

19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

AUGUST 9, 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
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Parochial Vicar: Father Christopher Grief
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Parish Life Coordinator: Sr. Monica Seaton, OSU
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Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

Then the lord said to him, "Go outside and stand on the mountain before the lord; the lord will be passing by." (1 Kgs 19:11)

Psalm:

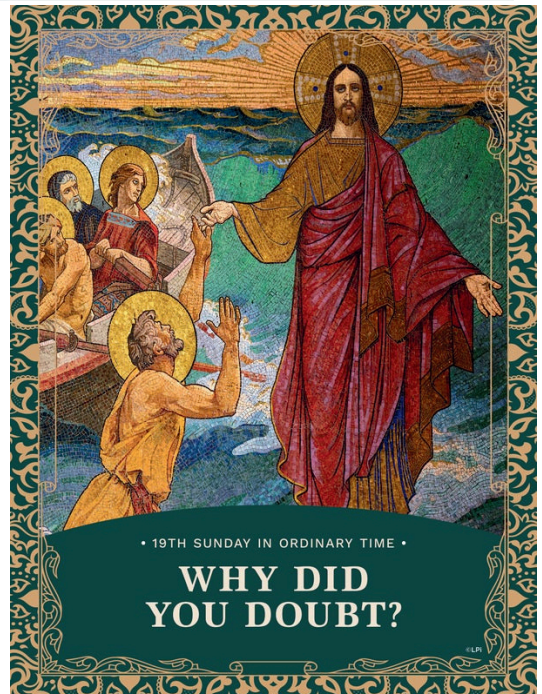
Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation. (Ps 85)

Second Reading:

I speak the truth in Christ, I do not lie; my conscience joins with the Holy Spirit in bearing me witness. (Rom 9:1)

Gospel:

Immediately Jesus stretched out his hand and caught Peter, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" (Mt 14:31)



My Dear Parishioners:

Hurricanes, earthquakes, firestorms, storms at sea, famine, poverty, and terrible perils – all appear in today's readings. In our times we face rogue nations building nuclear weapons, terrorism, suicide bombers, fanatic fundamentalists randomly bombing and killing innocent people riding on subways and busses. In our own personal lives we face other disasters – cancer, terrible diseases, loved ones on drugs, alcoholism in our families, sudden divorces, business collapses, loss of jobs, and so forth. Do we even need to mention PANDEMIC? We find our own lives surrounded by chaos, the winds of change and the earthquakes of our times changing our social order and national culture. Only one in four households today have the typical arrangement of mom and dad living together at home with their children. Stated another way, only one in four children find themselves in typical, normal homes. Drugs, AIDS, absent fathers, divorce, an unstable employment market, and a surrounding culture that's alien and hostile to the normal family are the earthquakes and our storms that threaten us. Child abuse, pornography, sexual wantonness, and a blatant media exploitation of sex and violence for money assault the moral character of our youngsters and tear away the fabric normalcy. Teen gangs roam our big city streets at will, while our metropolitan law enforcement agencies operate in apparent powerlessness to take back control of our cities from the pimps, prostitutes, pushers, and gangs that rule the streets.

Where, it is asked, is God in all of this? The answers we hear are many and varied. "It's God's will," we are told. There is no God, others tell us. Some ask: "If God is such a good God, why does He allow such things to happen?" Others tell us that God is a myth constructed by weak-minded people to help prop themselves up in the face of suffering, disaster and loss. "How," some ask, "can you believe in a God that allows such things to happen?" What should we believe? What should we think in this moral storm that surrounds us?

To answer, I take you back to the beginning of things, to the Old Testament's Book of Genesis. There we find God creating order out of chaos. He pushes back the boundaries of chaos into order to create an ordered and purposeful universe. Then God goes on to invest us with the dignity and the task of joining with Him in bringing creation to completion. He charges us to work with Him in pushing back the boundaries of chaos. He puts His faith in us to work with Him in overcoming all that would smother life, charging us to be His stewards over the world He has made and given over to us. Instead of questioning God perhaps we should ask ourselves this question: "How well have we cooperated with God?"

