



# St Joseph Bradley Religious Education



February 2026

*Our prayers and hearts continue to be with  
Annunciation Catholic Church.*



## February



### February: A Month Dedicated to the Holy Family

February is dedicated to the Holy Family and invites us to reflect on the importance of family life in our Catholic faith. It is a time to renew our commitment to living out our baptismal promises in our homes and in our parish community.

At Baptism, parents promise to raise their children in the Catholic faith. This means that parents become the first and most important teachers of faith for their children. Through daily life—prayer, forgiveness, love, service, and example—children learn who God is and how He is present in their lives.

The Church reminds us that parents have both a privilege and a responsibility to share the faith with their children. A home rooted in love, patience, respect, and forgiveness prepares children for a lifelong relationship with God and helps faith grow strong throughout their lives.

As a parish community, it is our honor to partner with you in this sacred responsibility. We recognize that parents are the most influential witnesses of faith their children will ever know. Our role is to support, encourage, and walk alongside you as you raise your children to know, love, and serve Christ.

Together, as families and parish, we continue this journey of faith—guided by the example of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. **XOXO**

**SUNDAY 02/01/2026**  
TEEN BIBLE STUDY 5 PM-6:15 PM  
MINISTRY CENTER



**SUNDAY, 02/08/26**  
YOUTH/FAMILY MASS 11:00 AM FOLLOWED BY  
DONUT SUNDAY  
CONFIRMATION CANDIDATE/SPONSOR SESSION  
(ALL CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES REQUIRED)  
SCOUT SPONSORED SUNDAY



2 PM PWD MASS /3 PM PWD SOCIAL



**WEDNESDAY, 02/11/26**  
RE SESSION K-8  
5:30 PM-6:45 PM PARISH HALL/GYM



**SATURDAY, 02/14/26**  
KNIGHTS TRIVIA NIGHTS 7 PM



**SUNDAY, 02/15/26**  
CONFIRMATION RETREAT 2026  
10:30 AM - 4:30 PM



**TUESDAY, 02/17/26**  
KRISPY KREME "FAT TUESDAY" FUNDRAISER



**WEDNESDAY, 02/18/26**  
RE SESSION K-8  
5:30 PM-6:45 PM PARISH HALL/GYM



ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES- 7 AM, 8:30 AM, 12 NOON(SERVICE), 5:30 PM



**SATURDAY 02/21/26**  
FAITH BUDDIES  
9:30 AM - 11 AM  
MINISTRY CENTER



**SUNDAY, 02/22/26**  
TEEN BIBLE STUDY 5 PM-6:15 PM  
MINISTRY CENTER



**TUESDAY, 02/24/26**  
RE CULVER'S DINNER NIGHT 5 PM- 8 PM



**WEDNESDAY, 02/25/26**  
RE SESSION K-8  
5:30 PM-6:45 PM PARISH HALL/GYM  
RECONCILIATION RETREAT FOR ALL 1ST SACRAMENT STUDENTS



**THURSDAY, 02/26/26**  
BULLS NIGHT WITH YOUTH MINISTRY!  
GAME TIME 7 PM  
CHICAGO BULLS VS. PORTLAND TRAIL BLAZERS GAME  
UNITED CENTER, CHICAGO



BE A SWEETHEART AND PLEASE  
JOIN US AT THE PWD MASS AND  
SOCIAL  
FEBRUARY 8ND @ 2PM  
TO ASSIST WITH THE ACTIVITIES



Teen Bible Study  
Feb 1, 22



Youth & Family Mass/ Donut Sunday  
SCOUTS SUNDAY  
Confirmation Sponsor Sunday  
Feb 8



Confirmation Retreat  
Feb 15



Fat Tuesday Fundraiser  
Feb 17



Ash Wednesday  
Feb 18



Fundraiser  
Feb 24



First Reconciliation Retreat  
Feb 25



# Month of the Holy Family

## Learning from the Holy Family

The home of Nazareth was where Jesus learned how to live and love.

It teaches us important lessons for our own families. A lesson of silence: The Holy Family knew how to be quiet and listen to God.

Silence helps us hear God in our hearts. A lesson of family life: Mary,

Joseph, and Jesus loved one another deeply. Their home was

simple, loving, and centered on God. Our families are meant to be

places of love, respect, and care. A lesson of work: Jesus grew up in

the home of a carpenter. Work is important and helps us serve God

and others. The Holy Family prayed together every day. They prayed

the Psalms and special prayers that reminded them God was

always with them. They even touched a small Scripture on their door

when coming and going to remember God's Word. Most importantly,

they prayed not only with words—but with their whole lives.

