

April  
**12**  
2026



# PARISH OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

## WELCOME!



### SACRAMENTS

Baptisms: The next class is on **Wednesday, April 29** 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

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**McKinzie Oshesky**, Office Manager  
**Janet Vespa**, Finance Manager  
**Lisa Sarnowski**,  
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**Jane Hartman**, Music Director  
**John Langdon**, Maintenance Manager

**Bulletin Submissions:**  
Email: [bulletins@bsps.org](mailto:bulletins@bsps.org)  
Due Monday by noon

### SCHOOL STAFF

**Beth Shade**, Principal  
**Esther Edgren**,  
School Administrative Assistant  
**Michele Hinds-Greenwood**,  
School Secretary  
**Jenna Davlin**,  
Development Director

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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](http://www.bsps.org)

Follow us on Facebook: [bspspi](https://www.facebook.com/bspspi)  
Follow us on Instagram: [bsps1725](https://www.instagram.com/bsps1725)

## MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

### Monday, April 13

Confessions before Mass

8:00am Mass: Poor Souls' Shrine

### Tuesday, April 14

Confessions before Mass

8:00am Mass: Angela & Louis Gietl

### Wednesday, April 15

Confessions before Mass

8:00am Mass: Joe & Betty McCue

### Thursday, April 16

Confessions before Mass

8:15am Mass: Zoe Bartolo

### Friday, April 17

Confessions before Mass

8:00am Mass: Chris & Fran McCue

### Saturday, April 18

8:00am Mass: James "Mac" Graham

3pm - 4pm Confessions

4:30pm Mass: Eleyidath Family

### Sunday, April 19

#### 3rd Sunday of Easter

7:00am Mass: For Our Parishioners

8:30am Mass: Norma Kelly

10:05am Rosary: **Priests who are in crisis**

10:30am Mass: Virginia H. Stannard

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

### The Paschal Candle

One of the great symbols of Easter is our paschal candle. "Paschal," of course, comes from the Hebrew word which means "Passover," the event whose significance becomes the basis for our understanding of the Resurrection; thus, "paschal" in the Church tends to refer to the Easter mysteries: the Passion, Death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The Paschal Candle is a symbol for us of Christ, and more specifically, of the *light* of Christ which comes to us in this glorious moment of His Resurrection. You'll notice that throughout the Easter season, the candle is lit (to remind us of the Resurrection) and placed near the ambo, where the Word of God is read. It's the Church's way of drawing attention to the way the Gospel calls special attention to Christ and, in the Easter season, (you guessed it!) to His Resurrection. Interestingly, the other option for the Paschal Candle's placement, which I've never been gutsy enough to pull off, is to place it directly in the center of the sanctuary. That's right, smack dab in the middle of everything, where its light reminds us of the centrality of the Easter event. Maybe someday...

Besides Easter, of course, the Paschal Candle is lit at two very significant moments of the Christian life: on the day of our Baptism and on the day of our Christian funeral. These two moments form a sort of inclusion of the Christian life—the bookend moments, wherein God calls us His own and then calls us to Himself, we pray, for eternity. Thus, the Paschal Candle very strongly suggests the "Passover" event to us, as Baptism and death are both a sort of "passing over" from one way of life to another.


The Paschal Candle, as you probably know, is blessed at the very beginning of the Easter Vigil, before it is lit and processed into a completely dark Church as the minister cries out "The light of Christ!" and the people cry back "Thanks be to God!" There are a few symbols which, properly speaking, one should always find on the Easter candle (besides the "decorative stuff" that varies from candle to candle); unless you've taken a moment to look closely, perhaps you've never noticed these symbols!

First, there is always a cross, obviously symbolizing the glorious instrument by which Christ chose to destroy our death forever. As well, there is the Alpha and Omega (usually above and below the cross), representing Christ, who is the beginning and the end. You'll also find, usually in the corners of the cross, the year of our Lord in which the candle is blessed. These symbols are traced by the priest before he blesses the candle, as he says the following words: "Christ yesterday and today, the beginning and the end, Alpha and Omega, all time belongs to Him and all the ages, to him be glory and power through every age for ever."

