

Dear Friends in Jesus Christ,

William Shakespeare says, "There is no darkness, but ignorance." I am sure, as a Catholic or as a Christian no one wants to fall into sin and thus miss the chance to enter into the Kingdom of God. It is for the same intention we pray daily too -"Lead us not into temptation, but delivers us from evil." But in reality we all fall into temptations and sin. Why is it that, even though we do not want to fall into sin, still we fall into sin? The Gospel of Mathew 22:29 speaks about the root cause of our sins "You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God". Yes, the first means of experiencing God in our lives is through the Scripture where we know about Jesus, which helps us to know Jesus personally and leads us to love our neighbor sincerely. Only if we are able to love our neighbor sincerely, our sacrifice of Mass will be meaningful. This is the truth the Gospel of Matthew 5:23-24 reminds us; "if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift." Dear friends, we have been following Jesus since our Baptism, but do we walk with Jesus sincerely in our lives? Yes, most of us know about Jesus, but how many of us know Jesus personally is the question today? Yes, ignorance of Jesus is that which blinds us from experiencing God in our lives through the word of God, sacraments and in others. It is the same ignorance that the readings of today are talking to us about.

In the first reading Peter reminds us that, it is due to our ignorance we crucified Jesus to death and so he encourages us to get converted in the light of the Risen Christ. The second reading also comes to us with the same message to keep us away from committing sin. The letter of St. John says "Those who say, "I know him, but do not keep his commandments are liars, and the truth is not in them". Considering these words of Saint John, let us evaluate our personal life and our 'life in Christ.' When we come to the Gospel, we find that ignorance continues to bother the disciples from identifying the Risen Lord. Even after they walked with Jesus for three years and witnessed everything that Jesus did here on earth, the disciples failed Jesus terribly. After having experienced the Risen Lord in the breaking of the bread, they failed to identify Him, when He appeared to them again. The Gospel says, "They were greatly troubled seeing the Risen Lord." Yes, Jesus is ready to help the disciples and so He tries to remove all their ignorance by reminding them all what He had spoken to them before His death and what Moses and the other prophets have spoken about Him. Thus, He opens the minds of His disciples to understand the scripture and experience

Him personally.

Yes, dear friends, only when we are able to open our hearts to listen to the scriptures, all the ignorance of sin will go away from our lives and we will be able to experience God in our lives. So during this Holy Eucharist, let us ask for the grace of the Lord, to remove the darkness of ignorance from our hearts, so that our hearts will be opened and scripture will be understood and we will experience God in our lives. **God Bless.**

Safe Environment Announcement

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 (270) 338-2240; local law enforcement (270) 273-3276; 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 on the bookshelf in back of the church, in the parish office, and the diocesan website (<https://owensborodiocese.org/safe>).

Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp & Retreat Center

Youth Camp at Gasper River Catholic is filling up! Camp LIFE only has a few spots left! This summer Gasper will follow all guidelines set forth by the state to ensure the safety of all campers and staff. There will be limited attendance this summer (currently 50% occupancy), additional hand washing/sanitation stations, campers will stay in small groups, masks will be worn, campers will be asked to monitor their health two weeks out until they arrive at camp, and additional daily cleaning and sanitizing of buildings and most everything at camp will be done outdoors. The safety of campers and staff is top priority! Visit www.gasperriverretreatcenter.org for more information and for updates. Please remember that space will be limited, so sign up today and don't miss out on an amazing summer at Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp!!!

Thanks to everyone for your generous contributions to Our Churches during this unfortunate time. God Bless & Be Safe.