In the New Testament we find God in His Christ entering into our broken world share His presence with us. Christ Jesus, God the Son, not only enters into our broken world but also Himself suffers in it. God's involvement, God's presence, is with us as we face sin and suffering. God is not a disinterested and aloof God – He shares with us all that we face in a dislocated and incomplete world. Thus it is that we find Peter in today's Gospel account walking on our world's stormy waters. Peter relied on God's presence in Christ – he was walking toward Christ keeping his eyes fixed on



August Birthdays

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

Mass Intentions

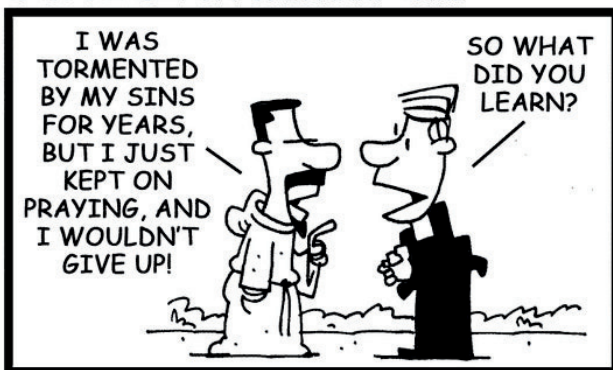
August 9 - Larry Allen
August 16 - Sam Thruston
August 23 - Curtiss 'JC' Greene

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.**

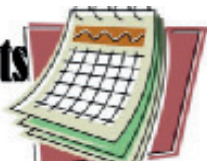
Let us remember to pray for those who are dying and those who have recently died.

Remember to pray for the souls in purgatory, especially for those who have no one to pray for them.

19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Coming Events



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



August 9- Parish Meeting
after Mass/Raffle



August 2--\$1,104.50
Budget--\$1,300.00
MTD Collection--\$1,104.50
MTD Budget--\$1,300.00
YTD Collection--\$8,026.69
YTD Budget--\$6,500.00

*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

As a young, newly ordained priest, I admired a senior priest who was gifted, beloved, and had changed countless lives. But soon I learned that he had fallen in catastrophic and destructive ways. The painful juxtaposition of good and evil was complex to process. How could someone so seemingly good also be so broken and deceptive? It forced me to confront a sobering truth: leadership in the Church is no guarantee against weakness or sin.

Peter teaches that truth in this week's Gospel. When he sees Jesus walking on the sea, Peter does what leaders do. He goes first. **"Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water."** But when he sees how strong the wind is, he becomes frightened and, beginning to sink, cries out, **"Lord, save me."** Immediately, Jesus stretches out his hand and catches him.

St. Thomas Aquinas observes that Peter overcomes the greater danger of the waves but falters before the lesser threat of the wind. This is the paradox leaders often face. It is not always the great trials that undo us, but the smaller, quieter temptations, such as subtle fears and compromises, that lead us to sink.

The good news is that Jesus does not abandon Peter. He saves him before it is too late. Our frail humanity lives within a rhythm of grace, risk, failure, and mercy. Jesus helps Peter overcome both the obvious and hidden sources of fear, and he promises to do the same for us. So, let us pray for all, especially our spiritual leaders.

— Father John Muir

Readings for the Week

Monday: 2 Cor 9:6-10/Ps 112:1-2, 5-6, 7-8, 9/Jn 12:24-26

Tuesday: Ez 2:8-3:4/Ps 119:14, 24, 72, 103, 111, 131/Mt 18:1-5, 10, 12-14

Wednesday: Ez 9:1-7; 10:18-22/Ps 113:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mt 18:15-20

Thursday: Ez 12:1-12/Ps 78:56-57, 58-59, 61-62/Mt 18:21-19:1

Friday: Ez 16:1-15, 60, 63 or 16:59-63/Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6/Mt 19:3-12

Saturday: Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Ps 45:10, 11, 12, 16/1 Cor 15:20-27/Lk 1:39-56

Observances for the Week

Monday: St. Lawrence, Deacon and Martyr

Tuesday: St. Clare, Virgin

Wednesday: St. Jane Frances de Chantal, Religious

Thursday: Sts. Pontian, Pope, and Hippolytus, Priest, Martyrs

Friday: St. Maximillian Kolbe, Priest and Martyr

Saturday: The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

“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.

St. Clare of Assisi (1194-1253)

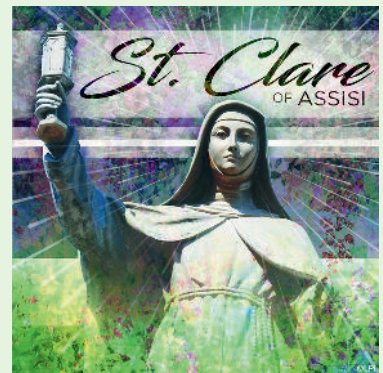
St. Clare was born into a wealthy, politically influential, Catholic family in Assisi, Italy. When she was 12, her family decided she should marry. She begged them to allow her to wait until she was 18 and they eventually agreed.