Everything they did was done with love for God. Our homes can be

like Nazareth when we pray together, love one another, work hard,

and remember God each day.

## Saints Feast Day Of January

St. Blaise and St. Ansgar (February 3),

St. Agatha (February 5),

St. Scholastica (February 10),

Our Lady of Lourdes (February 11),

Sts. Cyril and Methodius (February 14),

Seven Founders of the Orders of  
Servites (February 17),

St. Peter Damian (February 21),

Chair of St. Peter (February 22),

and St. Polycarp (February 23).

love you!

### LIVING LIKE THE HOLY FAMILY

IN FEBRUARY, WE THINK ABOUT THE HOLY FAMILY—  
JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH—AND TRY TO LIVE LIKE THEY  
DID IN OUR OWN FAMILIES. HERE ARE SOME EASY WAYS

#### TO DO THAT:

ASK THE HOLY FAMILY FOR HELP: YOU CAN ASK JESUS,  
MARY, AND JOSEPH TO HELP PROTECT YOUR FAMILY AND  
GUIDE YOU EACH DAY.

PRAY TOGETHER: SAYING SPECIAL PRAYERS ABOUT THE  
HOLY FAMILY HELPS US LEARN HOW TO LOVE, BE  
PATIENT, AND CARE FOR ONE ANOTHER.

GO TO MASS AS A FAMILY: GOING TO MASS TOGETHER  
REMINDS US THAT JESUS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PART  
OF OUR HOME.

READ BIBLE STORIES: STORIES ABOUT JESUS GROWING UP  
—LIKE WHEN HE WENT TO THE TEMPLE WITH HIS PARENTS  
—TEACH US HOW TO LISTEN, TRUST GOD, AND OBEY.

**Consecration of the Family to the Holy Family**  
Lord Jesus Christ, Who, being made subject to  
Mary and Joseph, hallowed domestic life by Your  
ineffable virtues; grant that we, with the  
assistance of both, may be taught by the example  
of Your holy Family and may attain to its  
everlasting fellowship; Who lives and reigns world  
without end. Amen – Roman Missal

The Holy Father's Intentions for the Month of February 2026  
For children with incurable diseases.

Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases  
and their families receive the necessary medical care and  
support, never losing strength and hope.



THANK YOU does not adequately express our gratitude  
to all of our Catechists and volunteers  
who share their time, faith and love for Christ  
with our children & families!  
Without them we could not have an RE program!  
May God continue to bless them for their generous spirits!



Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. Lent is the forty days (excluding Sundays) leading up to Easter. The number forty is significant as it refers to Jesus' forty days in the desert prior to beginning his ministry of teaching.

On Ash Wednesday, Catholics and some other Christian denominations receive ashes in the shape of a cross on their forehead or sprinkled on top of their head. These ashes are created from the palms used during the previous year's Palm Sunday Mass. They symbolize penance, which is appropriate as Lent is a season of penance, and remind us of our own mortality.

During the Mass, as the priest or lay minister applies the ashes, he says "Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return." Anyone who attends a Mass can receive ashes, not just practicing Catholics.

Ashes have a place of prominence throughout the Old Testament. They are an outward sign of an internal state of penance or mourning. You can find some scriptural references below:

"Therefore I disown what I have said, and repent in dust and ashes." - Job 42: 6

"Daughter of my people, dress in sackcloth, roll in the ashes." - Jeremiah 6:26

"I turned to the Lord God, to seek help, in prayer and petition, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes." - Daniel 9:3

"When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, laid aside his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. Then he had this proclaimed throughout Nineveh: \* "By decree of the king and his nobles, no man or beast, no cattle or sheep, shall taste anything; they shall not eat, nor shall they drink water. Man and beast alike must be covered with sackcloth and call loudly to God; they all must turn from their evil way and from the violence of their hands." - Jonah 3: 6-8

And the practice continued after the coming of Jesus. The practice of public penance was common in the Early Church. After making a confession a person would receive ashes on his head from the priest. The practice of using ashes to mark the beginning of Lent is first recorded during the time of St. Gregory the Great. The Gregorian

Sacramentary has the earliest known record of it, then called the "Day of Ashes." Pope Urban II recommended the practice be used universally throughout the Church in 1091.

#### Renewing Our Baptismal Promises

After reading, families are encouraged to pray together:

Do you reject sin,  
so as to live in the freedom of the children of God?  
I do.

Do you reject the glamour of evil,  
and refuse to be mastered by sin?  
I do.

