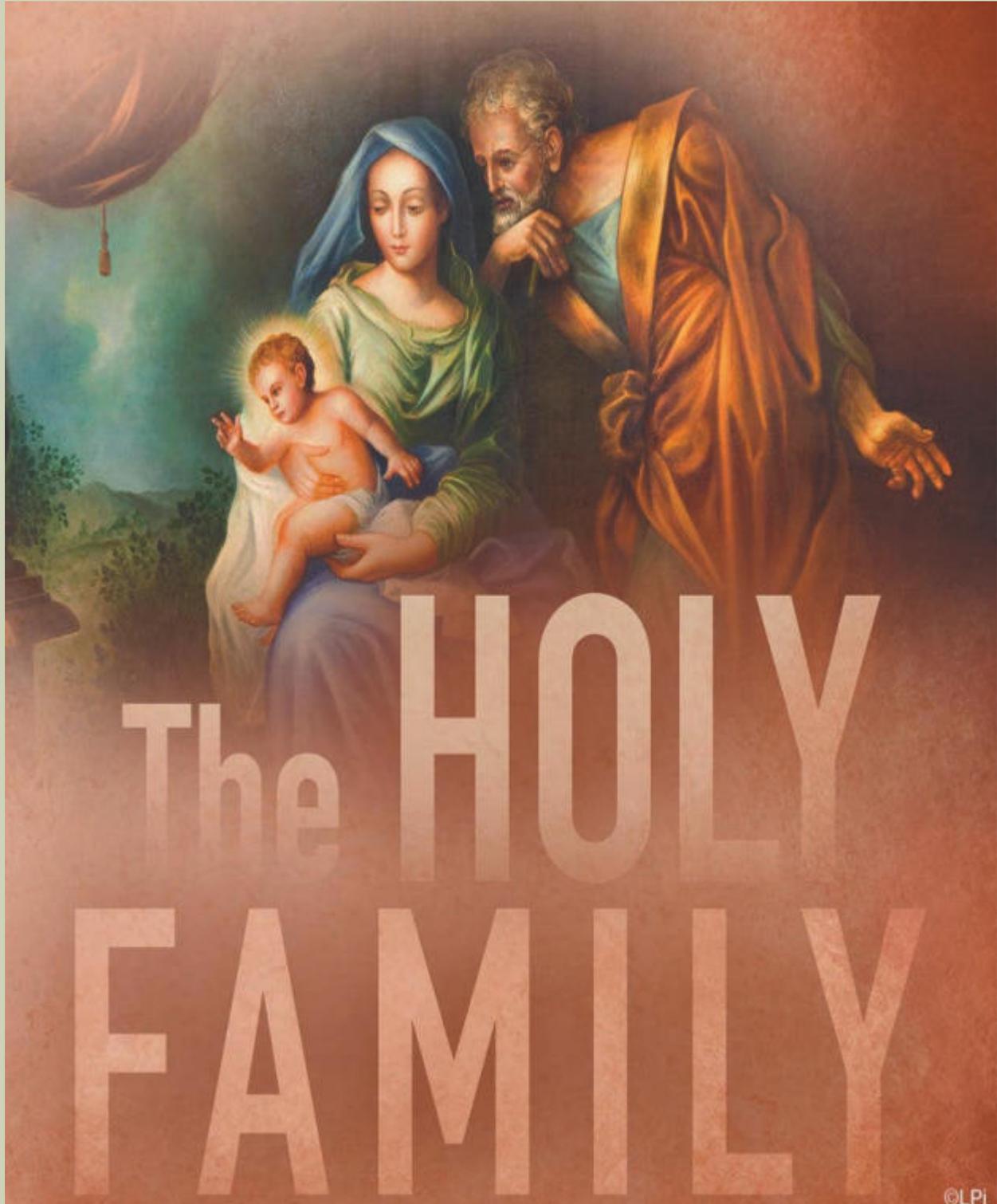


*Welcome to Blessed Sacrament Church*  
*May all who enter as guests leave as friends*

1626 West 26th Street • Erie, PA 16508  
814/454-0171 • [www.bsparisherie.org](http://www.bsparisherie.org)  
December 26, 2021



