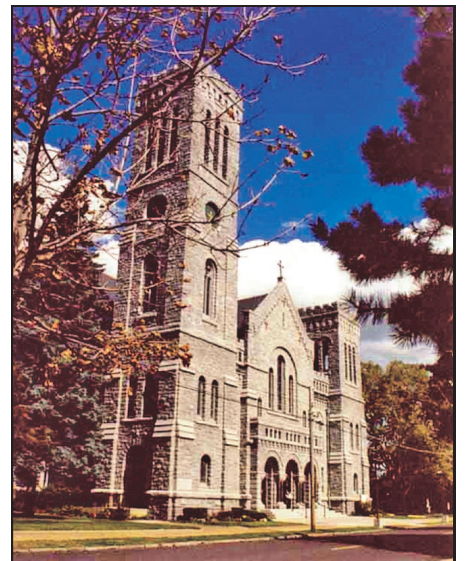


Saint Hedwig Saint Patrick

Sister parishes serving the East Bay Front of Erie

Pastor

Rev. Msgr. Henry A. Kriegel



DAILY MASS

Saint Patrick 8:00 AM

SATURDAY EVENING MASS

Saint Hedwig 4:30 PM

Saint Patrick 5:00 PM

SUNDAY MORNING MASS

Saint Hedwig 9:00 AM

Saint Patrick 10:30 AM

HOLY DAY MASSES

Anticipation

Saint Hedwig 5:30 PM

Holy Day

Saint Patrick 12:05 PM

CONFESSIONS

30 Minutes before each Saturday

Evening Mass or by appointment



Saint Hedwig Parish

Established 1910

521 E. 3rd Street

Erie, PA 16507

(814) 454-6232

www.sainthedwigparisherie.org

Saint Patrick Parish

Established 1837

130 East 4th Street

Erie, PA 16507

(814) 454-8085

www.saintpatrickparisherie.org



***For information on Baptism, Religious Education, Penance, Eucharist, Confirmation,
Adult Initiation, Marriage, Prayer or Study Groups, please call either parish office.***



Today is the Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord. This feast, along with the Nativity and the Baptism of the Lord, are the three “manifestation” feasts. In the early church, today’s feast included both the Nativity and the Baptism of the Lord. It would be several centuries before Christmas emerged as such an important feast for the western world, but not the eastern world.

Our first reading from Isaiah describes the new Jerusalem. The Israelites return from exile with God’s light shining on them

Our second reading is from Paul’s Letter to the Ephesians. Saint Augustine, in a fifth century homily said, “Recently we celebrated the day on which Christ was born among the Jews; today we celebrate the day on which He was adored by the Gentiles.” Paul realized early on that his primary mission was to bring Jews and Gentiles together as one. In the early Christian communities, they did not always accept one another and as Paul would discover, working to bring people together is a life-long endeavor.

Our Gospel comes from Matthew because he is the only one of the four evangelists to tell us the story of the Magi. The Magi were Gentiles from a foreign land, and are some of the first to worship the new-born Christ. However, when some of the Jews, including Herod, learn of the star’s rising, they are unmoved. Matthew’s point in framing the story this way is that Jesus manifests God to the whole world, not just the Jews. At the end of the story is an interesting line that often gets lost when Matthew says they returned to their own land. Rather than stay and bask in the glory of the newborn God, they go back to their own land to share the news of what God has done. Until now we have celebrated the birth of Christ; today we celebrate our own birth as we imitate the magi and go forth to proclaim the good news of Jesus’ birth.

Now that the hoopla of re-opening the church is sort of over, I have to tell you that I’m getting comments from people all over the city who have been here to see the building and are awestruck. You have done an amazing deed in restoring this building, not only as a house of prayer and worship, but as one of Erie’s premier architectural wonders. The bus tours are ready to start up again and people will come from afar to see it.

Perhaps some of the finest Christian work we do at St. Patrick’s is through our Food Pantry. Each week we feed an enormous amount of people, individuals and families who count upon that food to help them get through the week. It amazes me the number of our people who are living in poverty and barely keeping above water. That pantry costs money to operate, and I’m writing to tell you that we’re in need of money to keep going. There is an envelope in your monthly packet through which you can contribute. You can also sponsor a week of the food pantry perhaps in memory of someone or being sponsored by your business, etc. I’m hoping that you will help us with this project as it is certainly an important and vital part of who we are as a believing community.

