



Parish of the Blessed Sacrament

Sunday,
December 15,
2013

Third
Sunday
of Advent



PASTOR:

Father Jeff Grant
Deacon David Erdmann
Deacon Tom Burns

PARISH OFFICE:

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Website: www.bsps.org

SCHOOL OFFICE:

748 West Laurel
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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

Development Director:

Kim Hoffmann

Bulletin Submissions:

Margaret Antenan
Email: mantenan@bsps.org

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 16

- ✧ Confessions before Mass
- ✧ **8:00 AM** James Shea
Gene Costa

Tuesday, December 17

- ✧ Confessions before Mass
- ✧ **8:20 AM** Kathryn Davis

Wednesday, December 18

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

Thursday, December 19

- Confessions before Mass
- ✧ **8:00 AM** Marilyn Mason

Friday, December 20

- Confessions before Mass
- ✧ **8:20 AM** Mary Lois Cole
Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Hildebrand

Saturday, December 21

- ✧ Confessions before Mass
- ✧ **8:00 AM** Ernest Bancroft
(LATIN MASS)
- Confessions 3:00--4:00pm**
- ✧ **4:30 PM** Deceased Members of Sullivan &
O'Connor Families

Sunday, December 22, Fourth Sunday of Advent

- ✧ **7:00 AM** John Davidson
- ✧ **8:30 AM** Terry Spencer
- ✧ **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,

Mary, Did You Know? is a song written by a man named Mark Lowry. It is a reflection on the birth of Jesus. What did Mary know as she held her infant? Could she possibly comprehend the wonderful things he would do? Did she know he would walk on water or that he would cure the blind, the deaf, and the lame? Some may assume she knew. After all, the angel came and spoke to her. He even answered her question as to how could this come about. Yet, the angel didn't go into detail. He didn't tell her about the cross, or the tomb, or the resurrection. She was willing to trust simply what the angel said and she asked no more questions.

Some say these events, told in the first two chapters of Luke, are really a gospel in the Gospel. It is the whole story of Jesus...that is if we understand. For example, the first thing Mary did after giving birth to her baby was to wrap the child in swaddling. That is what mothers did in that time and place. Swaddling are long strips of cloth used to bind the infant from the neck down to the feet. You might even overlook this detail, but did you know that sometimes shepherds would wrap a new born lamb that was to be sacrificed in the same way? It protected the lamb from blemish so that it would be perfect at the time of sacrifice. And did you know the dead were also wrapped in swaddling? When Mary wrapped Jesus that night he was born, I wonder if she knew she would one day wrap him again in preparation for his burial.

Another interesting detail was that after she wrapped her child, she laid him in a manger. A manger is a feeding trough where the animals are fed. Did she know he would be food for others? Did she know what it meant when Jesus said "I am the bread of life?" Did she have any idea that 2,000 years later we would gather at the altar where we are fed on the body and blood of her son. This nourishment would be for eternal life. There are other clues such as the shepherds and angels that hint as to who this child is and what he was sent to do, but on that night, did Mary know?

It may be interesting, but not all that important what Mary knew. Knowledge was not essential for her to love God. What was essential was faith. Mary trusted what had been said to her by the angel. We honor her not for knowledge, but for faith—her complete trust in God. During these days of Advent, I again suggest you read the first two chapters of the Gospel of Luke. As you read it, perhaps ask the question what did Mary know. Like Mary, ponder the mystery of the child she holds. Did you know what he did? Do you know what he is doing now? Do you know what he will do for you in the future? Ponder in your heart this mystery. For like Mary, we may not know, but then, knowledge is not the essential element for our salvation. Trust is. Do we trust God with all we have? Can Mary, the mother of God, show us how to do it? Now there is a question to ponder.

Fr. Jeff

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

Francisco Javier Tejeda, son of Carlos & Elena Tejeda
Brendan Athanasius Lawless, son of Michael & Moira Lawless

Pray for our Recently Departed:

Helen McKennedy
Nell Clark
Helen Wernsing
Cinda Gebben

School Notes:!

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

Thursday, Dec. 19–9:30am-Kindergarten Christmas program

Friday, Dec. 20– 12:30pm-Classroom Christmas parties.

Friday, Dec. 20– 1:30pm-Early dismissal for Christmas break.

Year-End Giving– We are so grateful for the generosity of our parishioners throughout the entire year. During December, many people review their giving and determine that a year-end charitable gift will benefit their tax status for the calendar year. If you wish to make a donation to Blessed Sacrament by making a general parish contribution to the church, or a gift to the School's Annual Fund or to the Building on Tradition Fund, you may drop it into the collection basket during Mass or mail it to the school or parish office. All charitable contributions must be postmarked or received by December 31, 2013 to be included in the year-end statement for tax year 2013.

Save the dates: 7th Annual Unity Run will be held on Sunday, January 26, 2014, the first day of Catholic Schools Week. The three mile run (or walk) through the neighborhood will be followed by light refreshments in the cafeteria. The children's "run" will consist of an obstacle course in the gym prior to the adult event, along with crafts and activities. Registration forms will be inserted into the bulletin during the weekend of January 4th & 5th. Please join us, snow or shine, for some exercise and great fellowship.

Mardi Gras Party to benefit the Annual Fund will be held on Saturday, February 22, 2014 from 7-10pm. Music will be provided by the local band, Black Magic Johnson, and Cajun food, along with assorted beverages will be served. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor for this event please call Kim Hoffmann at 522-7534, ext. 206.

