



**Parish of the Blessed Sacrament**  
**Sunday, December 1, 2013**  
**First Sunday of Advent**



**PASTOR:**

Father Jeff Grant  
Deacon David Erdmann  
Deacon Tom Burns

**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:**

Michele Hinds-Greenwood

**Music Director:**

Jody Kienzler

**Parish School of Religion:**

Call the Parish Office to register

**Plant Superintendent:**

Mike Hickey  
[MHickey@bsps.org](mailto:MHickey@bsps.org)

**Development Director:**

Kim Hoffmann

**Bulletin Submissions:**

Margaret Antenan  
Email: [mantenan@bsps.org](mailto:mantenan@bsps.org)

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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 2**

- ✘ Confessions before Mass
- ✘ **8:00 AM** Faye Fischer  
Philip Graham

**Tuesday, December 3**

- ✘ Confessions before Mass
- ✘ **8:20 AM** James H. Clark

**Wednesday, December 4**

- ✘ Confessions before Mass
- ✘ **8:00 AM** Patrick Stapleton
- 5:30PM Prayer Service**

**Thursday, December 5**

- Confessions before Mass
- ✘ **8:00 AM** Vic Gorney  
Brian Osmun

**Friday, December 6**

- Confessions before Mass
- ✘ **8:20 AM** Catherine & Sylvan Kocher

**Saturday, December 7**

- ✘ Confessions before Mass
- ✘ **8:00 AM** Members of the Poor Souls Shrine  
(LATIN MASS)
- Confessions 3:00--4:00pm**
- ✘ **4:30 PM** Warren Foran

**Sunday, December 8 Second Sunday of Advent**

- ✘ **7:00 AM** Deceased Members of Carmine  
Frasco family
- ✘ **8:30 AM** Tom Schmidt
- ✘ **10:30 AM** Intentions of our Parishioners

**Blessed Sacrament Prayer Line**

Call Jean Quigley at 523-6573.

Please pray for the intention of : Anna Eleyidath, Josette, Danielle Loftus, Ruth Pohlman, Charles Klaphake, Annie, Bernadine, Barb, Tony, Kurt C, Rosemary Sugent Fox, Tom VonBerg, Jim Hickey, Ellen White, Barbara, Jan Jones, Sharon Olsson, Judy, Austin Shields, Brenda Price, Cindi, Dave, Emma, Sandy, Melanie

**Dear Parishioners,**

**Happy New Year!** No, I am not confused or goofy. I realize we have just finished Thanksgiving and Christmas is coming, but in the church's calendar, this weekend begins the season of Advent and that is the start of a new year. Advent means "the coming." It is the time of year when we remember Jesus is coming. In one way, I guess that is what we are doing—we are preparing for the celebration of Jesus' birth. We decorate, we buy gifts, we plan parties and we feast. We are indeed celebrating Jesus' coming into our world. But advent is not just about celebrating an event from the past. It is also about preparing for the day when he will return. We live in an in-between time and making sure that we are ready to receive him when he comes again is our life-long spiritual project. During Advent, we focus on this preparation.

Yet, preparing for Jesus' return isn't about buying gifts, putting up a tree, or eating food. Instead, the traditional ways of preparing for Christ is by prayer, penance, and charity. Here are a few suggestions for the season of Advent:

--As for prayer, I recommend the first two chapters of the Gospel of Luke. It is often called the infancy narrative. It tells the events surrounding Jesus' birth and presentation in the temple. It tells how God's grace worked in the lives of several people. It also tells of the hopes these people had for a better world. When Jesus returns, what do we hope he will do? What does our world need from God? Perhaps that could be the focus of our prayer during Advent. Maybe an advent wreath might also keep us faithful to our prayer as we watch and wait for Christ's return.

--Secondly, penance can help us focus on God's grace as we await His return. The season provides an opportunity to examine our life honestly and amend it accordingly. Celebrating the sacrament of reconciliation during this time is indeed an appropriate step. Check out the times of confessions or make plans to attend the penance service on December 19<sup>th</sup>.

--Finally, it is charity that will really change our lives and even our world. Charity calls us to move out of our narrow and selfish concerns and focus on the needs of others. I have often heard it said that if you want to be happier, volunteer to help someone or some cause. Our parish sponsors an Angel tree during Advent. It is a small way to make a big difference in the life of another person. It is a step in preparing for Christ's return.

