

Parish of the Blessed Sacrament

Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 30, 2025



HOW
ARE YOU
#LIVINGLENT?

OUR CLERGY

Father Michael Friedel, Pastor

mfriedel@dio.org

Father Jeffery Grant, Pastor Emeritus

Father Tomy Philip, SAC,
Parochial Vicar

David Erdmann, Deacon

PASTORAL STAFF

McKinzie Oshesky, Office Manager

Janet Vespa, Finance Manager

Lisa Sarnowski,
Director of Communications

Jane Hartman, Music Director

John Langdon, Maintenance Manager

Bulletin Submissions:

Lisa Sarnowski

Email: bulletins@bsps.org

SCHOOL STAFF

Nicole Kuhlman, Principal

Laura Horton,

School Administrative Asst

Michele Hinds-Greenwood,

School Secretary

Jenna Davlin,

Development Director

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

CONTACT US

PARISH OFFICE:

Phone: (217) 528-7521

Website: www.bsps.org

SCHOOL OFFICE:

748 West Laurel

Phone: (217) 522-7534

Fax: (217) 522-7542

www.bssbruins.org

1725 S. Walnut St.
Springfield, IL 62704

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

Sign up for e-newsletters: text
BLESSED1725 to 84576

SACRAMENTS

Baptisms: The next class is on
Wednesday, April 9 at 6pm.
Please call the office to register.

Weddings: Contact the parish nine
to twelve months in advance.

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

Funerals: Contact the
parish office

Parish School of Religion: call
the Parish Office to register.

Blessed Sacrament Centennial



Celebrating
100 Years
1924-2024

MASS INTENTIONS
FOR THE WEEK

Monday, March 31

Confessions before Mass

8:00am Mass: Bob & Dorothy Tracy
Tom Tracy

Tuesday, April 1

Confessions before Mass

8:20am Mass J.R. Weakly

Wednesday, April 2

Confessions before Mass

8:00am Mass: Michael Yuskanich

Thursday, April 3

Confessions before Mass

8:00am Mass: Bill & Barb Lehman

Friday, April 4

Confessions before Mass

8:20am Mass: Father James O'Shea

Saturday, April 5

8:00am Mass: Father James O'Shea

3pm - 4pm Confessions

4:30pm Mass: Richard DeSollar

Sunday, April 6

5th Sunday of Lent

7:00am Mass: Heather Gonet

8:30am Mass: For Our Parishioners

10:30am Mass: Eleyidath Family

Confessions in the Adoration
Chapel on Saturdays

Morning Confession in
Confessionals

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



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

So Many Reasons To Celebrate

On this *Laetare* Sunday, when the Church calls us to “rejoice,” I’m cognizant of the fact that the Church always proposes to us so many different reasons to celebrate. When we live liturgically, we not only experience days in which we are called to fast (hello, Lent!), but—lest we forget—there are also many days in which the Church calls us to celebrate: to observe the goodness of God and to really *live* it!

In the past couple of weeks, we celebrated as a community of faith two great solemnities in the life of the Church: the Solemnity of St. Joseph, spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord. Both are full-on solemnities (Gloria, Creed...the whole bit!), and although they are not Holy Days of “obligation,” they are great and high holy days! I don’t know if you guys ascribe to the we-can-relieve-a-penance-on-Sundays thing, but *I do*: because as important as it is to fast when the Church tells us to fast, I think it’s important to feast when the Church tells us to feast (within reason, of course).

The Solemnity of St. Joseph has been celebrated in the Church on March 19 since the tenth century. And ever since 1870, we have also celebrated St. Joseph as the patron of the Universal Church. Just as he watched over Mary and our infant Lord, so he watches over, protects, and strengthens the Universal Church by his heavenly intercession. In 1989, Pope John Paul II also proclaimed him the Guardian of the Redeemer, which also applies to us as the Body of Christ. We, too, take St. Joseph as our guardian; for which reason, as the Litany of St. Joseph proclaims, we hail him as the “terror of demons.” All in all, he’s a saintly force to be reckoned with, and a model of true and strong masculinity for our times (when we tend to think of authentic masculinity as “toxic,” and therefore worthy of destruction). May St. Joseph indeed be our guide as we “Go to Joseph,” and through him, to our Lord!

