

Parish of the Blessed Sacrament
Easter Sunday
March 31, 2024



"WE ARE
THE EASTER
PEOPLE AND
hallelujah IS
OUR SONG."

ST. JOHN PAUL II

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

SCHOOL OFFICE:
748 West Laurel
Phone: (217) 522-7534
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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

Maintenance Manager:
John Langdon

Bulletin Submissions:
Lisa Sarnowski
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 on a
Wednesday, April 24 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, April 1

Confessions before Mass

8:00am Mass: Deceased Members of
Hiltebrand Family

Tuesday, April 2

Confessions before Mass

8:20am Mass: John Patrick Kelly

Wednesday, April 3

Confessions before Mass

8:00am Mass: J.R. Weakly
Vern Eyre

Thursday, April 4

Confessions before Mass

8:00am Mass: Ossie Langfelder
James Tamblin

Friday, April 5

Confessions before Mass

8:20am Mass: Norene Davlin
Poor Souls Shrine

Saturday, April 6

Confessions before Mass

8:00am Mass: Samuel Parra

3pm - 4pm Confessions

4:30pm Mass: Heather Gonet
Thomas L. "Mick" O'Connor

Sunday, April 7

Divine Mercy Sunday

7:00am Mass: Richard Schafer

8:30am Mass: Marian McDermott
Intentions of our Parishioners

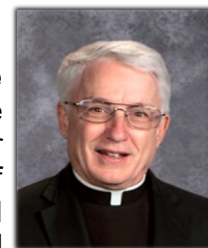
10:30am Mass: Hugh "Cracker" Graham

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

The Light that Destroys the Darkness When the church begins the celebration of Easter, the faithful gather outside the building in the darkness of Holy Saturday night. A fire is blessed and a large candle, called the paschal or Easter candle, is lit from this fire. It is then carried by the priest or deacon to the entrance of the church where he proclaims, "the light of Christ." He then leads the congregation up the aisle and stops halfway. Again, he proclaims the light of Christ. After this the faithful light individual candles from the Easter candle and when everybody has a lit candle, the procession continues. As the light is shared, the church no longer remains immersed in darkness. A new light replaces the darkness. This simple rite profoundly proclaims what we celebrate at Easter. **The light has destroyed the darkness.** It is virtually impossible to have light and darkness in the same place at the same time. The light will always destroy the darkness. Our faith teaches us that Christ is our light and He has broken through the darkness of sin and death. In other words, to follow Christ is to find eternal life. It is the way to victory over death.

Sometimes in the darkness of our secular world, we forget this promise of Easter. We set our goals on what we hope for in this world. The sad fact is that death brings those goals to an end. Life stops on Good Friday and darkness covers what remains. Yet, with the resurrection of Jesus, our faith tells us that death does not have the final word. Therefore, our goals for true or eternal life must reach beyond the grave. In other words, we must plan to live for eternity. Like those early disciples, we must stand at the empty tomb of Jesus and ask ourselves what we believe. Why is the tomb empty?

Easter proclaims Jesus rose from the dead. Death does not have the final word; for just as light will always destroy the darkness, so will the light of Christ destroy the darkness of sin and death. Alleluia! As we celebrate Easter, may this light fill you with the hope and promise of eternal life. **HAPPY EASTER.**

Father Jeff





Please Pray for our Recently Departed
Agnes Scheifinger

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.



Divine Mercy Sunday is April 7 Jesus will grant you complete remission of sins and punishment on Divine Mercy Sunday. How? "To profit from those great gifts we must fulfill the conditions of the Divine Mercy devotion (trust in God's goodness and active love toward neighbor), be in the state of sanctifying grace - having gone to Holy Confession, and worthily receive Holy Communion." (*Diary p. xxii*) You must go to confession within a week (before or after) of attending Divine Mercy Sunday Mass so be ready! If you understand the magnitude of this gift, Mass attendance should be standing room only just like the 4:30pm Christmas Eve service.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY PRAYER SERVICE AND NOVENA The Divine Mercy Novena will be prayed 15 minutes before each Mass this week (except Easter). The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception will host a Divine Mercy Prayer Service on Sunday April 7 from 2:00pm to 3:00pm. This prayer service will include Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Scriptural readings and devotional prayers, Veneration and Image of Divine Mercy, the Recitation of the Chaplet and Benediction, and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. All are welcome.

Blessed Sacrament's H.O.P.E. program uses donations to help parishioners and other needy people in our communities who are in extreme dire circumstances. All loose change in the weekly collection baskets are given to the H.O.P.E. program. Please help support our parish's work for the most vulnerable in our community by sharing your loose change each week or by making special donation to the H.O.P.E. program.

The dioceses that receive support from **Catholic Home Missions** are often ones that have small Catholic populations spread out over large areas such as the Diocese of Fairbanks in Alaska. Your support for Catholic Home Missions plays a critical role in the Rural Deacon Program in places like this. There is an envelope for Home Missions in this month's packet or donate online at www.bsps.org/parish-giving.

