

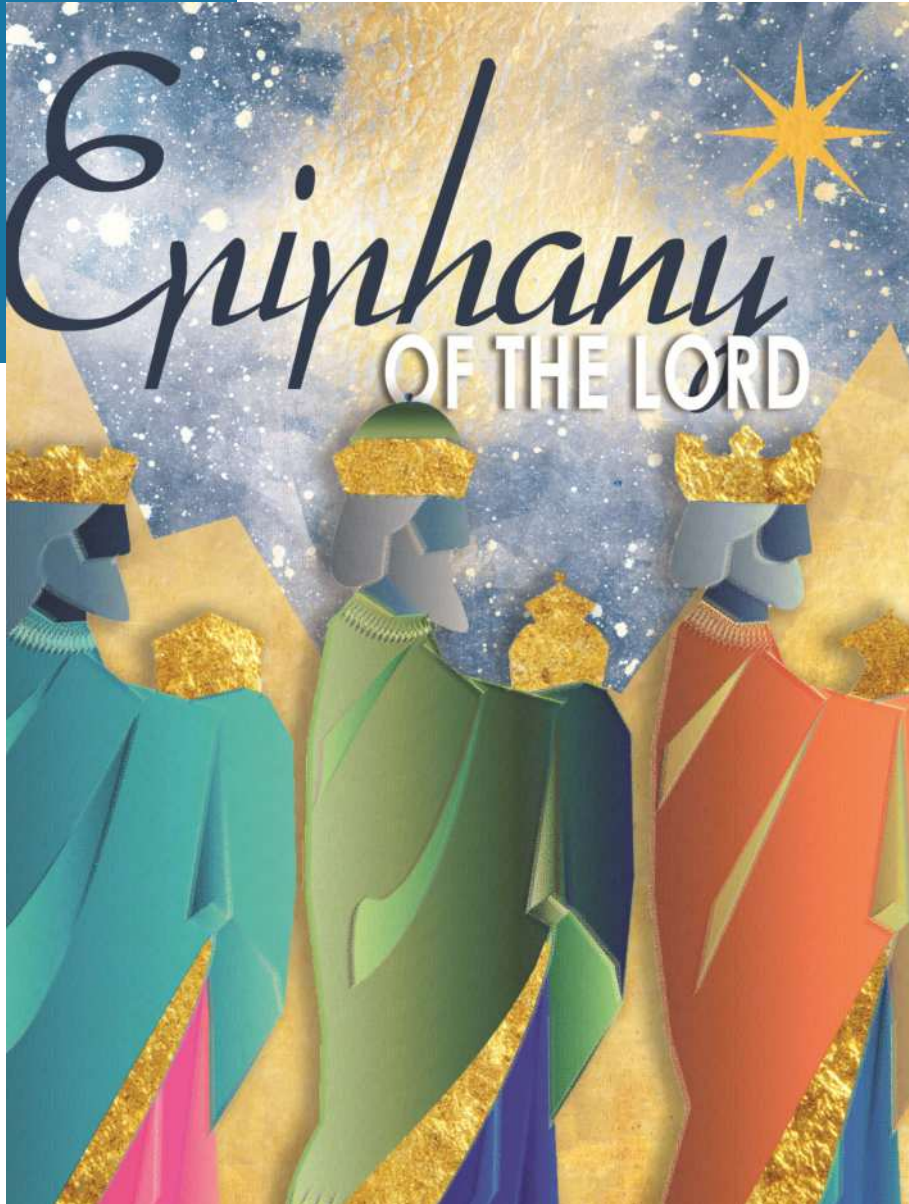
January

4

2026



PARISH OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT



WELCOME!

SACRAMENTS

Baptisms: The next class is on **Wednesday, January 21** 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.