Financial Report - April 11, 2021

St. Sebastian- Amount Needed: \$2,938.09 weekly
Regular Collection \$ 1,750.00 - 1,188.09
Emergency Fund \$ 185.00

Financial Report - April 11, 2021

St. Charles - Amount Needed: \$1,147.46 weekly
Regular Collection \$ 2,711.00 + 1,563.54
Emergency Fund \$ 420.00

Mass Schedule

April 18 - 25

Sunday - Third Sunday of Easter

-8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian
Merritt & Janice Hobbs
-10:30am - Mass at St. Charles
Souls in Purgatory

Monday - Easter Weekday

-8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian
Pat Bickett

Tuesday - Easter Weekday

-8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian
Delila Mae Payne

Wednesday - Easter Weekday

-8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian
Lydia Payne
-5:30pm - Mass at St. Charles
Conversion of Souls

Thursday - Easter Weekday

-8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian
Lisa Young

Friday - Easter Weekday

-8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian
Joe Bickett

Saturday - Easter Weekday

-5:00pm - Mass at St. Sebastian
Ralph & Judy Ward

Sunday - Fourth Sunday of Easter

-8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian
Jacinta Tichenor
-10:30am - Mass at St. Charles
Margaret Louise Mills

April – National Child Abuse Prevention Month

Please mark the date of April 19 at 6 PM at St. Stephen Cathedral for a prayer service for victims/survivors of child abuse. Bishop William Medley will lead the service and it will be live-streamed at ststephencathedral.org/live.

Prayer List for members of our community:

Melanie Mayes, Jason Evans, Lisa Jackson, Ethan Settle, Jimmy Clayton, Pat Calhoun, Sonny Renfrow, Kimberly Nowak, Todd Tichenor, Kimberly Stiles, Louis & Alice Weise, Callie Hayden, Mary Jewell, Tom Schutte, Evelyn Drury, Bill Abney, Debbie Dunn, Ben Dunn, and Tommy England

Please pray for our Military

MMN1 Andrew Logsdon, SSgt. James (J.P.) Dye, John Randall Zaremba, Major Jack Kaina, Major Bradley Summers, Lance Corporal Marine Joseph Ryan Hunter, Lt. Col. Michael Rezebek. A.B. Phillip Wilson, Specialist 4 Chaz McKay, Sgt. Adam Dickey, and Corpsman Aly Franklin

Guidelines for Resuming Parish Gatherings Outside the Liturgy

the following: Parishes may meet in small group gatherings where strict mask compliance can be enforced. Youth Groups, RCIA, Prayer Groups, Parish Councils etc. can gather in person when mask compliance is manageable (over nose and mouth). Limit the persons in attendance to no more than **60% of the maximum permitted occupancy capacity of the space. Maintain physical distance of six feet minimum from those not living within the same household These guidelines are effective July 1, 2020 (**updated March 10, 2021) and include. Wear face covering over mouth and nose. Based on CDC recommendations, everyone over the age of two must wear a mask for the duration of any event or meeting held on parish property. Those unable to wear a face mask at the event, whether it be due to age (the CDC does not recommend those under the age of two to wear a mask), health condition, or preference, are asked to stay healthy at home. Conduct temperature and health checks for each participant. Ensure proper, frequent cleaning and sanitation of the gathering space, including restrooms. Encourage those at high risk to stay Healthy at Home. □Maintain a record of all persons attending the event/meeting and their contact information. □Follow State of Kentucky **Healthy at Work Requirements for Restaurants and Bars** for any form of food service.

Permanent Diaconate

The Diocese is calling forth men who are interested in service to the Church as a Permanent Deacon. Permanent Deacons, under the leadership of our bishop and in partnership with priests, religious communities, laity, and the gifted women of the Diaconate Community, humbly commit themselves to the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ and his Church through the diaconal ministries of Service, Worship, and proclamation of the Gospel in word and deed. The next group of deacon candidates (English) will be forming in the Fall of 2021. More information about becoming a Permanent Deacon, who to contact if you have questions, and the required application, to be in by [May 29, 2021](http://www.owensborodiocese.org/perm-anent-diaconate/), can be found at the diocesan webpage <https://owensborodiocese.org/perm-anent-diaconate/>

St. Sebastian - Happy Birthday



Ashley Ebelhar - April 18
Mickey Scott - April 23

St. Charles - Happy Birthday



René Picard - April 20

St. Sebastian - Happy Anniversary



Michael & Kim Cooper - April 21

St. Charles - Happy Anniversary



John & Marsha Logsdon - April 20
Rondy & Patty Humphrey - April 21