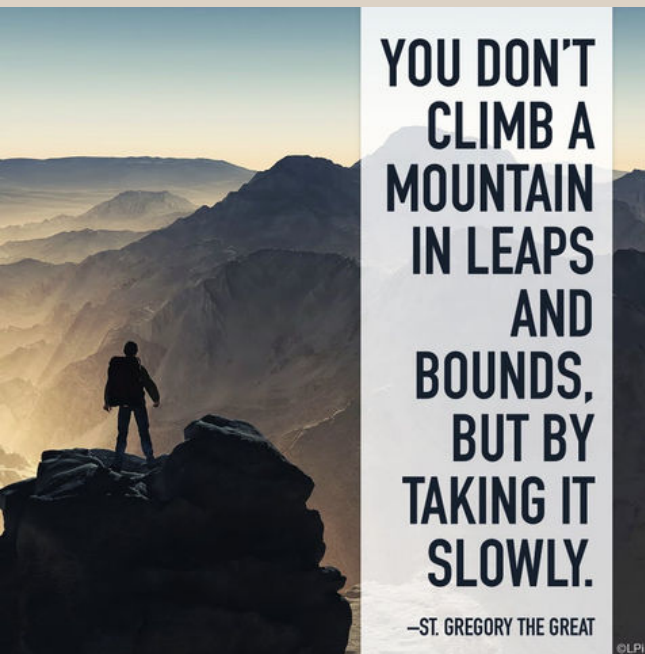
Thursday: 1 Cor 3:18-23/Ps 24:1bc-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 5:1-11

Friday: 1 Cor 4:1-5/Ps 37:3-4, 5-6, 27-28, 39-40/Lk 5:33-39

Saturday: 1 Cor 4:6b-15/Ps 145:17-18, 19-20, 21/Lk 6:1-5

Observances for the Week

Thursday: St. Gregory the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church



To Carry the Cross

Carry the cross? Absolutely. I'm happy to! Hand it over. Here's the thing: I just might...set it down for a second, from time to time. That's okay, right?

How else am I supposed to have both hands free to gesture in anger? I can't do that if I'm carrying the cross. Well, fine, then let me just shift its weight, so I can catch my breath and say what I think about this person who's got it all wrong — I'll just lean it against the wall here. No? Okay, fine, I won't put it down! I'll keep holding it. That's better, actually. Then I can use it as a weapon.

What? Am I doing this "Christian" thing wrong?

"Whoever wishes to save his life will lose it," Jesus tells us in today's Gospel. "But whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."

This is not an affirmation of the paradox that if you no longer care about something, you can finally have it once and for all. It's not a judgment about the worthlessness of life in this fallen world or the futility of trying to preserve that life.

It's merely a statement about priorities.

When Peter says, "God forbid!" at the thought of suffering, God is not his priority. His own safety is.

When I say, "God forbid!" at anything that comes from the mouth of God, it's a reminder to look at my hands — because they've probably put down the cross.

How merciful is our Lord — he never takes my cross from me, even when I walk far away from it. He always lets me pick it back up. In his dear and sweet goodness, he even helps me lift its weight. And he gestures, in case I've forgotten: "This way. Follow me."

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK - REFLECT AND RESPOND TO SCRIPTURE

1st Reading Question

Jeremiah wrestles with an inner struggle to proclaim the word of the Lord that comes to him.

Who helps you work through distress or anxiety?

2nd Reading Question

Paul challenges believers not to conform to the present age but be transformed by the renewal of their minds.

What in our “present age” needs to be avoided?

Gospel Question

Peter does not want to accept Jesus’ destiny as the Messiah who suffers greatly and dies.

How do you process difficult news or information?

©LPi

LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Plenty of people are drawn to Jesus. Curious about him. Inspired by him. But can they carry the cross? Today, Jesus tells us that we cannot have one without the other — it is Christ and the cross, or nothing at all. Which will we choose?

©LPi

Ministry Schedule

	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Collection & Gifts
August 30	Jerry Fuchs Greg Gough	Greg & Denise Richardson Misty Sanford	Kelly, Holly, & Sam Hollis
September 6	Katie Goins Misty Sanford	Vivian Higgs Sr. Monica Seaton Michelle Jones	Barbara Hammond Wonet Taylor

Pastor's Corner Continued...

to escape, and to deny. He's a great figure for us to contemplate. How many times did Simon Peter waffle? How many times did he deny? And yet Christ named him Cephas, Rock, Peter. In the end we must remember it was Simon Peter who declared, "Lord, you have the words of eternal life. To whom else can we go?" He knew that he couldn't go it alone. He knew that without the Bread of Life, he would grow weak.

We, too, know that we can't "go it alone", that we need our daily bread, the Bread of Life that comes to us from God to nourish, sustain and strengthen us. We need its sustenance in order to sustain our commitments amidst life's costs -- sometimes terrible costs. I'm always grateful to enter a church and see a cross with Christ's human body hanging on it. It shows me the cost God paid in order to stay with us. It causes me to ask myself how far I will go to maintain my commitments, to sustain my "being there" for others. When the going gets tough, God doesn't flee. He hangs in there. And "hanging in there" is what the crucifix and what love is all about.

Blessings,

Fr. John

The Vision of Stewardship

I love the original movie Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory. All the way through while I watch the film I still laugh and feel like a child. It is only the last line with which I have an issue. Wonka by now has chosen Charlie to succeed him as head of the chocolate factory. They board an elevator that proceeds to crash through the roof and begins to fly. Wonka then asks Charlie if he ever heard of what happened to the boy who got everything he ever wanted. After Charlie says no, Wonka explains, "He lived happily ever after." As I get older, I can say I have met several people who got all or most of all they have ever wanted, but unlike Charlie, it did not lead to endless bliss. In fact, as a Christian I know that that statement of Wonka's is a lie. The secret to living happily ever after lies in not getting all you ever wanted, but instead in giving all you ever wanted away.

A person can't have any sense of that reality until they begin to see his or her life transformed by Jesus. When we have accepted the challenge placed before us and made a choice to live a certain way daily, we can find ourselves transformed. Following Jesus is not easy, but it is the only true way to find authentic joy. When we have emptied ourselves and allowed him to fill the open spaces in us, we become different. We are transformed and, if enough of us in a parish community experience the same journey, our parish is transformed as well. Then we begin to transform the world around us. Don't be fooled: A flying elevator is cool, but it pales in comparison to what can happen when we find a new life in Jesus Christ.



Supply Company Inc.
"Since 1978"

270-685-4919
800-787-6803 (Fax) 270-685-2559
PO Box 1796, 1611 West 7th St., Owensboro, KY 42302

Greg Gough
(Cell) 270-993-7120
greg@pvfsupplyco.com



- Carpet Cleaning
- Upholstery Cleaning
- Ceramic/Grout Cleaning
- Auto Interiors
- Area Rugs Cleaned

715 Cumberland St.
Owensboro, KY 42303
Phone: 270-684-0969 (Owensboro)
Phone: 270-827-1130 (Henderson)
Emergency: 270-315-2294

Jacques Williams
Manager



Mowing, Mulch/Rock, Spring/Fall Cleanup
- Free Estimates -
Call/Text
Ethan Gough

270-993-7122

Edward Jones

Katie Goins, CFP®
Financial Advisor

3211 Frederica St Suite I
Owensboro, KY 42301
Bus. 270-685-5144

katherine.goins@edwardjones.com
edwardjones.com/katherine-goins

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