



Parish of the Blessed Sacrament

December 14, 2008

PARISH OFFICE:

1725 S. Walnut
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Website: www.bsps.org

Pastor: Father David Hoefler

Deacon Dave Erdmann

Bulletin Submissions:

SLReimers@mac.com

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Miss Margaret Antenan

Accounts Manager:

Mrs. Sharon Schraeder

Music Director:

Mrs. Alice Hill

Plant Superintendent:

Mr. Mike Hickey

Development Director:

Mrs. Kim Hoffman

SCHOOL OFFICE:

748 West Laurel

Phone: (217) 522-7534

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Principal:

Mrs. Kathy Wear

Administrative Asst:

Mrs. Nancy Evans

Secretary:

Mrs. Molly Rearden

CELEBRATING THE DAYS**Monday, December 15**

- ✘ Confessions before 8:00 Mass
- ✘ 8:00 AM Elizabeth A. Zink

Tuesday, Decemer 16

- ✘ Confessions before 8:20 Mass
- ✘ 8:20 AM Owen Squires
Robert Kannady

Wednesday, December 17

- ✘ Confessions before 8:00 Mass
- ✘ 8:00 AM Vincent Connor Family
Beatrice Fisherkeller

Thursday, December 18

- ✘ Confessions before 8:20 Mass
- ✘ 8:20 AM Norma Ellen Burns
Mary & Thomas Fearon

Friday, December 19

- ✘ Confessions before 8:00 Mass
- ✘ 8:00 AM Tom and Cathey (Casey) Pfeiffer
Monica Vespa

Saturday, December 20

- ✘ 7:00 AM Mary Lois Cole
- ✘ 7:30-8:00 AM Confessions
- ✘ 3:00-4:00 PM Confessions
- ✘ 4:30 PM Deceased Members of O'Connor and
Sullivan Families

Sunday, December 21, Fourth Sunday of Advent

- ✘ 7:00 AM George Ann Martin
- ✘ 8:30 AM Intentions of our Parishioners
- ✘ 10:30 AM Charles Morgan

Blessed Sacrament Prayer Line

**Call Jean Quigley at 523-6573 or Mary
Theresa Drake at 726-6649.**

**Please pray for the sick, including Mary E.
Jordan and John Atterberry.**

DEAR PARISHIONERS

Today is "Gaudete Sunday" which means, "rejoice!" The opening prayer for today turns our mind and hearts to the coming of the celebration of the birthday of Jesus Christ. We have been contemplating and looking forward to the second coming of Jesus for several weeks now. Looking for the coming of Jesus in these ways should move us closer to God in heart, mind, and soul. Through the grace of this holy anticipation of being with Jesus "May the God of peace," as St. Paul says in the second reading, "make you perfectly holy and may you entirely, spirit, soul, and body, be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

We have also just celebrated some very important events this past week. Monday was the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. Without the Immaculate Conception of Mary and her continued cooperation with God's grace to remain sinless, we would not have a Christmas to celebrate and we would not have a hope of salvation. Friday we celebrated the Feast of our Lady of Guadalupe. With this title Mary is the patroness of the Americas. We celebrate Mary's intervention and intercession for the sake of the people in our part of the world. As the Immaculate Conception she is the patroness of our country and our diocese. Let's thank God for giving us so loving a mother and intercessor. Let's also thank Mary for her part in our salvation and let's continue to direct some of our prayers to her for the sake of our diocese and our country.

I regret to inform you that Father Anthony Pilli's dad died this past Tuesday in India. Father Tony is making an emergency trip home to be with his family for a couple of weeks. Please pray for the repose of his dad's soul and keep Fr. Tony and his mother and family in your prayers as well.

This week we will have a special opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. On Wednesday December 17th at 7:00 P.M. we will have a Reconciliation Service here at Blessed Sacrament Church. This service is for all three of the west side parishes. Please consider making plans to attend this penance service or make some other plans to make use of this great sacrament as a way to prepare for the coming of the Lord.

Sincerely,
Father Hoefler

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE CHANGES

Weeks of December 22 and 29: All daily masses will be at 8:00 AM; No 8:00 AM Mass on Christmas Eve; Christmas Day Masses will follow Sunday Mass schedule.; Mass at 9:00 AM on New Year's Day.

GOSPEL OF LIFE**Sixth Annual Marita Child Gospel of Life Essay Contest Completed**

Over the past three months 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students of Blessed Sacrament Parish have been busily composing essays for the annual Marita Child Gospel of Life essay contest. This year's topic was: **"Peace can only be found when every person's life is respected"**. This year we had an overwhelming response from Blessed Sacrament students. Thanks go to all our entrants for their essays were especially well written, entertaining, educational and persuasive. Thanks also to our panel of judges: Deacon Dave Erdman, Danielle Lindquist, Lisa Thiele, Al Kroner and Sean Daly who tirelessly worked to discern the top three essays for each class.

