

24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SEPTEMBER 13, 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:

Forgive your neighbor's injustice; then when you pray, your own sins will be forgiven. (Sir 28:2)

Psalm:

The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion. (Ps 103)

Second Reading:

None of us lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself. For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord. (Rom 14:8)

Gospel:

Peter approached Jesus and asked him, "Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus answered, "I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times." (Mt 18:21-22)



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My Dear Parishioners:

That's not fair!" You've heard that complaint as much as I. Parents have had to deal with that cry from their kids a zillion times more than I have. That complaint is on the lips of children, comes forth from teens, rises us from broken hearts trying to deal with rejection, and is heard in funeral homes among those paying their last respects to friends and relatives who have just died. What's fair and what's not is the stuff of political campaigns, labor contract negotiations, and deliberations of parish pastoral councils. Pastors are called "unfair", bishops and the Church in general are accused of it. Hardly a week goes by when we're not in some sort of conversation about what's fair and what's not.

Ultimately, as we mature, we must come to terms with the reality that life is unfair. This leads us to eventually realize that every single individual has his or her standard of measuring what's fair and what's not. If you've ever tried to get a group of people to wholeheartedly agree on what's fair you'll know what I'm saying. Fairness is an elusive standard. Fairness is something we all struggle to attain. Rarely do we succeed; most of the time we don't. Most of the time we wrestle with the question of fairness when it comes to the distribution of this world's material goods, especially money. How many of the deliberations of our state and federal legislators are devoted to the attempt to be fair? I daresay that the great majority of legislative bills put before our state houses and our U.S. Congress' representatives and senators deal with the distribution of our nation's wealth and resources, along with treating all people fairly under the law. Dealing with the question of fairness and who deserves what is a fertile field in which jealousy, envy, hatred, spite and the desire for "getting even" find their roots.

The question of fairness and its related judgments about who deserves what ultimately takes us on a journey deep within our hearts and souls. The issue ultimately becomes a spiritual issue, something that affects not just our thinking and judgments, but affects our hearts and our souls. We are here at this Mass in order to present our hearts and souls to God. We know and He knows that our hearts and souls are not in good condition. God knows and we know that we need help, we need healing, we need His antidotes for the diseases, the spiritual diseases, and we are suffering.

Jesus told us, didn't He, that He was here among us to heal those who knew they were sick, not those who didn't think they needed any healing. If we think we don't need any help, that we don't need God's help, we ought to ask ourselves why we're here! So what's the spiritual message, what's the spiritual medicine, we need when we're wrestling with those dislocating and fracturing questions of fairness? When we wrestle with the question: "Who deserves what?" we ought to pay attention to God's Word and what He wants to teach us when it comes to answering these questions.

The parable of the prodigal son is probably the best known of all of the parables Jesus taught. It goes right to the question of fairness; it deals with what the younger son and the older son deserved. We all like to identify with the younger son because we've all sinned. We've all taken God's treasures and squandered them on wine, women and song. We've all wallowed with the pigs. And many, if not most, of us have come to our senses and come back to our Father confessing our sins and asking for His forgiveness. The problem is that we're likely to stop there and not see ourselves in the elder son. But the uncomfortable truth is that we've all stood in his shoes, too. We've all complained, even bitterly complained, that God our Father hasn't been fair. All too often we think of ourselves as the elder son did. We compare ourselves with others, particularly those whom we consider to be greater sinners than we are, and we get jealous over their good fortune. That fact that bad people, and some very bad people at that, receive the good things of life really upsets us. Are we prepared, then, to deal with the reality that God never gives any of us what we deserve, that He

September Birthdays

18—Samuel Hollis
Lila Clark

October Birthdays

6—Holly Hollis
10—Jacques Williams III
13—Vicki Leonard
17—Kelly Hollis
19—Sister Monica Seaton

Our thoughts and prayers are with the **sick: Rayma Hollis**, Judy Aronold, Ginny Singleton, 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.

