

# Parish of the Blessed Sacrament

## First Sunday of Advent

### December 3, 2023



**PASTOR:**  
Father Jeffery Grant

**PAROCHIAL VICAR:**  
Father Callistus Osiaga

**DEACONS:**  
Deacon Tom Burns  
Deacon David Erdmann

**PARISH OFFICE:**  
Phone: (217) 528-7521  
Fax: (217) 528-3137  
Website: [www.bsps.org](http://www.bsps.org)

**SCHOOL OFFICE:**  
748 West Laurel  
Phone: (217) 522-7534  
Fax: (217) 522-7542  
[www.bssbruins.org](http://www.bssbruins.org)

**Office Manager:**  
Margaret Antenan

**Finance Manager:**  
Janet Vespa

**Director of Communications:**  
Lisa Sarnowski

**Principal:**  
Nicole Kuhlman

**School Administrative Asst:**  
Laura Horton

**School Secretary:**  
Michele Hinds-Greenwood

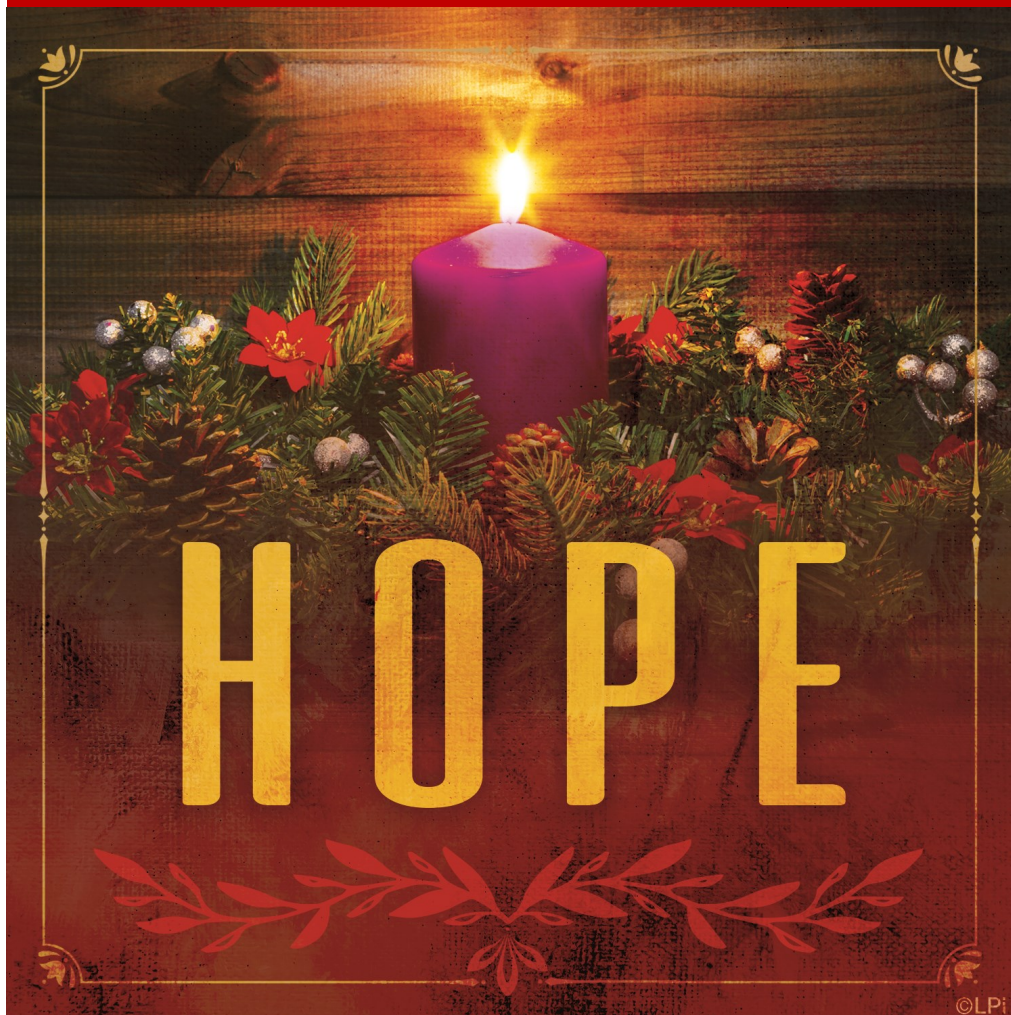
**Music Director:**  
Jane Hartman Irwin

