

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

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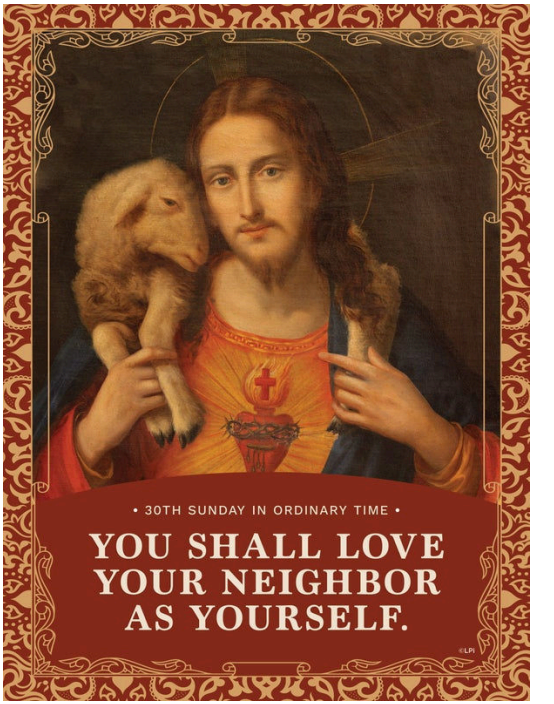
Sunday's Readings

First Reading:
"You shall not wrong any widow or orphan. If ever you wrong them and they cry out to me, I will surely hear their cry.
My wrath will flare up, and I will kill you with the sword; then your own wives will be widows, and your children orphans." (Ex 22:21-23)

Psalm:
I love you, Lord, my strength. (Ps 18)

Second Reading:
For they themselves openly declare about us what sort of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God and to await his Son from heaven. (1 Thes 1:9-10)

Gospel:
"You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." (Mt 22:37)



My Dear Parishioners:

There are some people for whom we simply cannot feel any love at all, or so we tell ourselves. Too much resentment, too much distrust... some people are just "too much" for us.

Take, for instance, a relative who is arrogant, self-centered, opinionated, and who is totally given over to his own pleasure and comfort. He thinks everyone else is stupid. We feel sure that when he dies and meets Jesus Christ face to face he will manage to tell Christ that he could have redeemed the human race in a much better way. He will likewise point out all of God's faults and failures, particularly how God botched the job in creating human beings. At best we can only tolerate this sort of person. The greater the distance between us we feel, the better.

What, then, is the meaning of Christ's mandate to us, telling us to love everyone as we love our selves? How can we possibly love such a person?

First of all, we should take it for what it is - a mandate, a command, something that has nothing to do with feelings. No one can command you to have warm fuzzy feelings toward another. Not even God commands that of us. We cannot even tell ourselves to do so. Even if we could, would it be worth doing? I daresay it wouldn't. Even abusers of women tell us that they have powerful emotional feelings of affection for the women they abuse… along with overpowering lust, envy, jealousy and possessiveness.

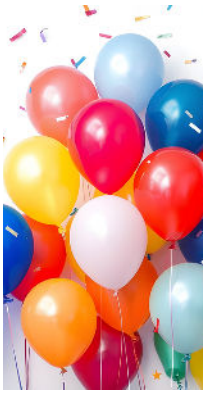
No, Jesus is not speaking of emotions and feelings. He knows how absolutely fickle and unreliable feelings are. Feelings come and feelings go as they wish leaving us quite alone with ourselves after they have vacated our hearts, alone with the wreckage they leave behind.

Please don't get me wrong. "Falling in love" is a wonderful thing, even a beautiful thing. Young boys and girls fall in love. Young mothers and young fathers fall in love with their newborn babies. The emotions of affection and the feelings of love are beautiful things,-the stuff of novels, movies, love songs, and poems. There's nothing wrong with them. But they shouldn't control us. Love is a choice, not a feeling. Feelings come and go, commitments do not.

In today's Gospel account Jesus is talking about love as something we do, not something we feel. He knew full well that affection is something we feel, He looking for us to love. Love is a choice, a commitment to do things; that is why Jesus is commanding us to love others. It's what we do for them, not what we feel toward them, that is the point.

I recently heard of a couple who were celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary, their Golden Jubilee. A friend asked them how they did it. "Did you ever think about getting a divorce?" "No", said the bride of fifty years, "I never thought about that. I didn't consider divorce to be an option." Then, with a twinkle in her eye, she added, "But a few times I have thought about murder!"

When two people marry they promise to act toward each other in ways they will not act toward anyone else. Feelings come and feelings go - we have little control over them. Love and commitments, however, are choices. Furthermore, as psychologists tell us, feelings can be shaped by the way we act. This is why Jesus commands us to act toward others in a loving way regardless of how we feel. Love makes commitments; feelings can follow along.



November Birthdays

1—Father John Thomas
5—Jamie Bisel
7—Lennox Williams
Hank and Quinn Fain
11—Jeff Sanford
16—Joyce Moorman
Greg Gough
19—Ron Moorman
Barbara Bisel
20 – Gary Wahl
22—Trey Hatchett

Mass Intentions

October 25 - Kenneth Higgs

November 1 - James Curtiss 'JC' Greene

November 8 - 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, 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.





October 25- Religious Ed Resumes

November 1 - Parish Meeting after Mass

November 1 - Religious Ed

November 22 - Thanksgiving Meal - Noon



October 18--$1,701.15
Budget--$1,541.00
MTD Collection--$4,401.38
MTD Budget--$4,623.00
YTD Collection--$24,598.29
YTD Budget--$24,656.00

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

When I was in seventh grade, like most boys of that age, I was constantly hungry. I could eat at any hour of the day. Then I fell head over heels for a classmate named Kristin. One evening, while lying on my bed and pondering her perfections, my mom called me to dinner. For the first time in my adolescent life, I remember thinking: "I'm not hungry." My heart longed for Kristin more than my stomach for food. Now, I wouldn't confuse adolescent infatuation with mature love. But it was an experience of how love can reorder everything in our lives.