## Blessed Sacrament Parish Mission Statement

*To nourish our love of God through Jesus Christ under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Centered in the Eucharist, we are developing a faith community through prayer, education, worship and Christian fellowship. As stewards of God's love, we strive to share our gifts and talents for the service of God and all His people.*

### PARISH DIRECTORY

Parish Office 814-454-0171  
 Parish Office Hours:  
 Monday—Friday 7:30am—3:30pm  
 Closed for Lunch 12:00-12:30pm  
 E-mail [dfisher@bserie.org](mailto:dfisher@bserie.org)  
 Website [www.bsparisherie.org](http://www.bsparisherie.org)  
 School 814-455-1387  
 Cafeteria 814-455-7113  
 Prayer Requests 860-6211  
 Bulletin Deadline Monday at noon

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**Jason Bish** [jaybish80@gmail.com](mailto:jaybish80@gmail.com)  
 President of Ushers  
**Mary Jo Fulton** [mjfulton@roadrunner.com](mailto:mjfulton@roadrunner.com)  
 Chairperson of Pastoral Council  
**Carmen Phillips** [carmp2020@outlook.com](mailto:carmp2020@outlook.com)  
 Chairperson of Finance Council  
**Al Smith** [allen.smith@wabtec.com](mailto:allen.smith@wabtec.com)  
 Knights of Columbus  
**Jim Theisen** [webmaster@bserie.org](mailto:webmaster@bserie.org)  
 Webmaster for the parish [www.bsparisherie.org](http://www.bsparisherie.org)  
**Melissa Baldwin** [mbaldwin@eriecatholic.org](mailto:mbaldwin@eriecatholic.org)  
 Webmaster for the school [www.bsschoolerie.org](http://www.bsschoolerie.org)  
**Michael Scalise** [twintek@velocity.net](mailto:twintek@velocity.net)  
 Parish Foodbank Coordinator

If child abuse is suspected call:  
 PA Child Line: 1-800-932-0313

♻️ HEARING DEVICES AVAILABLE  
 & HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE

### PASTORAL STAFF

Father Philip Pinczewski ~ Pastor  
[pastorphil@bserie.org](mailto:pastorphil@bserie.org)  
 Kevin Kunik ~ Permanent Deacon  
[kevinkunik@hotmail.com](mailto:kevinkunik@hotmail.com)  
 Jane Wagner ~ School Principal  
[jwagner@eriecatholic.org](mailto:jwagner@eriecatholic.org)  
 Jennifer Durney ~  
 Facilitator of Religious Education  
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 Kathy Golden ~ Director of Music  
[kgolden@bserie.org](mailto:kgolden@bserie.org)  
 Joyce Wickles ~ Business Manager  
[jwickles@bserie.org](mailto:jwickles@bserie.org)  
 Diane Fisher ~ Parish Secretary  
[dfisher@bserie.org](mailto:dfisher@bserie.org)



Like us on Facebook

## CHURCH SANCTUARY CANDLE

The Church Sanctuary Candle will burn this week in loving memory of Dorothy Fedor from Joe & Laurie Bizzarro.

## SAINT JOSEPH ALTAR

The St. Joseph Candle will burn this week in loving memory of Jean Santone from Buck & Doreen Kirkpatrick.

## CHAPEL SANCTUARY CANDLE

The Chapel Sanctuary Candle will burn this week in loving memory of James Terrizzi, Sr. from Sean & Bernadette Carroll.

## MARRIAGE MOMENTS

Christmas is past, or is it? [Kwanzaa](https://www.officialkwanzaawebsite.org/index.html) which starts on December 26 is an annual celebration of African-American culture. No matter the color of your skin, the themes of Kwanzaa can deepen your love for each other and continue the joy of Christmas. Some of the Kwanzaa themes are Unity, Collective Work, Cooperative Economics, Purpose, Creativity, and Faith. <https://www.officialkwanzaawebsite.org/index.html>

## FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

Today's gospel contains this truth about parenting: "but his parents did not know." One of the reasons parenting is so difficult is because our children don't tell us everything. If the Holy Family had trouble with their teenager, why do we think it will be easier for us?

