

27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

OCTOBER 4, 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
office@bscobo.org



Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

What more was there to do for my vineyard that I had not done?

Why, when I looked for the crop of grapes, did it bring forth wild grapes? (Is 5:4)

Psalm:

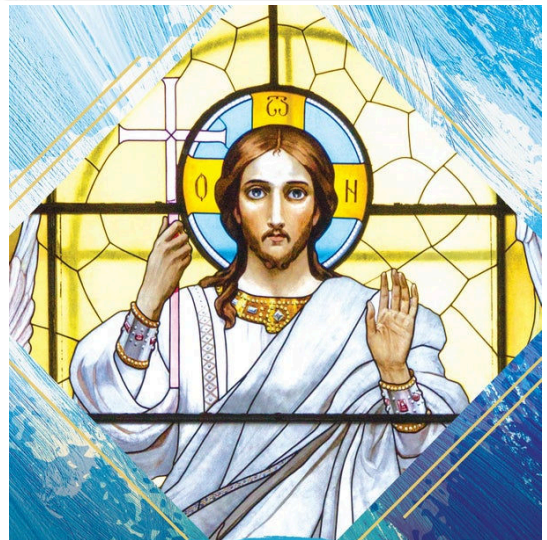
The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel. (Is 5:7a)

Second Reading:

Keep on doing what you have learned and received and heard and seen in me. Then the God of peace will be with you. (Phil 4:9)

Gospel:

"What will the owner of the vineyard do to those tenants when he comes?" They answered him, "He will put those wretched men to a wretched death and lease his vineyard to other tenants." (Mt 21:41)



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"Therefore, I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that will produce its fruit." - Mt 21:43

My Dear Parishioners:

What's the one thing you most fear in life? What's the one thing that has preoccupied you since you were a child and throughout all of the years that have followed? Isn't it fear of rejection?

Recall your early days as a child. Even as a tiny baby you screamed, shrieked and cried if you were not held, cuddled, kissed, and loved by your mother and your father. As a child you craved to play with playmates and you were miserable if they didn't want to play with you. And when you were a teenager... well, words can't begin to describe the pain and fear a teenager experiences when threatened by rejection.

If your parents divorce, isn't your primal fear and first thought that one or the other is rejecting you, particularly the parent who because of the divorce is forced to leave your home? In divorce kids imagine they're being rejected even though it isn't the case.

Sometimes we're so obsessed with the fear of rejection that we treat others badly. We treat them as if we were already rejected. Then, because we're so sulky and isolating, they quite naturally don't want to be around us.

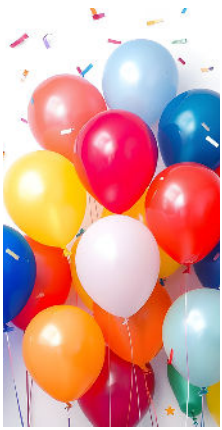
And then there's that horrible experience of rejection when a parent is confronted by a son or daughter who is on dope or alcohol, a child who is running around, who's hardly ever at home except to eat, get cleaned up, and then leave again.

With all of the rejection we give each other, and in the midst of all of the rejection we ourselves experience, do we ever stop and consider how God has been hurt by our rejection of His love for us? Jesus presented us with today's parable just before He entered Jerusalem for the last time. The crowds were about to spread palms in front of Him. Shortly thereafter He would go up on the Mount of Olives, there to weep and cry out in pain when He looked out over Jerusalem and cried: "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you that kill the prophets and stone those who are sent to you! How often have I longed to gather your children, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you refused!" Then they crucified him.

We don't like to admit it, but many times we reject God. Oh, we deny that... but in fact we do. How many times has there been when we just couldn't be bothered by God. How many people act as if God simply doesn't matter? How many times does His still, inner voice call us to do something and we refuse to listen to Him whisperings within us?

Then there's the matter of rejecting God's forgiveness. We are simply ignorant of the horrific sin that it is, slapping God in the face, declaring that God, God's love, God's forgiveness, simply doesn't matter; that we can't be bothered with it.