Lastly, you'll notice that the candle always has five "nails" stuck in it in five significant places on the cross: one at each point and one in the center. Each of these wax nails contains a grain of incense, and they represent the five wounds of Christ: the crown of thorns upon Christ's head, the nails in His hands and feet, and the spear thrust into His heart. The priest inserts these grains of incense with the prayer, "By His holy and glorious wounds, may Christ our Lord guard us and keep us. Amen."

As I've always said, there's a reason for everything the Church does! These things might seem like "small potatoes," but I love these little traditions that make our Church Catholic and which, if we know them and let them, speak to us the depth of the mysteries we live in these holy days!

Keep spreading joy!



**Please Pray for Our Recently Departed**  
Robert "Bob" Heisler

Mass will continue to be live-streamed and can be found by going to the parish website at [www.bsps.org](http://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.

Spring has Sprung—and that means...baseball!! Do you need cleats, bats, mitts or baseball pants? Stop by the School Office and pick up Dick's Sporting Goods or Scheels scrip. OR you can special order Adidas, Nike or Under Armour scrip—all of these special order items give an 11-13% rebate back to Blessed Sacrament School! Is your playing career over and you've moved on the spectating? Email [scrip@bssbruins.org](mailto:scrip@bssbruins.org) to find out how to order Stub Hub gift cards—perfect for Cardinals or Cubs tickets.

On behalf of the Mission Partnership committee and the staff at St. Martin DePorres, we would like to thank everyone who gave of their time volunteering during Lent. Your help was greatly appreciated! We would also like to let you know that you are more than welcome to help at St. Martin DePorres anytime. Thanks again for your dedicated service.



**Blessed Sacrament School**

**Monday, April 27 8am to 12pm**

**Donor Bus 748 W Laurel**

If we collect 20 donations, we will earn a grant for our school.  
Please help us meet our goal!

To book an appointment, scan the QR code, contact Jenna Davlin at [davlin@bssbruins.org](mailto:davlin@bssbruins.org), or call ImpactLife at 800-747-5401.



Last date to donate elsewhere and be eligible for our drive: 3/2/2026

Successful donors will receive their choice of an e-gift card, bonus points to the Reward Store, or a donation to a nonprofit.

Can't make it to the Blood Drive?  
Stop by the Springfield Donor Center  
(1999 Wabash Ave) anytime between  
April 19-May 2 & credit!  
Blessed Sacrament School



Bring Photo ID and please eat/hydrate before donating

The Blessed Sacrament School blood drive will take place on Monday, April 27, 2026, from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM at the donor bus located between the church and school.

All successful donors will receive their choice of a gift card (minimum \$20 value), bonus points, or a charitable donation, with the school becoming eligible for a LifeSavings grant if at least 20 donations are collected. Donors are encouraged to self-schedule their appointments online to help reach this goal.

Applications are now being accepted for the Springfield Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (SDCCW) 2026 High School Girl Graduate Scholarship Program! Practicing Catholic girls who are graduating from the 12th grade are eligible to apply! The SDCCW is pleased to award a \$2,000 scholarship to 4 Catholic high school girls who are graduating. This money should be used to further your education in either a community college or university, technical/trade/vocational school, or other non-traditional option. Three required documents (application, essay, and letter of recommendation) must be received by April 15th and sent to Rita Devore, 1006 Shenandoah Avenue, Effingham, IL 62401. In addition, the application must be signed by your pastor. Copies are available online at [www.bsps.org](http://www.bsps.org). For further questions, please call Rita Devore at 217-821-7517. Thank you!

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**Life is more fun if you play games!**

All ladies of the parish are invited to a Game Night on Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>. It will begin at 6:00pm in the school cafeteria. We will start the evening with a short *100 Years of Blessed Sacrament Trivia Game*. Afterwards, we will break into groups where experienced players will teach various games or you can bring a favorite of your own to share.

Come for a break from busy routines to laugh, strategize, and build memories with your parish family.