## MINISTRY SCHEDULE

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 1 @ 4PM

Lector: Rich Moore

Eucharistic Ministers: Patty George, Denise Lif [S]

Altar Servers: **SERVERS NEEDED**

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 2 @ 8:30AM

Lector: Barb Pronko

Eucharistic Ministers: Joe Scalise, Nancy Flaherty [S]

Altar Servers: Isaac Spencer

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 2 @ 11:00AM

Lector: Mary Conti

Eucharistic Ministers: Josh & Erin Rodriguez

Altar Servers: Morbe & Ladule Ladu

## MASS INTENTIONS

*Monday, December 27—Saint John*

**8:00 NO MASS**

*Tuesday, December 28—The Holy Innocents*

**8:00** +Mary DiBello Anderson /Marge Green & Jan Tssario

*Wednesday, December 29—*

*5th Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord*

**8:00** +David Dombrowski / Wife, Bonnie

*Thursday, December 30—*

*6th Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord*

**8:00** +Elsie Danowski / Donald & Florence McLaughlin

*Friday, December 31—*

*7th Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord*

**8:00 NO MASS**

*Saturday, January 1—Mary Mother of God*

**4:00** \*Parishioners of Blessed Sacrament Parish

*Sunday, January 2—Epiphany of the Lord*

**8:30** +Mark Chulick / Kathleen & Family

**11:00** +Margie Walkiewicz / Ann Swahn

**7:30** +Annette Kruszewski / Dr. Dave Kruszewski Family

\* Living

## MASS SCHEDULE

*Daily Mass in the Church at 8am Monday -Thursday*

*On the first Friday of the month...Mass at 8am followed by Eucharistic Adoration 8:30-9:30am*

*Saturday Vigil: 4:00pm*

*Sunday: 8:30am\*\*, 11:00am and 7:30pm\*\**

*\*\*these Masses will be livestreamed on our parish website & our Facebook page*

## RECONCILIATION

*Saturday: 3:00—3:45pm and by appointment*

*Unvaccinated people should wear a face mask.*

*Social distancing is encouraged*

*The priests, deacon & Eucharistic Ministers will continue to wear face masks when distributing Communion.*

## ???QUESTION OF THE WEEK???

**Question for Children:** Why is it important to obey our parents? Why is it important to obey God?

**Question for Youth:** Jesus was obedient to his parents, even though he was the Son of God. Why is obedience so important? Is it something you struggle with?

**Question for Adults:** How are you, too, called to our Father's house?

## SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER

*My Jesus, I believe that you are in the Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I long for you in my soul. Since I cannot receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart, as though you have already come. I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. AMEN*

## *From Our Pastor*



We celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family on the first Sunday after Christmas! This feast day is a reminder to us of the example Mary and Joseph set for all of us in welcoming Jesus into their lives. The Holy Family serves as a model for us all in which to live in faith and simplicity.

In their mutual love and patience to God's will for them, the times of trial, and their total obedience to God's will for them, the Holy Family shows us how to live together in peace.

A theme running through all the Scripture readings today is that it matters how we treat our family members. Be kind. Forgive. Care for one another. Respect. What small actions can you do to communicate love in your family? Who in your family needs support or forgiveness?

When we use the word "holy" sometimes we think that it means perfect. It does not. Not one of us or no family would be able to measure up. Holiness has set us apart for a purpose. We have the chance to learn more about who we are, about our gifts and talents and how these can be used to help others. Holiness is grounding our lives and families in the presence of God.

**Because January 1 falls on a Saturday this year, it is not a holy day of obligation, so there is no requirement to attend Mass. We do not normally have a Saturday morning Mass, nor a vigil mass for a holy day and we will not this year. We will have our normal 4:00PM Anticipated Mass on Saturday, January 1, and 8:30AM 11:00AM & 7:30PM Mass on Sunday, January 2.**

The east side parishes have been conducting an extensive study of how to best configure itself to best meet the needs of the church in the future. The west side pastors met recently to begin a conversation like this as well. One of the elements that affect decisions about how many parishes there will be in the near future is the number of priest personnel available. The Bishop shared that in 2021, our diocese lost 2 active priests; and in 2022 there are 5 priests eligible to retire. These losses will affect the number of priests available for assignments. It was also added that we will begin 2022 with 102 active priests which includes diocesan, religious and "extern" priests (on loan to us.) Currently there are 70 pastors serving 96 parishes. In 10 years, that number decreases significantly, depending on deaths and/or departures. It is estimated that the number of priests will be down to about 60 active priests in 10 years. The bishop reminded us that our Diocese is far behind in planning for the future. I share this not to alarm but to let you know planning is essential for the future. The status quo is not planning. We as a parish and Diocese need to look forward to how we can best be church for the next generation.