As a teen, Clare learned of a priest named Francis (St. Francis of Assisi). After hearing him preach, she decided that her calling was to “live for the Gospel.” She admired how Francis lived — in poverty, community, and service to the poor. After receiving permission from the bishop of Assisi, she left her family to join Francis and his followers. Once with them, Clare left her fancy life behind, donning a plain robe, simple veil, and cutting her hair short, a symbol of her desire to reject marriage and live a religious life.

Studying early on with the Benedictines, she was joined by her sister. Fearing for their safety from Clare’s family who were determined that the daughters return, Francis and his followers built a home for them next to a church they restored, San Damiano, for their protection. While there, Clare and Francis established the Order of the Poor Ladies of San Damiano.

Daily Mass, adoration, and the Eucharist were integral to the lives of Clare’s Poor Ladies. The growing community’s radical devotion to strict poverty set them apart from other congregations. Following her order’s eventual approval by the Pope, she wrote the order’s Rule of Life based on the teachings of St. Francis — the first monastic rule known to be written by a woman.

After St. Clare died, the Poor Ladies were renamed the Order of St. Clare or, the Poor Clares, in her honor. She passed away at the age of 59, one day after her Rule was approved. St. Clare, pray for us!



QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK - REFLECT AND RESPOND TO SCRIPTURE

1st Reading Question:

Elijah finds the Lord not in the wind, earthquake or fire, but in a light, silent sound.
When or where do you hear God’s voice?

2nd Reading Question:

Paul grieves over the unbelief of his fellow Jews.
How can you help family members or friends who do not believe in Jesus?

Gospel Question:

Peter musters the courage to step out onto the water when Jesus calls him.
What are some fears the Lord could help you face?

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LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

In the midst of life’s greatest storms, Jesus comes to us, but we may not recognize him. We may test him. In doing so, he will test us — and likely, we will fail. But when we falter, his saving hand is there.

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Ministry Schedule

	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Collection & Gifts
August 9	Jerry Fuchs Layson Brooks	Greg & Denise Richardson Misty Sanford	Steve Coble Burnell Hamilton
August 16	Leland Herzog Katie Goins	Holly Hollis Greg Gough Vivian Higgs	Bernadette Thames Janet & Lila Clark

Pastor's Corner Continued...

Christ. The greater thing was that Peter was not so much walking on those storm-tossed waters as he was keeping his eyes fixed on Christ and was walking toward Him. But while Peter was making his way to Christ, disaster struck. And what was that disaster? Peter allowed fear to take a hold of his heart. Fear made him divert his attention away from Christ and he became fixated on the stormy waters.

All of us need to pay attention to our fears. But we must remember that fear controls our choices more than any other force in our lives. Think of the decisions you have made, the actions you have taken, that were based more on fear than on confidence, choices that were based more on fear than on love. Fear is a powerful tool in the hands of the Evil One. Fear is one of the greatest weapons of the devil. Mind you, I am not talking about questions. In the mind of Jesus, it is fear that is the opposite of faith, not doubt. Questions are quests. People who question have faith that there is an answer; they believe that there is an answer to their question. Fear, on the other hand, brings with it despair. That is the opposite of faith, not questioning.

Confidence is the word we need to take into our hearts and souls today. Confidence! Confidence comes from a Latin word that means, "to believe with." We cannot have confidence when we're isolated and all alone. We cannot have confidence all by ourselves. No, we can only have confidence when there's another near us. And that's the point of today's readings. One can find confidence, even in the worst of storms, even in the most chaotic of earthquakes. You can go through the worst that life can throw at you only IF you keep up your contact with God. No prayer? No confidence. No coming to Mass? No confidence. No sharing in the life of the Church, in the Body of Christ? No confidence. Soon you'll take your eyes off of Jesus, and just like Peter, you'll sink. Soon you'll only be able to hear the screaming wind, the awful noise, and the deafening roar of the storms and winds that shake the very foundations of your life. And without the voice of God and the eyes of Jesus to hold you steady, you'll either be blown away or you'll drown.

Confidence, con-fidere, means to believe with. To believe with whom? With Jesus. "Place not your trust in men who have power," says the Psalmist in Psalm 146, "or in any mortal man. He cannot save, he yields his breath and goes back to the earth from whence he came, and on that day all his scheme shall perish." Where is God in all of this? He is here. He is here in His Christ. Do we have faith? If so, we will have the confidence and the strength that comes with Christ's presence in our lives. With that we can face anything life throws at us.

Blessings,

Fr. John



A heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped with our parish barbecue and 50/50 raffle! Whether you donated, cooked, served, cleaned up, sold tickets, prayed, or joined us, your generosity and support are deeply appreciated!



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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