The Solemnity of the Annunciation on March 25, I would argue, is also an important day for our times. In a day and time when, as a society, we devalue human life from the moment of conception by allowing for abortion as a supposed “fundamental right,” the Annunciation guides us to a yet more fundamental reality, not predicated on *our* choice but upon the choice of God. In the Annunciation, at the words of Mary’s “yes,” God is made INCARNATE. He takes on our flesh in the Person of Jesus Christ, present in the womb of the Blessed Virgin. We hold this truth as dogma. If Jesus had personhood in the womb of the Virgin Mary, so too does the person in the womb of the unknown mother. And, to quote Dr. Seuss, “a person is a person, no matter how small.” The celebration of the Annunciation is a teaching moment for us as a society—the Incarnation (God-taking-flesh) didn’t come at a later moment, but was immediate, even if Jesus was only a couple of cells. In fact, immediately, Mary goes to Elizabeth, who proclaims her “the mother of my Lord” and venerates her as such (which is Scriptural evidence, by the way, for why we as Catholics *venerate* [not worship!] the Blessed Virgin Mary). As we celebrate the Incarnation, may we also pray that Mary would intercede for our unborn children, who no longer find refuge in the wombs of their mothers.

We (our 8th graders and I) had the joy of going to our annual March for Life on March 25. In your prayers this week, spare a prayer for the unborn and thank God for the gift of life. And let’s pray that all alike would have the freedom and resources they need to choose life, and to rejoice in that gift!

Keep spreading joy!

Fr. Friedel



Let Us Pray for Our Recently Departed
Dorothy "Dot" Ewing

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 in the confessionals and on Saturday afternoon 3-4pm in the Adoration Chapel.



Stations of the Cross: 5:30pm on Fridays of Lent in the church.

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.

Ready for Easter? The Scrip committee has you covered... Shop with us for grocery gift cards to **County Market, Meijer or Sam's Club**. Need an Easter bonnet? We've got **Kohls** and **TJ Maxx** cards in stock. Goodies for baskets? Try **CVS, Target, Walgreens** or **Walmart** for Easter basket goodies. Getting up early for 7 AM Mass (or excited kids)? We've got **Custom Cup, Dunkin' Donuts** and **Starbucks**.



Holy Thursday 7 PM

Good Friday 3 PM

Easter Vigil 8:15 PM

Easter Sunday 7, 8:30 and 10:30 AM

Our **Lenten Service Project** will be a family participation event in conjunction with Midwest Mission. We have raised enough funds to prepare "blessing bags" with rice, soy, and vitamins to be sent to 16,800 people in a third world country. **Thank you to all of the wonderful volunteers that have signed up!** You will receive a reminder email with information the week of April 7th. Questions? Contact

Lsarnowski@bsps.org.



Are you a visitor to Blessed Sacrament? If you're visiting us today we're glad you're here. If you are considering Blessed Sacrament as your new spiritual home, or if you just want to know more about us, we have a website page dedicated to you at www.bsps.org/welcome. You don't have to give us any information about yourself. Learn about our various ministries and opportunities to get involved. Sign up to receive electronic newsletters without actually taking the "plunge"! Thank you for visiting Blessed Sacrament.

If you'd like to register as a parishioner, there's an online form on the same website



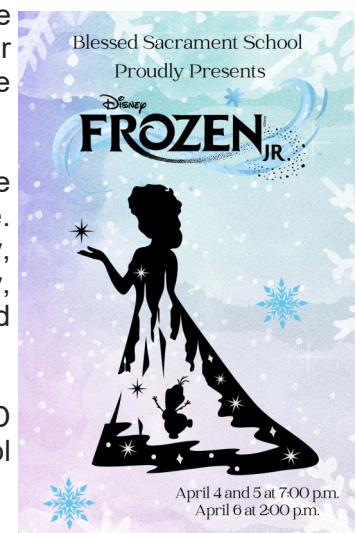
Welcome

page. Or you can download a paper form or stop by the parish office and register in person. We can't wait to meet you!

There will be no Men's Club Fish Fry on Friday, April 4 due to the spring musical. So please come out and enjoy the show and we'll be back on Friday, April 11 for the last fish fry of the season.

Spring musical tickets are on sale in the school office. Performances are Friday, April 4 at 7 PM, Saturday, April 5 at 7 PM and Sunday, April 6 at 2 PM.

Come support the arts AND Blessed Sacrament School students!



