

December

7

2025



PARISH OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

WELCOME!

SACRAMENTS

Baptisms: The next class is on **Wednesday, January 21** 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

Elizabeth Shade, Principal

Esther Edgren,

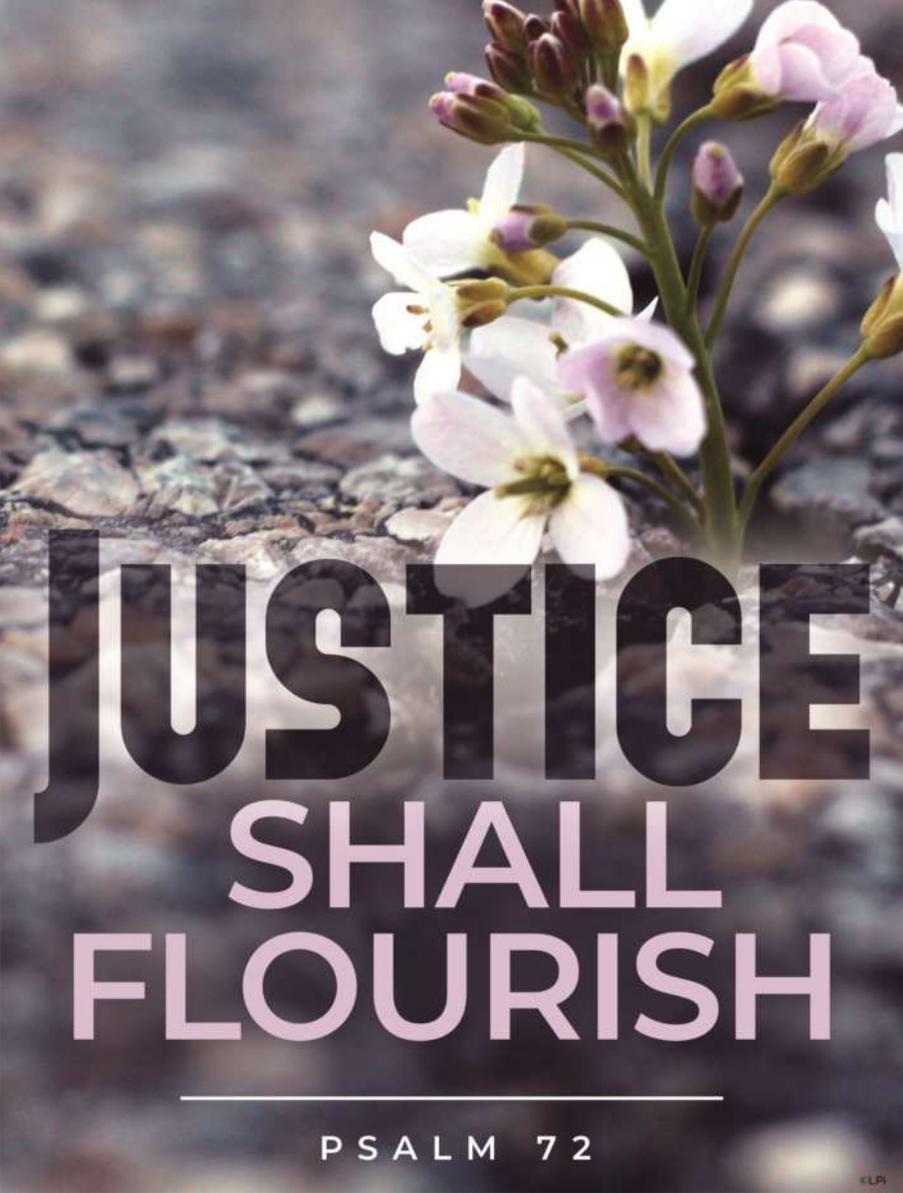
School Administrative Assistant

Michele Hinds-Greenwood,

School Secretary

Jenna Davlin,

Development Director



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Fax: (217) 522-7542

www.bssbruins.org

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, December 8

Confessions before Mass

All School Mass

8:15 am Mass: Tom Schmidt

5:30 pm Mass: For Our Parishioners

Tuesday, December 9

Confessions before Mass

8:00am Mass: Bill & Barb Lehman

Wednesday, December 10

Confessions before Mass

8:00am Mass: Kathleen Davlin

Thursday, December 11

Confessions before Mass

Rosary at 7:45am

8:15am Mass: Poor Souls Shrine

Friday, December 12

Confessions before Mass

8:00am Mass: Ann Gasparovic
Richard Judd

Saturday, December 13

8:00am Mass: Gally Family

3pm - 4pm Confessions

4:30pm Mass: Norene Davlin

Sunday, December 14

7:00am Mass: For Our Parishioners

8:30am Mass: Judy Shea

10:05am Rosary: Blessed Sacrament
Lectors

10:30am Mass: Rosemary Shaughnessy
Robert & Catherine Eck

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

Immaculate Conception

Tomorrow, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. I've found that there's often confusion over what exactly the Immaculate Conception is and refers to—contrary to what many think, the “Immaculate Conception” does not refer to the conception of Jesus in the womb of the Virgin Mary, but rather the conception of the Virgin Mary in the womb of her mother, St. Anne.