Peace, Fr. Phil

**A PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR**

**COMFORT** on difficult days  
**SMILES** when sadness intrudes  
**RAINBOWS** to follow the clouds  
**LAUGHTER** to kiss your lips  
**SUNSETS** to warm your heart  
**HUGS** when spirits sag  
**BEAUTY** for your eyes to see  
**FRIENDSHIPS** to brighten your being  
**FAITH** so that you can believe  
**CONFIDENCE** for when you doubt  
**PATIENCE** to accept the truth  
**COURAGE** to know yourself  
**LOVE** to complete your life

~\*~\*~\*~\*2022\*~\*~\*~\*



**Father Phil, Deacon Kevin and the entire Parish Staff would like to wish you and your family a very Happy, Healthy & Blessed New Year**

The Parish Office will be closed 12/27—1/2.



**KNIGHT'S CORNER**  
**Knights of Columbus After Christmas Coat Drive**

We are collecting **new coats** for children and adults. Boxes will be available at the Church Entrance for your donations starting on Christmas Eve. Thank you in advance for your generosity in helping those who need warm coats for the winter.



**FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY**  
**A PRAYER FOR FAMILIES**

Heavenly Father, You sent Your own Son Jesus to become part of an Earthly family with Mary and Joseph. And so you understand what families face each and every day.

Give families the gift of **JOY**.  
May they find laughter and happiness in the moments shared with each other as they grow together.

Give families the gift of **STRENGTH**.  
May they turn to you in times of struggle and may they know the power of Your love, to help them through their darkest challenges.

Give families the gift of **PEACE**.  
May their lives be free of worry and sadness.  
May they treasure every moment You have given them together. **AMEN**

**WHY DO WE DO THAT?**  
**CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED**  
**Coming Back to Church**

**Question:** I have been away from the Church for a few years and really want to get active again, not so much for me, but for my children. Is this a bad reason to come back to Church?

**Answer:** If you are on your way to the supermarket, and you are forced to detour from your usual route because of road work, does the food you buy taste different? Is the meal less filling? Are the vegetables less tasty? Of course not. In our faith journey, there are many detours called sin. Some are greater than others, some are even a bit longer. But God's grace comes to us in ways we understand and recognize and need. Your children leading you back to the Church is not as important as the fact that you are back.

This is an opportunity for you to renew, strengthen, and deepen your faith. Regardless of how we get to Church, or what draws us closer to God, the fact is we are there. Do what you need to do to get right with God and the Church. Go to confession, begin good family religious practices, and be involved in the ministries your parish offers. Be more than a lukewarm parishioner. Be the kind of Catholic you want your children to be. ©LPi



## GIVING TREE WRAP UP



Well the Parish Office is empty!! For the past few weeks it was overflowing with presents for the St. Martin Center and our Parish Food Bank families. St. Martin Center picked up the gifts last week for the 100 families that we had on the tree. Thank you to everyone who took extra tags so that they could all have a gift or two this Christmas.

The gifts for our Food Bank families were wrapped last Sunday by our Confirmation students as part of their service project. The gifts were all handed out last week to our families. Lots of gift bags and brightly wrapped boxes will find their way under the Christmas tree to so many families who are in need this year. This tradition at Blessed Sacrament is always a success due to your generosity and loving spirit. Thank you for continuing this wonderful tradition.

*Thank You for helping us make someone's Christmas a little brighter!*

## LIVE THE LITURGY INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

It was the best of times and it was the worst of times. Our families can bring out the best and the worst in us. This is true of our families of origin, the current family of which we are a part, the family of our church, our society, and the like. In all of our family experiences, what stands out as our most challenging memory? Everything human can be found on the pages of family life. But there is also a Divine story to be discovered as well. When life gets difficult and perplexing, today's Feast of the Holy Family stands to remind us that it is not just by human effort that we tread treacherous waters. We have to remember and learn from the Divine effort too. We need this perspective if our love lessons are going to be learned completely and well. We are all works in progress and we all come from homes that are broken by imperfection. In whatever life brings us and in whatever family we find ourselves, may the promptings we feel toward faith and hope lead us to greater love. ©LPI

