

# Parish of the Blessed Sacrament

## Epiphany of the Lord

### January 7, 2024



LORD,  
EVERY NATION  
ON EARTH  
ADORES YOU.

PSALM 72



**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  
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Fax: (217) 522-7542  
[www.bssbruins.org](http://www.bssbruins.org)

**Office Manager:**  
McKinzie Oshesky

**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, January 8

The Baptism of the Lord

Confessions before Mass

8:00am Mass: Mary Eleanor Maloy  
Agnes Hashman

### Tuesday, January 9

Confessions before Mass

8:20am Mass: Paula Denny  
Bob Evans

### Wednesday, January 10

Confessions before Mass

8:00am Mass: Mary K and Larry Evans  
Korey Jordan

### Thursday, January 11

Confessions before Mass

8:00am Mass: Ann Lust  
Ossie Langfelder

### Friday, January 12

Confessions before Mass

8:20am Mass: Linda Mizeur  
Poor Souls Shrine

### Saturday, January 13

Confessions before Mass

8:00am Mass: Richard Schafer  
3pm - 4pm Confessions  
4:30pm Mass: John Dietrich

### Sunday, January 14

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:00am Mass: Intentions of our Parishioners  
8:30am Mass: Souls in Purgatory  
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



Fr. Jeff Grant

1924 began on a Tuesday. The US population was 114.1 million. Although the world was at peace, there was trouble brewing in many nations. In the recently formed Soviet Union, Vladimir Lenin died and Joseph Stalin rose to power. Division in the Communist party led to distrust and heavy-handed rule in the new nation. In Great Britain, the Labor Party came into power only 18 years after forming. Ramsay MacDonald was elected prime minister. Problems arose when he agreed to recognize the Soviet Union, gave it a loan, and favored nation trade status. This caused an uproar from all sides. In the colony of India, troubles and fighting caused Mahatma Ghandi to go on a 21 day fast for peace. In Italy, Mussolini allowed the first election since the fascists had come to power. When a leftist legislator threatened to expose corruption in the fascist's government, Mussolini shouted that such traitors should be killed. Soon after, the legislator was murdered. Problems and violence also happened in Greece, Germany, Peru, Albania, and Mongolia.

In the US, Ellis Island closed as an entry point for immigrants. Opened in 1892, many entered the country from here. April 17, 1907 saw the largest number of immigrants with 11,747 for a single day. Quotas rose and the Immigration Act of 1924 cut these numbers drastically. Ellis Island remained open until 1954 but was now used to detain and deport illegal aliens. The Indian Citizenship Act was also passed in 1924 giving 125,000 native Americans automatic citizenship. However, it would be 1948 until all native Americans were allowed to vote. In November, Calvin Coolidge was easily re-elected president defeating John W. Davis and Robert LaFollette. He had become president following the death of Warren Harding the previous year.

Other interesting events included the appointment of J. Edgar Hoover as head of the Bureau of Investigation (Later to become the FBI). He held the position until his death in 1972. IBM became the new name for the Computing-Tabulating-Recording Company. MGM also formed in 1924 making it the largest studio in Hollywood. The year also saw the invention of the electro-cardiogram. Other new items introduced included a self-winding wrist watch, Wheaties, and Kleenexes. In June, the first transcontinental single day flight took place. It took 18 hours and 24 minutes and stopped four times to refuel. The average speed was 128.4 mph.

In sports, Johnny Weissmuller won 3 gold medals in swimming at the Summer Olympics in Paris. That year also saw Eric Liddell and Harold Abrahams win gold for Great Britain (remember Chariots of Fire). Red Grange, from the University of Illinois, was nick-named the galloping ghost and the backfield from Notre Dame were called the 4 Horsemen of the Apocalypse. The Washington Senators beat the New York Giants for the World Series and Forest Hills tennis stadium opened in New York. The Iron Horse with John Ford, and The Thief of Bagdad with Douglas Fairbanks, were among the movies popular that year. New songs included Indian Love Call, Tea for Two, and California, Here I Come. George Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue premiered in 1924. Famous people born that year included George Bush, Jimmie Carter, Doris Day, Marlon Brando, and Truman Capote. Woodrow Wilson, Samuel Gompers, Vladimir Lenin, Franz Kafka, architect Louis Sullivan, and the Italian composer, Giacomo Puccini died.

Many years have since passed since 1924. New inventions, new people, new ideas, and new problems have come and gone. Each year brings reason to worry; and each year brings reason to hope. What will 2024 bring? We can only watch and pray.

**Father Jeff**



# Baptism

**Congratulations to our Recently Baptized**  
Mac Ambrose Petry, son of Luke and Edith Petry

**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.



**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](http://www.bsps.org/parish-giving) and you'll receive your statement in late January 2024. 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](mailto:Lsarnowski@bsps.org) if you have any questions.