OUR CLERGY

Father Michael Friedel, Pastor
mfriedel@dio.org

Father Jeffery Grant, Pastor Emeritus
Father Ryan Kehoe, Parochial Vicar
rkehoe@dio.org

Father Zachary Samples,
In Residence
David Erdmann, Deacon

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McKinzie Oshesky, Office Manager

Janet Vespa, Finance Manager

Lisa Sarnowski,

Director of Communications

Jane Hartman, Music Director

John Langdon, Maintenance Manager

Bulletin Submissions:

Email: bulletins@bsps.org

Due Monday by noon

SCHOOL STAFF

Elizabeth Shade, Principal

Esther Edgren,

School Administrative Assistant

Michele Hinds-Greenwood,

School Secretary

Jenna Davlin,

Development Director

PARISH OFFICE:

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Website: www.bsps.org

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Fax: (217) 522-7542

www.bssbruins.org

1725 S. Walnut St.

Springfield, IL 62704

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

Sign up for our electronic newsletters: text BLESSED1725 to 84576

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

Follow us on Facebook: [bspspi](https://www.facebook.com/bspspi)

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Monday, January 5

Confessions before Mass

8:00 am Mass: Mary Ann Bart

Tuesday, January 6

Confessions before Mass

8:00am Mass: Joseph Fleischli

Wednesday, January 7

Confessions before Mass

8:00am Mass: Mary Forsyth

Thursday, January 8

Confessions before Mass

8:15am Mass: Kevin Dallavis

Friday, January 9

Confessions before Mass

8:00am Mass: Mary Schnirring

Saturday, January 10

8:00am Mass: Geraldine Frasco

3pm - 4pm Confessions

4:30pm Mass: Lori Lobin

Sunday, January 11

The Baptism of the Lord

7:00am Mass: For Our Parishioners

8:30am Mass: Ann Lust

10:05am Rosary: Gospel of Life
Committee

10:30am Mass: Dorothy Ewing

**Confessions in the Adoration
Chapel on Saturdays**

**Morning Confession in
Confessionals**

Rosary is prayed before the
10:30am Sunday Mass beginning at
10:05am AND after regular
weekday Masses at 8:00am.

All are welcome!

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Blessed Epiphany!

Merry Christmas (still!), Happy New Year, and a Blessed Feast of the Epiphany to you all! On this day when most of the rest of the world is exchanging their Christmas presents (although they'll probably *actually* do that on January 6th...more on that in a minute), we give thanks to God for the many and copious blessings of 2025, and we thank Him in advance for all that His gracious will bestows upon us in the year to come! Although our gift-giving might be over, let's not forget that Christmas isn't the only day to be generous, nor are *physical* gifts the only gifts to be given. Our call as Christians is to live the festivity of Christmas (i.e. the joy of the Incarnation) everyday by virtue of our charity and compassion to all who we meet. If we all committed to that and lived it convincingly, my bet is that more of the world would be living for Christ right now! Wouldn't that be something?!

Traditionally, Epiphany is celebrated throughout the Church on January 6; but in the United States, most dioceses have transferred its observance to the first Sunday that falls after January 1. The word Epiphany literally means "manifestation," from the Greek *epiphainein*, which means something like "to show unto" or "display," and it points us to the way in which our God manifests Himself, especially in the person of His Son, Jesus Christ. As such, its placement here after Christmas is apropos, as we're knee-deep (liturgically speaking) in our celebrations of the Incarnation, the moment when Jesus—who, reminder, is co-eternal with the Father, so already existed in heaven—chose to enter the human scene and take on our flesh. A big moment for humanity, the Christ manifesting Himself in such a way!

The Feast of the Epiphany, although it actually celebrates quite a few things liturgically, recalls the moment in which the Wise Men of the Orient came bearing gifts for the newborn Savior. What's remarkable is that these were not men of the Jewish faith, and so unlike all of Israel, they had not grown up learning about all of the prophecies of a coming Messiah, of one who would save Israel from their sins and restore them to glory, etc.—and yet, when these learned men discovered that a king was born in the West, they went, somehow intuiting (perhaps because of the appearance of the star) that his birth was something of cosmic significance, much more so than his impoverished nativity might otherwise have indicated.

