

March

8

2026



PARISH OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

WELCOME!

SACRAMENTS

Baptisms: The next class is on **Wednesday, March 25** 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

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:

Email: bulletins@bsps.org

Due Monday by noon

SCHOOL STAFF

Beth Shade, Principal

Esther Edgren,

School Administrative Assistant

Michele Hinds-Greenwood,

School Secretary

Jenna Davlin,

Development Director

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Psalms 95

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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, March 9

Confessions before Mass

8:00am Mass: John & Jean VonBehren

Tuesday, March 10

Confessions before Mass

8:00am Mass: J.R. Weakley

Wednesday, March 11

Confessions before Mass

8:00am Mass: Bill & Barb Lehman

Thursday, March 12

Confessions before Mass

8:15am Mass: Joe & Betty McCue

Friday, March 13

Confessions before Mass

8:00am Mass: Thomas P. O'Connor

Saturday, March 14

8:00am Mass: Janet Nelch

3pm - 4pm Confessions

4:30pm Mass: Eleyidath Family

Sunday, March 15

Fourth Sunday of Lent

7:00am Mass: Martha Dalsin-Mathies

8:30am Mass: Norma Kelly

10:05am Rosary: **All who are
addicted to
pornography**

10:30am Mass: For Our Parishioners

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

Lent and the “Scrutinies” of the Church

We are quickly approaching the time of year when those who have been preparing to enter the Church—or enter into full communion with the Church, for those who were baptized in another Christian faith—will be admitted to what the Church calls the “Easter Sacraments,” in reference to the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist) that they will receive on the night of the Easter Vigil. For nearly a year by the time they are finished with the classes, our soon-to-be-minted Catholics will have followed the course of preparation we call the “Order of Christian Initiation of Adults,” or more concisely, OCIA. (Yes, it used to be called the RCIA, but we subbed out “Rite” for “Order,” so here we are.)

On the first Sunday of Lent, those who will be baptized for the first time at the Easter Vigil attended a special ceremony at the Cathedral called the “Rite of Election,” whereby those catechumens (i.e. those who are being instructed in the faith) were called (aka *elected*, taken from the Latin word *eligere*, which simply means “to choose”) to the Sacraments of the Church. At that ceremony, the Bishop enrolled into the “Book of the Elect” the names of some 180+ catechumens from just under fifty parishes throughout the Diocese (that number does not include the number of already baptized “candidates”). It’s a beautiful sign of growth for our Diocese.

Locally, we are preparing for six to be baptized at the Easter Vigil and for another eleven to come into full communion with the Church through a Profession of Faith, Confirmation, and Holy Communion. When I’m able to attend, I’m so encouraged by the community that these seekers have formed in our classes, led by two volunteers from our parish, Rosalie Lowery and Courtney Adams. Beginning this weekend, we will feature in the bulletin and on a posterboard in the back of church a little about each of our people entering into the Church. If you ever want evidence that the Lord is working in the lives of people, calling them into communion with the Church, stop and ask one of them their story—it’s a beautiful and wonderful thing!

Over the next three weeks, on the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent, the Elect will participate in what the Church calls “Scrutinies.” These rites date back to the very early Church, essentially inviting the Elect—and with them, us, the already initiated Christians—to examine our lives (literally, to “scrutinize” them) for the places where the Lord is calling us to further conversion. The Church sees it as an essential step for those approaching the Sacraments of the Church, this call to greater purification of our lives. But if it’s important for them as they approach Baptism, how crucial it is for us who have already received it, to ask the Light of Christ to continue to pierce the darkness of our sin and to bring life where there is death.

Somewhere around the year AD 500, the Church selected three passages from St. John’s Gospel to correspond to these three Scrutinies, and thus we hear in our Gospel over the next three weeks these powerful depictions of the hidden transformations God has accomplished in the lives of the woman at the well, the blind man, and the dead man Lazarus. May the work of salvation we see played out in their lives touch our own as well, that we might “scrutinize” our lives and experience with our Elect, the persistent call of Jesus to experience His light and life!

Keep spreading joy!