**Parish School of Religion:**  
Call the Parish Office to register

**Development Director:**  
Jenna Davlin  
Kim Hoffmann

**Maintenance Manager:**  
John Langdon

**Bulletin Submissions:**  
Lisa Sarnowski  
Email: [bulletins@bsps.org](mailto:bulletins@bsps.org)  
Deadline: Monday at noon



1725 S. Walnut St.  
Springfield, IL 62704  
217/528-7521

Office hours: 8:00am to 4:00pm

[www.bsps.org](http://www.bsps.org)

Blessed Sacrament Parish welcomes new residents and visitors. It is wonderful to celebrate the Eucharist with you. If you are new to the parish, please call the office to register or register online at [www.bsps.org/parishioner-census-1](http://www.bsps.org/parishioner-census-1)

Sign up for e-newsletters: text  
BLESSED1725 to 84576

#### Sacramental Information

Baptisms: The next class is  
**Wednesday, January 10** at  
6pm. Please call the office to  
register.

Weddings: Contact the parish  
at least six months in advance.

Sacrament of the Sick: please  
call the parish office anytime.

Funerals: Contact the  
parish office

## MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

### Monday, December 4

Confessions before Mass

8:00am Mass: John Laurenzana  
Vern Eyre

### Tuesday, December 5

Confessions before Mass

8:20am Mass: Shirley Lanphier  
John Dietrich

### Wednesday, December 6

Confessions before Mass

8:20am Mass: Michael Ellman, Jr.  
J.R. Weakly

### Thursday, December 7

Confessions before Mass

8:00am Mass: Patricia Tadlock  
Norman Reiser  
5:30pm Mass: Warren Foran

### Friday, December 8

#### Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Confessions before Mass

8:20am Mass: Tom Schmidt  
Mary Eleanor Maloy  
5:30pm Mass: Marcel and Ann Pacatte  
Jim Davidson

### Saturday, December 9

Confessions before Mass

8:00am Mass: Larry and Mary Kay Evans  
3pm - 4pm Confessions  
4:30pm Mass: Thomas P. O'Connor

### Sunday, December 10

#### Second Sunday of Advent

7:00am Mass: Intentions of our Parishioners  
8:30am Mass: Galli Family  
10:30am Mass: Judy Flynn

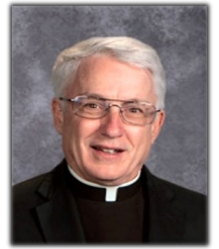
#### Confessional in the Adoration Chapel

Rosary beginning at 10:05am is prayed  
before the 10:30am Sunday Mass

## A LETTER FROM FATHER JEFF

### Reflections on Mary

It seems appropriate to me that the Feast of the Immaculate Conception should fall during the season of Advent. The root of both this feast and this season is a promise; a promise that God would send his anointed one. The difference is that the feast recalls Mary, who was among a people awaiting the Lord's first coming. Advent is about those who wait for him to come again. The similarity is that both groups are waiting.



Fr. Jeff Grant

Mary plays an important role in this first coming of Christ. She is his mother, a role no other saint can claim. It is her cooperation with God's plan that made it possible. Like those of us who believe that Jesus will return, she had nothing more than a promise. She was among those who looked to a day when God would fulfill that promise. To be sure, there were those who doubted. There were those who gave up on God and those who dismissed the whole thing as nothing more than a fairy tale. But Mary continued to pray and believe. One needs only to read the Cantic of Mary (Luke 1:46-55) to see her faithfulness. Her focus was on God's goodness and not the disappointments of the world. Thus, she waited with patience.

Mary also demonstrates openness to God's spirit. God did not interfere with her free will and she did not assert her "rights." When the angel approached her with God's request, her question was not about herself. It wasn't about what I must do or what's in it for me? Rather, it was how will this happen? The focus was on God's plan. Would that be our focus?

Thirdly, Mary responded generously to God's request. Her response was "thy will be done." In a world where nothing interferes with my freedom, her response seems somewhat incredible. I wonder...is it freedom or faith and love that will achieve God's will? Mary's response seems to point to the latter.