Haven't been to Mass in a while? No problem! Everyone is welcome at our Easter celebrations. If you are new, visiting, or returning after a time away, be sure to pick up a Welcome Folder in the vestibule for information about our community! All are welcome.



School News

As we welcome spring around the school, and all it has to offer, we are reminded that it is a time of balance, peace and tranquility. It is a time of gratitude and renewal of life. The students, staff and faculty at Blessed Sacrament School, would like to wish everyone a blessed and happy Easter! Thanks for all you do for our school, to make it shine so brightly!



What Would Mary Do?

This Easter morning, I am thinking of Mary Magdalene.

I want to know her state of mind as she approached the tomb in the darkness. Was she afraid? Was she thinking clearly? Was she tired? Had grief and trauma robbed her of her sleep the last two nights? What did she intend to do? Anoint Christ's body, yes — but what else? Kiss his hands, trace the markings where the lash had fallen upon his skin? Say goodbye? Weep? Despair?

What were the words she planned to whisper into the cold, empty darkness that morning, as she wept over God's body?

I don't know anything about her state of mind that Easter morning, except that I know she wanted to be with Christ. Perhaps that was all she knew, too. Perhaps she had no other thought, no other desire, than nearness to him. She didn't need to understand everything, and she didn't expect answers — she didn't dare hope for that.

But everything and everyone had fallen apart around her, and in Jesus' presence she knew her heart would be able to rest.

If you have ever been in the midst of a crisis in your life and found yourself pacing the floors of your house when no one else is awake, muttering the words to a prayer you know by heart, you know what Mary Magdalene felt. In those moments, we do not always feel God's presence. Sometimes, when we look for Him, we only see an empty tomb.

When these dark moments come, I pray you will remember the faithfulness of this great saint. Be like Mary Magdalene. Look for Jesus, always. You may not always find him, but he will always find you.

"She ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them, 'They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they put him.'"
— John 20:2

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

APRIL 1 — APRIL 5

MONDAY - FRIDAY

8:00am and 8:20am

Saturday, April 6, 4:30PM

Lector: Steven Scheufele

Servers: Jude Hartwick, Ethan Storey, Meredith Gerwig

Eucharistic Ministers: Vince Toolen, Noreen Luhr, Katilyn Frick, Richard Campbell

Sunday, April 7, 7:00AM

Lector: Carolyn Graham

Servers: Davontae Wilks

Eucharistic Ministers: Mary Tuttle, Rae Marie Davlin, Ann Walker, Kathy Gietl

Sunday, April 7, 8:30AM

Lector: Laurie Mann

Servers: Colin MacDonald, Nicholas Frevert, Chanti Bekoin

Eucharistic Ministers: Mary Maloney, Bradley Frost, **HELP WANTED**

Sunday, April 7, 10:30AM

Lector: HELP WANTED

Servers: Matthew, Thomas and John Christie

Eucharistic Ministers: Donald and Patricia Graham, Rosalie Lowery, Lauren Coombe, Patti Naylor

To obtain a full schedule for ALL Mass volunteers, go to www.rotundasoftware.com/ministry/blessedsacrament_spi

OR

www.bsps.org and scroll down to Ministry Scheduler Pro

AN EASTER PROCLAMATION

The hosts of heaven exult and sing aloud in mighty triumph!
Let the earth be glad as glory alights and night reigns no more.
Let the Church rejoice at the victory of her Lord and Master,
Who paid the debt of Adam,
Who frees those doomed to die,
Who heals the broken-hearted and bind up their wounds,
Who forgives the sinner and raises up the lowly,
Who destroys death forever,
Whose Kingdom shall have no end.
God our Father, eternal is your love for us!
Christ the Son, in victory you reign!
Holy Spirit, set the Easter fire ablaze in our hearts.
Together you live and reign and ransom your people,
one God forever and ever.

Weekly Parish Finance Report
March 16 to March 22

	AMOUNT RECEIVED	TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS
Loose Collections	\$977.00	
Envelope Collections	\$18,095.00	233
Online Giving Collections	\$4,359.25	119
TOTAL COLLECTIONS	\$23,431.25	352
Target Amount	\$23,500.00	



Olivia Allgood
Wesley and Alexandria Alvey and family
Colin and Breanne Liss and family
Joseph and Jessica Olson and family
Eric and Caryl Sanders and family
Emma Schaddel and Daniel Graviss

IF YOU ONLY READ THREE THINGS THIS WEEK:

- Divine Mercy Novena will be prayed 15 minutes before each Mass this week.
- ALL are welcome at the Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday
- Have a BLESSED Easter! He is risen!

Teresa Silva
Jacob and Charley Von Behren and Family
Grant Wallace and Alexandra Hardy
Daniel and Bridget Weitzel and Family