

Parish of the Blessed Sacrament

Third Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2023



PASTOR:
Father Jeffery Grant

PAROCHIAL VICAR:
Father Callistus Osiaga

DEACONS:
Deacon Tom Burns
Deacon David Erdmann

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School Secretary:
Michele Hinds-Greenwood

Music Director:
Jane Hartman Irwin

Parish School of Religion:
Call the Parish Office to register

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Email: 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

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

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 18

Confessions before Mass

8:00am Mass: Jack McCarthy
Poor Souls Shrine

Tuesday, December 19

Confessions before Mass

8:20am Mass: Galli Family
Bernie Coady

Wednesday, December 20

Confessions before Mass

8:20am Mass: Davidson and Tweryon Families
Carole Caston

Thursday, December 21

Confessions before Mass

8:00am Mass: Bill and Barb Lehman
Albert Eck, Jr.

Friday, December 22

Confessions before Mass

8:20am Mass: Margaret H. Harmon
Willa Senger

Saturday, December 23

Confessions before Mass

8:00am Mass: Bernie Coady
3pm - 4pm Confessions
4:30pm Mass: Zoe Bartolo

Sunday, December 24

Fourth Sunday of Advent

7:00am Mass: Intentions of our Parishioners
8:30am Mass: Norman Soler
10:30am Mass: Intentions of M and K

Christmas Eve

4:30pm Mass: Ruth Pohlman
8:00pm Mass: Judy Flynn
11:00pm Mass: Jack Link

Confessional in the Adoration Chapel

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

A LETTER FROM FATHER JEFF



Fr. Jeff Grant

Prepare for the Lord's coming. During the season of Advent, the scriptures remind us to be on the watch. The Lord is coming. But what is it we should watch for? Some say it is earthquakes, storms, wars and violence. We have seen all of that during the past year. Does that mean the apocalypse is near? The theme of Advent is not a prediction of when the Lord will come; rather, it is to remind us to be vigilant as we wait. As to what, here are some things Jesus told his disciples to look for:

- Watch for truths you can trust. There are many things we do not know about our world. Science gives us many answers to these mysteries and yet, there are still many things even science does not know. A good economy can give us a sense of security; but the events of our world can quickly shake it up. Government can protect and serve us, but it can also be manipulated. To put our hope in these things is to ultimately be disappointed. What the church offers is a child born to a woman named Mary. He is the evidence God has not abandoned us. It also offers Eucharist. In this, we believe that God will feed us and give us life. These are signs of truth that will not fail us.
- Watch for God's love and mercy. In a world with so much negativism, many people prefer to destroy rather than build. They blame rather than forgive. Yet scripture tells us that such destruction is not God's way. After the flood, God promised Noah he would never do so again. Instead, he sent His son to heal and rebuild our world. Signs of healing and forgiveness tell us God is near.
- Watch for opportunities to show God's love to others. The humble person is always better at this than the proud. A humble person knows what failure is and offers a hand to those in need. This type of love comes from the heart and not from a book. During the season of Advent, we are reminded the Lord will return. We need to be ready. We need to watch...and what do we watch for? I would not waste my time speculating about wars, disasters, or pandemics. Instead, watch for truths you can trust. Watch for signs of healing and mercy. Watch for opportunities to love and grow closer to the Lord. If you do this you will be ready for the Lord when he comes.

Fr. Jeff Grant

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 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.

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.

Troop 31 Open House Scouts BSA Troop 31 at Blessed Sacrament is having an open house for our last Troop meeting of 2023 on Sunday, December 17 at 5 PM. Young men in junior high or high school and their families are invited to join us for the evening to check out what Troop 31 has planned for the coming year. Younger family members are welcome, too, as we have a Cub Scout Pack for K-5 as well! Please join Troop 31 for our open house at 5 PM at Blessed Sacrament's rectory basement, entrance facing the school. Questions? Contact the Catholic Committee on Scouting at scouting@dio.org or call (217) 321-1154.

The End is Coming! Parishioners can choose to receive their end-of-the-year contribution tax statement via email. Please go to our parish website and complete the simple form at www.bsps.org/parish-giving and you'll receive your statement in late January 2022. This process saves time and money for the parish and if you misplace your statement, you can simply reprint it from your email. Please contact Lisa Sarnowski at Lsarnowski@bsps.org if you have any questions.

Scrip Gift Cards Make Great Stocking Stuffers!

We've got tons of \$5 and \$10 cards - stock up and keep some in your purse or wallet for surprise gifts! Purchase cards in the parish office through Friday, December 22.



Children's Choir



The **Blessed Sacrament Children's Choirs** are presenting "Ring Christmas Bells," a concert of traditional sacred favorites, Sunday, December 17 at 2 in the Afternoon in the church. Come and enjoy their sweet voices! These children will also be singing for Christmas Eve Mass at 4:30 PM.