### Family Rules

1. Always be honest *Proverbs 12:22*
2. Count your blessings *Psalms 34:1-3*
3. Forgive and forget *Micah 7:18*
4. Be supportive of one another *Acts 20:35*
5. Be kind and tenderhearted *Ephesians 4:32*
6. Keep promises *Romans 4:21*
7. Comfort each other *1 Thessalonians 4:18*

**Special retreat for engaged couples** Engaged couples are invited to attend an Engagement Encounter January 28-30. Engagement Encounter is a restful retreat designed to provide a meaningful environment for deepening the conversations and habits necessary in a happy, holy, and lasting marriage. Here is what a past participant had to say: "I cannot thank you enough for an amazing experience this weekend. My fiancé and I will never forget it and all of the special moments." Learn more or register at <https://www.eriesd.org/familylifeoffice/ee.html>.

*We would love to welcome you this January!*

**FACE MASKS** are required in the School and/or Parish Offices. All students, teachers and staff are required to wear them. There will be extra masks if you forget one! We are doing this due to the increase in the number of Covid cases and to keep everyone safe. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

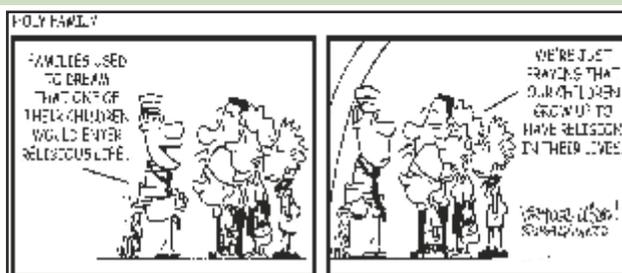
### SCHOOL SUPPORT ENVELOPE

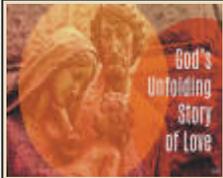
In your envelope packet is a goldenrod colored School Support envelope. The donations from this envelope will aid the parish to achieve our past due assessments toward supporting Blessed Sacrament School. Anything you can do to help is appreciated. Currently each month the parish pays approximately \$12,000 towards this past due amount and our current assessment.



### COMFORT IN GOD'S ARMS PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

We have shawls available to take to your loved ones who need to feel the comfort of God's arms around them. If you or someone you know would like a prayer shawl or would like to join our group, please contact Linda at (814) 490-8022. There is no charge for the shawls. Our Ministry is glad to provide comfort and prayers for your loved ones in need.





**GOSPEL MEDITATION -  
ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE  
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph**

Families can be very difficult things to negotiate. This is true not only of our families of origin, the current family of which we are a part, the family of our Church, our society, and our global family as well. Everything human can be found in family stories. Those stories speak of wonderful life-giving successes as well as painful spirit-robbing abuses. Our greatest joys and our greatest wounds are usually connected with the experience of family. Our needs, experiences, and unresolved baggage often color what we bring to our familiar relationships. They contribute to our level of defensiveness, how guarded and protected we become, and what prejudices we believe.

In order to break the cycle of dysfunction we have to remember that it is not only by human effort that we negotiate the difficult and challenging events of our lives. There is a Divine Effort at work as well. For sure, the human effort can create quite a mess and easily destroy lives. This is true of any family with which we are associated. Today's Feast of the Holy Family serves to help us understand that there is a Divine Story being told as well. It is a story of perseverance in the face of hardship, determination in the face of despair, healing when we see nothing but wounds, and light where there is darkness.

Do we believe that God is always working, guiding, restoring, and leading? Unless we do, we will never be free from the imperfections and wounds that bind us and never be able to understand what it really means to forgive. Pope Francis tells us that the "light which comes from the Holy Family encourages us to offer human warmth to other families." While this is most certainly true, we can only really begin to do this when we realize that we are still works in progress, not anchored to the wounds and sins of our past, and still a leading star in God's continually unfolding story of love. The Holy Family persevered and radiated warmth because they knew they were not alone. We can too. ©LPi

**EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS  
All in the Family**

At first glance, we can often find the image of the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph and the Christ Child intimidating — who are we to aspire to that level of discipleship? How could we ever hope to conform ourselves to that mold? Sometimes, it can even be painful — perhaps we hail from a broken family or struggle with a broken relationship within our family, or perhaps we long to be a mother or a father ourselves and that state in life has eluded us.