Mary can indeed teach us how to live in a time of advent. She did so with patience, perseverance, openness to God's plan, and a generous spirit. By the same virtues, we too, can live in a way that prepares us for Christ's second coming. May His promise come to fulfillment for us!

Don't forget this Friday is the **Feast of the Immaculate Conception**, a holy day of obligation. Masses are at 5:30 pm Thursday, and 8:20 am and 5:30 pm on Friday.

**Fr. Jeff Grant**





**Please pray for our Recently Departed**

Hugh (Cracker) J. Graham III

Tom E. Egizii

Joseph T. Dakin

John "Jack" Link

**RECEPTION OF HOLY COMMUNION** (for those excused from Mass) WILL TAKE PLACE SUNDAY OUTSIDE OF MASS FROM 9:45-10:00AM

**Mass will continue to be live-streamed** and can be found by going to the parish website at [www.bsps.org](http://www.bsps.org) And click on WATCH MASS HERE.

**Confessions** are heard Monday-Saturday mornings from 7:30-7:45am and on Saturday afternoon 3-4pm

If you or a family member would like our priests to know that you have been admitted to St. John's or Memorial Hospital please call the Parish Office (217-528-7521) and let us know.

This Friday, December 8th, is the **Feast of the Immaculate Conception**. It is a Holy Day of Obligation. You have the same obligation to attend Mass, as Sunday. Masses are: Vigil Mass; Thursday, December 7th at 5:30pm and Friday, December 8th at 8:20am and 5:30pm.

★ ★ ★  
**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**  
OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY  
©LPI

**The Teacher Salary Support Fund** is specially designated to offset our teachers' salaries by giving them a well-deserved bonus at Christmas each year. The monies donated through the green parish envelopes throughout the year are combined with donations from school families, the PSA and the Men's Club. All donations are allocated to the teachers and staff once a year - at Christmas! Please consider a donation during this school year by submitting the Parish Teacher Salary Support Fund envelope or an envelope on which you designate "Teacher Christmas Bonus Fund" by Monday, December 18th. Thank you in advance for your support of our hard-working teachers and staff.

**Angel Tree Idea:** Why not contribute to Blessed Sacrament School at the SAME TIME as you donate to Catholic Charities? If your Angel Tree wish list includes gift cards, purchase them in the school office during regular school hours and ask them to put it in the Angel Tree envelope. Save yourself a trip to the store and ensure that your gift card is delivered safely!

Interested in learning more about **Advent**? Sign up to receive our Advent emails! You'll receive four emails throughout the Advent season with facts about Advent, how to celebrate well, ideas for new traditions to practice with your family and the history of Advent. Sign up at [bsps.flocknote.com/advent](http://bsps.flocknote.com/advent) or email [Lsarnowski@bsps.org](mailto:Lsarnowski@bsps.org) to be included.

Our 8th grade has been asked to help **St. Pat's** this year by collecting gently used or new toys that would be ideal for a child choosing for a sibling. Jewelry, bath and body products, holiday decor (preferably small), tea towel and potholders, gloves and hats and sports items for dads, fleece throws, anything in the men's section of Big Lots or Dollar General (they often want things for dad's and last year they did not have enough). Our 8th grade elves will then take these items to St. Pat's and help the students "shop" for their families. Please leave donations in the box in the front of the church.

## ANGEL TREE PROGRAM

Blessed Sacrament Parish

### November 25th - December 11th

All gifts due no later than December 11th.

1. Take one or more ornament(s) from the Angel Trees located in the church and vestibule.
2. Read the description on the ornament and buy a gift according to what's written there. Purchasing a gift card? Consider using the school Scrip gift card program.
3. No need to wrap the gift but please return the ornament with the gift.
4. Bring the unwrapped gift to church with you and place it under the Angel Tree OR drop it off at the Parish Office

The Blessed Sacrament Angel Tree Program partners with Catholic Charities every Christmas to benefit local families in need.

Blessed Sacrament | 1725 S. Walnut St. | Springfield, IL 62704



**Congratulations!** Patricia Benanti, Blessed Sacrament parishioner, has been chosen The State Journal-Register's 2023 First Citizen. Benanti has volunteered at the St. Martin de Porres center for nearly 25 years. According to the State Journal-Register this is the 60th year that the award has been given out "in recognition of Springfield-area residents who give selflessly of their time and resources in service to others".

