

23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SEPTEMBER 6, 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
grief@sscobo.org

Parish Life Coordinator: Sr. Monica Seaton, OSU
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Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

But if you warn the wicked, trying to turn him from his way, and he refuses to turn from his way, he shall die for his guilt, but you shall save yourself. (Ez 33:9)

Psalm:

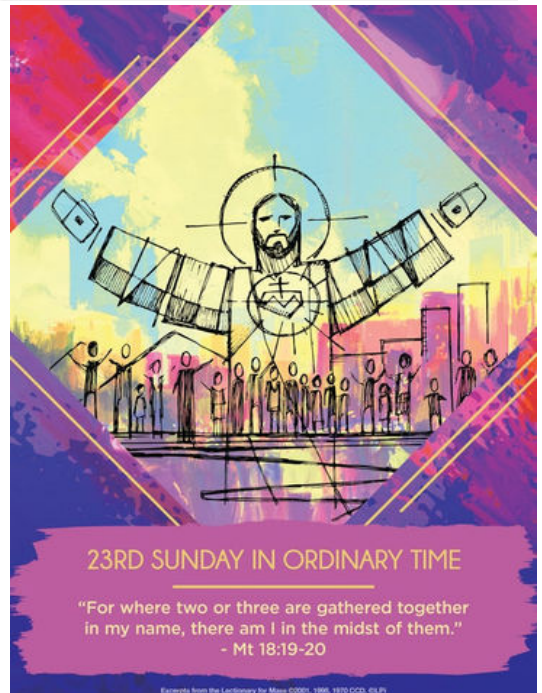
If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts. (Ps 95)

Second Reading:

Owe nothing to anyone, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. (Rom 13:8)

Gospel:

Amen, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. (Mt 18:18)



My Dear Parishioners:

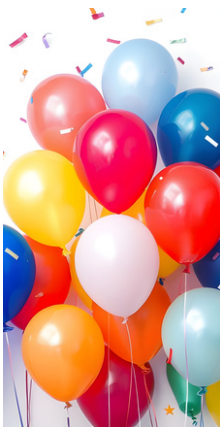
In spite of all of their fame and notoriety, many of our media stars, our top corporate leaders, and our governmental figures yearn for home. At home they are simply “dad”, or “honey” -- the person who takes out the garbage and who helps with the dishes. No one asks for their autograph there; no interviewer seeks their views on any and all topics. At home, his or her value is measured by simply listening to the others in the family, caring for them, loving them, and doing nothing more than being mom or dad. Families are where we’re no longer alone, living just for ourselves. Family is where we learn to listen and to love. It’s where we get a good picture of our real selves, and where we learn how to fight fairly. There we are hurt and healed, nurtured, given sound advice, and there at home we learn about forgiveness. Our accomplishments are acknowledged, and our failures are accepted. We do not lose our place in our family because of our faults and failures. We don’t shape our characters and our personalities all alone, all by our selves.

Paradoxically we find our individuality by living among others. We don’t find courage and strength all by our lonesome selves. We don’t know how to live and love unless we learn it from being loved by others -- and by loving them in return. One of the most powerful realities in our life is the family. Is it any wonder, then, that many businesses, sports teams, and other organizations speak about being a family? “We have a family here,” they say. God’s fundamental nature is to be a family of Persons -- Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Christ Jesus uses the family model to mold His Church. He founded His Church in family dynamics, calling His followers “brothers”, teaching us to call God “Abba”, Father, making us His heirs. While He was dying, He gave us His mother, too.

Families live in love. But family members also fight. It’s inevitable. Any time you get two or more living together you’ll eventually have a disagreement, a fight. And when we do, Jesus calls us to remember that we are nonetheless brothers and sisters. We still belong. So why should we be surprised when we find conflicts within the Church? Read the epistles of the New Testament and ask yourself how many times those letters of St. Paul, St. Peter, and St. John deal with conflicts and disagreements...fights within those early Church communities. Families are not places where we decide who is to be thrown out, who is to be excommunicated, who is to be no longer considered “family”. Perhaps that’s why the Catholic Church these days no longer talks very much, or very forcefully, about excommunicating folks. Healthy families are places where, when there is conflict, we all decide that we need to talk some more. Oh, to be sure, some families are places where we find the silent treatment, where we give each other the deep freeze, where we can shun, be cold, and use silence as a weapon. Unfortunately and sadly, passive aggression is also learned in families.

The main ministry of Jesus was that of reconciliation. He came to teach us the tactics of conflict resolution, about reconciliation and forgiveness. He came to show us the power of openness, speaking the truth to one another, dealing with issues openly, directly, and in God’s good graces.