But the image of the Holy Family is, in reality, a beautiful invitation to us all, no matter our vocation or our state in life, and the example of Mary, Joseph and Jesus is rich with the symbolism of stewardship.

You need not be a biological mother who has carried a child in her womb to be a mother in spirit. Who in your world needs you to love them with the heart of a mother?

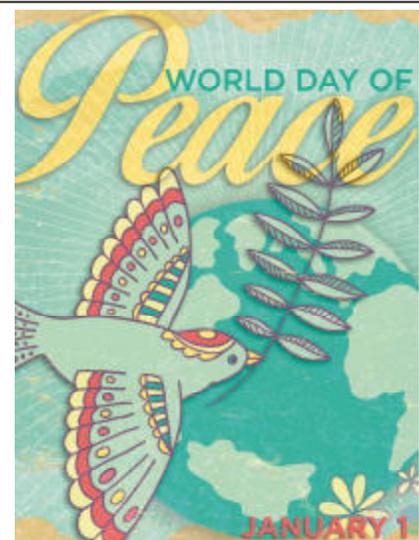
The same goes for fatherhood. The Church and the world are crying out for the courageous witness of Christian men like St. Joseph. Who can you love with the steadfast, selfless protection of a father?

Who in your life needs you to love them with the faithful, unconditional love of a son? Who needs your gentle and constant love as a daughter?

We are the Body of Christ, friends. Those of us rejoicing in heaven, those of us suffering in purgatory, and those of us struggling here on earth. We are the great family. Let us love each other well. — Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi

**Readings for the week of December 26, 2021**

Sunday:	Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1]/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:41-52 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 [cf. 5a]/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52
Monday:	1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 [12]/Jn 20:1a, 2-8
Tuesday:	1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/Mt 2:13-18
Wednesday:	1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a]/Lk 2:22-35
Thursday:	1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [11a]/Lk 2:36-40
Friday:	1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13 [11a]/Jn 1:1-18
Saturday:	Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [2a]/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21
Next Sunday:	Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12



**\$\$\$\$\$ RAISE THE ROOF LOTTERY \$\$\$\$\$**

12/13 #476...#477...#475 no winners  
 12/14 #678..#679 no winners..#677 Dan Tempestini \$10  
 12/15 #262...#263...#261 no winners

**JANUARY TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE**  
 \$5 per ticket 93 chances to win this month

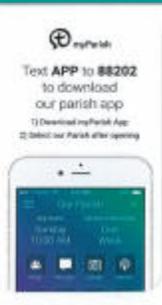
*If you want tickets, call Diane in the Parish Office at 454-0171 or send an email [dfisher@bserie.org](mailto:dfisher@bserie.org) and leave a message with your choice of numbers.  
 We appreciate your support.*

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION** Just a reminder that classes will start on Sunday, January 9th @ 9:30am for grades 7 through 10. If you have not yet registered your child(ren), please send in your registration forms to the parish office prior to the start of classes. If you have any questions or need a registration form, please email Jenn Durney at [jdurney@bserie.org](mailto:jdurney@bserie.org) or call her at the Parish Office at 454-0171.

**Keep informed about what is going on in our parish**

**Text APP to 88202 to download our parish app to your cell phone. Select our parish after opening.**

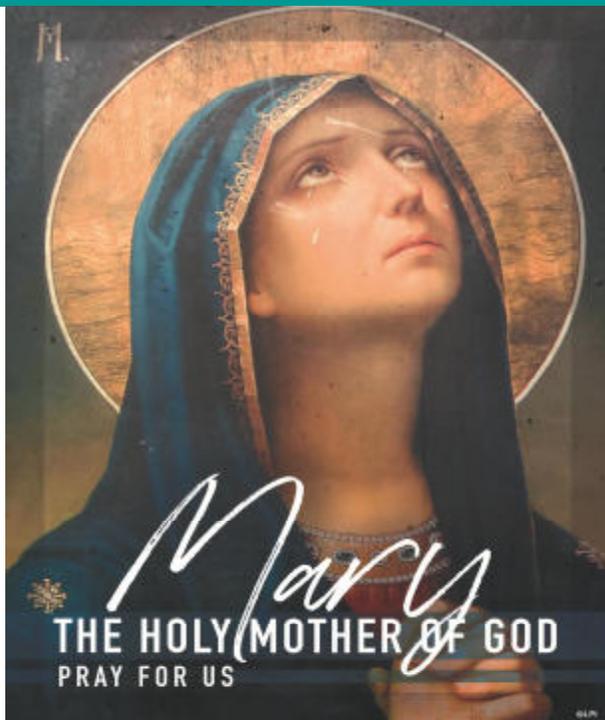
**Bulletins are also posted online on our parish website: [www.bsparisherie.org](http://www.bsparisherie.org)**