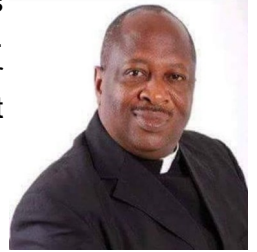
## ACH Changes

During the month of January, ACH weekly and monthly donors to Blessed Sacrament Parish should be aware that Blessed Sacrament will be converting to Heartland Bank's ACH platform from the pre-merger Town and Country Bank's ProfitStars platform. If any parishioner experiences issues or disruptions with electronic giving, please contact Janet Vespa, Finance Manager, at the parish office via phone at 217-528-7521 or by email at [jvespa@bsps.org](mailto:jvespa@bsps.org). Thank you.

## Congratulations!

Father Callistus Osiaga celebrated the 31st anniversary of his ordination on December 31, 2023. Father's Bible Verse for 2024 "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light on my path" (Psalm 119:105)

Fr. Callistus



## Wise Men See God in the Simple Things

If you're on social media, you have probably seen a meme going around that features this quote: "God has a plan for your life. The enemy has a plan for your life. Be ready for both. Just be wise enough to know which one to battle and which one to embrace."

There were certainly two competing plans for the Magi: God's and Herod's. And, wise as they supposedly were, it wasn't entirely easy for the Magi to discern which was which.

After all, Herod posed as a friend. He offered the Magi hospitality and kindness. Though the Gospel doesn't say so, he probably flattered them and appealed to every moral weakness he could observe in them. In his palace, they must have felt great physical comfort—rest and tables of plenty on what was an otherwise long and treacherous journey.

But if the Magi were honest with themselves, I'll bet they would have admitted that, regardless of Herod's charm, they felt a gnawing sense of doubt while in his presence. When they looked upon the Christ Child, born in a stable without any of the comforts of the world or protections of wealth, they probably felt the opposite. They probably felt safe.

The Magi were lucky enough to have the right plan spelled out for them in a dream, but for the rest of us, it's enough to remember this: God's plan is often the one that leads us to places of great simplicity, great humility and great love. Let's have the wisdom to view power with suspicion, and innocence with admiration.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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**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.

### **Seeds of the Word Film Series – Gran Torino**

Our January film is Gran Torino, a 2008 drama with themes of sin and redemption and with clear and unmistakable Christological symbolism. This film is for adults only (strong language!) so you may bring a bottle of wine, or other beverage of your choice, and we'll provide the popcorn!  
**Friday, January 19, 7:00pm, Cathedral Atrium**

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

- Changes to our ACH banking withdrawals.
- Thanks to our musical groups for sharing their gifts at Christmas
- Congratulations to Father Callistus on his 31st ordination anniversary



## *Christmas Eve Musicians*

### **MINISTRY SCHEDULE**

**JANUARY 8—JANUARY 12**

**MONDAY - FRIDAY**

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

**Saturday, January 13, 4:30PM**

**Lector:** Steven Scheufele

**Servers:** Alex and William Pittman, Jude Hartwick

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Joseph Stannard, Noreen Luhr, Richard Campbell, Abigale Kane

**Sunday, January 14, 7:00AM**

**Lector:** Michael O'Brien

**Servers:** Jude and Tess O'Brien

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Carrie O'Brien, Kathy Gietl, Carolyn Graham, Rosalie Lowery

**Sunday, January 14, 8:30AM**

**Lector:** Mary Maloney

**Servers:** Annaliese and Andrew Hofner, Charlie Steil

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Molly Smith, Sheri Dhabalt, Michael Delvo, Becky Leonard

**Sunday, January 14, 10:30AM**

**Lector:** Patti Naylor

**Servers:** Katie Bensko, Augie and Charlie Jimenez

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Lauren Coombe, Suzanne Baase, Lori Criscione, Rose Amon, Courtney Bensko





## The Wedding Feast and Epiphany

### Question:

*How are the feasts of the baptism of Jesus and the account of the wedding feast of Cana related to the Epiphany celebration?*

### Answer:

The Epiphany season focuses on revealing Jesus to the world. Following the Christmas celebration, the liturgical year lays out a series of manifestation points in which Jesus is made publicly known. From its very beginning, the Christian community highlighted three events in the life of Jesus. These are the Epiphany, the Baptism of the Lord and the wedding feast at Cana.

The Epiphany discloses Jesus to the world of the Gentiles, represented by the magi from the East. The accounts of Jesus' baptism reveal his identity and mission, along with exposing him to those to whom he was sent to minister. The miracle of turning water to wine at the wedding feast of

Weekly Parish Finance Report December 23 to December 29		
	AMOUNT RECEIVED	TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS
Loose Collections	\$1,134.00	
Envelope Collections	\$22,748.00	231
Online Giving Collections	\$4,951.50	123
<b>TOTAL COLLECTIONS</b>	<b>\$28,833.50</b>	<b>354</b>
Target Amount	\$23,500.00	

Cana, unique to John's Gospel, is the first public sign that Jesus performs, thus manifesting his public identity and his powers.

Today in the Roman Church, these are usually celebrated on three successive Sundays: Epiphany, the Baptism of the Lord which is usually the next Sunday, and the wedding feast of Cana, which is proclaimed on the 2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time in lectionary year C.

These feasts connect around the concept of epiphany, public manifestation of Jesus to the world. They help us get to know more intimately who Jesus is and what he is about. Spend some time delving more deeply into your understanding of who Jesus is. Continue to cultivate these "epiphany" moments in your life.

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