**SPRINGFIELD CATHOLIC CHARITIES ANNUAL FUNDRAISER**  
**GET YOUR GROOVE ON**  
 Date: April 25, 2026  
 Time: 5:00 – 8:30 p.m.  
 Location: K of C Hall 364 | 2200 Meadow Brook Rd  
 Tickets: \$50 or \$350 for a table of 8  
**50/50 Raffle | Silent and Live Auction**  
**70s Trivia | Costume Contest**

Plan to attend the Catholic Charities annual fundraiser. For more information about this event on April 25 at the K of C Hall, go to [cc.dio.org/events/springfield-2026-annual-fundraiser](http://cc.dio.org/events/springfield-2026-annual-fundraiser). Event is \$50/ ticket or get your seven favorite people and purchase an event table of eight.

**Want to Engage?** The Ushering Group wishes to establish four regular Ushers for each weekend Mass. Basic duties include assisting parishioners with seating, gathering the collections, overseeing the Communion service as well as handing out bulletins at the end of Mass. We have plenty of substitutes, but are seeking committed help for the Regular Usher role. We understand there are weekends of travel, sickness etc.

This is a great way to enhance your engagement at Blessed Sacrament Parish and/or earn school service hours. Contact Lee Bertagnolli at 217-416-4563 this week if you wish to commit.



**MINISTRY SCHEDULE**  
**APRIL 13 — APRIL 17**  
**MONDAY - FRIDAY**  
**8:00 am**  
 Luke Bensko and Marin Oldenburg

**Saturday, April 18, 4:30PM**  
**Lector:** Justin Blandford  
**Servers:** Greta Blandford, Josetta Kren, Haddie Luttrell  
**Eucharistic Ministers:** Noreen Luhr, Joseph Stannard, Rae Marie Davlin, Jill Loveall

**Sunday, April 19, 7:00AM**  
**Lector:** Matt Carroll  
**Servers:** Joseph Bonanasinga  
**Eucharistic Ministers** Christy Geving, Kathy Gietl, Michael and Carrie O'Brien, Ann Walker

**Sunday, April 19, 8:30AM**  
**Lector:** George Rudis  
**Servers:** Annaliese and Andrew Hofner, Natalie Jacobs  
**Eucharistic Ministers:** Sheri Dhabalt, Don and Cathy Scott, Sally Petrone

**Sunday, April 19, 10:30AM**  
**Lector** Cynthia Lamar  
**Servers:** Davontae Wilks, Matthew and Thomas Christie  
**Eucharistic Ministers:** Mary Tuttle, Brittani Newton, Lynn Frasco, Courtney Bensko, Andrea Judd

To obtain a full schedule for ALL Mass volunteers or to VOLUNTEER FOR AN EMPTY SLOT, go to [www.rotundasoftware.com/ministry/blessedssacrament\\_spi](http://www.rotundasoftware.com/ministry/blessedssacrament_spi)

Join us on the evenings of June 23 and June 24 for family fun, food and nostalgia at our 98th Annual Garden Party!

Reminisce on times past when a classic carnival theme intertwined with our faith community.

There will be something for everyone, including an evening of carnival rides, fair food, games, face painting and live music! Bring the whole family to celebrate our wonderful parish and school.



**IF YOU ONLY READ THREE THINGS THIS WEEK:**

- The Garden Party makes its triumphant return—mark your calendars for **June 23 and 24!**
- Tickets are available for the Blessed Sacrament School musical in the school office during regular school hours.
- Put **April 15** on your calendar for the Women’s Club Game Night.

**Weekly Parish Finance Report  
March 28 to April 3**

	AMOUNT RECEIVED	TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS
Loose Collections	\$1,791.00	
Envelope Collections	\$16,208.80	202
Online Giving Collections	\$4,994.17	112
<b>TOTAL COLLECTIONS</b>	<b>\$22,993.97</b>	<b>314</b>
Target Amount	\$25,000.00	

**HEAVENLY FATHER, WE PRAY FOR...**

Kayla Friedel      Mike Blair      Mary Tuttle

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

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

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