The pain of rejection is horrible. That pain is made crystal clear and perfectly evident when we take a good look at the crucifix and understand its profound message, namely our rejection of God's love for us. That's why there's a human body hanging on it. It's not an empty cross, it's a cross loaded to the full with rejection, the worst kind of pain that any of us can ever experience. The crucifix presents us with God nailed and immobilized because we won't listen to him!



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, 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.**

Mass Intentions

October 4 - Charles and Sandra Brown
 October 11 - April Brown
 October 18 - Charlene and Peter Armendarez

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.

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Coming Events



October 4 - Religious Ed

October 18 - Anointing of the Sick



September 27--\$1,223.28

Budget--\$1,541.00

MTD Collection--\$6,440.66

MTD Budget--\$6,164.00

YTD Collection--\$20,196.91

YTD Budget--\$20,033.00

*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

Have you ever felt like your attempts at prayer are a waste of time? I have. Early in my priesthood, I noticed that my prayer life was weakening. Awe and eager expectancy of contact with God had given way to routine. I gradually spent less and less time praying. Nothing dramatic had happened, but my attitude toward God had changed, and I was losing the desire to pray.

Jesus' parable of the insane vineyard tenants speaks into this kind of experience. He says the landowner **"leased it to tenants and went on a journey"** (Matthew 21:33). The key to this message is that the vineyard does not belong to those who work it — they are entrusted with it. But little by little, they view it as their possession, and ungrateful entitlement follows. The servants sent by the owner are treated as intrusions. Even the owner's son becomes a means to their delusional self-will. The central tragedy is not violence but the forgetfulness that spawns it. They need reminding how lucky they are to be given so much.

Eventually, God sent friends to remind me that my relationship with Him and my prayer time are not my possessions, but rather God's tremendous gifts to me. Perhaps you are feeling discouraged for some reason or other these days in your walk with God. Ponder this parable and let it be a gentle reminder that you and I are fortunate stewards, and God is the generous giver. This allows us to rediscover the beauty of the vineyards in our lives and to remain energetic in cultivating his gifts.

— Father John Muir

Readings for the Week

Monday: Gal 1:6-12/Ps 111:1b-2, 7-8, 9 and 10c/Lk 10:25-37

Tuesday: Gal 1:13-24/Ps 139:1b-3, 13-14ab, 14c-15/Lk 10:38-42

Wednesday: Gal 2:1-2, 7-14/Ps 117:1bc, 2/Lk 11:1-4

Thursday: Gal 3:1-5/Lk 1:69-70, 71-72, 73-75/Lk 11:5-13

Friday: Gal 3:7-14/Ps 111:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6/Lk 11:15-26

Saturday: Gal 3:22-29/Ps 105:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Lk 11:27-28

Observances for the Week

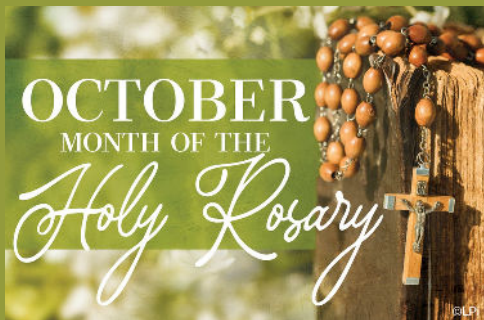
Monday: Bl. Francis Xavier Seelos, Priest

Tuesday: St. Bruno, Priest;

Bl. Marie Rose Durocher, Virgin

Wednesday: Our Lady of the Rosary

Friday: St. Denis, Bishop, and Companions, Martyrs; St. John Leonardi, Priest



History of the Rosary

Question:

What is the history of the rosary? Where did this prayer come from?

Answer:

Although a longstanding tradition attributed the rosary to Saint Dominic and the Dominican Order, the practice of using beads to count prayers predates the Dominicans by a few hundred years. In fact, it seems that what we now think of as the rosary (which means “garland of roses”) was first developed by illiterate peasants and religious brothers and sisters as a way of offering 150 “Our Fathers” to replace the praying of the 150 psalms in the Divine Office.

