



Parish of the Blessed Sacrament

Sunday,
December 8, 2013

Second
Sunday
of Advent



PASTOR:

Father Jeff Grant
Deacon David Erdmann
Deacon Tom Burns

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SCHOOL OFFICE:

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Office Manager:

Margaret Antenan

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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

Development Director:

Kim Hoffmann

Bulletin Submissions:

Margaret Antenan
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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.

First Sunday of Advent

CELEBRATING THE DAYS

Monday, December 9

- ✧ Confessions before Mass
- ✧ **8:00 AM** Dineen & Cour Family
Albert Cusick

Tuesday, December 10

- ✧ Confessions before Mass
- ✧ **8:20 AM** Jean Amrhein

Wednesday, December 11

- ✧ Confessions before Mass
- ✧ **8:00 AM** Mary Stenger
- 5:30PM Prayer Service**

Thursday, December 12

- Our Lady of Guadalupe**
- Confessions before Mass
- ✧ **8:20 AM** Barbra Steward

Friday, December 13

- Confessions before Mass
- ✧ **8:20 AM** Tim Davlin
Dorothy Corbett

Saturday, December 14

- ✧ Confessions before Mass
- ✧ **8:00 AM** Members of the Poor Souls Shrine
(LATIN MASS)
- Confessions 3:00--4:00pm**
- ✧ **4:30 PM** Elisabeth & Joseph Slonskis

Sunday, December 15, Third Sunday of Advent

- ✧ **7:00 AM** Deceased Members of Arquillio Egizii Family
- ✧ **8:30 AM** Mary Jo Carrino & Deceased members of the Baldoni Family
- ✧ **10:30 AM** Intentions of our Parishioners

Blessed Sacrament Prayer Line

Call Parish Office at 528-7521

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, Sandy, Melanie, Charles McGrath

Dear Parishioners,

Last Sunday, Blessed Sacrament hosted an Advent concert of sacred music under the direction of Jody Kienzler. It featured members of our adult choir as well as members of our youth choirs. The music was superbly performed. Blessed Sacrament is fortunate to have an adult choir and three children's choirs made up of students in grades 4 through 8. This concert gave them a chance not only to hear classical sacred music, but to sing it along with some of Springfield's most talented. Those present can attest to the beauty of the concert.

The adult choir performed an 18th century Magnificat written by Antonio Vivaldi. A little research reveals that Vivaldi was born in Venice in 1678. He was ordained a priest at 25 and sometimes called the red priest (due to the color of his hair). However, his health prevented him from carrying out many duties of priesthood and he was given a dispensation from saying Mass on a regular basis. He taught and wrote music. His success did not really come in his lifetime. He died a pauper in Vienna in 1741. Today, he is considered one of the great baroque composers. A set of four concertos known as The Four Seasons are among the most popular of all classical music performed.

I think it is important that our youth is exposed to such compositions, along with a variety of music, art, and literature. Arts and humanities are what they were called when I was in college and they were required. Many colleges today put aside such studies for "more important and useful" subjects. Yet, such works can give us glimpses of the soul and can reveal the greatness and beauty that God has created in humanity. It would be a shame if our culture was to lose an appreciation for such gifts.

If you enjoy listening to the choirs please know they will be singing for Christmas. The youth choir will sing at the 4:30 Christmas Eve Mass and the adult choir will sing at midnight Mass. There will also be music and singing for the other Masses as well. In each case, a pre-Mass concert will begin 30 minutes before.

Music is an essential part of our Catholic worship. St. Augustine said that when you sing, you pray twice. In other words, it helps to express our hearts to God in a profound way. We are fortunate at Blessed Sacrament to have many talented people involved in our music program. It does indeed add much to our prayer and to the life of our parish.

Fr. Jeff

OUR PARISH FAMILY

Congratulations to our Newly Baptized:
Abigail Marie Veile, daughter of Markus & Janel Veile

Pray for our Recently Departed:
Gregory Kelso

School Notes:!

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 of Marita Child Gospel of Life Essay Contest winners

Sunday, Dec. 15– 1:00pm-First Grade (Mrs. Carter) Christmas program in cafeteria. 3:00pm-First Grade (Miss Vespa) Christmas Program in the cafeteria.

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.

Christmas Wreaths—Our Boy Scouts will be selling 25 inch Christmas Wreaths after all the Masses this 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.

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 .

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.

Please Note: Mass on Thursday, December 12th, will be at 8:20am. This will be an All School Mass.