**31 CLUB Pray for Vocations**

- December 27 Barb Pronko, Steve Falk
- December 28 Mary Ann Tempestini, Roberta Lucchetti
- December 29 Pam Moore
- December 30 Terry Shannon, Rose Marie Knepper
- December 31 Uta Smith
- January 01 Mary Jo Fulton
- January 02 Sue Shannon, Frank Tokarczyk

Members of the 31 Club agree to go to daily Mass **and /or** offer prayers on a particular day every month for an increase of vocations to the Church. One of the best ways to increase vocations is through prayers, and the greatest prayer we have is the holy sacrifice of the Mass. *Please call the Parish Office if you want to be in the 31 Club and experience the satisfaction that comes from helping to fulfill a great need in the Church. We have openings on three different days, but you can pick your own date too!*



## First Fridays

for Families

# Families

Join Blessed Sacrament parish during the 2022 year in a unique prayer experience!

**Every First Friday of the month, we will offer a guided Eucharistic Adoration program geared toward children and families of all ages on Friday evening at 6pm.**

Everyone is welcome to this experience to be with Jesus in a very real and unique way.

### 2022 Schedule

January 7th	July 1st
February 4th	August 5th
March 4th	September 2nd
April 1st	October 7th
May 6th	November 4th
June 3rd	December 2nd

Contact Jen Durney, [jdurney@bserie.org](mailto:jdurney@bserie.org), with any questions

**Sunday, December 26, 2021****FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH Bless the children**

Holy families aren't necessarily picture-perfect. But they are faithful and consistent in their values and goals. Like Mary and Joseph and biblical parents before them, holy families consecrate their children early and often to the care of God. They do this by baptizing them and seeing to their sacramental preparation. They do this by praying for and with their little ones. They provide them a religious education and share faith-filled practices of compassion and charity. All the children in our lives look to us for love and acceptance, guidance and Christian example. Teach the children well.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14; Colossians 3:12-21; Luke 2:41-52 (17A); or 1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28; 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24; Luke 2:41-52 (17C).* "Once the child is weaned, I will take him to appear before the LORD and to remain there forever."

**Monday, December 27, 2021****FEAST OF JOHN, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST He lived to tell the tale**

John the Apostle is credited with being the author of the Gospel of John. He is also believed to have been the "Beloved Disciple" of Jesus mentioned in that gospel and is presumed to have outlived the other apostles, perhaps being the only one to die of natural causes rather than martyrdom. Imagine being the last survivor, and the heartache he endured on losing his peers to violent deaths for their faith. Perhaps it was John's job to live to tell the story—"that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name"—as he says in his final line. Take John's mission to heart and embrace his good word today.

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 John 1:1-4; John 20:1a, 2-8 (697).* "Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed."

**Tuesday, December 28, 2021****FEAST OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS Children deserve protection**

Nowadays when we think of Christmas pageants, we envision adorable children in bathrobes dressed as shepherds. But in the Middle Ages, religious pageants were a serious business. The whole community gathered to enact mystery plays that told the stories of birth, death, resurrection, and the lives of the saints. It's from such a mystery play that we get the haunting words and melody of "The Coventry Carol"—a song about King Herod's slaughter of the Holy Innocents that asks plaintively, "What may we do to preserve . . . this poor youngling for whom we sing?" Pray today for children who continue to suffer and face certain death without our help.

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 John 1:5—2:2; Matthew 2:13-18 (698).* "A voice was heard in Ramah, sobbing and loud lamentation; Rachel weeping for her children."