The practice of reciting 150 Hail Marys (which was later subdivided into 15 decades of 10 Hail Marys) arose during the late Middle Ages. Devotion to the rosary began to flourish in the nineteenth century, especially as new devotions to Mary began to spread throughout Europe and the New World. An annual liturgical celebration of Our Lady of the Rosary was introduced into the Church calendar in 1573 and it has been observed on the date of October 7 since 1913.

In the apostolic letter On the Most Holy Rosary, Pope Saint John Paul II not only added five new mysteries to the traditional fifteen, but he also reminded Catholics that the rosary is, at its core, an opportunity to go deeper into the life of Jesus: “The rosary, though clearly Marian in character, is at heart a Christocentric prayer ... It has all the depth of the Gospel message in its entirety, of which it can be said to be a compendium. It is an echo of Mary’s prayer, her perennial Magnificat ... With the rosary, the Christian people sit at the school of Mary and are led to contemplate the beauty of the face of Christ and to experience the depths of his love” (no. 1).

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK - REFLECT AND RESPOND TO SCRIPTURE

1st Reading Question

Isaiah speaks of God’s frustration over the people of Judah (the Lord’s “cherished plant”) who have not yielded a good crop.

How do you encourage family or friends to live up to their potential?

2nd Reading Question

Paul teaches the Philippians that prayer and positive thoughts are key to avoiding anxiety and experiencing the peace of God.

What are some positive thoughts you focus on when you are stressed or anxious?

Gospel Question

Jesus harshly criticizes the chief priests and Pharisees in the Parable of the Tenants.

How do you deliver legitimate criticism to someone you care about?

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LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Some build their lives on a foundation of wealth, some on a foundation of power. What do we choose for our cornerstone? What supports the weight of our souls? For the Christian life, there is only one foundation strong enough to hold. Choose wisely.

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Ministry Schedule

	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	Collection & Gifts
October 4	Jerry Fuchs Katie Goins	Greg & Denise Richardson Misty Sanford	Kelly, Holly, and Sam Hollis
October 11	Leland Herzog Barb Bisel	Vivian Higgs Michelle Jones Sr. Monica Seaton	Barbara Hammond Wonet Taylor

Pastor's Corner Continued...

There's no defense against rejection. No words can deal with rejection. There's nothing we can do against it -- which is perhaps why Jesus stood before Pontius Pilate, the personification of human judgment and rejection, and stood there in utter silence. Words simply cannot deal with the reality of rejection. Nothing can.

The parable heard in the Gospel is not just a parable about us. It is, rather, a glimpse into God's heart. It tells us about how He feels, the hurt and pain He experiences at our hands.

During Good Friday services it was once common to hear the Reproaches. They were words placed in the mouth of God and directed at us. Perhaps some of you may remember them:

My people, what have I done to you? How have I offended you? Answer me!

I led you out of Egypt; but you led your Savior to the Cross.

For forty years I led you safely through the desert, I fed you with manna from heaven, and brought you to the land of plenty; But you led your Savior to the Cross.

O, My people! What have I done to you that you should testify against me? Answer me!

One may wonder whether or not God can suffer. It seems to me that He does. In Christ Jesus, God the Son made human for us, He certainly did. And nothing caused Him more pain than our rejection of him.

So when you are experiencing rejection, and when the fear of rejection is overpowering within you, give some time to being alone with Christ. He's here for you all of the time, twenty-four hours a day. He's here in the Mass. He's here in the Blessed Sacrament. He's here in His house waiting for you to come and visit Him. Why not pay Him a visit from time to time? Why not come here and spend some time with Him? He'd love that, you know. He'd love to have someone come and give Him some time alone with Him, along with some words of love for Him. He knows rejection, and in His infinite love and caring for us, He gives us His power to overcome rejection and know what it is to love and be loved in return.

Blessings,

Fr. John



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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