Galatians Bible Study: This fascinating letter from St. Paul reveals the merciful love that God the Father has for us, his children. It speaks of the extraordinary gift of salvation that Jesus has won for us, and it explains how we can unite ourselves to Christ's redeeming sacrifice through faith and love. Galatians: Set Free to Live, a Jeff Cavins program, will be offered on seven consecutive Tuesday evenings at 6:00pm beginning January 7th in the rectory basement. To reserve your spot, or for more information, please contact Bob or Connie Vincent at 523-4335.

All area eighth graders are invited to SHG on Saturday, December 14 from 8:30am-11:00am for the **PLACEMENT TEST** for incoming freshman. Doors open at 8:00am. Students should enter through the circle drive entrance at 1200 West Washington and bring two #2 pencils and the \$10 testing fee. Calculators are allowed. There will be a PARENT MEETING at 8:30am in the Choral Room where Tuition Manager Becky Jones and Sr. Katherine O'Connor will be available to answer questions.

K of C Breakfast With Santa Benefit– An all-you-can-eat breakfast buffet will be held today, 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.

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, 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](http://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 or Principal Sarah Stanley at 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.

SHG Annual Christmas Show-The Mixed Chorus, Encore and Premiere Choirs of SHG will present their annual Christmas Show, “**December Stillness**” today, 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 today, 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.

Save the Date: Bishop Kevin Vann will be the Keynote Speaker for WDCR Catholic Radio’s Annual Dinner on Tuesday, February 18, 2014 at the Decatur Conference Center. More details later.

Congratulations to the SHG Football Team for winning the State Championship. The following Blessed Sacrament graduates are members of that team: Cody Rutherford, Grant Wallace, Nate Lewis, Brendan Stannard, Gabe Green, Anthony DiNello, Jack Broeker, Sam Bonansinga, and George Jennings.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE**WEEK OF DECEMBER 9-13****Monday-Wednesday****8:00AM –8:20AM**

Tynan Madonia-Francis Vespa

Thurs.- Friday

Gabrielle Njapa-Maggie O’Brien

Saturday, Dec. 14, 4:30PM**Lector:** Jim McDermott**Servers:** Gabe Bonansinga, Nick Broker, Elizabeth DeSalle**Eucharistic Ministers:** Kathryn Gietl, Marty Mosley, Noreen Luhr, Larry Newell, Scott Reimers, Ken Dobucki, Cordelia Moore, Susan Gallagher**Sunday, Dec. 15, 7:00am****Lector:** Judy Kjellander**Servers:** Riley Hinds, Brandon Graham**Eucharistic Ministers:** Phil Graham, Dave Langston, Pat Sheehan, Ann Walker, Jacqueline Shafer**Sunday, Dec. 15, 8:30 AM****Lector:** Tom Karaianis**Servers:** Abby Pohlman, Taylor Pohlman, Mary Polhman**Eucharistic Ministers:** Kathy Harth, Patricia Clarida, Mark Ushman, Anne Capestrain, Colleen VonDeBur, Rick Campbell, Janine Feller, James Dodge**Sunday, Dec 15, 10:30 AM****Lector:** Donna Moore**Servers:** Josh Moore, Joe Moore, Noah Finch**Eucharistic Ministers:** Jim Mophew, Rose Amon, Lisa Belz, Barney Bruzetti, MaryAnn Gorney, Barbara Erdmann, Mary Tuttle, Lila Dilbaitis

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.

Advent Taize' Prayer a common meditative prayer, Sunday, December 15, 6:00pm at St. Frances Cabrini Church. For questions or more information please contact Madonna Jones 741-0193 or e-mail Madonna@stcabrini.dio.org. Please bring a gift of food for the poor.

Living in Love a Retreat Weekend for married couples designed to energize the romance and renew the excitement of Being in Love will be held on Saturday and Sunday, January 18 & 19, at the Chiara Center, 3875 LaVerna Road, Springfield. Cost is \$150 per couple and this includes all retreat materials, meals and overnight accommodations. The retreat includes Sunday Mass and an opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Saturday night. To RSVP, contact Bernadine Smith, at BSmith@dio.org or 321-1139.

Building on Tradition	
Cost of Project	\$5,400,000.00
Total Received	<u>\$4,815,955.07</u>
Balance Remaining	\$ 584,044.93
Amount Received Last Week	\$ 2,150.50

STEWARDSHIP <i>(Time / Talent /Treasure)</i>	
<u>Parish Collection</u>	
Target Amount	\$23,500.00
Sunday, November 24,2013	\$17,603.50
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	