And when these mysterious men of Orient came, they came bearing gifts. I find this intriguing. Granted, to say that I am unfamiliar with the gift-giving culture of the Ancient Near East would be quite an understatement...but I wonder what possessed them to bring what they brought to the infant child. Perhaps it was just to ingratiate themselves to this small child that they thought might one day be their king; perhaps it was just a way to make their sudden arrival somehow less awkward: "You don't know us, but here! We brought some gifts!" I don't know...

But what's intriguing to me is that while we talk a lot in Church around this time of what Christ has come to bring *us* by His incarnation, we perhaps think much less of what we might be called to bring to *Him*, in homage, as it were, to the One who became one of us for our sake. As our culture is well into its making of "new year's resolutions," it's worth pondering as Christians: what might be the gift that Jesus deserves of me this year? What gift can I bring Him that would be a fitting offering for such a King? Indeed, what could we get the author of the universe that He doesn't already have—except maybe a little more of my heart?

Keep spreading joy!

Fr. Friedel



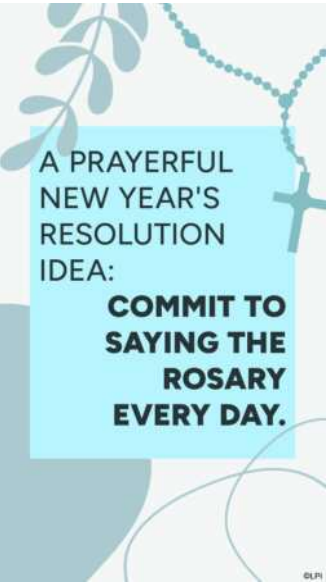
Congratulations to Our Newly Wed
Kathleen (Kate) McCarthy and Stephen (Steve) Blazis

Pray for Our Recently Departed
Sophie Lis

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.

If you depend on reading glasses, you know how important they are for daily life. The reading glasses you no longer use can change someone's life. In honor of the Feast of St. Lucy on December 13, the Knights of Columbus and the Mission Partnership ministry are collecting non-prescription reading glasses for the Hospital Sisters Mission Outreach. The glasses will be distributed to people in low resource countries. Drop the in the **Lucy Lenses collection boxes** at the church entrances. For questions, please email info.kof16126@gmail.com or tuttles2@yahoo.com.



Join the Blessed Sacrament congregation in praying the rosary daily after regular morning Mass or weekly before the 10:30 AM Mass.

Each week we publish the special intention of the weekly rosary in the bulletin.

January EVENTS

- Monday Morning Study Group
The Art of Dying begins Monday, January 5 at 9:00 AM
- Women's Club—Women's Little Christmas
Tuesday, January 6 at Papi's 4 PM to 6 PM
- PSA Fundraiser—Domino's Slice the Price cards
January 13 through January 27
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Monday, January 19—School and Parish Office CLOSED
- Youth Mass
Sunday, January 25 at 10:30 AM
- Men's Club Breakfast
Sunday, January 25 after All Masses
- Catholic Schools Week
January 25 through January 30, 2026

New Year's Resolutions and Scrip Whether you've resolved to eat low-carb, low-fat or low-calorie in 2026, you still need to eat. And you still need to buy groceries. If you shop at **County Market, Meijer or Sam's Club**, please purchase gift cards before you shop. Each purchase benefits Blessed Sacrament School's fundraising efforts.

Eternal Rest: The Art of Dying We all have very real questions about death. What happens when we die? What does scripture teach us about death? How do we prepare for life to come? Explore the mystery of death, dying and everlasting life through Eternal Rest with Blessed Sacrament Study/Prayer Group. Eternal Rest examines the origin of death, the afterlife, and the powerful reality around the sacrament that ushers us into eternal life. Eternal Rest presents the Catholic Church's teaching about death and God's response to it with wisdom and truth, gentleness and compassion, so we can think about and prepare for death in the light of Christ, Author of life.

Contact Deacon Dave at 217-971-4483 to reserve your place and order a workbook for \$13.00. Meeting on Monday, January 5, 12, 19 and 26 at 9:00 am in the Rectory basement.

IF YOU ONLY READ THREE THINGS THIS WEEK:

- Please confirm your correct email address for 2025 contribution statements.
- Plan to attend the Women's Club event at Papi's on Tuesday, January 5 from 4-6 PM
- Plan ahead for January events!