Fr. Friedel


Baptism

Congratulations to Our Recently Baptized

Zoey Bea Vespa, daughter of Rachel and Anthony Vespa

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 will be held every Friday in Lent beginning at 5:30pm.

Penance Service for Blessed Sacrament, Christ the King and St. Agnes parishes will be held at Christ the King on Sunday, March 22 at 2pm.

Next weekend there are special collections for Catholic Relief Services and Catholic Charities. Your Catholic Relief participation helps MRS and five other Catholic ministries to reveal Christ's love to victims of trafficking, war, and natural disaster, both around the world and here in the United States. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the collection this year. Catholic Charities provides services in our own diocese and they are celebrating their centennial this year.

To support these collections with online donations go to www.pushpay.com/g/bspsspringfield and choose "Catholic Relief Services" and "Catholic Charities".

Our **Men's Club Fish Fries** this year are from 5-7pm in the Blessed Sacrament School cafeteria on the following dates: March 13, March 20 and March 27. Dinners are \$12 for adults and \$5 for children. Includes all you can eat walleye only. Walleye, swai fried and blackened, shrimp, cheese pizza, mac and cheese. Sides of coleslaw, French fries, or baked potato.



A Messiah who Suffers: The Passion of Jesus Christ according to St. Matthew

Join us as Fr. Friedel presents a deeper look at the events leading up to Christ's Death and Resurrection. Please bring your favorite Bible, a friend, and your questions as we discuss together these beautiful truths of our faith. It will be a great way to spend a small part of your Lent journeying with Jesus to the Cross, and through it, to the empty tomb!

When: Mondays of Lent, began February 23 through March 30, 6:30pm-8:00 pm

Where: School Library (entrance near the preschool playground on the south side of the gym)

LENTEN SERVICE PROJECT

Our parish Lenten Service Project is to help staff St. Martin de Porres. This locally run charity provides food, clothing, and household goods to those in need, and Blessed Sacrament has agreed to provide volunteers for Wednesday and Saturday mornings throughout March.

The shifts are as follows:
Wednesdays: 7:30am to 11:00am
Saturdays: 8:00am to 11:00am

What a great way to get in the Lenten spirit! Sign-up sheets are available at the back of the church this weekend or online at www.bsps.org/mission-partnership. If you have any questions or would like to sign up directly, please contact Deacon Tom Burns at 217-416-9713.

WE'RE HIRING!

OFFICE MANAGER

Applications are being accepted for the position of Office Manager for Blessed Sacrament Church in Springfield, Illinois. We are seeking a practicing Roman Catholic with an understanding of parish life and culture, and possessing proven office and financial skills. This position oversees the daily administrative operations of the parish and assists with the financial upkeep of the parish office. Candidates should possess 3-5 years of experience in office management, administrative leadership or financial support. Scan the QR code below for a full job description and application. Blessed Sacrament Church has a pay range of \$22 to \$25 per hour for the Office Manager position. Benefits for this position can be found at bsps.org/employment-opportunities.

Send resume and application to
 Father Michael Friedel at mfriedel@dio.org



Looking for a commitment for your Lenten journey? Why not sign up for an hour of adoration? Prayer in the Chapel in the presence of Jesus is a wonderful way to commemorate. Sign up at www.bsps.org/perpetual-adoration for one of our open spots or start with becoming a substitute adorer.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1 AM	1 AM	1 AM	2 AM	Midnight	1 AM	2 AM
2 AM	2 AM	7 PM	3 AM	1 AM	2 AM	3 AM
3 AM	4 AM	11 PM	4 AM	2 AM	3 AM	4 AM
Noon	9 AM		10 PM	4 AM	4 AM	5 AM
1 PM	10 AM		11 PM	9 AM	5 AM	1 PM
5 PM				11 AM	10 AM	
11 PM				Noon	9 PM	
				3 PM		
				4 PM		
				5 PM		

Meet the OCIA Candidates & Catechumens



Brady

My name is Brady. I am a student at the University of Illinois Springfield. I have always enjoyed metaphysical thought, and I see the culmination of that in Jesus. I believe that the Catholic Church is the one true church.



Jonathon

I'm Jonathon, and have enjoyed the walk through OCIA this year. I am happy to be joining my wife and children in the Catholic faith.