Baby Bottle Fundraiser Did you know that you can conveniently ask your friends to donate online. Just go to www.Life217.org and click on "Give Today". You can help First Step Women's Center continue to offer safe, caring medical services when you RETURN your baby bottle by December 24.

Year-End Giving We are so grateful for the generosity of our parishioners throughout the entire year. During December, many people review their giving and determine that a year end charitable gift will benefit their tax status for the calendar year. If you wish to make a donation to Blessed Sacrament by making a general parish contribution to the church, or a gift to the School's Annual Fund, you may drop it into the collection basket during Mass or mail it to the school or parish office. All charitable contributions must be postmarked and/or received by December 31, 2023 to be included in the year-end statement for tax year 2023.



GERMANY

Starting in the 16th Century, Germans hide a pickle somewhere within the branches of their Christmas tree. Whatever child finds it receives a gift!

*Mass Times**Christmas Eve: 4:30 PM, 8 PM and 11 PM**Christmas Day: 8:30 AM and 10:30 AM*

"She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." *Matthew 1:21*

All are welcome at the 18th annual **Holiday Interfaith Breakfast** at Temple B'Rith Sholom on Monday, December 25, 2023 from 8:30am to Noon. Many people go to church on Christmas and like to have breakfast out but many local restaurants are closed. Breakfast will consist of scrambled eggs, pancakes, coffee, dessert and juice. Adults are \$10 and children are \$5.

PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND "Peace in the Womb" **Sunday, December 17** from 4-5p.m - located at Springfield Right to Life office at 519 N. Bruns Lane, Springfield, IL. Join us for Christmas Caroling in front of Planned Parenthood and a Christmas OPEN HOUSE.

IF YOU ONLY READ THREE THINGS THIS WEEK:

- Christmas Mass times are listed above
- Baby bottles due December 24
- Interested in advertising in our bulletin? **Contact Jeremiah Braggs at 360/564-8788 or jbraggs@4lpi.com**

Women's Club Gingerbread House Workshop • November 30**MINISTRY SCHEDULE****DECEMBER 18— DECEMBER 22****MONDAY - FRIDAY****8:00am and 8:20am****Saturday, December 23, 4:30PM****Lector:** Pat Dietrich**Servers:** Charlotte Stewart, Isaac Storey, Lucia Thompson**Eucharistic Ministers:** Kathleen Harth, Noreen Luhr, Edward Schofield, Suzanne Baase**Sunday, December 24, 7:00AM****Lector:** Carolyn Graham**Servers:** Teddy Mizeur**Eucharistic Ministers:** Sally Petrone, Kathy Gietl, Mary Beth Roland, George Rudis**Sunday, December 24, 8:30AM****Lector:** Sandy Etheridge**Servers:** Damien Njeuha-Njapa, Max Portz, Andrew Hofner**Eucharistic Ministers:** Cathy and Don Scott, Bradley Frost, Molly Smith**Sunday, December 24, 10:30AM****Lector:** Tim Moore**Servers:** Wade Naylor, Jack Majcina, Olivia Redpath**Eucharistic Ministers:** Lynn Frasco, Mary Tuttle, Patti and Rodney Naylor, Lori Criscione



The Sign of Peace

Question:

Why do Catholics give the sign of peace to one another at Mass?

Answer:

The sign of peace is a part of the Mass that takes place immediately after we offer the Lord's Prayer. Inspired by the Jesus' words to his first followers, we stand together in a spirit of communion to pray as Jesus taught us: "Our Father who art in heaven..." In this prayer, we call for the coming of God's kingdom in all its fullness and ask that God provides for our needs — "Give us, this day, our daily bread" — to forgive our sins and to bring us to the joy of heaven.

It is almost natural, then, that the rite of peace would follow. As the celebrant prays that Christ's peace will fill our hearts, our communities, the Church, and the whole world, we extend to those around us a sign of peace (usually a hug or a handshake) as a symbol of the communion that we experience now and will experience forever in the fullness of the reign of God.

Weekly Parish Finance Report December 2 to December 8		
	AMOUNT RECEIVED	TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS
Loose Collections	\$894.00	
Envelope Collections	\$18,936.00	341
Online Giving Collections	\$4791.50	126
TOTAL COLLECTIONS	\$24,621.50	467
Target Amount	\$23,500.00	

We are also reminded of Jesus' teachings that if we are at prayer and remember that a brother or sister is holding something against us, then we are to go and seek reconciliation with them before we continue our prayer (see Matthew 5:23). And so, the sign of peace also reminds us of the need to truly be in communion — united in love and peace — with God and one another before we approach the altar to receive the Eucharist.

So, the next time you're at Mass and the time comes for the sign of peace, remember that this is a moment to celebrate the gift of Christ's peace that each of us has received from God and to pass that peace along to those around us. We need this moment to practice, because this is also the same peace of Christ that we are instructed to carry out into the world at the end of Mass when the priest or deacon says to us, "Go, in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life." ©LPi