**Wednesday, December 29, 2021****FIFTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF NATIVITY OF THE LORD; MEMORIAL OF THOMAS BECKET, BISHOP, MARTYR Choose God**

Everyone must at times make the choice of serving God or something less. Today we remember Saint Thomas Becket, bishop of Canterbury. Thomas was faced with such a dilemma when his friend the king, Henry II, continuously tried to interfere with church matters. Allowing the king to interfere with the church would have allowed Thomas to be in the king's good graces. Instead, Thomas chose to serve God above anything and anyone else, even at the cost of martyrdom. "When is constancy required," Thomas writes, "except under persecution. Are not friends then proved? If they always yield, how can they ever succeed? They must, one time or other, make a stand."

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 John 2:3-11; Luke 2:22-35 (202).* "And you yourself a sword will pierce so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."

**Thursday, December 30, 2021****SIXTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD Take your time to absorb Christmas**

Today we continue as a church to honor the feast of our Savior's birth. It is day six in the octave of Christmas—the eight-day liturgical focus on the birth of Christ. The entrance of the Christ into human history is such a significant event that the church notes its magnitude by keeping our gaze on it through the specified readings, psalms, and prayers during these eight days. Take a moment today to allow the wonder of God-among-us to continue to sink in.

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 John 2:12-17; Luke 2:36-40 (203).* "She gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem."

**Friday, December 31, 2021****SEVENTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD Out with the new, in with the old**

The end of the year gives us pause to reflect on the past and change for the future. Typically, we find something new to embrace or resolve to do. But if it's true that there's really nothing new under the sun, then perhaps we should look to the old! This is exactly what the church does, as it moves into the new year, not with any newfound epiphany, but instead with a commitment to the very old-school value of peace. As we anticipate the World Day of Peace tomorrow, January 1, what are some deeply held and long-standing values that you would like to deepen during the coming year? How might you go old school?

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 John 2:18-21; John 1:1-18 (204).* "In the beginning was the Word."

**Saturday, January 01, 2022****OCTAVE DAY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD; SOLEMNITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD; WORLD DAY OF PEACE Rocking with Mother Mary**

People in every age have their particular way to celebrate the new year. These days we might change old eating habits to be healthier; get on track financially; spend more time with family. But maybe this year it could be about what young Catholics refer to as "rocking with Mary," that is, getting to know the mother of Jesus on a deeper level. Understanding her courage, strength, and faithfulness can help us realize our own potential as bearers of the Good News. On her feast day and in the days ahead, reflect on Mary and strive to imitate her in bringing Good News to the world.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Numbers 6:22-27; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:16-21 (18).* "And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart."

*Daily renewal for busy Catholics. Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow a day at a time.*



**PARISH FAMILY**

Pray for all those in our parish family who are hospitalized, ill, homebound and in nursing homes as well as those who care for them.

Pray for members of the military.

Pray for peace in our country and for God’s protection and guidance over our country.

Pray for those who have suffered the experience of abuse, may they find through Christ’s presence, deep healing and peace.

Baptized into the Christian Community through the waters of Baptism:

**NOLAN ARTHUR KOTYUK**

Son of Joseph and Rachel [Blum] Kotyuk

and

**VINCENT MATHEW SANTONE**

Son of Brennan and Mercades [Nessa] Santone

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for

**EDWARD OLSZEWSKI**

The prayers and sympathy of the Parish Family was extended to his family. May he rest in peace.

**Blessed Sacrament School is Hiring**



Blessed Sacrament School is searching for a middle school English Language Arts teacher.

We are also in need of a **before care worker** on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. We also need an **after care worker** on Fridays.

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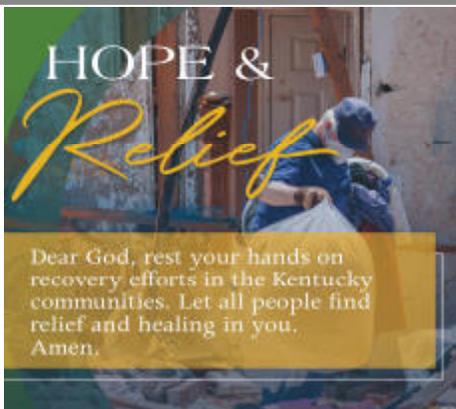
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- Enjoy and celebrate your faith.



Dear God, rest your hands on recovery efforts in the Kentucky communities. Let all people find relief and healing in you. Amen.



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