Volunteers will be handing out baby bottles and/or envelopes for our **Advent Baby Bottle Fundraiser** after all Masses this weekend - December 2 and 3. Bottles or envelope donations are due back at the end of Advent - December 24, 2023.

Donate directly HERE



**Springfield Right to Life's** "LIFE" calendars are HERE! These unique calendars feature beautiful art work from 8th grade students who embarked on a pro-life art project translating their thoughts into visual art using various media. It is a testament to the beauty of youth advocating for the sanctity of life in their own unique way. This beautiful calendar can be yours with a **\$20** donation to SRTL. Call, email or stop by SRTL for your copy today...or contact SRTL to help get one delivered to you! You are making a difference in the lives of many children. God Bless you! Springfield Right to Life/519 North Bruns Lane/Springfield, IL 62702 - 217-523-2700 /[springfieldrtl.org](http://springfieldrtl.org)

**Simbang Gabi** (literally "Night Mass") is a 9-day series of Masses leading up to Christmas celebrated in the Philippines since the late 17<sup>th</sup> century. All are invited to this Advent devotion from **December 9 - 17 at St. Joseph's Church** (1345 N. 6<sup>th</sup> St.)! A potluck dinner follows after Mass at the parish hall. Masses are at 6 pm *except* on 12/9 (4:30 pm), 12/13 (5:30 pm), and 12/16 (8 am). Bishop Paprocki will celebrate the December 17 Mass.

Everyone is welcome at the **St. Cabrini Nativity Festival 2023** on December 2 and 3. Over 125 Nativity sets displayed in the Parish Hall at 1020 N. Milton Ave in Springfield from 11am—5pm. Admission is free.

## School News

Our B.S.S. students are busy preparing for the Advent Season. Christmas programs are being rehearsed for Preschool through 3rd grade.

Our 7th graders participated in a speech meet over the weekend—congrats!

Both 3rd grade classes made their First Holy Communion and Confirmation on Tuesday, November 28.

God Bless You!



## MINISTRY SCHEDULE

**NOVEMBER 27 — DECEMBER 1**

**MONDAY - FRIDAY**

**8:00am and 8:20am**

**Saturday, December 9, 4:30PM**

**Lector:** Melaney Arnold

**Servers:** Audrey and Greta Madiar, Sergiuz Cabal

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Vince Toolen, Noreen Luhr, Collen VonDeBur, Richard Campbell

**Sunday, December 10, 7:00AM**

**Lector:** Ann Walker

**Servers:** Caroline Lambert

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Carrie and Mike O'Brien, George Rudis, Mary Beth Roland

**Sunday, December 3, 8:30AM**

**Lector:** Kevin Lust

**Servers:** Samantha and Sydney Cathers, Annaliese Hofner

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Don and Cathy Scott, Laurie Mann, Clara Ushman

**Sunday, December 3, 10:30AM**

**Lector:** Tim Moore

**Servers:** John, Matthew and Thomas Christie

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Rose Amon, Andrea Judd, Lori Criscione, Patricia and Donald Graham





## Immaculate Conception

"Immaculate Mary, your praises we sing!" December 8th is one of our feasts celebrating Mary - the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. From the beginnings of the Church, spiritual writers and theologians have acknowledged the innocence and holiness of Mary. St. Irenaeus called her the "new Eve." Both faced with the pure freedom to accept or reject God, Mary began with work of redemption with her yes to Christ! The Church began to celebrate the feast of Mary's conception in the early Middle Ages. In 1854, Pope Pius IX infallibly declared that Mary was free of original sin from the first moment of her conception. On this feast day, we celebrate the beauty and goodness of Our Lady!

Weekly Parish Finance Report November 18 to November 24		
	AMOUNT RECEIVED	TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS
Loose Collections	\$1039.00	
Envelope Collections	\$12,188.00	303
Online Giving Collections	\$7,026.38	126
<b>TOTAL COLLECTIONS</b>	<b>\$20,253.38</b>	<b>429</b>
Target Amount	\$23,500.00	



Christine Hindoian

### IF YOU ONLY READ THREE THINGS THIS WEEK:

- Angel Tree gifts due December 11
- Our baby bottle fundraiser begins THIS weekend
- Interested in advertising in our bulletin? **Contact Jeremiah Braggs at 360/564-8788 or jbraggs@4lpi.com**