I mentioned a few weeks ago a new study which reveals that the birthrate in America has dropped to the lowest level ever with just 63 births per 1,000 women of childbearing age (down from 71% in 1990). The study also reveals that the plunge may be temporary. American fertility plummeted during the Great Depression. Our birth rate has fallen fastest among foreign-born Americans, particularly Hispanics. Many people may simply be postponing childbearing until better times return. (The only reason the Catholic Church continues to grow in the United States is because of the large influx of Latinos). However, fertility rates have declined sharply in Mexico and South America.

There has also been a broader cultural shift away from a child-centric understanding of marriage. In 1990, 65% of Americans reported that children were “very important” to a successful marriage; today only 41% agreed. That trend may be in part an understanding of why same sex marriage, which separates wedlock from sexual differences and procreation, has gone from a non-started to a non-brainer for so many people.

The decline of Catholicism in the western world continues at an alarming pace. The Archdiocese of Berlin, Germany announced last week that it is \$140 million dollars in debt and is dramatically downsizing. The archbishop announced that they are forecast to lose one third of their membership by 2030. There are presently 396,000 Catholics in the archdiocese and they expect that number to drop to 270,000 in twenty years. We seem to spend all of our energies figuring out how to

From the Pastor's Desk continued.....

downsize and reconfigure, but it seems to me that we don't spend any time trying to figure out why all of this is happening. Why are so many Catholics walking away from the church? Why is there such an acute shortage of priests? Why are good people not going to Mass? Until we answer those questions and act upon them, none of the downsizing, etc. means anything.

The restored St. Patrick's Church is proving to be very popular with brides. We have a record number of weddings this year, and I think every Saturday from the first of May until after Thanksgiving is already booked. We are also starting to get a significant number of weddings booked for 2014.

A new study reveals that Mass attendance in the Diocese of Erie declined by 31% between 1999 and 2009. In 1999, 84,000 Catholics (out of a total of 231,000) attended Mass on a regular weekly basis. By 2009, only 58,666 were attending. When done in percentages, those figures reveal that only 26.4% of Erie diocesan Catholics are now regularly attending Mass. Those figures are consistent with national figures but remain incredibly troubling. Should we not stop dead in our tracks and ask ourselves "Why?" and then determine what we can do to reverse the trend?

A new pastor was visiting the homes of parishioners. At one house, it seemed obvious that someone was at home, but no answer came to his repeated knocks. He took out a business card and wrote "Revelation 3:20" on the back of it. When the offertory collection was being counted the following Sunday, he found that his card had been returned and added to it was a cryptic message, "Genesis 3:10." Reaching for his bible, he broke into peals of laughter. Revelation 3:20 reads "Behold. I stand at your door and knock." Genesis 3:10 reads "I heard your voice in the garden and I was afraid for I was naked."

Big Ed seemed to always fall asleep during the Sunday sermon. His wife was fed up and decided to deal with the embarrassing situation. The next Sunday when he fell asleep, she quietly removed some pungent Limburger cheese from a ziplock bag in her purse and passed it under his nose. Groggily started, Big Ed blurted out, "No, Helen, don't kiss me now!"

Saint Hedwig News



Epiphany

*Oh! Star of Wonder, Star of Night,
Star with Royal Beauty Bright!
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to the Perfect Light!"*



Our Sanctuary Lamp burns this week in loving memory of **Joseph Borgia** requested by Rose Niedzwiecki, Our Lady's Shrine Lamp burns in loving memory of **Miedy & Rose Plizga** requested by Judy & Peter Pentz and St. Joseph Shrine Lamp burns in loving memory of **the Sylvia Grabinski family** requested by Jennie Pazdziesz. Please remember in your prayers those in the hospital, nursing care and the homebound.

Our offertory for the week-end of Dec. 22/23 was **\$882.00**, Christmas Flowers **\$729.00**, Religious Retirement Collection update **\$334.00**. Thank you and God bless.

Mass Intentions

For the soul of Patricia Buszek requested by: Agnes Oldakowski, Peter and Judy Pentz, Eileen and Anne Marie Ropelewski.

Please Join Us

The Holy Name members will be reciting the rosary before the 9am Mass beginning at 8:30am on Sunday January 13th.

Volunteer Needed

We are in need of an Usher to assist at the 9am Mass on Sundays in March, July and November. If you are interested, please call Jim Gorski at 456-3766.