Advent is not just about getting ready for Christmas. Rather, it is about getting ready for the Lord. Prayer, penance, and charity are positive things we can do to prepare for his coming. In the busyness of this time of year, take the time to prepare spiritually for Jesus' return. May it bring you hope and peace, life and joy for the coming year. Again, may I wish you a **Happy New Year!**

**Fr. Jeff**

**OUR PARISH FAMILY****Congratulations to our Newly Baptized:**

Aria Marie Rogers  
 Mason Anthony Rogers  
 Deon DeMarcus Wilks  
 DeVantae Dwayne Wilks  
 Jade Armyiah-Rae Evans

**School Notes:!**

**Sunday, Dec. 1-**Scouts Pancake Breakfast after Masses

**Monday, Dec.2-** Leadership assembly (wear blue t-shirts)

**Tues., Dec. 3-** 9:30am Reconciliation for grades 6-8

**Thurs., Dec. 5-**9:30am Reconciliation for grades 3-5

**Fri. Dec.6-**PSA Spirit Day \$1 Donation  
 2:00pm First Friday Adoration

**Sun. Dec 8-** **K of C Breakfast** -benefit financial assistance for Springfield Catholic Schools

**Wed. Dec. 10-** Early dismissal for faculty meeting

**Thurs. Dec. 12-** 8:20am-All School Mass & announcement Marita Child Gospel of Life Essay Contest winners

**Our Teacher Salary Support Fund** is designed to help offset our teachers' salaries by giving them a much deserved bonus at Christmas each year. The monies donated through the parish envelopes throughout the year are combined with donations from our school family donation envelopes (sent home with the children at school) and donations from our PSA and Men's Club. All donations are allocated to our teachers and staff once a year..at Christmas. Bonuses are calculated based on the funds we have available each year. Please consider making a donation to this fund this year by either returning a donation in your monthly Parish Teacher Salary Support Fund envelope or in this year's school family donation envelope, by Thursday, December 19th. Please help us give our teachers and staff the best possible Christmas gift as a "thank-you" for all their hard work and dedication to our school an children.

**Our Advent Concert** is at 4:00pm today Sunday, December 1st. It will include the Chorister, Jubilate and Cantus Children's Choirs and our Chorale. Several of our orchestra members will be playing as well. We will be bringing in the Christmas Season with The Vivaldi "Magnificat" as well as many lovely selections. Again, there will be a donation of \$10. Tickets are available at the door .

**All-You-Can-Eat Pancake Breakfast**, sponsored by our Scouts, will be today, Sunday, December 1, after

all the morning Masses. Adults \$7, children (5-11) \$5, and children under 4-free.

**Christmas Wreaths**—Our Boy Scouts will be selling 25 inch Christmas Wreaths after all the Masses the week-end of December 7-8. They have ordered an additional 40 wreaths for this sale. Don't miss your opportunity to purchase one of these wreaths and help our Boy Scout Program at the same time.

**Fr. Robert Barron's New Video Catholicism: The New Evangelization** will be shown on Tuesday, December 3rd at 6:30pm in the Rectory basement. Come and see how the New Evangelization is being implemented around the world, in this 90 minute video. There will be short discussion following the video. Light snacks and beverages will be served. For information contact Bob Vincent 523-4335 or Tim Moore 416-0937.

**Angel Trees for Catholic Charities** –Blessed Sacrament will again provide Angel Giving Trees starting this week-end. Please take a tag off the tree and purchase two gifts in the category listed on the tag. Bring the unwrapped gifts back to the church and they will be given to Catholic Charities for distribution. Donations of wrapping paper would also be appreciated . Gifts should be returned to the Lourdes Shrine area of the Church or the Parish Office by December 17th. Thank you for your acts of love and caring.

**Advent Penance Service** for Blessed Sacrament, St. Agnes, and Christ the King Parishes will be held on Thursday, December 19th, 7:00pm, at Christ the King Church.

**Our Christmas Mass schedule is as follows:**

Christmas Eve: 4:30pm (no incense) & 8:00pm

Christmas Day: Midnight, 8:30am & 10:30am

**Our Choirs will begin a Christmas Concert 30 minutes before each Mass.**

**Please note:** Whenever December 8th falls on a Sunday, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception is moved to the next day, December 9th. It is a holy day but the obligation to attend Mass is lifted. Thus the Feast of the Immaculate Conception will be celebrated Monday, December 9th at the regular 8:00am Mass.

**St. Therese Guild** at Little Flower Parish is selling 1#bags of select pecans for \$10 each. You may call Little Flower's Parish office 529-1606 to place your order.

**ADORATION HOURS**

It is good to "have friends in high places." To maintain a friendship you must spend some time with your friend, or the relationship withers like a leaf off a branch. [Hint-Hint]. Where do you go for counsel for the *real* problems in your life? Contact Merle King at 528-6088, or Tom Karaianis at 415-3281, if you want some more information about scheduled adoration, or if you have any questions.

2:00 A.M. SUNDAY	1:00 A.M. FRIDAY
3:00 A.M. SUNDAY	2:00 A.M. FRIDAY
12:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY	2:00 A.M. SATURDAY

**Chiara Center** (on the grounds of the Motherhouse of the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis) invites everyone to the 7th Franciscan Nativity Festival Friday, December 6, 2-7pm, Saturday, December 7, noon-4pm, and Sunday, December 8, noon-4pm. Free and open to the public, the Festival features over 100 international Nativity Sets and a tour of St. Francis of Assisi Church. Chiara Center is located at 4875 LaVerna Road.

Www.chiaracenter.org.

**St. Patrick Catholic School** is seeking a **Part-Time Development Director**. For more information, please contact Anne Capestrain at [annetcap@comcast.net](mailto:annetcap@comcast.net) or Principal Sarah Stanley at [sstanley@st-patrick.org](mailto:sstanley@st-patrick.org).