In today's Gospel reading, Jesus says, **"You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart" (Matthew 22:37).** He is not issuing a burden or a moral goal for high achievers. He is naming the deepest orientation of the human heart. We were made for love so great that it gathers every other love into itself. Jesus does not ask us to love less the persons or things that attract us. Rather, he wants our love for God to be so total and intense that we love everything and everyone else *because* we love him so much.

Do we believe that such a love is possible for us? Because of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, it is! It is readily available to us. Let's repent of our half-hearted love for God and ask Him to fill our hearts to the brim with divine love.

— Father John Muir

Readings for the Week

Monday: Eph 4:32-5:8/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Lk 13:10-17
Tuesday: Eph 5:21-33/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5/Lk 13:18-21
Wednesday: Eph 2:19-22/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5/Lk 6:12-16
Thursday: Eph 6:10-20/Ps 144:1b, 2, 9-10/Lk 13:31-35
Friday: Phil 1:1-11/Ps 111:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Lk 14:1-6
Saturday: Phil 1:18b-26/Ps 42:2, 3, 5cdef/Lk 14:1, 7-11

Observances for the Week

Wednesday: Sts. Simon and Jude, Apostles
Saturday: *All Hallow's Eve*
Next Sunday: All Saints





SAVE THE DATE!!!!

Parish meeting November 1 after Mass.

JOIN OTHER PARISHIONERS IN BUILDING COMMUNITY AND SHARING THE LOVE OF JESUS WITH OTHERS THROUGH HOSPITALITY!

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK - REFLECT AND RESPOND TO SCRIPTURE

1st Reading Question

At the heart of the Mosaic social laws, we hear God's expectation for compassion, especially to the most vulnerable among us.

Is compassion a virtue that comes easily to you?

2nd Reading Question

Paul offers a prayer of thanksgiving for the faith of the Thessalonian community members who are seen as role models for believers throughout the regions of Macedonia and Achaia.

Is there someone in your life who models the Faith well?

Gospel Question

Jesus taught that love of God and love of neighbor are the foundation of the Jewish law and the prophets.

How does this two-fold commandment inspire you to live the Christian life?

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LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Jesus gives us the greatest commandment: love God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind. When we do that, the rest comes naturally, and we love others as they should be loved. So, give him everything — and let your life be love

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Ministry Schedule

	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Collection & Gifts
October 25	Greg Gough Misty Sanford	Greg & Denise Richardson Michelle Jones	Bernadette Thames Janet & Lila Clark
November 1	Katie Goins Sr. Monica Seaton	Barb Bisel Vivian Higgs Holly Hollis	Jamie, Beau, & Luke Bisel

Pastor's Corner Continued...

All of us have feelings of fondness toward others. Even pagans feel fondness and affection. So there's no particular Christian virtue in feeling fondness and affection for another. Consequently, there is no sin in feelings of fondness toward another. Virtue and sin are found, however, in what we choose to do with other people. Which is why Jesus always placed His emphasis, not on how we feel toward others, but how we act toward them.

We need to pay attention to the Last Judgment scene depicted in Matthew's gospel account. That last judgment all has to do with deeds - feelings are entirely omitted. God does not say: "I was hungry, and you felt sorry for me. I was naked, and you felt embarrassment. I was sick, and you had feelings of sympathy toward me." All of which would have been simply nice. And many churches preach a gospel of nice feelings - religion is only a matter of feeling nice toward others. But Christianity is more than being nice or simply having nice feelings.

When did Jesus ever mention being "nice" toward others? The only thing that counted with Him was that the hungry were fed, the naked were clothed, and that the lonely and abandoned were sought out and cared for.

Jesus Christ is the ultimate realist. He commands us, He mandates us to love our neighbors as we love our selves… even those who are unlovable. Perhaps He even means particularly those who are unlovable. He closes our little loopholes and presents us with the most demanding of all Gospel messages, allowing us no compromises, no human "wiggle room". It was a call to get extremely serious about what we do, not what we feel.

And it was an utterly simple mandate, no complexities whatsoever. It's sort of like the proposed new federal income tax that can be sent in on a postcard - 9% of your taxable income... no deductions, no exemptions, no depreciation formulae, no wiggle room - simple, direct, straightforward and to the point.

I don't care how you feel, Jesus says; just love your neighbor, all of your neighbors no matter who they are and in how you act toward them. All of those complicated feelings of yours will eventually follow along. Religion is a matter of what you do, how you act.

Jesus isn't inventing something new. No, He's giving us the mandate of our Father in heaven, one that was expressed to us long, long ago in the Book of Exodus, the Second Book in the Old Testament. The challenge has always been before us, a challenge as old as the Bible, one that we just heard from the first Book of Exodus:

Thus says the LORD: "You shall not molest or oppress an alien, for you were once aliens yourselves in the land of Egypt. You shall not wrong any widow or orphan. If ever you wrong them and they cry out to me, I will surely hear their cry. My wrath will flare up, and I will kill you with the sword; then your own wives will be widows, and your children orphans.
"If you lend money to one of your poor neighbors among my people, you shall not act like an extortioner toward him by demanding interest from him. If you take your neighbor's cloak as a pledge, you shall return it to him before sunset; for this cloak of his is the only covering he has for his body. What else has he to sleep in? If he cries out to me, I will hear him; for I am compassionate."

Love, then, is not simply a nice feeling, it is a challenge.

Blessings,

Fr. John









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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