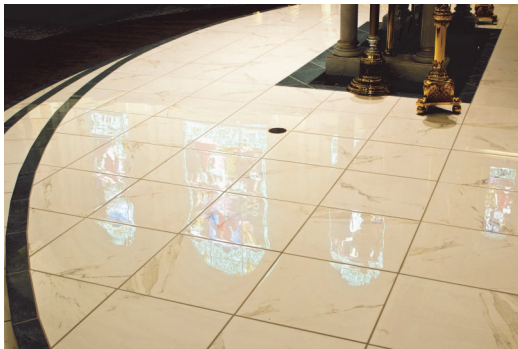
Pray the Rosary



Saint Hedwig Ministry Schedule

	<u>January 12</u> Saturday 4:30 PM	<u>January 13</u> Sunday 9:00 AM
Lector	Dave Widomski	Peter Pentz
Eucharist	Dave Widomski	Peter Pentz
Ushers	Roland Henderson Ray Nowosielski	Tom Zielinski Sharon Zielinski
Altar Server	Charlotte Mabie	Nick Hayes

Christmas 2012 in the newly restored Saint Patrick Church

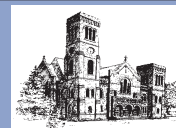




Photography by: John Baker



Saint Patrick News



Parish Stewardship: Our offertory for the weekend of Dec. 22/23 was **\$5,834.92**. The Christmas Offertory was **\$20,743.00**. Thank you for your generosity.

Please make a special effort to remember in your daily prayers the members of our parish who are hospitalized, in Long Term Nursing Care, or home-bound.

We continue to thank those who make special donations to our parish and we pray for those people in whose honor the donations were made: The **Sanctuary Lamp** burns in memory of **Ann Matey** from Brian & Annie Candela Family: The **Peace Candle** burns this week for all the men and women serving in the military; The **Food Pantry Truck** is sponsored this week The **Food Pantry** in memory of **Robert Lechner** from Mr. & Mrs. BJ Lechner; **Elroy Doyle** from Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Doyle; **Doris Blaga** from Mr. Joel Walz & Mrs. Jill Blaga-Walz; **Anthony & Amelia Beers** from Barbara McGill; **Attilio Chimenti** Mr. & Mrs. Merle Painter.

PRO-LIFE EVENTS

Erie March for Life—People for Life invites you to participate in the Erie March for Life on Saturday, January 12th. Gather at the Perry Square Gazebo by 10:45 am. The March will begin at 11:00 am and conclude with a brief Memorial Service at the Gazebo.

Pro-Life Breakfast—People for Life's annual Pro-Life Prayer Breakfast will be held on Saturday, January 7th at the Erie Bayfront Convention Center. The main speaker will be Goerge Weigel, a celebrated author and leading expert on ethical issues and public policy. For more information call 814-882-1333 or go on-line to www.peopleforlife.org

Ministry Schedule

Saturday, January 12, 2013 at 5:00 pm

Lector: Stan Malinowski

Eucharistic Ministers: Kathy Sertz, Jay Habas, Carol Habas

Greeters: Tom and Linda Brunner

Altar Servers: Brendan Jubulis, Ryan Jubulis

Ushers: Chris Lampe, Rob Oliveri

Sunday, January 13, 2013 at 10:30 am

Lector: Ed Brown

Eucharistic Ministers: Mary Kearney, Dario Cipriani, Cheryl Stephany

Greeters: Charla Leemhuis, Norann Brugger

Altar Servers: Logan Kearney, Kiely Kearney

Ushers: Dave Taccone, David Wilcox,

John Purvis, Luke Purvis

Offertory Counters: Mary McCarthy, Mary Kearney
Mary Pat Schlaudecker

A Moment of Reflection

Reading I: Isaiah 60:1-6

Reading II: Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13
Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6



Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

The Magi kept vigil, piercing the horizon with their astronomical observations, keeping alive their wondrous search for knowledge. Finally, the royal star appeared, visible to them, vigilant seekers, capable of reading God's signs. And the pilgrimage started through ups and downs, excitements and insecurities, always keeping vigil. The journey continues today for us; a pilgrimage of humanity to Jesus, to the King of the Universe hidden in the starkness of a piece of bread, recognizing the divine in the unexpected. It is our experience of the epiphany of the Lord. What helps you to be vigilant for God's presence? What memories do you have of your First Communion? How is your experience of Communion different today?

Additional Christmas Flower Donations

Received from

Mr. & Mrs. Mark Rennie

Daniel Amendola.....

.....

John Hartigan

Gerry Valahovic

.....

Tom and Sue Elliott.....