Do you reject Satan,  
father of sin and prince of darkness?  
I do.

Do you believe in God, the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth?  
I do.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was born of the Virgin Mary, suffered death and was buried,  
rose again from the dead, and is seated at the right hand of the Father?  
I do.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and life everlasting?  
I do.

Ash Wednesday is a great day to reflect on how you can grow spiritually throughout the Lenten season. Set aside 15 minutes to think about how you can embrace prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Is there a daily prayer, like the rosary or Morning Offering, that you want to start? Can you go to Daily Mass at least once a week? When did you make your last Confession? What habits or indulgences can you resist for forty days? Is there a charity or nonprofit organization close to your heart that you can either donate to or volunteer with? Focus on one or two things you can really commit to and ask God to help you grow powerfully this season. You'll be amazed at the outcome!

God's peace & blessings.

Brenda McLean & Sandra Jefferson

Religious Education / Youth Minister Coordinators

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**COMING  
SOON!**

## March\*

- 8 Youth & Family Mass/ Donut Sunday 11 am  
Confirmation Sponsor Sunday
- 11 RE Session K-8 5:30-6:45 pm
- 12 First Reconciliation
- 18 RE Session K-8 5:30-6:45 pm
- 21 St Joseph Table 5 pm
- 22 Confirmation Candidate countdown to  
Confirmation Sunday, 3 pm-4:30 pm

**SUPPORT OUR PARISH GROUPS  
LEND A HAND  
AND/OR SPREAD THE WORD!**

Please check the church bulletin and social media platform for more information other upcoming parish events



Teen Bible Study  
March 1, 15



Take an ACTIVE part of the next  
Youth & Family Mass  
Confirmation Sponsor Sunday  
Sunday, 03/08/25



Thursday, 03/12/2025  
First Reconciliation  
@6:00 pm



Confirmation Candidate countdown to  
Confirmation Sunday, 03/22/26  
3 pm-4:30 pm



Bundt Cake pickup  
03/28/26  
10 am-12 pm



Parish Easter Egg Hunt  
03/29/26  
12:15 pm-2 pm



## February Family Faith Activities

Feb. 2 - Presentation of the Lord

Light a candle in a window to remember Jesus as the Light of the World. Talk about Mary and Joseph bringing Jesus to the Temple. Pray for widows and those who feel alone.

Feb. 8 - Super Bowl Sunday

Create a family Saints Team. Each person picks 2-3 favorite saints. During commercials, share why you chose them. Pray to your saints throughout the year for guidance.

Feb. 11 - Our Lady of Lourdes

Share the story of Mary appearing to St. Bernadette. Pray the Rosary together. Place flowers by an image of Mary and pray for the sick.

Feb. 18 - Ash Wednesday

Prepare for Lent by cutting 40 purple paper squares. Write the names of people to pray for and place them in a basket. Choose one name each day and pray for that person. Turn off screens for quiet time. As a family, choose one Lenten sacrifice and pray for peace in the world.

First Two Weeks of Lent

Pray together about ways to grow closer to Jesus and ask for help with things that are hard.

All February

Remember and thank women religious. Share stories of how Sisters have helped your family. Consider sending a card or a prayer of thanks.

Share stories about how they helped your family.

Make cards or say prayers to thank them.

 **FAMILY NIGHT WITH YOUTH  
MINISTRY!**



**St. Joseph Youth Ministry is sponsoring a fun night out at a Chicago Bulls game on Thursday, February 26 at 7:00 PM, as they take on the Portland Trail Blazers.**

More details coming soon—we hope you'll join us!



**Bulls Night with Youth Ministry**

Please review the available slots below and click on the button to sign up. Thank ..

[signupgenius.com](http://signupgenius.com)

The poster features a festive Easter theme. At the top, a string of colorful bunting flags (blue, orange, pink) is interspersed with several decorated Easter eggs. The background is white with stylized blue clouds. The main title 'EASTER EGG HUNT!' is written in large, bold, purple capital letters. Below the title, a pair of large, white bunny ears with pink interiors is positioned in a field of green grass. Several colorful Easter eggs are scattered in the grass, along with small flowers. At the bottom, there are three informational boxes: a yellow one for the date, a dark green one for the address, and a white one for the time.

# EASTER EGG HUNT!

**Sunday, March  
29, 2026**

**211 N Center  
Bradley ILLINOIS 60915  
United States**

**12:15 PM - 2 PM**

For more information, contact Brenda McLean  
[bmclean@stjosephbradley.org](mailto:bmclean@stjosephbradley.org)