



## Parish of the Blessed Sacrament Sunday, December 26, 2010

**PASTOR:**

Father David Hoefler  
Deacon David Erdmann  
Deacon Tom Burns  
Priest-in-Residence:  
Father Gerald Zienna

**PARISH OFFICE:**

Phone: (217) 528-7521  
Fax: (217) 528-3137  
Website: [www.bsps.org](http://www.bsps.org)

**SCHOOL OFFICE:**

748 West Laurel  
Phone: (217) 522-7534  
Fax: (217) 522-7542  
[www.bssbruins.org](http://www.bssbruins.org)

**Office Manager:**

Margaret Antenan

**Accounts Manager:**

Sharon Schraeder

**Principal:**

Kathy Wear

**School Administrative Asst:**

Nancy Evans

**School Secretary:**

Michelle Hinds-Greenwood

**Music Director:**

Jody Kienzler

**Parish School of Religion:****Plant Superintendent:**

Mike Hickey

**Development Director:**

Kim Hoffmann

**Bulletin Submissions:**

Lori Reimers  
Email: [SLReimers@mac.com](mailto:SLReimers@mac.com)

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.

## CELEBRATING THE DAYS

### Monday, December 27, Saint John

- ✕ Confessions before Mass
- ✕ **8:00 AM** Irene Doyle

### Tuesday, December 28, The Holy Innocents

- ✕ Confessions before Mass
- ✕ **8:00 AM** Jack Healy

### Wednesday, December 29, Saint Thomas Becket

- ✕ Confessions before Mass
- ✕ **8:00 AM** Members of the Poor Souls' Shrine
- ✕ **5:30 PM** Prayer Service for the Sick & Suffering

### Thursday, December 30

- ✕ Confessions before Mass
- ✕ **8:00 AM** Liz Duckworth  
Winifred Saunderson

### Friday, December 31

- ✕ Confessions before Mass
- ✕ **8:00 AM** Aurelia Stenger

### Saturday, January 1

- ✕ **9:00 AM** Members of the Poor Souls' Shrine
- ✕ 4:30 PM Marilyn Bugureski

### Sunday, January 2, The Epiphany of the Lord

- ✕ 7:00 AM Darlene Tasset
- ✕ 8:30 AM John E. Pyle
- ✕ 10:30 AM Intentions of our Parishioners

### Blessed Sacrament Prayer Line

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

Please pray for the following people: John Atteberry, Alyssa, Angel, Barbara, Beth, Bonnie, Cathy, Charles, Dana, Danielle, Frances P., Gary, Jack, Irampelh, Loretta, Michael, Mary, Paula, Ruth, Ryken, Sammy, Thomas, the students, teachers, staff, and parents this school year, Margaret, Dick, Rita, Jackie T., Terry, Patrick, Cindy, Barbara and others who need prayers.

## DEAR PARISHIONERS,

A blessed Christmas to you all! We are in a blur of holidays and Holy Days. We could call it an embarrassment of riches. These are days that should shore up and enrich our spiritual and family life. After spending our weeks of Advent in hopeful anticipation of the coming of our Savior, we now recognize His concrete presence already among us. Christmas celebrates the birth of our Savior Jesus, Emmanuel, which means "God is with us." The Sunday in between Christmas and New Year, today, is celebrated as the Solemnity of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph.

This should bring home a great truth. The family is the place where we are first meant to encounter God. It is the "domestic church." The love of a husband and wife is meant to overflow in creation. This love is how the child first encounters God's love.

This time of the year is a great time to experience and renew the presence of God in the life of our families. For many people it is a time of great grief, depression, or disappointment. Broken families, death in the family, and many other variations of the theme leave many without the icon of the Holy Family reflecting in their own family. This is the time for those of us with family to stretch our hearts in love, compassion, and generosity for those without. Hopefully it also sets a trend for the years to come.

With great love and gratitude for what the Holy Family has given and modeled for us, may we all broaden the boundaries of our hearts for the sake of others, both in our close relationships and beyond.

Please double check the schedule for Masses again next weekend. There will be no Latin Mass on January 1<sup>st</sup>. Again Fr. Devillers will be in Quincy. January 1<sup>st</sup> is not a Holy Day of Obligation this year since it falls on a Saturday (a day next to Sunday). It is still the Solemnity of Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God. Mass will be offered at 9:00 A.M. in the ordinary form. The Sunday schedule of Masses is the same as normal. Please note that the rectory office will be closed on Friday, December 31<sup>st</sup>.

Our Building on Tradition project is still moving along well. Some brick and stonework remain but is slowed by the weather. In the meantime the workers are doing inside masonry work. The interior wall framing is nearly complete. Work continues inside on the heating, cooling, plumbing, and electrical. The school is closed for the week, and workers are concentrating efforts on the storage areas and passageways between the old and new buildings. Please continue to pray for safety for our workers, good working weather, and a successful conclusion for our project.