In Memory Of / In Honor Of

William J. Rennie, Nick Iavarone

Ann S. Cofini, Cellia Amendola, Alfred Amendola,,

Nora A. Cofini, Mary Emma Cofini

Bev Hartigan

Vickey, Mikrut & Valahovic Families,

Honey & Cam Snider, Forgotten Souls

Bill & Alice Elliott, Dr. Charles Hiegel



LITURGY INTENTIONS**Jan. 05 Saturday, Vigil: The Epiphany of the Lord**

4:30 PM PETER ZIELINSKI (ANN KRUSZEWICZ) - ST.H

5:00 PM JAMES MCCARTHY (WIFE, MARY) - ST.P

Jan. 06 The Epiphany of the Lord9:00 AM MARY ALICE MADONIA - ST.H
(JUCHNO FAMILY)

10:30 AM DON BUSECK (WIFE, FRAN) - ST.P

Jan. 07 Monday, St. Raymond of Penyafort, Priest

8:00 AM MATTHEW PURZYCKI (HARRIET PURZYCKI)

Jan. 08 Tuesday, Christmas Weekdau

8:00 AM MERCEDES KALATA (DR. JOHN KALATA)

Jan. 09 Wednesday, Christmas Weekday

8:00 AM PAULINE OROS (SANDY OROS DIETER)

Jan. 10 Thursday, Christmas Weekday

8:00 AM COMMUNION SERVICE

Jan. 11 Friday, Christmas Weekday8:00 AM JENNIFER JOHNSON
(PARENTS, BONNIE & JIM JOHNSON)**Jan. 12 Saturday, Vigil: The Baptism of the Lord**4:30 PM JOSEPH BORGIA, ANNIV. - ST.H
(BABE NIEDZWIECKI)5:00 PM ROSE FIORELLI, ANNIV. OF BIRTH - ST.P
(RAY & PATTY FIORELLI)**Jan. 13 The Baptism of the Lord**9:00 AM BERNARD & JANE KUTZ - ST.H
(TORBIC FAMILY)

10:30 AM PATRICIA TRAPP (SR. MARIE) - ST.P

DATES TO REMEMBERSt.H=St. Hedwig, St.P=St. Patrick, HR=Holy Rosary
CP=Chapel, PF=Polish Falcons
PR=Pascal Room, R=Rectory, CV=Convent**01/05** 3:30 PM Confessions - St.H

4:30 PM Confessions - St.P

01/06 9:00 AM Rel. Ed. K thru 6 - Holy Rosary

1:00 PM Rel. Ed. Gr. 7, 8, 9, 10 - Holy Rosary

1:00 PM Confirmation Session—Holy Rosary

01/08 11:00 AM Food Pantry - PR**01/09** 12:00 PM A.A. - PR**01/08** 3:30 PM Confessions - St.H

4:30 PM Confessions - St.P

01/09 9:00 AM Rel. Ed. K thru 6 - Holy Rosary

1:00 PM Rel. Ed. Gr. 7, 8, 9, 10 - Holy Rosary

FAITH FORMATION SESSIONS WILL RESUME**TODAY – Sunday, January 6, 2013 for ALL****groups:** Kdg – 6; Jr & Sr High School; Confirmation Candidates at the regularly scheduled time. **Please refer to the session calendars on the website!****PARENTS OF CHILDREN IN GR. 2** who are preparing for the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** – A reminder that Parent and child interviews are **Saturday, January 19th beginning at 10:00 am.** A schedule will be sent to you by January 10th.**FIFTH ANNUAL SUPERBOWL PANCAKE BREAK-FAST** will take place ***Superbowl Sunday, February 3rd from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm*** in Hastings Hall on the Holy Rosary campus. The Knights of Columbus host this breakfast on behalf of the Eastside Catholic Faith Formation Ministry. The proceeds are used to purchase ***Catholic Youth Bibles*** for the children and youth of our Eastside parishes. Mark your calendars now and support our Knights who support us in our ministry to the children, youth and their families.**NEED PRAYERS?**Please call **Mary Alice Hartwell** at **454-5908** to have your prayer intentions placed on our joint parish prayer wheel. Please be assured that your prayer requests will be treated with respect and confidentiality.**NEW PARISHIONER REGISTRATION FORM**☐

Saint Hedwig

☐

Saint Patrick

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

STREET: _____ CITY: _____ ZIP: _____

E-MAIL: _____

PLEASE CIRCLE ONE BELOW:

New Registration

Change of Address

Moving

Want Envelopes

PLEASE DROP THIS INFORMATION INTO Offertory Basket or mail to Rectory