Kent

Hi, I'm Kent. Going through the OCIA program has deepened my faith in ways I never expected, and I'm really looking forward to joining the Catholic Church this Easter and becoming a part of the Blessed Sacrament family.



Karen

Hi! My name is Karen. I am so happy to be joining my husband and our three children in the Catholic faith. I am honored that I am on this journey in the parish that my husband was raised and in the beautiful church where we were joined in marriage 19 years ago.



Amy

Hi, I'm Amy and have enjoyed the OCIA journey this year. I look forward to joining the Church.



Ian

I'm Ian. I've been going through OCIA after a lot of discussion with Catholic friends. Those discussions and prayer convinced me this was the path to take.



Drew

Hi, my name is Drew and I've loved getting to deepen my relationship with and understanding of Christ through the OCIA program. I'm most excited to grow my family with faith at the center of our lives.



Adam

I'm Adam, I work at Impact Life blood center, and I've thoroughly enjoyed participating in the OCIA program alongside my wife. I'm looking forward to growing closer with God and becoming fully involved in the Catholic community.



Maddie

I'm Maddie, and OCIA has changed my life in a wonderful way. I'm excited to be confirmed at Easter with my husband, Bailey.



Bailey

My name is Bailey, and the process of going through OCIA has been a great journey. I'm super excited to join the Church with my wife, Maddie, at Easter.



MINISTRY SCHEDULE

MARCH 9 — 13

MONDAY - FRIDAY

8:00 am

George Boesdorfer and Bowen Watson

Saturday, March 14, 4:30PM

Lector: McKinzie Oshesky

Servers: Owen Gerding, Tim and Cecilia Beyer

Eucharistic Ministers: Richard Campbell, Megan DeFrain, Kathleen Harth, Noreen Luhr

Sunday, March 15, 7:00AM

Lector: Carolyn Graham

Servers: Teddy Mizeur

Eucharistic Ministers Kathy Gietl, Ann Walker, Jill Loveall, HELP WANTED

Sunday, March 15, 8:30AM

Lector: Kevin Lust

Servers: Liam and Sammy Bryant, Nicholas Frevert

Eucharistic Ministers: Dave and Lisa Sarnowski, Don and Cathy Scott

Sunday, March 15, 10:30AM

Lector: Chris Oldenburg

Servers: Beatrice Hunt, Peyton and Wade Naylor

Eucharistic Ministers: Patti and Rodney Naylor, Brittani Newton, Lynn Frasco, Lauren Coombe

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

MATTHEW – THE KING AND HIS KINGDOM Our Monday Morning Prayer/Study group will begin the Study of Matthew with Jeff Cavins on **Monday, March 23** at 9:00am in the Rectory meeting room. “Pertinent that this is the Liturgical year of Matthew’s Gospel.” This 24-week study takes you through Matthew’s Gospel drawing on messages from the Old Testament and the Catholic Catechism to help you understand what you are reading and how to apply it to your life. Witness the planting of the seeds of the Church in the foundation Christ built on the twelve apostles with Peter as his vision and discover the roots of the sacraments and see how Jesus’s words and actions are reflected in the Mass and make it more meaningful. We will continue this study until May 24 when we break for the summer and will complete the Study in the Fall. The cost of the Study guide is \$39.95. If you have any questions or are interested in attending, please contact Deacon David Erdmann 217-971-4483.

**Weekly Parish Finance Report
February 21 to February 27**

	AMOUNT RECEIVED	TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS
Loose Collections	\$1,323.00	
Envelope Collections	\$15,121.00	186
Online Giving Collections	\$6,522.98	117
TOTAL COLLECTIONS	\$22,966.98	303
Target Amount	\$25,000.00	

- IF YOU ONLY READ THREE THINGS THIS WEEK:**
- We’re hiring! Looking for a full-time Parish Office Manager at Blessed Sacrament. Apply online at www.bsps.org/employment-opportunities
 - Consider subbing for an adoration slot for the remainder of Lent. Go to www.bsps.org/perpetual-adoration.
 - Pray for our OCIA candidates!

HEAVENLY FATHER, WE PRAY FOR...

Dr. John Dailey Laurie Mann Mary Tuttle

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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