Sincerely in Christ,  
Fr. Dave Hoefler

**OUR PARISH FAMILY**

**PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DEPARTED**

Timothy J. Davlin

**GOD BLESS OUR NEWLY BAPTIZED**

Louis Roland Pennell, son of John and Rachel Pennell

**ORGAN CONCERT**

Mark Gifford will continue our Christmas celebration tradition with an organ concert at Blessed Sacrament Church on Monday, December 27 at noon. This free event is open to all.



**SCHOOL NOTES:**

Monday, Dec. 20 – Friday, Dec. 31 – No school during Christmas Break

Monday, Jan. 3 – Classes resume

Thursday, Jan. 6 – 8:20 a.m. all-school Mass – Feast of the Epiphany

Friday, Jan. 7 – PSA Spirit Day; 2:00 p.m. – First Friday adoration and benediction for grades 2-8

Monday, Jan. 10 – 2:15 p.m. – Character education assembly in the gym

Thursday, Jan. 12 - End of second quarter

**DAILY MASSES THIS WEEK**

Daily Masses will all be held at 8:00 AM this week and next week while the school children are absent for Christmas Break. Saturday Mass on January 1 will be held at 9:00 AM. There will be no Latin Mass.

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

M.E.R.C.Y. Communities, providing housing and supportive services to foster the independence of homeless families, is seeking four short term adult female mentors who would tutor, support and encourage four mothers working on getting their GEDs. Please call 753-1358 to volunteer or to gather more information.

**MARCH FOR LIFE**

Please join the 2011 March for Life to Washington, DC on January 21- 25, 2011. Join hundreds of thousands of other Pro-Life advocates in our nation's capitol to show your support for the sanctity of human life. Can't go on the March for Life to Washington? Join us for a Pro-Life Rally on Saturday, January 8, 2011 at noon at St. Elizabeth in Granite City. Complete information is available at [www.dio.org/youthministry](http://www.dio.org/youthministry), or contact Kyle Holtgrave at 217-698-8500 ext. 154.

**LADIES OF CHARITY**

The St. Louise de Marillac Ladies of Charity cordially invite women of the Springfield area to join in our mission to raise funds for Catholic Charities Foster Care Children's Program. The Springfield Ladies of Charity was established in 1933 by Monsignor David Sculley and a small group of Catholic women. Dinner meetings are held monthly. You may join any time of the year; dues are \$10 a year. Come join up in our charitable work for the least of God's children, His little ones. Please call for information: Karen Fassero 546-8322 or Pat Bolt 546-5672.

*When Herod had died, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." He rose, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. — Mt 2:19-21*

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

**ST. THOMAS BECKET, Feast Day December 29**

The future chancellor and [archbishop](#) of [Canterbury](#) was born in 1118. As a young man, Thomas worked in the household of the archbishop of Canterbury and then studied canon law. He was appointed archdeacon of Canterbury, the highest ecclesiastical office in England after a bishopric or an abbacy, and was entrusted with important missions to Rome. King Henry II appointed this gifted churchman as chancellor, that is, chief minister.

Like the later chancellor of the realm, Thomas Moore, who also became a [martyr](#) and a saint, Thomas Becket was the close personal friend as well as the loyal servant of his young sovereign. When offered the post of Archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas told the King, "Should [God](#) permit me to be the [archbishop](#) of Canterbury, I would soon lose your Majesty's favor, and the affection with which you honor me would be changed into hatred. For there are several things you do now in prejudice of the rights of the Church which make me fear you would require of me what I could not agree to; and envious persons would not fail to make it the occasion of endless strife between us." The King paid no heed to this remonstrance, and sent [bishops](#) and noblemen to the monks of Canterbury, ordering them to labor with the same [zeal](#) to set his chancellor in the see as they would to set the crown on the young prince's head. Thomas continued to refuse the promotion until the [legate](#) of the Holy See, [Cardinal](#) Henry of Pisa, overrode his scruples. Thomas, now forty-four years old, rode to [Canterbury](#) and was first ordained [priest](#) by Walter, [bishop](#) of Rochester, and then on the [octave](#) of [Pentecost](#) was consecrated [archbishop](#). Continued...

**ST. THOMAS BECKET, continued...**

From that day, worldly grandeur no longer marked Thomas' way of life. Next his skin he wore a hairshirt, and his customary dress was a plain black cassock, a linen surplice, and a sacerdotal [stole](#) about his neck. He lived ascetically, spent much [time](#) in the distribution of alms, in reading and discussing the Scriptures with Herbert of Bosham, in visiting the infirmary, and supervising the monks at their work. He took special care in selecting candidates for Holy Orders. As ecclesiastical judge, he was rigorously just.

Although as [archbishop](#), Thomas had resigned the chancellorship, against the King's wish, the relations between the two men seemed to be unchanged for a time. But a [host](#) of troubles was brewing, and the crux of all of them was the [relationship](#) between Church and state, leading Thomas to proclaim, "Wherefore I refuse the King's judgment and yours and everyone's. Under God, I [will](#) be judged by the Pope alone." Thomas eventually needed to seek refuge as the guest of King Louis of France.