To give you an idea of the insight of our students, we've provided some quotes from their essays: "Life is a gift from God and should be treated as such", "abortion sets the mind to judge the worth of any human life", "we cannot disrespect one stage of life without disrespecting another stage of life", "many people are horrified when they hear of war, violence, and disrespect, but they don't seem to realize abortion is all of those things put together", "God created all forms of life, when we disrespect any form of life we are really disrespecting God", "an unborn baby has rights that cannot be taken away", and last "no matter whose life it is or what stage it is in, a life is still a life. It's just like yours or mine, but special in its own way. Born or unborn, sick or well, elderly or youthful, in pain or not in pain, that life is a life and it belongs to God, and only He can decide to take it." Well said!

The students who wrote the winning essays for each class are:

8th Grade:

- 1st Place: Luke Criscione
- 2nd Place: Elizabeth Wiatroluk
- 3rd Place: Paige Brinker

7th Grade:

- 1st Place: Davy Morehead
- 2nd Place: Eric Antenan
- 3rd Place: Sean Wesp

6th Grade:

- 1st Place: Monica Bell
- 2nd Place: Brendan Stannard
- 3rd Place: Dominic LoGrasso

Prizes were presented by the GOL committee to each winner, and Luke Criscione the 8th grade winner read his essay this past Friday at the all student mass on the Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe. You can find a copy of his essay on the Blessed Sacrament Gospel of Life Website. Congratulations and thanks to all our

students, their parents, principal Kathy Wear, our teachers, the judges and all who helped make this year's essay contest an overwhelming success. **Be not afraid: Live the Gospel of Life!**

NEWS FROM THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

Christmas Bricks - Looking for a Christmas gift for that family member who has everything? Engraved bricks may be the perfect solution. Order forms are still available in both the school and rectory offices, and in the back of church, for the purchase of commemorative bricks that will be placed in a prayer garden between the church and the school. There are three sizes available: 4x8 brick for \$100, 8x8 for \$200 and 12x12 for \$300. Completed forms and checks may be submitted to the school, the rectory or in the collection basket. If you have questions about the bricks, please call Kim Hoffmann in the Development Office.

Annual Fund/School Support Fund – For those of you thinking about end-of-year giving, please consider a gift to the Blessed Sacrament School Annual Fund or the School Support Fund. The Annual Fund supports the operating budget of the school, including salaries, educational materials and utilities. The School Support Fund is earmarked for our future building project. Both funds will benefit the education of our children both today and in the future.

2009 PRAYERS FOR FATHER HOEFLER

Please join us, for the fourth year, to assure that someone from the parish is praying for Father Hoefler every day of 2009. If you wish to participate, you may sign up at the back of church THIS WEEKEND after each Mass. You may also sign up by calling Kathy or Mike Harth at 744-9263 or Pat or Charles Brady at 544-6665. This has been shown to be a very effective way to say thank you to someone who continues to give so much to Blessed Sacrament Parish.

ST. MARTIN DE PORRES

The St. Martin DePorres Center, located at 1301 S. Martin Luther King Dr., will accept donations of food, blankets, sheets, towels, household items, and clothing on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, or Saturday from 9:00 to 11:00 AM. The phone number is 528-2851.

Donations to the **Holy Family Food Pantry** will be picked up in the back of church on December 22.

WEDDING BANNERS

Timothy Sommer and Ashleigh Hansen plan to wed January 10, 2009.

DRIVE-THRU CHICKEN DINNER

It's back! Blessed Sacrament's Parent School Association is again holding a drive-thru chicken dinner on **Sunday, December 14** from 4:30 to 6:00 PM. Each individual dinner is a 1/4 chicken, mashed potatoes, corn, and bread for only \$8 per dinner. You never even have to leave your car! Pull in to the BSS parking lot, and we'll bring dinner to you. Tickets are available in the school office. Thank you for your support!

TEACHER SALARY SUPPORT FUND

Christmastime is the time of year when the funds collected throughout the year, donated through your Teacher Salary Support Fund church envelopes, are distributed to our teachers. This money is combined with donations from our school parents through our Christmas Fund drive and funds from BSSPSA, which together determines the amount of money we can give our teachers for their Christmas bonuses. Please consider our teachers this year in your Christmas giving. You may use the envelope designated for this fund in your church envelope packet or send your donation directly to the school office with "Attn: Teacher Salary Support Fund." Our teachers appreciate this boost to their salaries more than words can say!

CHRISTMAS ORGAN CONCERT

Our annual Christmas Organ Concert featuring Mark Gifford will be on Friday, December 26 at Noon. Join us for this wonderful celebration of the Christmas season.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

The Knights of Columbus Council 364 (2200 Meadowbrook Road) will hold an all-you-can-eat Breakfast Buffet on **Sunday, December 14** from 8:00 AM to Noon. Santa Claus will be at the breakfast, too! Adults are \$8, kids 6-12 are \$5, and kids 5 and under are free. Proceeds benefit the SHG Music Program.