Didn’t He tell us that the truth would set us free? All that having been said, who should take the initiative in making things right -- the one who has done the hurting or the one who is hurt? Who needs to take the first step? I would say we all should. First of all, note that it was God, the one whom we sinned against, the one who was hurt by our sins and our rejection of His love, who first came to us. He sent His only Son to us to tell us that He loves us. His main mission was to forgive us our sins and take us back home to our Father. Do we do that for each other? Or do we sit and pout, rehearsing all of our resentments, mulling over how so-and-so has hurt us, waiting in stony and angry silence for the one who has hurt us to crawl back to us, groveling and begging for our forgiveness? If that’s our attitude nothing much usually happens. Many times the one who has hurt us doesn’t even



September Birthdays

6—Shelby Webster
8—Mary Hagan
Mamie Watkins
9—Luke Bisel
18—Samuel Hollis
Lila Clark

Mass Intentions

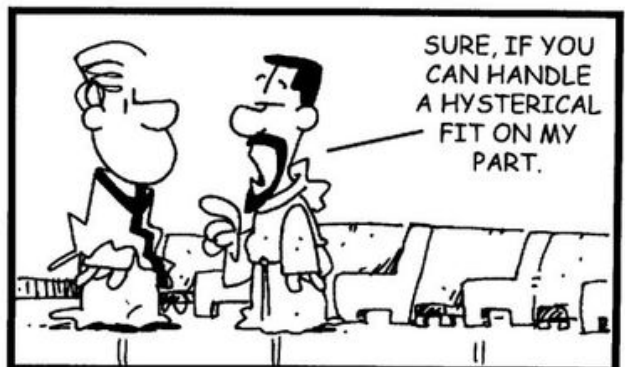
September 6 - Peter X Armendarez
September 13 - Larry Allen
September 20 - Carl Millay

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.**

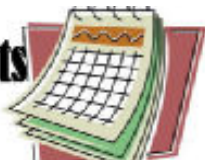
Let us remember to pray for those who are dying and those who have recently died.

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

23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Coming Events



September 7 - Labor Day

September 20 - Religious
Ed begins



August 30--\$1,319.28
Budget--\$1,541.00
MTD Collection--\$6,834.06
MTD Budget--\$7,705.00
YTD Collection--\$13,756.25
YTD Budget--\$13,869.00

*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

A few summers ago, my family had a big reunion. It included my parents, my four siblings, and all their many children. One of my favorite moments was simply watching my parents' contented faces as they took in all of us together, laughing, sharing food, singing, telling stories. They loved seeing their children happily *together* with each other.

That is something like the heart of God we see in today's Gospel message about Christian reconciliation. These verses come right after Jesus' parable of the lost sheep. He is not giving the disciples a cold formula for dealing with conflict. He is revealing the Father's longing for children who love and reconcile with each other. His heart aches when his children are divided and isolated.

So when Jesus says, **"Go and tell your brother his fault,"** He is not deputizing us as morality police. He is inviting us into his mission of reconciliation. When he adds, **"If he listens to you, you have won over your brother,"** we glimpse the real goal. Not winning arguments, but reuniting a divided family.

These days, we often think religion is just between God and me. But the Father's dream is about a lively family, one in which His children forgive, gather, and rejoice together.

*Lord Jesus, give me the courage to seek
reconciliation where it is needed. Make my heart
resemble the Father's heart, longing and working
for unity among His children. Amen.*

— Father John Muir

Readings for the Week

Monday: 1 Cor 5:1-8/Ps 5:5-6, 7, 12/Lk 6:6-11

Tuesday: Mi 5:1-4a or Rom 8:28-30/Ps 13:6ab, 6c/Mt 1:1-16, 18-23 or 1:18-23

Wednesday: 1 Cor 7:25-31/Ps 45:11-12, 14-15, 16-17/ Lk 6:20-26

Thursday: 1 Cor 8:1b-7, 11-13/Ps 139:1b-3, 13-14ab, 23-24/Lk 6:27-38

Friday: 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22b-27/Ps 84:3, 4, 5-6, 12/Lk 6:39-42

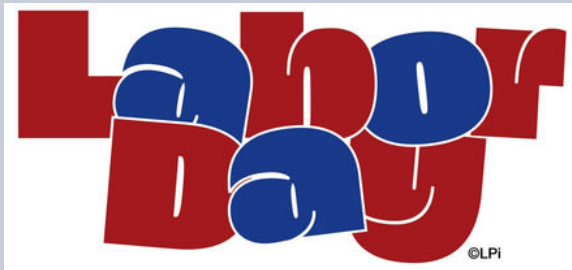
Saturday: 1 Cor 10:14-22/Ps 116:12-13, 17-18/Lk 6:43-49

Observances for the Week

Tuesday: The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Wednesday: St. Peter Claver, Priest

Saturday: The Most Holy Name of Mary



Labor Day Blessing

Dear God,

We thank You for this Labor Day. Bless the men and women who serve in our workforce, and grant them strength and protection in their work. Bless, too, those who courageously seek to build fairer and more just working environments for all our brothers and sisters. Bless all of us as we gather to rest and recreate during this holiday weekend.