The Church has taught this reality from very early on: in the very earliest centuries, it was mostly implicit—by comparison with Eve, Mary was considered the immaculate and incorrupt mother of all the living. Throughout the centuries, though, theologians developed more and more an explicit doctrine of the Immaculate Conception, that to be given the privilege to bear within her in the Incarnate Son of God, Mary would have needed a special grace to be without sin, up to and including *original sin*. This was a special grace given her in anticipation of her Son's death on the Cross, the act which saves all of us (including Mary) from sin.

It was in 1846 that the United States bishops decreed that the US should honor Mary under the title of her Immaculate Conception as the patroness of this country. Some years later, on December 8, 1854, Bl. Pope Pius IX solemnly pronounced it as a dogma of the Catholic faith. The progression of this goes to show that when dogmas are defined, it's always pronouncing something already held sacred by the Church, not drumming up new ideas for belief.

Because of the significance of the Immaculate Conception to our country—namely, that she is our patroness—we always observe December 8 as a Holy Day of Obligation, even when it occurs on a Saturday or Monday, like this year. This is unlike the Holy Days of Obligation on January 1, August 15, and November 1, which usually see the precept to attend Mass abrogated if they fall a day before or after Sunday. Immaculate Conception and Christmas, however, always maintain their precept to attend Mass no matter which day of the week they fall on.

As such, please remember to attend Mass this Monday. Our Mass times are 8:15 am with the school children and 5:30 pm on Monday, December 8. There will be no “vigil” Mass offered on Sunday evening, as any Sunday evening Mass would have to be of the Second Sunday of Advent. If you are unable to go to these times, I believe there are 7 am options at Cathedral and Christ the King and a 12:05 Mass at Cathedral.

Lastly, looking forward to next week, on Sunday, December 14 at 2 pm, Blessed Sacrament is hosting the Advent penance service for the west-side Springfield parishes. If you would like to take the opportunity to go to reconciliation (it's always nice to have a clean soul for Christmas!), we will have eight priests here that afternoon, so it will be the perfect opportunity! I can't encourage you enough to make this important preparation for Christmas, especially if you haven't gone in many years: there's no better way to welcome the Savior than to acknowledge our need for the salvation He brings and to humble ourselves to receive the grace of His forgiveness for our sins. It's a beautiful Sacrament!



Keep spreading joy!

Fr. Friedel



Congratulations to our Recently Baptized
Cooper Samuel John Fulgenzi and McKenna Lynn Fulgenzi, children of Joel and Shannon Fulgenzi

Pray for Our Recently Departed
Lynda Kovarik
Lois Snyder

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.



Save the Date: **Sunday, December 14**, at 2:00pm, we will host the Advent Penance Service for Blessed Sacrament, St. Agnes and Christ the King.

Angel Giving Tree Blessed Sacrament is providing Angel Giving Trees, sponsored by Catholic Charities. Please take a tag off the tree and purchase a gift(s) for a child or two children listed on the tag. Then bring the unwrapped gifts back to the church or church office **by December 12th**. Donations of wrapping paper will be appreciated Thank you for your acts of love and caring.



Feast of the Immaculate Conception is THIS Monday, December 8th. It is a **holy day of obligation**. You have the same obligation to attend Mass as on Sunday. Masses are at 8:15am and 5:30pm.

Planning a Christmas Party? Consider using Scrip gift cards to purchase food! We sell gift cards to County Market and Meijer. Having food delivered? We've got Chipotle, Panera, Papa John's, Pizza Hut and Subway. If you're throwing a party AT a restaurant, we've got Bella Milano and Engrained Brewery. Contact scrip@bssbruins.org to place an order via email.

Angel Tree Idea Why not contribute to Blessed Sacrament School at the SAME TIME as you donate to Catholic Charities? If your Angel Tree wish list includes gift cards, purchase them in the school office during regular school hours and ask them to put it in the Angel Tree envelope. Save yourself a trip to the store and ensure that your gift card is delivered safely!