This historic quarrel dragged on for three years. A [reconciliation](#) was finally effected between Thomas and Henry, although the lines of power were not too clearly drawn. The [archbishop](#) now made preparations to return to his see. With a premonition of his fate, he remarked to the [bishop](#) of [Paris](#) in parting, "I am going to England to die." On December 1, 1172, he disembarked at Sandwich, and on the journey to [Canterbury](#) the way was lined with cheering people, welcoming him home. As he rode into the [cathedral](#) city at the head of a triumphal procession, every bell was ringing. Yet in spite of the public demonstration, there was an atmosphere of foreboding.

Soon after Thomas returned to Canterbury, knights attacked the church, shouting "Where is Thomas the traitor?" He replied, "Here I am, no traitor, but [archbishop](#) and [priest](#) of God!" He came down the steps to stand between the altars of Our Lady and St. Benedict. The knights then took Thomas and beat him to death.

Within three years of his death the [archbishop](#) had been canonized as a martyr. Though far from a faultless character, Thomas Becket, when his [time](#) of testing came, had the courage to lay down his [life](#) to defend the ancient rights of the Church against an aggressive state. The discovery of his [hairshirt](#) and other evidences of austerity, and the many miracles which were reported at his tomb, increased the veneration in which he was held. The shrine of the "holy blessed martyr," as Chaucer called him, soon became famous, and the old Roman road running from London to [Canterbury](#) known as "Pilgrim's Way." His [tomb](#) was magnificently adorned with gold, silver, and jewels, only to be despoiled by Henry VIII; the [fate](#) of his [relics](#) is uncertain. They may have been destroyed as a part of Henry's policy to subordinate the English Church to the civil authority. Mementoes of this saint are preserved at the [cathedral](#) of Sens. The feast of [St. Thomas](#) of [Canterbury](#) is now kept throughout the Roman [Catholic](#) Church, and in England he is regarded as the protector of the secular clergy.

*MINISTRY SCHEDULE**WEEK OF DECEMBER**27-JANUARY 2***Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday****8:00 AM**

Ethan Bluhm, Meredith Beger

**Thursday, Friday****8:00 AM**

Isabella Sgro, Brent Parquette

**Saturday, January 1, 4:30 PM****Lectors:** Jim McDermott**Servers:** Vinny Vespa, Cody Rutherford, Connor Rutherford**Eucharistic Ministers:** Isabel Figueroa, Linda Thornberry, Noreen Luhr, Larry Newell, Pat Sheehan, Michelle Bretz, Susan Gallagher, Calvin Bell**Sunday, January 2, 7:00 AM****Lectors:** Carolyn Graham**Servers:** Ashley Dunn, Eric Ketchum**Eucharistic Ministers:** Johanna Toomey, Kathryn Gietl, Phil Graham, Mike Delvo, Eric Delvo**Sunday, January 2, 8:30 AM****Lectors:** Michael Lawless**Servers:** Denver Patten, Marissa Patten, Abby Ralph**Eucharistic Ministers:** Scott Reimers, Marge O'Keefe, Judy Kennedy, Lynn Frasco, Rick Campbell, Thomas Schmidt, Clara Ushman, Colleen VonDeBur**Sunday, January 2, 10:30 AM****Lectors:** Judy Kjellander**Servers:** John Stegeman, Reanna Ward, Emily Thornberry**Eucharistic Ministers:** Cindy Ledbetter, Mary Tuttle, Andrea Judd, Lori Criscione, James Dodge, Patricia Clarida, James Keys, Rita Keys

**ADORATION HOURS**

**Could you not watch one hour with me?**

**Learn how to defend your faith!**

How to Explain and Defend the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. A book in the BEGINNING APOLEGETICS series (#3), with this title, is available at the Marian Center. Many people, including a large number of Catholics attending Mass, are not sure how to explain and defend this basic belief in our faith. This booklet is excellent reading for all during this Advent Season.

Prayerfully consider a scheduled hour in our adoration chapel. Contact Merle King (528-6088) or Tom Karaianis (415-3281) if you have questions.

**12:00 A.M. SUNDAY**

**1:00 A.M. SUNDAY**

**1:00 A.M. MONDAY**

**2:00 A.M. MONDAY**

**11:00 P.M. TUESDAY – PENDING**

**6:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY - PENDING**

**1:00 P.M. THURSDAY**

**1:00 A.M. FRIDAY**

**12:00 A.M. SATURDAY**

**2:00 A.M. SATURDAY**

**3:00 P.M. SATURDAY**



*Building on Tradition*

<b>Goal</b>	<b>\$5,400,000.00</b>
<b>Total Commitments</b>	<b>\$5,077,568.84</b>
<b>Total Cash Received</b>	<b>\$ 2,784,658.79</b>

*A blessed and happy  
Christmas season to all!*

**STEWARDSHIP**

*(Time / Talent / Treasure)*

**Parish Collection**

<b>December 12, 2010</b>	<b>\$19,149.50</b>
<b>Target Amount</b>	<b>\$23,500.00</b>

**Annual Catholic Services Appeal (as of 12/13/10)**

<b>Assessment</b>	<b>\$101,365.00</b>
<b>Pledges by Parish Families</b>	<b>\$ 46,390.00</b>
<b>Remaining</b>	<b>\$ 54,975.00</b>