**Christmas Food Baskets:** Holy Family Food Pantry has sent a list of items that are needed to fill Christmas Baskets for those in need. These lists are available in the vestibule of the church for anyone that is interested.

**K of C Breakfast With Santa Benefit**— An all-you-can-eat breakfast buffet will be held on Sunday, December 8, from 8am until noon at K of C Council 364 located at 2200 Meadowbrook Road. Santa arrives at 9am. The cost is \$8.00 for adults and \$5.00 for kids ages 6-12. All proceeds benefit the Springfield Catholic Schools Scholarships. For questions call 787-2360.

**SHG Annual Christmas Show**—The Mixed Chorus, Encore and Premiere Choirs of SHG will present their annual Christmas Show, "**December Stillness**" on Sunday, December 8 at 5:00pm in Dominican Hall, 1200 West Washington. Tickets do not need to be purchased. A free-will offering will be accepted at the door.

**Christmas Goodie Extravaganza:** The Ladies Society of Sacred Heart Church, Virden will be hosting a Christmas Goodie Extravaganza on Sunday, December 8 in the church hall from 11:30-1:30pm. Cookie walk, crafts and other goodies will be available for purchase.

**Christmas Cookie Walk** and Christmas Gift Gala sponsored by the St. John Vianney Women's Society will be held on Saturday, December 14th from 9:00am until all the cookies are gone at the St. John Vianney Activity Center, 902 St. John Drive in Sherman, IL.

**MINISTRY SCHEDULE****WEEK OF DECEMBER 2-6****Monday-Wednesday****8:00AM –8:20AM**

Elise Antonacci-Haley Londrigan

**Thurs.- Friday**

Maya Dye-Kendra McCubbin

**Saturday, Dec. 7, 4:30PM****Lector:** Melaney Arnold**Servers:** Garrett Mohn, Maggie Haugh, Jesse Nicoletta**Eucharistic Ministers:** Noreen Luhr, Marty Mosley, Janine Feller, Lisa Belz, Rick Campbell, Isabel Figueroa, Rosemary DiNello, Ed Schofield**Sunday, Dec. 8, 7:00am****Lector:** Carolyn Graham**Servers:** Tim Delano, Nick DePooter**Eucharistic Ministers:** Pat Sheehan, Kathryn Gietl, Dave Langston, Phil Graham, Michele Hinds-Greenwood**Sunday, Dec. 8, 8:30 AM****Lector:** Laurie Mann**Servers:** Abby Pohlman, Mary Pohlman, Taylor Pohlman**Eucharistic Ministers:** Colleen VonDeBur, Anne Capestrain, Mark Ushman, Patricia Clarida, Kathy Harth, Bradley Frost, Mike Delvo, Andrew Adams**Sunday, Dec 8, 10:30 AM****Lector:** Cynthia Lamar**Servers:** Emmy Doll, Mikayla Hady, Jacks Hyde**Eucharistic Ministers:** Rose Amon, Jim Morphew, Sally Petrone, Rita Keys, James Keys, Lynn Frasco, Andrea Judd, Joe Stannard, III

**St. Anthony's Greek Orthodox Church**, 1600 South Glenwood will have its **ANNUAL HOLLY FAIR** on Saturday, December 7, from 10am-4pm. Lunch includes gyros, spinach pie, poor boys and vegetable soup. Greek pastries and assortment baskets available. TAKE OUT or DINE IN. For more information, call 522-7010.

**Butler Funeral Homes** –December 5–An Open Door Session on Funerals, Cremation, Cemetery and Advance Planning. People have many questions pertaining to the these matters, as funeral and cremation specialists, Butler Funeral Homes are providing answers in a FREE program which includes an optional tour of their Cremation Tribute Center. Join them for a complimentary breakfast and a brief open discussion, December 5th, 8:30-10:30am. Please reserve your seat by December 2. For reservations or questions please call 544-4646.

**Faustina: Messenger of Divine Mercy**, the moving live production performed by actress Maria Vargo and directed by Leonardo Defilippis of St. Luke Productions, will be presented at St. Aloysius Church, **Wednesday, December 11 at 7:00pm**. The event is sponsored by the Marian Center. The programs runs for 90 minutes and is for ages 12 and up. Admission is a free will offering. For more information contact Lou Ann at the Marian Center 744-3610.

**Building on Tradition**

<b>Cost of Project</b>	<b>\$5,400,000.00</b>
<b>Total Received</b>	<b><u>\$4,813,804.57</u></b>
<b>Balance Remaining</b>	<b>\$ 586,195.43</b>
<b>Amount Received Last Week</b>	<b>\$ 1945.00</b>

**STEWARDSHIP**

*(Time / Talent /Treasure)*

**Parish Collection**

<b>Target Amount</b>	<b>\$23,500.00</b>
<b>Sunday, November 17,2013</b>	<b>\$20,802.00</b>

**ACSA (Annual Catholic Services Appeal)**

2013 ACSA Assessment	\$122,624.00
Amount Pledged (as of 11/05/2013)	\$41,075.00
Amount Remaining	\$81,549.00
11% of our parishioners have contributed to date	