MARCH FOR LIFE TRIP

Registration for the March for Life Trip to Washington, DC is now open. Please contact Kyle Holtgrave, Associate Director for Youth and Young Adult Ministry at 698-8500 x 154 for details or visit www.dio.org/youthministry.

CATHOLIC COMMITTEE ON SCOUTING

The diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting is meeting Sunday, January 4 in Taylorville. Anyone interested in learning more about the Catholic programs available to both Boy and Girl Scouts is welcome. Please contact Kyle Holtgrave at 698-8500 x 154 for more information.

THANK YOU

Thank you very much for the generous World Mission Sunday contribution of \$3,713.07 from the people of Blessed Sacrament Parish!

DONATE A HAM

Donate a ham to Central Illinois Foodbank for the holidays. A donation registers you for a chance to win a State Farm Pork gift basket. Help the Foodbank fill pantry refrigerators. Bring ham(s) to Central Illinois Foodbank, 2000 E. Moffat, Springfield. Call 522-4022 for more info.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE**WEEK OF DECEMBER 15-21**

Mon, Tues, Wed 8:00/8:20 AM
Sam Sgro, Cody Rutherford

**Thu, Fri 8:20/8:00 AM &
Sat 7:00 AM**
Ben Moses, Davy Morehead

Saturday, December 20, 4:30**PM**

Lectors: Deanna Day

Servers: Jack McCarthy, Parker bonnet, Scout Coady

Eucharistic Ministers: Tom Garvey, Gene Mitchell, Jim Morphew, Scott Reimers, Pat Sheehan, Marty Mosley, Ed Schofield, Isabel Figueroa

Sunday, December 21, 7:00 AM

Lectors: Judy Kjellander

Servers: Sam Sgro, Sarah Miller

Eucharistic Ministers: Sally Petrone, Kathy Wear, Jim Wear, Kathryn Gietl, Ann Walker

Sunday, December 21, 8:30 AM

Lectors: Sarah Stannard

Servers: Joey Stannard, Clare Stannard, Hannah Bitzer

Eucharistic Ministers: MaryAnn Gorney, Mike Delvo, Kathy Harth, Tom Karaianis, Mary F. Conwill, Susan Gallagher, Janine Feller, Clara Ushman

Sunday, December 21, 10:30**AM**

Lectors: Donna Moore

Servers: Ethan O'Connor, Elizabeth Schmidt, Caroline Schmidt

Eucharistic Ministers: James Dodge, Cindy Ledbetter, Lori Criscione, James Keys, Rita Keys, Andrea Judd, Don Graham, Pat Graham

Gospel of Life Icon: Dennis and Mary Ellen Hollahan Family

SCHOOL NOTES:

Monday, December 15 – Preschool Christmas programs at 10:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.
First grade (Rm 8) Christmas program at 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, December 16 – Preschool Christmas program at 10:00 a.m.
First grade (Rm 6) Christmas program at 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 17 – Third grade (Rm 5) play at 9:00 a.m.
Third grade (Rm 4) play at 1:30 p.m.

Thursday, December 18 – Third grade (Rm 4) play at 9:00 a.m.
Kindergarten Christmas program at 10:00 a.m.
Third grade (Rm 5) play at 1:30 p.m.

Friday, December 19 – 1:30 p.m. dismissal for Christmas break; no B.A.S.E.
Junior high dance at St. Aloysius School at 7:00 p.m.

CAREGIVER INTERFAITH VOLUNTEER SERVICE

Caregiver Interfaith Volunteer Service is an interfaith ministry that helps older adults remain independent in the home. Caregiver volunteers do not provide hands-on care, but rather supportive services. To learn more, contact Beckie Figge, Carolyn Fisherkeller, or Lorraine Gillespie, or CIVS at St. John’s Hospital at 757-6621.

Spend an hour in adoration and prayer

DAYTIME

3:00 PM Saturday
12:00 PM Sunday
3:00 PM Wednesday
1:00 PM Friday

NIGHT TIME

12:00 AM Sunday
1:00 AM Sunday
10:00 PM Thursday
4:00 AM Thursday
2:00 AM Friday

CALL DAVID OR CATHY HEIMLICH 793-9352

STEWARDSHIP <i>(Time Talent Treasure)</i>	
<u>Parish Collection</u>	
November 30, 2008	\$19,686.45
Target Amount	\$23,500.00
<u>Savings for School Building Project</u>	
November 30, 2008	\$ 465.00
Total	\$350,335.42
<u>Annual Catholic Services Appeal (ACSA) - 11/20/08</u>	
Total Assessment	\$ 123,749.00
Total Pledged (41%)	\$ 51,085.00
Total Received (30%)	\$ 37,475.00
Remaining	\$ 86,274.00