Mass Intentions

September 13 - Larry Allen

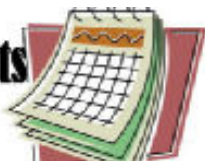
September 20 - Carl Millay

September 27 - Sam Thruston

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Coming Events



September 13 - Grandparents Day

September 20 - Religious Ed begins

September 20 - Disciples Response Fund Sunday



September 6--\$2,596.34
Budget--\$1,541.00
MTD Collection--\$2,596.34
MTD Budget--\$1,541.00
YTD Collection--\$16,352.59
YTD Budget--\$15,410.00

*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 my parish, there was once a new employee who frequently told me she was sorry for various imperfections in her work. It could be a little tiring. I finally told her, "You know, you don't have to say 'sorry' so often." She looked me right in the eyes and said, "Father, you're right. I'm sorry." Her ear-to-ear grin betrayed that she enjoyed the irony — and that she would keep asking for forgiveness as often as she needed it.

The Gospel reading this week proclaims to us that God, in Jesus, delights in numerous requests for, and the granting of, forgiveness. To Peter's question, "**Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive? As many as seven times?**" Jesus responds, "**I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times.**" In other words, Peter, stop counting.

Christian life should be marked by a commitment to frequent forgiveness. God never tires of forgiving us. His limitless love has overcome the power of vengeance, hatred, and division. We tap into that each and every time we ask for forgiveness or extend it to another.

How beautiful our hearts become when they become accustomed to frequent forgiveness! How joyful and attractive become our marriages, families, and parish communities! How light our souls feel when unburdened by the habit of keeping score.

Challenge: Name one thing, small or large, for which you could ask forgiveness from someone in your life. Then do it.

— Father John Muir

Readings for the Week

Monday: Nm 21:4b-9/Ps 78:1bc-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38/Phil 2:6-11/Jn 3:13-17

Tuesday: 1 Cor 12:12-14, 27-31a/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Jn 19:25-27 or Lk 2:33-35

Wednesday: 1 Cor 12:31-13:13/Ps 33:2-3, 4-5, 12 and 22/Lk 7:31-35

Thursday: 1 Cor 15:1-11/Ps 118:1b-2, 16ab-17, 28/Lk 7:36-50

Friday: 1 Cor 15:12-20/Ps 17:1bcd, 6-7, 8b and 15/Lk 8:1-3

Saturday: 1 Cor 15:35-37, 42-49/Ps 56:10c-12, 13-14/Lk 8:4-15

Observances for the Week

Monday: The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Tuesday: Our Lady of Sorrows

Wednesday: Sts. Cornelius, Pope, and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs

Thursday: St. Robert Bellarmine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church; St. Hildegard of Bingen, Virgin and Doctor of the Church

Saturday: St. Januarius, Bishop and Martyr

Friendliness, Explained!

The modern world we all must share seems, in some ways, to be shrinking.

For good or ill, thanks to the internet, the widespread use of social media, and the omnipresence of smartphones, we are finding ourselves interacting frequently with people who live, act, and think differently than we do.

It may well be that the virtue of friendliness, known officially as affability, is more important than ever.

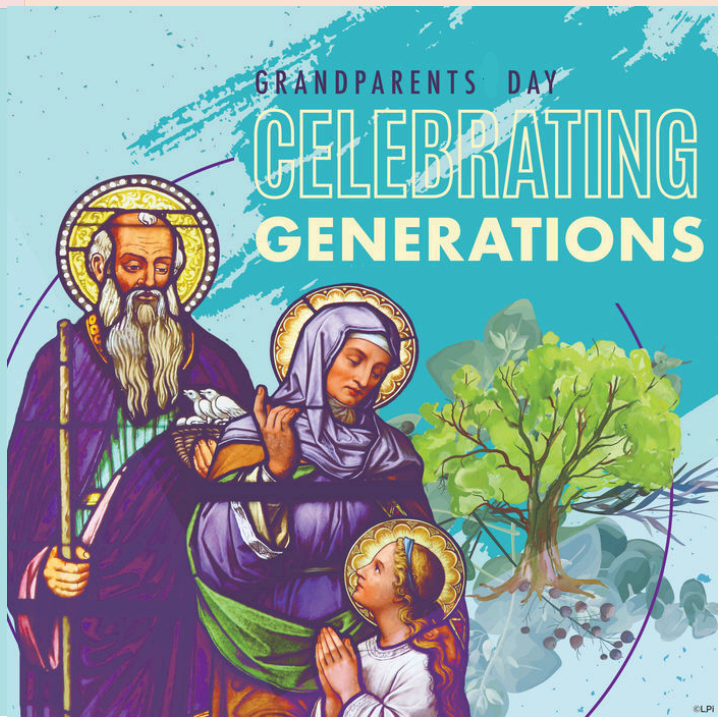
In fact, being attached as it is to the virtue of justice, friendliness is a debt we owe our fellow human beings, writes St. Thomas Aquinas (Sum., II:II, 114, Art. 2). The fact is, we cannot evangelize without kindness. We can see this in the instructions Christ gives his disciples in the Gospel of Matthew: “As you enter a house, wish it peace. If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it; if not, let your peace return to you.” (Matthew 10:13)