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.

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

Don't forget the Musical portion of the Christmas Eve Masses. There will be 30 minutes of music preceding each Mass; Choirs, instruments and soloists from our Parish.

Save the date: On Thursday, December 26th at 12 Noon, Mark Gifford will present his annual Organ concert. The concert is free and open to the public. This very popular concert of Christmas music will help you continue your Christmas celebration.

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.

Men's Night Out on Thursday, December 19th, at 6:00PM in the school cafeteria. Food and drinks will be provided. Come on out, meet new people and have fun. For more information or questions contact Brian Malloy 971-6872

ADORATION HOURS

The Christmas Mass schedule was presented in the December 8th bulletin. The Blessed Sacrament will be reposed to the tabernacle before the 4:30pm Christmas Eve Mass and returned to the Chapel for Eucharistic Adoration after the 10:30am Mass on Christmas Day.

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.

1:00 A.M. SUNDAY	1:00 A.M. FRIDAY
2:00 A.M. SUNDAY	2:00 A.M. FRIDAY
3:00 A.M. SUNDAY	4:00 P.M. FRIDAY
12:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY	2:00 A.M. SATURDAY

Pope Francis has called an Extraordinary Synod of Bishops to take place in Rome in October 2014 to discuss the topic, "Pastoral Challenges of the Family in the Context of Evangelization." The General Secretary of the Synod of Bishops has invited wide consultation with the faithful on this topic. All parishioners are invited to complete a survey and learn more about the synod by visiting our diocesan website, www.dio.org. Please note that the deadline for responses is December 16, 2013. Your participation is welcome and appreciated.

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.

Angel Trees for Catholic Charities –Blessed Sacrament will again provide Angel Giving Trees. 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.

Save the dates: To commemorate the feast of St. Thomas the Apostle, the 8:00am Latin Mass on Saturday, December 21st will be a Solemn High Mass with Gregorian chant. Also, January, marks the fifth anniversary of the Latin Mass at Blessed Sacrament. To commemorate this anniversary, the 8:00am Latin Mass on Saturday, January 25, the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul, will be a Missa Cantata, with Gregorian chant. Please join us for both of these beautiful and spirit-filled liturgies. Call Sean Dailey with any questions. 725-6006

Just a reminder: There will be **NO 8:00am Mass** on Tuesday, December 24th.

Today, Sunday, December 15th at 6:30pm the Women's Ensemble, *Seraphim* will be singing an Advent/Christmas meditation at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 4875 LaVerna Road. Beautiful music presented in a gorgeous setting. All are welcome. A free will offering will be taken.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE**WEEK OF DECEMBER 16-20****Monday-Wednesday****8:00AM –8:20AM**

Jackie Romer-Nathan Shafer

Thurs.- Friday

Blake Mizer-Jayden Snodgrass

Saturday, Dec. 21, 4:30PM**Lector:** Ed Hart**Servers:** Jack Allen, Alex DeLeon, Monica DeLeon**Eucharistic Ministers:** Lisa Belz, Janine Feller, Colleen VonDeBur, Susan Gallagher, Noreen Luhr, Marty Mosley, Andrea Judd, Isabel Figueroa**Sunday, Dec. 22, 7:00am****Lector:** Mary B. Maloney**Servers:** Brandon Gatewood, Christian Gatewood**Eucharistic Ministers:** Pat Sheehan, Dave Langston, Phil Graham, Kathryn Gietl, Michele Hinds-Greenwood**Sunday, Dec. 22, 8:30 AM****Lector:** Kevin Lust**Servers:** A.J. Lust, Ben Eck, Katie Eck**Eucharistic Ministers:** Mark Ushman, Patricia Clarida, Kathy Harth, Scott Reimers, Larry Newell, Laurie Mann, Mike Delvo, Bradley Frost**Sunday, Dec 22, 10:30 AM****Lector:** Dan Schuering**Servers:** Kyle Ingram, Tyree Redpath, Michael Dailey**Eucharistic Ministers:** Rose Amon, Jim Morphew, James Dodge, Rick Campbell, Cynthia Lamar, James Keys, Rita Keys, Sally Petrone

Catholic Daughters of America, Ct. Madonna #148 will be selling Terri Lynn Trail Mix after all the Masses this weekend, December 14-15. The Trail Mix is in one pound bags that sell for \$7.00. For more information please call Della Santos at 528-4582. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Pax Christi of Springfield will sponsor an Advent Prayer and Gathering on Monday, December 16, at Sacred Heart Convent, 1237 West Monroe. The Prayer Service will begin at 6:30pm and will include a time to reflect and remember those in difficult situations in our world. For more information, contact Susan Eby 652-3567.

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>\$4,823,340.98</u>
Balance Remaining	\$ 576,659.02
Amount Received Last Week	\$ 7,385.91

STEWARDSHIP

(Time / Talent /Treasure)

Parish Collection

Target Amount	\$23,500.00
Sunday, December 1,2013	\$22,678.00

ACSA (Annual Catholic Services Appeal)

2013 ACSA Assessment	\$122,624.00
Amount Pledged (as of 11/05/2013)	\$48,780.00
Amount Remaining	\$73,844.00
11% of our parishioners have contributed to date	