Amen.

St. Peter Claver

Born in Catalonia, Spain, in 1580, St. Peter Claver studied first at the University of Barcelona and then joined the Jesuits. He became friends with fellow brother St. Alphonsus Rodriguez, who encouraged him to be a missionary in the New World. Accordingly, St. Peter went to Cartagena, a city in present-day Colombia, where he was ordained in 1615.

Cartagena was a center for the slave trade, and the young missionary knew where he could best serve God. He proclaimed himself, “the slave of the Negroes forever.” As ships would arrive with their human cargo, Saint Peter and a group of interpreters would rush into the hold with food and medicines. When the slaves were moved to pens to await sale, the saint continued to work among them, communicating God’s love with acts of generosity and teaching the Catholic faith.

He also led missions in the interior, refusing the hospitality of plantation owners and preferring to stay in the slave quarters. He organized charitable societies and is said to have baptized and catechized more than 300,000 enslaved persons.

St. Peter Claver died on September 8, 1654. He was canonized with his friend St. Alphonsus Rodriguez in 1888 by Pope Leo XIII. He is the worldwide patron saint of African Americans and of enslaved peoples.

St. Peter Claver, pray for us!



QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK - REFLECT AND RESPOND TO SCRIPTURE

1st Reading Question

Ezekiel learns the importance of telling the truth when speaking God's prophetic word, even if it is difficult.

Can you think of a time when telling a difficult truth led to a good outcome?

2nd Reading Question

Paul teaches that we owe it to others to love our neighbor.

How might you show love to a neighbor this week?

Gospel Question

Jesus places a high priority on reconciling with someone who has sinned against you.

Are there people in your life who easily forgive?

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LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Christ tells us that "where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them." Our faith compels us to be in community with one another. No one should be a Christian alone. How can you draw closer to others who love Christ?

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Ministry Schedule

	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Collection & Gifts
September 6	Katie Goins Misty Sanford	Vivian Higgs Sr. Monica Seaton Michelle Jones	Barbara Hammond Wonet Taylor
September 13	Leland Herzog Wayne Stephens	Greg Gough Janet Clark Cindy Clark	Burnell Hamilton Stever Coble

Pastor's Corner Continued...

know what they've done to us, while we toss and turn in sleepless nights replaying all of our hurts and our resentments toward them. If you would be like God, then you need to tell the other that he or she has hurt you. We need to let the other know that they've done damage, that they've wronged us.

In this age when so many have shut down what we call conscience, we need to awaken their consciences and let them know just what they've done. Observe, too, that the one who has done the wrong, the one who has done the hurting, also needs to take the initiative. On one occasion when Jesus was teaching us about forgiveness He said: "So, then, if you are bringing your offering to the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar, go and be reconciled with your brother first, and then come back and present your offering." All relationships are two-way streets; the traffic doesn't run just one way. All relationships take effort on the part of both parties involved. That is never truer than when we are dealing with sin, hurt, forgiveness and reconciliation. Both the one doing the hurt and the one who has been hurt must take the effort to make things right.

Here again, as with so many other things in our spiritual lives, humility is something that's not just "nice" – it is essential. Religion isn't about being "nice," or about nice things that really don't matter. Religion is about things that are essential to living lives of happiness, lives of meaning and purpose, lives that God wants us to live as He himself lives life. Do you want to live in the way, the truth and the life of Christ Jesus, God's only Son whom He sent to save us from our self-delusions? Well, then, deal with forgiveness and reconciliation the way He did. If you've been hurt, don't just brood over it. Bring it out into the open, into honesty. Conversely, if you've hurt someone else, be open and honest about it. Go to them and tell them you're sorry for what you've done to them.

That's what home and family are all about, and home is where we learn to truly live life successfully, learn about true love, and find some happiness and peace here on earth as it is in heaven. That was the main mission of Jesus Christ, and that's what Church is all about.

Blessings,

Fr. John

Exultation of the Holy Cross

September 14th is the Feast of the Exultation of the Holy Cross. You are invited to bring a cross from your home to be blessed Sunday, September 13th at the 10:00am Mass.





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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