The **Teacher Salary Support Fund** is specially designated to offset our teachers' salaries by giving them a well-deserved bonus at Christmas each year. The monies donated through the green parish envelopes throughout the year are combined with donations from school families, the PSA and the Men's Club. All donations are allocated to the teachers and staff once a year - at Christmas! Please consider a donation during this school year by submitting the Parish Teacher Salary Support Fund envelope or an envelope on which you designate "Teacher Christmas Bonus Fund" or scanning the QR code by Monday, December 19. Thank you in advance for your support of our hard-working teachers and staff.



Security Updates

We are reaching out to our church families to ask for support in completing an important safety improvement for our students during school Masses. Following the tragic school Mass shooting in Minneapolis earlier this year, we have been working to install panic-door hardware that will allow us to lock the church doors while remaining fully compliant with fire and emergency-exit regulations. After receiving bids, the total cost of this project is approximately \$30,000. We know this request comes at a busy time of year and that our families already give so much, but ensuring the safety and well-being of our students and staff is a responsibility we take very seriously. If you feel called and are able to contribute toward this essential upgrade, we would be deeply grateful for your support.



Make Dinner for Our Priests We need dinner for our three priests on Tuesday and Thursday nights. Please sign up on our website at bsps.org/dinner-for-priests for a specific date. You may drop off the meal at the rectory any time before 5:00 PM. Our priests are VERY appreciative!

A special thanks to our Pastor's Annual Party Chairs, Brittani Newton, Emily Pultro, and their families, for their exceptional dedication and hard work; you truly did a wonderful job! Thank you to everyone who came and celebrated with us as we approach the season of advent.



MINISTRY SCHEDULE

DECEMBER 9 — 12

MONDAY - FRIDAY

8:00 am

Sergiu Cabal and Jonas Croke

Saturday, December 13, 4:30PM

Lector: McKinzie Oshesky

Servers: Jack Bishop, Josetta Kren, Grant Keller

Eucharistic Ministers: Dan and Mary Ellen Bishop, Ian Grosskopf, Kathleen Harth

Sunday, December 14, 7:00AM

Lector: Matt Carroll

Servers: Joseph Bonansinga

Eucharistic Ministers Sally Petrone, Christy Geving, Carrie and Michael O'Brien

Sunday, December 14, 8:30AM

Lector: Clara Ushman

Servers: Nicholas Frevert, Jane Lambert, Damien Njeuha-Njapa

Eucharistic Ministers: George Rudis, Anne Capestrain, William Pittman, Sheri Dhabalt

Sunday, December 14, 10:30AM

Lector: Matt Bensko

Servers: Katie Bensko, George Boesdorfer, Lili Wallman

Eucharistic Ministers: Courtney Benkso, Andrea Judd, Richard Campbell, Joseph Stannard, Lori Criscione

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

The **Diocesan Retirement Fund for Religious** will be taken up next weekend—December 13 and 14. Your generous donations to the Retirement Fund for Religious provide vital financial support, enabling religious communities to care for their aging members. Scan the QR code to give directly; choose Retirement Fund for Religious.



The End is Coming! Consider donating stock as a way to continue supporting Blessed Sacrament. Stock giving allows you to save your cash, avoid capital gains, and maximize your impact. You may also receive a tax deduction for the full value of the gift. Visit our secure stock giving site at dio.org/stock which makes stock giving easy and secure by providing the correct transfer form, helping you fill out the necessary fields, and providing clear instructions for submitting the form to your brokerage. Your financial advisor may also complete the form on your behalf to access necessary account information. For specific questions about how stock giving may impact your personal situation, consult a financial or tax advisor.

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

Weekly Parish Finance Report November 22 to November 28

	AMOUNT RECEIVED	TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS
Loose Collections	\$1,213.00	
Envelope Collections	\$30,441.00	178
Online Giving Collections	\$6,541.53	125
TOTAL COLLECTIONS	\$38,195.53	303
Target Amount	\$25,000.00	

HEAVENLY FATHER, WE PRAY FOR...

Annabella Mellado

Please call the Parish Office to submit a name to the prayer list. Names will automatically be removed after six weeks unless notified.

IF YOU ONLY READ THREE THINGS THIS WEEK:

- Monday, December 8 **IS a Holy Day of Obligation**—Masses are at 8:15 am and 5:30 pm.
- Plan ahead for Christmas—Mass times are posted
- Advent Reconciliation Service on Sunday, December 14.

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