The **2025 Contribution Statements** will be distributed via email this year. We have transitioned to a new financial software system. If you're concerned that we do not have an updated email address for you, please enter your email address on our website at bsps.org/parish-giving. You may also pick up a paper statement in the parish office after **January 28, 2026**. Paper statements will not be available before that date.

The song "We Three Kings" details the gifts of the Magi, but do you know what you're singing? "Born a king on Bethlehem's plan, gold I bring to crown Him again." This one is the most straightforward - gold symbolizes the Kingship of Christ. "Myrrh is mine: its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom." Myrrh is an embalming spice. Already at Christ's birth, we have the symbolic reminder of his death. "Frankincense to offer have I. Incense owns a deity nigh." In many religious traditions, incense symbolizes prayers rising to heaven. In some pagan traditions, it is thought to help "call down" the deity. The gift of frankincense symbolizes Jesus' role as the Great High Priest, sanctifying the world through his sacrifice.



Epiphany Blessing, Explained The Epiphany household blessing is a centuries-old tradition that invokes God's blessing on all who enter one's home.

All you need for an Epiphany blessing is chalk, which is usually made available by parishes either on the feast of the Epiphany or in the weeks leading up to it. There are a few different formulas for blessings out there, but the essence of the ritual is always the same: a priest or the head of the household calls down God's blessing on the house and everyone who comes into it, and an inscription is made above the door in chalk.

The inscription reads: the first two digits of the year + C + M + B + the last two digits of the year. The initials C, M and B represent the names of the magi — Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar — and also signify the Latin phrase *Christus mansionem benedicat*: "May Christ bless the house."



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MINISTRY SCHEDULE

JANUARY 5 — JANUARY 7

MONDAY - FRIDAY

8:00 am

Jayden Day and J.J. Langer

Saturday, January 10, 4:30PM

Lector: Paul Wheeler

Servers: Cooper, Jude and Silas Hartwick

Eucharistic Ministers: Richard Campbell, Jill Loveall, Rae Marie Davlin, Megan DeFrain

Sunday, January 11, 7:00AM

Lector: Jim McDermott

Servers: Teddy Mizeur

Eucharistic Ministers Michael and Carrie O'Brien, Ann Walker, Kathy Geitl, Christy Geving

Sunday, January 11, 8:30AM

Lector: George Rudis

Servers: Nicholas Frevert, Annaliese and Andrew Hofner

Eucharistic Ministers: Bradley Frost, Dave and Lisa Sarnowski, Becky Leonard

Sunday, January 11, 10:30AM

Lector: Chris Oldenburg

Servers: Luke and Katie Bensko, George Boesdorfer

Eucharistic Ministers: Mary Tuttle, Courtney Bensko, Cynthia Lamar, Patti and Rodney Naylor

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

The start of the new year is right around the corner, and we hope you will mark your calendar to join us at our next social gathering.



In celebration of the feast of the Epiphany in Ireland, January 6th is marked by Nollaig na mBan or Women's Little Christmas. On this day, it is the tradition in Ireland for the women to get together with female family and friends and enjoy some chill time and relax, while the men stay at home and handle all the chores. It celebrates women and thanks them for their role in the household, most especially for all the work that goes into making Christmas special.

Sounds like a great tradition to adopt!

All parish women are invited to gather at Papi's, 1710 S. MacArthur on January 6 from 4:00-6:00. Give yourself a well-deserved break and come join in the fun! (All drinks and refreshments are on your own.) RSVPs are not necessary.

**Weekly Parish Finance Report
December 20 to December 26
(not including Christmas)**

	AMOUNT RECEIVED	TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS
Loose Collections	\$1,118.00	
Envelope Collections	\$39,548.00	257
Online Giving Collections	\$8,638.20	121
TOTAL COLLECTIONS	\$49,304.20	378
Target Amount	\$25,000.00	

HEAVENLY FATHER, WE PRAY FOR...

Laurie Mann

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 217-321-1155

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