April 4 and 5 at 7:00 pm
April 6 at 2:00 pm

Lent

Question: Lent always seems to help me renew my relationship with God and strengthen my religious practice. Do you have any suggestions as to what I could do to achieve that the rest of the year?

Answer: The obvious answer may seem to be to do whatever you do during Lent all year round. But part of the power of Lent is that we focus as a community on renewing our faith and preparing for Easter. Our Lenten practices have a purpose and a goal. Therein lies the secret. When we focus our efforts on one virtue, or try to change one bad habit, or seek to deepen our understanding of one aspect of faith, we focus our efforts and give our full attention to what we are trying to accomplish. We tend to be more successful achieving our goals. More importantly, it has a ripple effect in our lives: one thing changes or is added to the spiritual mix of our lives and many aspects are changed.

All too often we leave our spiritual growth to chance and the practice of faith to habit, and then wonder why we have no sense of growth or progress. Think of it in terms of exercise. We walk, lift weights, bend and stretch to attain the maximum benefit from what we do. In addition, to keep those benefits, we eat healthful food and get enough vitamins and rest. Spirituality requires the same kind of attention: we pray, fast, read the Bible, receive sacraments, and do charitable work to maximize the benefits of practicing faith. Keeping Lent year round keeps us in spiritual shape!

©LPI



IF YOU ONLY READ THREE THINGS THIS WEEK:

- Prayerfully consider donating to Catholic Relief Services this weekend.
- No Fish Fry on April 4! Our FFF (Final Fish Fry) will be on Friday, April 11
- Mark your calendar for the Penance Service on Sunday, April 6 at 2 PM at St. Agnes

Catholic War Veterans Memorial Mass



MINISTRY SCHEDULE

MARCH 31 — APRIL 4

MONDAY - FRIDAY

8:00 AND 8:20 am

Katie Bensko and Josetta Kren

Saturday, April 5, 4:30PM

Lector: Paul Wheeler

Servers: Jack Bishop, HELP WANTED

Eucharistic Ministers: Ed Schofield, Vince Toolen, Noreen Luhr, HELP WANTED

Sunday, April 6, 7:00AM

Lector: P.J. Oubre

Servers: Sam Hughes

Eucharistic Ministers: Carolyn Graham, Rae Marie Davlin, Carrie and Michael O'Brien, Kathy Gietl

Sunday, April 6, 8:30AM

Lector: Mary Maloney

Servers: Sydney and Samantha Cathers, Natalie Jacobs

Eucharistic Ministers: Bradley Frost, Sally Petrone, Michael Delvo, Anne Capestrain, Rosalie Lowery

Sunday, April 6, 10:30AM

Lector: Donna Moore

Servers: Samaria Bakamba, Cecilia Beyer, Thomas Christie

Eucharistic Ministers: Chris Oldenburg, Mary Tuttle, Lauren Coombe, Lynn Frasco, Lori Criscione

To obtain a full schedule for ALL Mass volunteers or to **VOLUNTEER FOR AN EMPTY SLOT**, go to www.rotundasoftware.com/ministry/blessedsacrament_spi

Lenten Penance Service

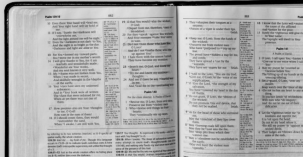
SUNDAY, APRIL 6
2:00 PM AT ST. AGNES

FOR BLESSED SACRAMENT, CHRIST THE KING,
AND ST. AGNES PARISHIONERS



The Bible in One Year Interested in Fr. Tomy's "Bible In One Year" reading plan? Scan the QR code or go to <https://www.bsps.org/bible-in-one-year> to download .

Bible Study



Weekly Parish Finance Report March 8 to March 14

	AMOUNT RECEIVED	TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS
Loose Collections	\$1,134.00	
Envelope Collections	\$12,510.00	183
Online Giving Collections	\$4,056.00	94
TOTAL COLLECTIONS	\$17,700.00	277
Target Amount	\$25,000.00	

HEAVENLY FATHER, WE PRAY FOR...

Alex Jordan Judy Shea Pope Francis
Doris Drago George Curry Michaela Hermes
Ed Schofield Cynthia Plouche'

Please call the Parish Office to submit a name to the prayer list. Names will automatically be removed after six weeks unless notified.

Project Rachel can help women and men heal from the pain of abortion. For assistance call 217-698-4456

Diocesan Child Abuse Reporting and Investigation at