A Blessing for Grandparents

Dear God,

Bless the grandparents in our community. Stir in them a sense of caring, thoughtfulness, and kindness toward their preceding generations. Like St. Anne and St. Joachim, inspire them to live lives of brave faith and virtue. Give them and their families warm memories, happy times, and bright hope.

Amen.



QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK - REFLECT AND RESPOND TO SCRIPTURE

1st Reading Question

Sirach encourages us not to hold anger or seek revenge against a neighbor who has wronged us.

Can you think of a time when you took this good advice?

2nd Reading Question

Paul tells us that Jesus died and rose to life so he might be the Lord of the living and the dead.

How do you remain open to Jesus as the Lord of your life?

Gospel Question

In the parable of the unforgiving servant, Jesus teaches Peter the importance of forgiving others from the heart.

How do you know your forgiveness of others is sincere?

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LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

We have all been the wicked servant. We have denied others the same forgiveness and grace shown to us. This week, let us find new ways to make the love and mercy of God manifest in the lives of those we meet.

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Ministry Schedule

	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Collection & Gifts
September 13	Leland Herzog Wayne Stephens	Greg Gough Janet Clark Cindy Clark	Burnell Hamilton Steve Coble
September 20	Misty Sanford Barb Bisel	Greg & Denise Richardson Holly Hollis	Bernadette Thames Janet & Lila Clark

Pastor's Corner Continued...

gives each one of us, no matter what condition we're in, more than we deserve? That's the point behind all of today's three readings. That's the point of the first reading from the Book of Exodus. That's the point in today's reading taken from St. Paul's 1st Letter to Timothy, and that's certainly the point behind today gospel reading about the younger son and his elder brother.

We all, each and everyone one of us individually, has received far more from God our Father than we deserve. So while we know it's true that life isn't fair, we need also to know that it never has been -- and it never will be. And it's true we don't get what we deserve. Instead we get far more than we deserve. But there's more yet to draw from the waters of God's spiritual well. We need to go one step beyond and see ourselves not just in the shoes of the younger son, and not just in the shoes of his elder brother, we need to see ourselves in the shoes of the father.

The most missed point of this parable is that we should locate our hearts in the father's heart. We should see those around us, our brothers and sisters, through his eyes. We should love them with his love. For if we do, then questions of fairness and arguments about who deserves what all become useless, even silly. Love is never given to those who deserve it. As a matter of fact, great love is given to those who have no claim on it. Great love is freely given, no strings attached, no conditions demanded, with no expectations of receiving anything in return. Love is freely and unconditionally given unfairly and without anyone deserving it. That's what makes it so wonderful. That's what makes it do God-like. That's what brings us to be made, through the power of Jesus and His Holy Spirit, into the image and likeness of God. Can we do that on our own? Of course not! "With man it is impossible; with God all things are possible."

So I am here with you today to receive the Bread of Life. I am here with you to receive that which will feed my soul and give nourishment and strength to my spirit. For it was from the pierced heart of Christ that His Precious Blood flows into your heart and mine, there to wash away all struggles with questions of fairness and deserving and to drown out our complaints. May all who see you and who see me recognize the love of the father seen in today's beautiful parable of the prodigal son who found the answers to life's questions in the arms of his father – in his father's heart.

Blessings, Fr. John



The Diocese of Owensboro is pleased to welcome Bill Huebsch for a presentation on “A Pastoral Church in the Modern World: How Vatican II Prepares us to Renew the Church Today”. This presentation is free and open to all in the Diocese of Owensboro. It will take place at the Duffy Auditorium at Brescia University located inside the C.E. Field Center for Professional Studies (located on the corner of 9th & Frederica in Owensboro) from 7:00pm-8:30pm on November 9.

Please RSVP



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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